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The Avis

USVI 157th YEAR THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2001, NO. 50 60¢



Ben Twingley
Lawrence Walcott, Rayford Mathew and Mr. Clarence Malloy lead the Elena Christian High School Scratch Band Wednesday in celebration of Black History Month.

Studying the past

Students close Black History Month with celebration

VALERIE LOVETT

ST. CROIX — Students at Elena Christian Junior High School celebrated on the last day of Black History Month with a lively, colorful program displaying their students' knowledge about black culture and history.

The program, titled "Dreaming, Hoping, Rising: Black People on the Move," featured traditional dancing and costumes, speeches, poetry and prizes.

"I wish there was no racism between other people. People should study about the past and go on and be friends."

Crystal Velasquez, ECJHS 7th-grader

"Through the program, we want to help remind students of their forefathers, and allow them to express their freedom now," Susanna Smith, principal, said. "Some students don't take education seriously, but many people died along the way so they could sit in this auditorium today."

Smith said that throughout February the students have been studying prominent black historical figures in the Virgin Islands and elsewhere.

"We've been highlighting

PAST, PAGE 2

Felix given life in prison

Convicted of shooting man to death in 1999

KC BURGARD

ST. CROIX — A 23-year-old man convicted in January of murder — and implicated but cleared in another murder — will spend the rest of his life in jail without the possibility of parole.

Bryan "Kool" Felix, a former resident of William's Delight, was ordered to serve life behind bars by Territorial Court Judge Edgar Ross for the first-degree murder of Miguel Crispin. Crispin, 19, was shot and killed during a fight between Felix and several other men on Nov. 7, 1999.

During a two-day trial in January, Felix was also convicted of attempted murder and posses-

FELIX, PAGE 2

Taxpayers to keep more money with Bush plan

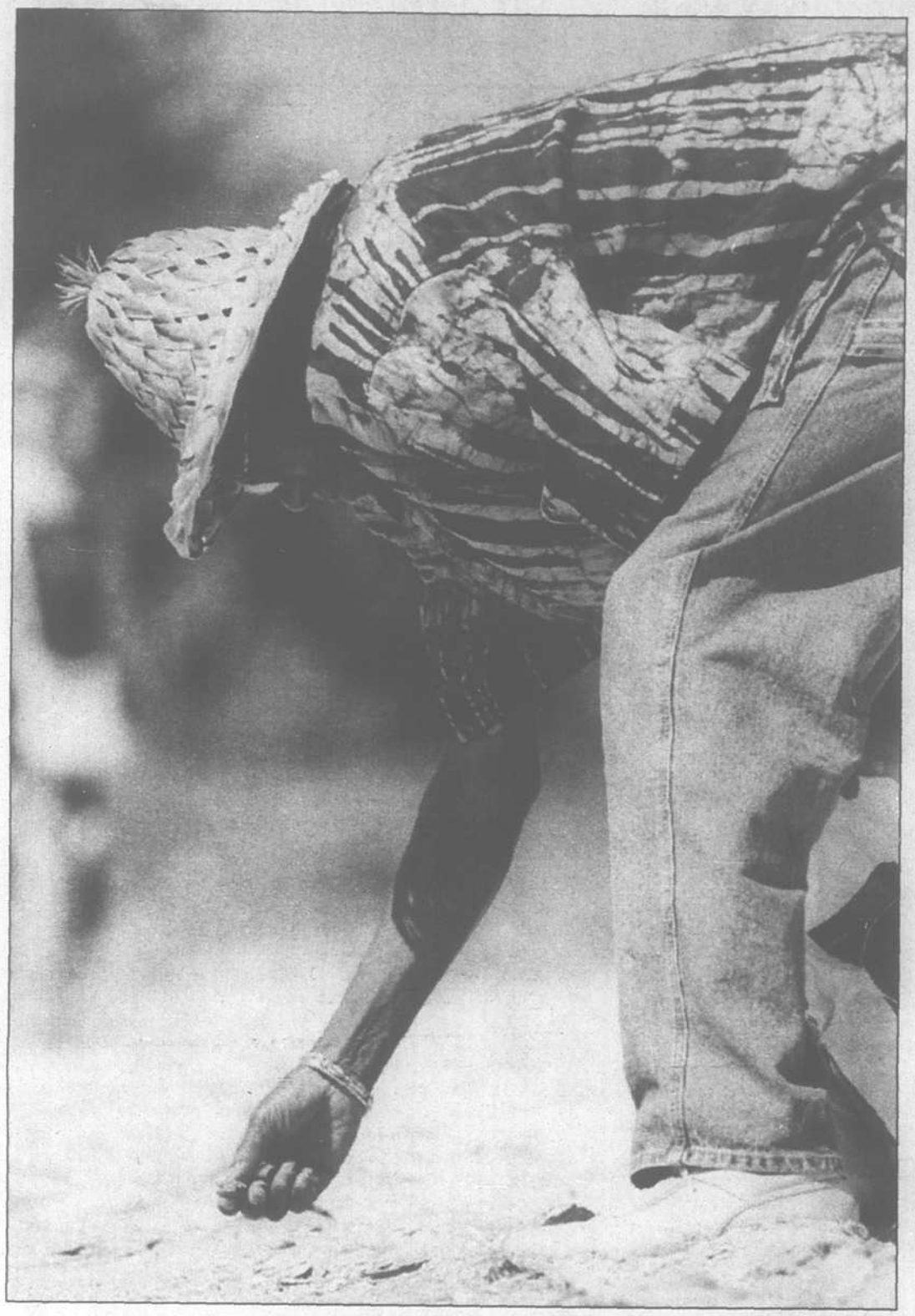
But cuts will cost territory's treasury $28.6 million

WILL JONES

USVI — VI taxpayers will reap the benefits of President Bush's proposed $1.6 trillion tax cuts, but the plan will cost the territory's treasury $28.6 million, according to the local Internal Revenue Bureau.

Acting IRB Director Louis Willis released a chart Wednesday showing how much of a cut VI taxpayers will receive under Bush's 10-year tax cut plan, which places taxpayers in four income-tax brackets — 10, 15,

CUTS, PAGE 2



Ben Twingley

Sea shells by the sea shore

A visitor to St. Croix looks for interesting shells and rocks Wednesday at the Frederiksted public beach.

PAST: Students say they're ready to learn more history

FROM PAGE ONE

black people in the territory and all over the world in all walks of life," Smith said.

She said students used the Internet to study black poets and history.

"I personally believe just February is not enough," Smith said. "Every day we need to teach this so students are proud of being black and know that if you work hard you can achieve anything. Simply being black doesn't give you a right to anything."

The students seemed to enjoy participating in the program as well. Eighth-graders Keenisha Brown and Keisha Bruno took the stage for a traditional African dance called "Black Machine." However, they both said more should be done to celebrate black history.

"I don't think we did enough; I think we should do more," Bruno said. "Black people mean a lot to a community like ours."

"Yeah, they should have more activities," Brown added.

Crystal Velasquez is a 7th-grader at Elena Christian. She said the program was a good way to end Black History Month, but she would like to see the end of racism.

"I think people should know about the past," she said. "I wish there was no racism between other people. People should study about the past and go on and be friends."

FELIX: Murderer guilty of other crimes

FROM PAGE ONE

sion of a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence. In addition to fatally shooting Crispin in the shoulder area, Felix shot Leonardo Rodriguez, then-21, in the back and abdomen when he and two friends ran into the victims at a food van in downtown Christiansted.

The scene shortly after midnight on the night in question was likened to that of a "gang war" by one witness — the woman who sold food to the men moments earlier — during the trial. Rodriguez took the stand as well and unequivocally identified Felix as the trigger man who "bust off some shots" at him.

The judge gave Felix 15 years for the attempted murder conviction and 10 years for the firearms possession conviction. Ross said Felix's locally-given sentence must be served consecutively to the sentence he will get in District Court for a conviction there.

Felix was found guilty last December of an armed robbery of a Christiansted gift shop in February 1997. Felix stood trial with three other men in federal court on a series of local and federal charges. Among charges brought against them was the first-degree murder of Janet Morgan, as well as the assault of her live-in boyfriend Dr. Paul Hess. Felix and his codefendants, however, were found not guilty of breaking into Morgan and Hess' Estate Belvedere home and shooting them on Feb. 24, 1997.



Bryan 'Kool' Felix

Felix has not yet been sentenced by Chief District Judge Raymond Finch for the robbery conviction.

CUTS: Gov't worried about funds

FROM PAGE ONE

25 and 33 percent, down from the current 15, 28, 31 and 39.6 percent — depending on income.

Out of the territory's 33,549 taxpayers, the 15,131 who file under single status would save an average of $301 in income taxes in the 10 percent bracket; $1,374 in the 15 percent bracket; $1,442 in the 25 percent bracket and $72,271 in the 33 percent bracket.

Only 64 single taxpayers are in the 33 percent bracket.

The 11,845 married couples filing joint returns would get average savings of $550 in the 10 percent bracket; $2,457 in the 15 percent bracket; $1,392 in the 25 percent bracket and $17,927 in the 33 percent bracket.

Willis said that if the tax cut is approved by Congress, it won't be felt here until the 2001 returns are filed in 2002. He said it will mean larger refunds for most filers.

He also said that one of the major problems facing the Virgin Islands government is the approximately $14 million the IRB refunds for the earned-income tax credit, which means those who are head of households and earn less than $28,000 are entitled to a refund based on the number of children in the home.

"We should fight the earned income because we can't afford it," Willis said. "We should take a stand."

He said that even though the Virgin Islands must follow the same laws that apply to the Internal Revenue Bureau, the federal government has sources of revenues it can tap to make up for any shortfall in income-tax collection, including Social Security and Medicare if they have huge surpluses.

The government currently collects about $207.2 million in individual income taxes, or nearly half of its $421 general-fund budget.

Willis said that in addition to the Virgin Islands, the U.S. territories of Guam and American Samoa also will be hard hit by the tax cuts.

He said the cuts will be a major issue at a conference of the territories' heads of tax agencies, including Puerto Rico, which will be held in June on St. Thomas, but is not open to the public.

Willis also said that he and his staff have made a commitment to pay all refunds for the 2000 tax year by June 30.

"That is the challenge in our office," Willis said. "We want to cut down the interest we pay to no more than $300,000," adding that the government usually pays about $3 million in interest when tax refunds are not paid on time.

The IRS has 45 days after the return is filed — or until June 30 — before interest begins accruing.

Delegate to Congress Donna Christensen has said that she and delegates from the other territories will push Congress to give them "special considerations because of our unique circumstances" because they can't afford such a huge loss in revenues.

D.C. trips could run nearly $22,000

WILL JONES

USVI — VI taxpayers might pay nearly $22,000 for the eight senators who traveled to Washington, D.C. for the Jan. 20 inauguration of President George W. Bush as the 43rd president of the United States.

Although all the senators have not yet turned in itemized expenses and receipts of the exact amount they spent, they requested and received a combined total of $21,849 in advance for airfare, hotel, transportation and meals, according to documents released Wednesday by Senate President Almando Liburd's office.

The costs are to be paid out of the senators' individual budgets.

All senators were offered tickets to the inauguration by Delegate to Congress Donna Christensen.

Sen. Carlton Dowe requested the largest amount and Sen. Douglas Canton Jr. asked for the least.

Dowe received an advance of $3,935.46 and indicated that he traveled to Washington on Jan. 18 and returned on Jan. 27. His request included $1,839.36 for hotel accommodations and $900 for food.

Canton requested only $853.10 for airfare, listing nothing for hotel and ground transportation. Canton, chairman of the Senate Health and Hospital Committee, said that in addition to attending the inauguration, he scheduled meetings with the Health Brain Trust, Subcommittee on Public Health and members of the U.S. Bipartisan Commission on Comprehensive Health Care.

The total advances requested by each senator, with the dates traveled in parenthesis, are:

At-large

- **Sen. Almando Liburd** (Jan. 18-27)
  Airfare — $771.10
  Hotel — $1,839.36
  Transportation — $300
  Meals — $900
  Total — $3,810.46

St. Croix district

- **Sen. Adelbert Bryan** (Jan. 18-22)
  Airfare — $752
  Ground transportation — $400
  Hotel — $524
  Miscellaneous expenses — $300
  Total — $2,326
- **Douglas Canton Jr.** (Jan. 19-24)
  Airfare $853.10
  Total — $853.10
- **Sen. Alicia Hansen** (Jan. 18-23)
  Airfare — $1,113.75
  Hotel — $1,074
  Ground transportation — $450
  Meals — $350
  Total — $2,987.75
- **Sen. David Jones** (Jan. 19-22)
  Hotel — $811.80
  Airfare — $881.10
  Transportation and meals — $320

St. Thomas-St. John district

- **Sen. Donald Cole** (Jan. 18-22)
  Airfare — $786.10
  Hotel — $1,500
  Meals — $400
  Transportation — $250
  Total — $2,936.10
- **Sen. Carlton Dowe** (Jan. 18-27)
  Airfare — $896.10
  Hotel — $1,839.36
  Transportation — $300
  Meals — $900
  Total — $3,935.46
- **Sen. Norma Pickard Samuel** (n/a)
  Airfare — $1,113.75
  Hotel — $1,074
  Ground transportation — $450
  Meals — $350
  Total — $2,987.75

Hospitals improved under semi-autonomy, says CEO

TIM HAY

USVI — Since hospitals became semi-autonomous a year and a half ago, health care in the territory has seen drastic improvements. This was the gist of the statements made by Eugene Woods, chief executive officer of Roy L. Schneider Hospital, to senators Wednesday.

"... with the newfound ability to manage our own finances, procurement and hiring process granted through the semi-autonomy law, we no longer exist in a daily state of crisis," Woods said. "Most importantly, we have begun in earnest our mission to restore confidence in our hospital, one patient at at time."

Woods went on to say that the hospital has hired specialists in orthopedics, urology, anesthesiology, neonatalolgy and gastroenterology. Soon, Woods said, physicians from the Johns Hopkins Clinic in Baltimore, Maryland and the Mayo Clinic in New York will join the staff at Schneider.

He also said Schneider Hospital was undergoing extensive renovations, and that new pediatric and maternal wards would be completed this year.

Overshadowing this rosy picture of health care in the territory was the testimony of Dolores Marshall, vice president of Patient Care Services at Schneider. She said a shortage of nurses was a serious problem at the hospital.

"In the past," she said, "nursing shortages have been cyclical. However, the current problem is not a problem of a cyclical nature, and suggests that it is here for a much longer run, and that it brings with it long-term consequences."

She said that, by 2005, two-thirds of working nurses will be over the age of 45. By 2020, Marshall said, half of the nurses in the territory will retire.

Marshall said that a decline in wages since 1993 has driven many prospective nurses from he profession.

Thirty percent of nurses are single mothers, she said. More than half have children living at home. She also said that, with more opportunities for women in the work force, fewer are drawn to the stressful conditions and long hours of the nursing profession.

Marshall said the number of nurses at Schneider had dropped from 128 to 33, but did not specify over what period of time.

As a remedy, she proposed salary increases, more extensive educational programs and more judicious spending of health-care dollars.

Wednesday's hearing was the second held by the Senate Health and Hospitals Committee. Sen. Douglas Canton, the committee chair, said a "proactive approach" was necessary to aid health care here and that he would hold as many meetings as necessary to address the problems plaguing the system.

Ambulance shortage called 'frightening'

TIM HAY

ST. THOMAS — Last fiscal year, 235 island residents who called for an ambulance were left to their own devices in getting to the hospital. This is what Dr. Herbert Saunders, director of emergency medical services, told a Senate panel on Wednesday.

Under questioning by Sen. Douglas Canton, chair of the Health and Hospitals Committee, Saunders called the ambulance situation on St. Thomas a "distressing issue."

"It's a frightening thought," he said. "We don't have to conjure up hypothetical situations. It's not a hypothetical case whatsoever."

Saunders cited several recent instances where patients in critical condition died because the island's single ambulance could not be in two places at once.

Saunders said the ambulance has been known to break down, and that Emergency Medical Technicians have had to rely on vans from the hospital to transport patients.

"It's happened more than once," he said. "It happened a year ago. Fortunately, (the patient) did fine."

Saunders said staff shortages have crippled emergency medicine on all three islands. He said outdated equipment and a lack of supplies compromise the care that patients expect.

EMTs in the territory have repeatedly complained to lawmakers about faulty equipment and retroactive monies owed to them.

Vendors charged with trespassing

DAN KUEMMEL

ST. THOMAS — Territorial Court Judge Audrey Thomas-Francis has found probable cause to charge four Drake's Seat vendors with criminal trespass for a protest they staged Tuesday.

Enrique Perez, 51; Gloria Taylor, 49; Iraf Martinez, 45; and Hector Rios, 39, were released on $100 bail at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Their bail was originally set at $1,000, but the vendors were allowed to post 10 percent instead of the full amount.

One of the arresting Virgin Islands Police Department officers testified during the hearing that Special Operations Bureau officers received a call from the office of Chief of Police Jose Garcia early Tuesday morning, asking for a check of Drake's Seat to ensure no vendors were trespassing on the property. The officer testified that the person overseeing the property (Christine Wheaton) or one of her representatives called that morning and asked that the vendors be removed.

Officers asked the vendors to move, but they refused and were subsequently arrested, the officer said.

Although the vendors were originally charged with contempt of court and violating a lawful order, according to arrest records, those charges were either dropped or never brought. Trespassing is a misdemeanor offense that carries a penalty of 30 days imprisonment and/or a fine of $50.

Perez said after the hearing he was unsure if he and other vendors would continue to protest or take any other action and would consult with their attorney Kenth Rogers before making a decision.

The four vendors will return to court at 9 a.m. on March 8 to plead innocent or guilty to the trespassing charge.

20-year-old man pleads guilty to rape of girl, 13

KC BURGARD

ST. CROIX — A 20-year-old man pleaded guilty to second-degree rape in Territorial Court Wednesday — admitting to having sex with a girl much younger than himself.

Dale Dailey, of Watergut Homes, can expect to receive a one-month jail term when he is sentenced by Judge Edgar Ross on April 2. As part of a plea bargain reached with the VI Attorney General's Office, Dailey will be treated as a youthful offender and put on two years of supervised probation after serving his time.

Dailey is accused of having sex with a 13-year-old girl from September to November of 2000. Charges of aggravated rape that were originally brought against Dailey — which stemmed from the fact that the girl was just 12 years old when a physical relationship began — were dropped.

Following a complaint made by the victim's mother, Dailey admitted to police that he had sex with the girl, who he considered to be his girlfriend.

Inspector General says office held its own, despite cuts

WILL JONES

USVI — The VI Inspector General's Office accomplished much with a small staff and reduced budget during the 2000 fiscal year, identifying $1.6 million in questionable spending by government agencies, according to its annual report.

Inspector General Steven van Beverhoudt said the fiscal year was encouraging for his office because a law approved by the 23rd Legislature gave his office an improved level of independence and additional responsibilities conducting investigations.

He also noted that in January 2000, his office teamed up with the VI Attorney General's Office to form the Government Fraud and Corruption Task Force to investigate and prosecute criminal acts involving public funds and offices.

Van Beverhoudt said he and his staff conducted five performance audits and four petty-cash audits and made 42 recommendations for improvements.

The investigations also resulted in eight people, including former Gov. Roy Schneider, being charged with 87 counts of violations of VI laws, or white-collar crimes.

Van Beverhoudt said that despite a shortage of funds and staff, his office continues to review revenue collection activities and departmental expenditures to ensure that agencies were operating in an efficient manner.

His office has nine employees and a budget allotment of $661,000 for the fiscal year, which is about 10 percent less than the amount appropriated by the Legislature.

The inspector general is appointed by the governor for a term of seven years. The other employees are hired by the inspector general.

The results of audits and task-force investigations included:

• The Office of the Governor — $578,366 in public funds were expended for questionable and sometimes undocumented purposes, including $394,939 that was either misused or could have been put to better use. The task force filed 24 counts of corruption, false statements, conspiracy and fraud against Schneider and three members of his administration. Schneider settled the case by repaying the government about $50,000. The charges against the others were dropped.

• The Attorney General's Office paternity and child support division — $343 in child support payments were misappropriated, and cash receipts were not recorded in the automated accounting system. Criminal charges were filed against two employees. One was charged with 27 counts of embezzling child support payments and the other one was accused of 12 counts of filing fraudulent government claims, obtaining money under false pretense and perjury in filing documents for food stamps and public housing. The cases are still pending.

• Finance Department — An employee was charged with 20 counts of possession of stolen property, including several computers and computer equipment. The case is still pending.

• Attorney General's Office — A man who applied for a job as an assistant-attorney general was charged with 14 counts of forgery and filing fraudulent statements after claiming on his application that he had a law degree and worked as a prosecutor in New York City.

The man, Austin Fields, has pleaded guilty to three counts. He is awaiting sentencing; but under a plea agreement, he would be sentenced to time served and allowed to return to New York.

Local author publishes novel

VALERIE LOVETT

ST. CROIX — Virgin Islanders and people all over the world will soon be able to get a glimpse of island life through the eyes of local author Barry Denham.

"My Brother's Keeper" is Denham's first novel to be published, and it tells the story of two brothers brought together through a tragic accident. According to Denham, the about one-third of the book is set in St. Croix.

"It begins and ends in St. Croix," Denham said. "I changed the names of some places, but when people read it, it won't be hard for the reader to determine what's what."

Denham moved to St. Thomas 10 years ago and moved to St. Croix after two years. He is an accountant and works as a controller for Seaborne Airlines.

After moving to St. Croix, Denham said he took 18 months off work and wrote a play entitled "And Everything in Its Place," which was produced by the Caribbean Community Theater.

He wrote "My Brother's Keeper" in 1993 while undergoing back surgery in his home town of Albertville, Alabama.

Denham said his writing is cathartic.

"I guess everyone has a creative outlet," he said, "and I like to tell stories."

He said his time in the islands has been an influence to his writing.

"There's a lot of beauty around there," he said. "I just want to give back. The book speaks highly of St. Croix. I think it will do some good."

Denham is currently living in Alabama, where he is caring for his ill father.

He will be back on St. Croix March 25; and on Saturday, March 31, he will read excerpts of his novel from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Undercover Bookstore in Gallows Bay.

The book is being published by Four Seasons Publishing out of Titusville, Fla. Denham said it is currently in its distribution stage, and it will be available at the Undercover Bookstore on St. Croix and the Dockside Bookstore on St. Thomas within two weeks.

Also, he said the novel will soon be available online at retail bookstores like Amazon.com or Barnes&Noble.com.

The following is a synopsis of Denham's novel:

Wes Blake, a wandering renegade son, is called home to Alabama from St. Croix when his beloved only brother is mortally injured in an automobile accident.

With frantic and fragmented last words, his brother Wirth — husband, father, respected civic leader and war hero — utters a shocking secret to Wes; it is a revelation that sends the surviving younger brother on a seemingly impossible quest for answers.

In the search to fit together the pieces of the puzzle that his brother has scattered before him, Wes is led to Holly Benet, his first love and the girl-next-door from his youth. Her obsession with the Blake brothers is soon revealed.

As the story unravels, Wes discovers Holly is harboring a secret or two of her own.

In preserving his brother's integrity, Wes is thrown one obstacle after another.

But none of his trials and tribulations can come close to, or prepare him for the shock he receives in the surprising finale to this touching story.

To contact Denham, E-mail to barry_denham@hotmail.com.

Sen. Emmett Hansen loosens up his vocal chords for Central

VALERIE LOVETT

ST. CROIX — Local politicians, government officials and business owners are volunteering in droves to belt out a tune for a good cause. Sen. Emmett Hansen is organizing a "celebrity karaoke" extravaganza to benefit the English Department at Central High School.

"They need everything," Hansen said. "The library books were destroyed in one of the hurricanes; the copier is broken, so even if they do have a book they can't make copies."

"They need everything. The library books were destroyed in one of the hurricanes; the copier is broken, so even if they do have a book they can't make copies."

Sen. Emmett Hansen

He hopes to raise $10,000 through the event to purchase books and other supplies and repair the copier.

"Legislation is a lengthy process," Hansen said. "And this is an immediate need."

He said although there are only a few months remaining in the school year, the money can be used to prepare for next year's students.

"We were pondering how to get the copier fixed because it costs $700," Charlene Pemberton, chair of the English Department at CHS, said. "Sen. Hansen's office was our first and last stop."

Pemberton said she was prepared to go to every senator and ask for funding. She said at first she wasn't exactly sure what Hansen meant by a karaoke event.

CHS English teacher Natasha Cummings said the broken copier has made teaching her students difficult.

"We do a lot of writing on the board," Cummings said. "It's been rough."

Pemberton said the teachers have even had to go as far as having students' parents make copies for them at work. She said they do small fundraisers regularly.

"But you can only do so much with $100," she said.

Hansen will be performing in the show, as well as Lt. Gov. Gerard Luz James, Commissioner of Agriculture Henry Schuster, Tutto Bene restaurant owner Kelly Odom — and several others.

"This is the type of thing the whole community can get behind," Hansen said.

Tickets to the event will be sold for $10 each, and they should be available by the end of the week, Hansen said. The tickets may be purchased from Hansen's office at the Legislature Building in Frederiksted, and they will be sold by several philanthropic organizations.

In addition to the karaoke, local-band Franchise will appear. Hansen said several stores will donate prizes to be raffled off throughout the night.

The program, for adults only, will be held at the Wreck Bar on Hospital Street on March 31. Hansen said the show will start at 8 p.m. sharp.

"I think from the amount of people who went to CHS, we should be able to meet our goal," he said.

When Hansen was asked what he plans to sing for the program, he replied, "I have no idea. I'm just gonna do it."

Police blotter

ST. CROIX

Grand larceny:

11:30 a.m., Wed., Strand Street, Frederiksted.

Burglaries:

2:45 p.m., Tues., La Grande Princesse.

3:14 p.m., Tues., Hovensa.

10 p.m., Tues., Carib Villas, La Grande Princesse.

9:31 a.m., Wed., Estate Richmond.

10:58 a.m., Wed., a break-in reported at Castle Coakley.

ST. THOMAS

Assaults:

5:50 p.m., Tues., Veterans Drive.

6:05 p.m., Tues., Lindbergh Bay.

7:30 a.m., Wed., Hospital Ground.

Burglaries:

6:02 p.m., Tues., Smith Bay.

12:04 a.m., Wed., Estate Nazareth.

3:07 a.m., Wed., Sea Horse Cottages, Estate Nazareth.

Larcenies:

5:30 p.m., Tues., Estate Tutu.

7:05 a.m., Wed., Estate Nazareth.

Other:

3:58 a.m., Wed., shots fired reported in the vicinity of Louisenhoj Castle.

9:20 a.m., Wed., stolen vehicle reported in Peterborg.



Associated Press

Nathan Conat cleans up broken wine bottles at a store in downtown Olympia, Wash., following an earthquake Wednesday. The strongest quake to hit Washington state in 52 years shut down the Seattle airport, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people, cracked the dome atop the state Capitol in Olympia and briefly trapped about 30 people atop a swaying Space Needle in Seattle.

THE EPICENTER

Earthquake centered in deep fault 30 miles underground

SEATTLE (AP) — The earthquake that hit the Pacific Northwest on Wednesday was centered 30 miles underground on a "deep fault" responsible for other major seismic events, experts said.

The quake's epicenter was about 35 miles southwest of Seattle and 11 miles northeast of the state capital, Olympia, in a segment of the Earth's crust that extends off the state's Pacific coast, said Robert Norris, a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

That plate, the Juan de Fuca, is being pushed under the North American plate at a rate of about 2 inches a year, he said.

As the lower plate moves deeper, pressure builds up and is released in earthquakes like this one, Norris said.

While seismologists have no way of predicting quakes, Gerick Bergsma of the University of Washington Seismology Lab said Wednesday's did not come as a complete surprise given the conditions.

"We expect this type of thing to happen," said Bergsma, a research assistant. "We've had similar earthquakes in the past."

An earthquake that occurs in the deep zone generally produces less damage but is felt over a larger area, Bergsma said. Aftershocks are rarely felt above ground.

The earthquake registered a magnitude of 6.8, according to early estimates. An earthquake in 1949 in the same area registered 7.1 and a 1965 quake was a 6.5.

The region has seen earthquakes as large as magnitude-9, including one in 1700 that sparked a tsunami, or giant wave, detected in Japan.

The plates' interactions created some of the Northwest's most dramatic natural features, including Mount Rainier. Molten rock is forced by the heat and pressure and wells up through the earth, erupting at the surface.



Associated Press

An unidentified woman grabs a souvenir brick from the sidewalk in front of the Washington Federal Savings Bank in Olympia, Wash., which was damaged by an earthquake Wednesday.

John Powers, a geophysicist with the Alaska Volcanic Observatory in Anchorage, said it is theoretically possible, but highly unlikely, that such activity in the deep zone could trigger a volcanic eruption of Ranier or Mount St. Helens.

Ranier last erupted more than 150 years ago, and Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980, killing 57 people, flattening 230 square miles of forest and destroying 200 homes.

"We know we can have much larger earthquakes on that interface," said David Wald, a U.S. Geological Survey seismologist. "This was not the largest earthquake we can have, not by a long shot."

Much of Northwest ready for earthquake

SEATTLE (AP) — It was the largest earthquake in the Northwest in more than a half century, but most of the region's buildings and bridges made it through relatively unscathed.

The earthquake started deep in the earth, some 30 miles down, which meant much of its energy was diluted once it hit the surface, said Bill Steele, a seismology lab coordinator at the University of Washington.

Its impact wasn't concentrated in any one place.

"Clearly, this was the best possible kind of magnitude quake one can have," Steele said.

Experts also credited efforts to make structures in the area more capable of withstanding earthquakes. Most buildings built since the mid-1970s comply with seismology codes designed to make them capable of standing up to quakes much stronger than the one Wednesday.

"The code worked, but it wasn't tested to the full extent," Steele said. "We're kind of below the threshold of the current code design factors."

Vikram Prakash, an associate professor at the university's architecture department, studied structures in India last year — before a devastating earthquake in January. Prakash said contractors skimped on materials, worsening damage from the 7.9-magnitude earthquake that killed nearly 20,000.

Building codes here made structures much better able to withstand Wednesday's quake, Prakash said. For example, most residential buildings are made with wood, which is better suited to adjust to earthquakes than masonry. And taller buildings have vertical walls running through them, making them more rigid, he said.

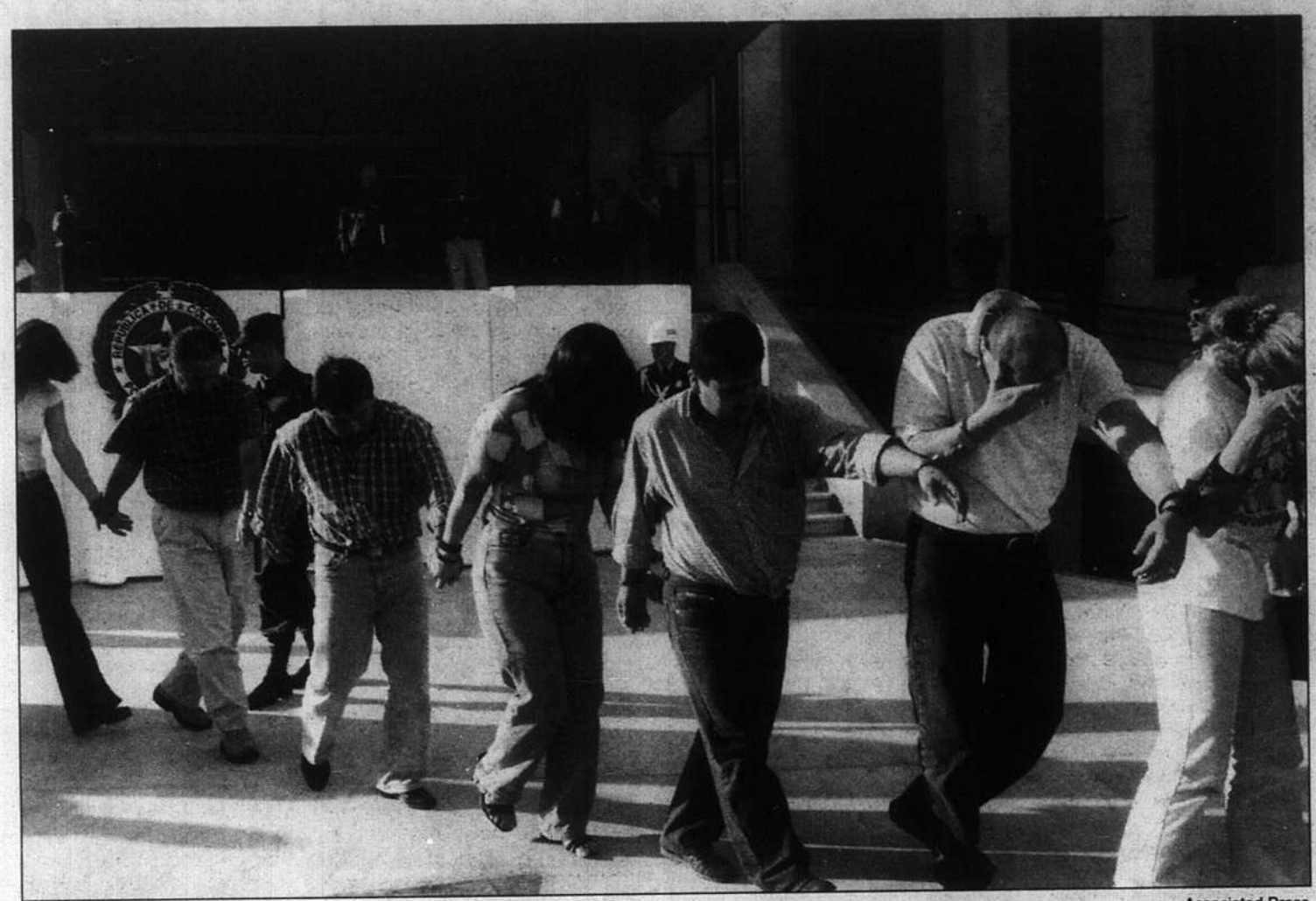
Without such preparations, "I'm sure we would have seen a lot more (damage)," he said.

There were no reports of major damage to bridges, the state Department of Transportation said.

A $65 million retrofitting program that began in 1990 improved more than 300 bridges across the state, said Ed Henley, a bridge management engineer for the department.

By early Wednesday afternoon, Henley said he knew of no bridges that were extensively damaged in the quake, although several remained closed for inspection.

"We don't have any red lights going off," Henley said. "We would look at the retrofit program as having paid for itself and shown a success."



Associated Press

Some of the 30 alleged members of a gang that relied on human couriers to smuggle heroin to the United States in their stomachs are escorted by police officer to be shown to journalists at the National Police headquarters in Bogota, Tuesday. At least two other gang members were arrested in New York City in a joint operation with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration dubbed "Operation Mortal Cargo" for the deadly risks the human drug couriers take.

US says Colombia coca crops rising

WASHINGTON (AP) — Colombian coca production increased last year ahead of a U.S-funded crackdown, but the rise wasn't as sharp as in previous years, the State Department's top counternarcotics official told a Senate panel Wednesday.

"This estimate may — may — indicate that the explosion of coca that has ravaged Colombia recently is finally peaking," Rand Beers told the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

Production of coca — the raw material for cocaine — rose 11 percent last year, compared with a 20 percent increase in 1999. The 2000 figures don't reflect eradication efforts in southern Colombia that began in December under the $1.3 billion U.S. anti-drug package, he said.

The 33,850 acre increase in Colombian production more than offset the combined 28,900 acre decreases previously reported for neighboring Peru and Bolivia last year.

For years, Peru and Bolivia had been the leading supplier of coca for Colombian traffickers. But the success of eradication and interdiction efforts there in the early 1990s pushed production into Colombia. Last year marked the eighth straight year of coca production increases in Colombia, according to State Department statistics.

Much of the coca production is in territory defended by leftist guerrillas, who partly finance their 37-year-old insurgency by protecting coca growers and traffickers.

Under the $1.3 billion U.S. aid package, Colombia's military is receiving helicopters and training to provide security for eradication missions in territory protected by the guerrillas.

Beers said eradication has been going well, with 62,000 acres sprayed in the first seven weeks.

But the efforts in Colombia have raised concerns that coca growth may shift back to Peru, Bolivia or other neighboring countries.

"I think we all agree it would be most unfortunate if this became like a balloon — you squeeze it like a balloon and it pops out all over," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Cal.

Beers said the State Department would focus more on neighboring countries when it proposes its Andean anti-drug aid for the next budget.

"I cannot tell you precisely what the number will be for this regional initiative," he said. "I can tell you that there will be a far larger percent — approaching 50 percent — that will go to other states in the region."

After the hearing, Beers told reporters he expected that social programs, such as crop substitution, would make up a bigger part of the new plan than it had last year.

Many Latin American nations have been concerned that the emphasis on military spending in last year's aid package could escalate the conflict and expand the fighting across borders.

US report concerns Dominican Republic officials

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The Dominican Republic's attorney general said although some police shootings of suspects have been questionable, the United States does not have the right to accuse the country of human rights violations.

The U.S. State Department issued a report this week criticizing the Spanish-speaking, Caribbean nation's human rights record, noting that officers have killed at least 250 people last year while arresting them. Police generally claim the victims were killed in self-defense during shoot-outs.

"No Dominican can deny that the police execute suspects in shootouts that are not true," Attorney General Virgilio Bello Rosa said Tuesday. "(But) the United States doesn't have much capacity to question the realities of Latin American countries such as the Dominican Republic."

Catholic Cardinal Nicolas de Jesus Lopez Rodiguez said he doesn't believe the United States has "the authorization or the moral capacity" to judge the Dominican Republic.

However, the head of the country's highest court said he was concerned about the report's allegations.

"They are very serious accusations that must be investigated," said Supreme Court Chief Justice Jorge Subero Isa.

Francisco Dominguez Brito, director of the Justice and Institutionalism Foundation, and Domingo Porfirio Rojas Nina, the head of the National Commission on Human Rights said they support the report's findings.

Dominguez Brito said he believed the violations have continued because the people accused have not been punished. Rojas Nina said most violations happened before the current administration took office in August.

The report also had accused officials of deporting at least 12,000 Haitians, whose country shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, without a chance to prove their legal status. The report's release came within days of the Dominican Republic's Tuesday celebration of its independence from Haiti in 1844.

An estimated 1 million Haitians live in the more prosperous Dominican Republic, most working in sugar cane fields, construction and other menial jobs.

EU donates millions for new forensics lab in Barbados

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — The European Union has donated $2.5 million to a new National Forensics Center being built in Barbados.

The European Union's Caribbean Upgrading Forensics Project donated $1.9 million to the construction of the new center in southern Barbados, coordinator of the project, Cheryl Corbin, said Tuesday.

The center's cost is $7.5 million.

The EU also donated another $555,000 for equipment.

The construction started in September and is to be completed in April 2002, with employees moving into the building by June 2002. The EU project began in 1998 to fund laboratories in the Caribbean.

The new center will handle work now done in small laboratories across the island, such as DNA profiling, drugs testing and toxicology and training of law enforcement officials in evidence and forensics handling.

Corbin said the facility now serves the Eastern Caribbean islands of Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Montserrat, Grenada, Dominica, Anguilla and St. Lucia.

Downing of planes still sours US-Cuba relations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five years after Cuban MiGs shot down two unarmed Miami-based private planes north of Cuba, the fallout continues to infect U.S.-Cuban relations, with no sign of any letup.

Partly as a result of the Feb. 24, 1996, incident, Washington and Havana have dispensed with even the most elemental courtesies.

There is name-calling on both sides, with Cuban President Fidel Castro saying he hopes President George W. Bush is not as "stupid" as he seems and prominent Americans, including Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, a Republican of North Carolina, expressing hope that death will soon claim Castro, now 74.

Fortieth anniversary celebrations in April of the Bay of Pigs invasion are expected to have a pronounced anti-American theme. Also, Cuba has vowed to retaliate for the parting shot that former President Bill Clinton took at Cuba on his last full day in office.

He issued an executive order to pay $96.7 million in frozen Cuban assets to families of three American citizens, all Cuban-Americans, who were killed in the 1996 incident. The funds were derived from long-distance phone service between the two countries.

In Miami, federal prosecutors in a trial of five alleged Miami-based spies for Cuba have presented documents suggesting that the MiG attack was the result of an elaborate plot hatched in Havana.

The planes belonged to Brothers to the Rescue, a Cuban-American group known for efforts to save Cubans attempting to flee the island for U.S. shores.

But Cuba regards the Brothers as primarily a terrorist organization which has engaged in provocations against the island. It says Cuban agents in Miami who infiltrated the group were merely trying to prevent an attack on their homeland.

But former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick says those responsible for the attack, including higher-ups, should be indicted. Republican Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey says the "criminal conspiracy" responsible "almost certainly leads to Fidel Castro."

Cuba maintains the two aircraft penetrated Cuban air space. An independent investigation backed up the U.S. claim that the attack occurred in international air space.

Clinton's decision to use frozen Cuban funds to compensate the Brothers' family members has caused controversy.

Successive administrations have viewed escrowed funds as untouchable. Traditionally, frozen assets belonging to an adversary country have been used as bargaining chips in negotiations.

The Carter administration in 1981 used frozen Iranian assets to cut a deal that freed 52 American hostages held by Iran.

Last fall, Congress approved legislation that allowed victims of terrorist attacks to collect damages by attaching foreign nations' assets in the United States. It stripped a provision included in earlier legislation that enabled the president to block such payments.

The $96.7 million award, which included dlrs 41 million in compensatory damages, was in response to a dlrs 187 million judgment granted to the families by a Miami judge in 1997.

Clinton's reasons for issuing the Jan. 19 executive order have never been fully explained. He could have dumped the issue in Bush's lap.

Wayne Smith, a Cuba expert and former diplomat who opposed Clinton's action, said: "There must be a money trail somewhere."

Smith believes that if frozen Cuban assets are to be used for compensation, they belong to the many Americans who have property claims or wrongful death suits against Cuba dating back 40 years.

Robert Muse, a Washington lawyer who represents U.S. corporations with claims against Cuba, says Clinton's action "mocks the concept of equal treatment under the law" because it pushed the Miami relatives of three Cuban-Americans "to the front of a line that formed 40 years ago."

Man charged with punching St. Vincent's former PM

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (AP) — A man was arrested after allegedly punching former Prime Minister James Mitchell, breaking one of his facial bones in a non-political dispute on a ferryboat, police said Wednesday.

Kerwest Cupid, 32, a native Vincentian who lives in Brooklyn, New York, has pleaded innocent to the charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm and is to appear in court again in Kingstown on Thursday.

Mitchell must attend the court hearing, or the charges might be dropped.

On Sunday, Cupid allegedly accused Mitchell of sitting on his infant daughter's leg on board the ferry from the island of Bequia to the country's main island of St. Vincent, police Assistant Superintendent Artis Davis said Wednesday.

Mitchell, 74, said on local television Monday that he ignored Cupid because he believed he was sitting on the edge of the bench and not harming the child. In response, Cupid allegedly punched him.

The alleged assault broke a bone above Mitchell's right eye and he was treated and released from a local hospital.

"He has been living out of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for a long time and he claimed he did not know who I was," Mitchell said on television, sporting a black eye.

Mitchell was the Caribbean nation's longest-serving leader, in office from 1984 to 2000. He still represents Bequia and other northern Grenadine islands in Parliament and was apparently traveling from Bequia without his security team.

Bahamas exchange may list $100 billion in mutual funds by June

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) _ The value of Bahamas-based mutual funds managed by the country's offshore banks will surpass $100 billion by mid-year, financial regulators said.

In December, more than 700 Bahamas-registered funds with a value of $91 million were operating, said Peggy Knowles, mutual fund manager of the Bahamas International Securities Exchange Commission. That value will probably grow to $100 billion by June, she said earlier this week.

The Bahamas is among the top six countries worldwide in terms of the value of locally based mutual funds.

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Dominican Republic man charged in fire

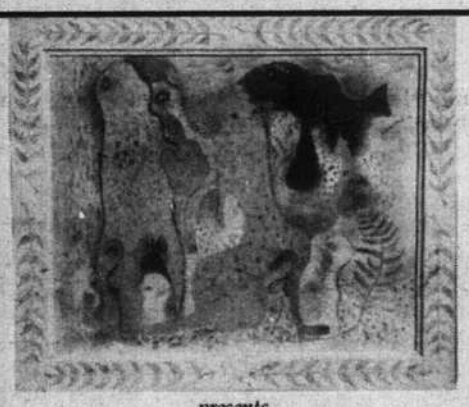
NEW YORK (AP) — A fugitive landlord was charged Wednesday with torching his own Brooklyn building last year in the middle of the night, killing a teen-age girl who was there for a slumber party.

U.S. Customs agents captured Antonio Casanova at Miami International Airport on Saturday as he arrived from the Dominican Republic, where he was attending medical school, authorities said.

Casanova, a Dominican Republic native who has U.S citizenship, was awaiting arraignment in Brooklyn on charges of murder and arson. Police described the crime as a botched scheme to collect on a $435,000 home insurance policy.

"We feel that he set the fire at this location, and that profit was the motivating factor," said Lt. Thomas Joyce.

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EDITORIAL:

The Rocky Show

Senate President Almando Liburd appeared on a local talk show yesterday morning. The subject of the latest flap, that of the new rules concerning press credentials and related strictures, inevitably arose. The senator reiterated his defense of the bizarre measures, explaining that his staff researched many state legislatures' rules about the media and came up with a local version. No news here.

He also ticked off some items from a universal code of ethics for journalists. What his intent was is unclear, since if the code of ethics that journalists labor under (which they do) already outlines the proper behavior of reporters and editors, what has the Legislature got to do with it? The Fourth Estate, like the medical and legal profession, is self-policing. Thus by introducing the code of ethics as part of his argument that the Senate should police the journalists, he in fact fatally undermined his own argument.

We refer our readers to yesterday's editorial. Liburd did not answer any of the questions it raised, nor does he apparently intend to do so. We will let it stand, therefore. We would also just add that the whole matter arose from an attempt by Liburd and other lawmakers to fix something that clearly was not broken, thus begging even more questions. But so be it.

On the subject asked by host Sam Topp concerning the imbalance in the allotments awarded to the individual senators — wherein the top allotment is three or four times more than the bottom one — Liburd observed that the inequalities are historical. So is the mumps, which is not a justification for being sick instead of calling a doctor. He also said that he plans "to do something about it" during this session of the Legislature, but he seemed to indicate that doing something about it was on a distant back burner. Our question is: Why not do something about it right now? What are you waiting for?

Liburd also fretted about the loss in local income-tax revenues that will occur if (actually, when) President Bush's tax cuts take effect. He said that the cuts are all the more reason that Washington should give a portion of the gasoline excise taxes to the VI government, since we will have a more pronounced shortage of revenues. That's highly unlikely to happen, so we have a better idea: Live within your means.

The Senate president said that while the Inspector General's audit found that the last Legislature overspent its budget by $1.16 million, the august deliberative body needed more than the $13.3 million it got. Without the extra expenditures, he indicated, "the Senate would not be able to operate." But, of course, it would be able to operate. Indeed, it would be able to operate on a lot less — millions less — if it would take a moment to honor the vote of the people to cut the membership to nine and to eliminate about half of the patronage jobs that are no more than a shameless giveaway of the public's money.



Letters to the editor

Where is Senate staff's efficiency, work ethic?

Dear Editor:

On page 2 of the Feb. 24 Avis there was a list published of Senate staff employees and their salaries.

In the real world, this situation would be considered ludicrous and never allowed to have happened in the first place. We don't live in the real world, however.

Virgin Islands' reality dictates that these jobs not necessarily be eliminated but rather justified. It would be very interesting to read job descriptions and accomplishments of these employees. So would reading attendance records.

We can't just systematically remove employees from a "work force" without offering other viable alternatives for sustenance, excluding the welfare system which is already burgeoning.

Job performance should be concomitant with payroll. At this point, there seems to be no bang for the big bucks.

What are the job requirements? What qualifications are mandatory? Are applicants' college transcripts checked and verified? Is there any incentive for employees to adequately perform?

Any repercussions for failure to complete a job successfully? Any accountability whatsoever? Ever see a government job listed with Department of Labor?

There are nearly a score of Post Audit employees listed. What are they being paid for? Where are the results? A first-grader could audit this blindfolded.

The really scary part is that this list of 400 or so employees does not include the other bureaucracies (Depts. of Finance, Public Works, Tourism, etc.), which seem to accomplish less than zero.

I've noticed several names on this list who have other full-time employment as well as their government "jobs." These individuals would not be jeopardized by losing one of their jobs to facilitate other qualified, employable individuals.

There would be absolutely no change in efficiency other than expedition, and a huge savings for the taxpayers (perchance to invest in a pothole repair or two).

Nah, it seems that Senate furniture is the order of the day. How many times a day do you have to roll over a big chair?

Speaking of efficiency, since this government is so quick to hire consultants, why not hire an "efficiency expert" (not a relative, either) and actually take their advice.

It's so much easier for a professional to see the forest for the trees while our local politicians are busy nitpicking.

These "efficiency professionals" are paid for their knowledge. How ironic. They were probably educated stateside, and probably worked efficiently. That's what they get paid for. Like reporting to work, having a meaningful job, doing that job and being duly promoted when applicable. Charm-free, if you will.

These measures are taken for granted in the large, solvent corporations such as AT&T and IBM. Production is measured and rewarded when merited. Junk bonds are non-existent in their world. Could there be a correlation?

The money seems to suspiciously follow the work ethic. And job sincerity. Innovative, yes?

It all boils down to having pride in doing a job well, not in what kind of car you drive or what kind of chair you sit in, much less what sneakers you have on your feet. Those non-essentials are strictly for puny, puerile minds.

Of course, that might just be Dennis Miller's opinion. But he's not wrong.

Dream on, fellow taxpayers. That's obviously the only way you will see any improvement.

Pony up, kids, it's tax time again.

Kim Zimek
St. Croix



Editorials from around the US, world

Feb. 17: The Al-Qadissiya daily newspaper in Bagdhad, Iraq:

The Arab masses and large segments of public opinion denounced the feeble and silly excuses which the American Pentagon used in their news conference and the different lies and fabrications about what they called "self defense" and the protection of their pilots and aircraft from Iraqi air defenses.

They are fooling the world's public opinion about Iraq's sovereign right in protecting its air space from the aggressive American and British armed sorties and carrying out their new barbaric crime.

It is a crime that will not pass without a deterring and decisive response to the American oppressive aggressors, to teach the new-old American-Zionist administration new lessons in steadfastness and jihad (holy struggle), repulse the aggression, break the back of the aggressor and teach the son of a serpent George Bush a lesson that he will never forget as he exposes his deeply rooted hatred of Iraq and its genius historic leadership and threaten in a base manner that matches the immorality of the George Walker Bush administration that has in its service such Zionists or Zionist-inclined people like new Defense Secretary Rumsfield, his aides and advisers.

There are also the criminals Cheney and Colin Powell and others.

They still gloat about the unjust 30th aggression in 1991 and repeat the claims of that war in their new aggression through which they absurdly want to put the clock back...

Allaha Akbar (God is greater) and we shall be victorious.

Feb. 27: Neue Luzerner Zeitung, Lucerne, Switzerland, on Powell in Mideast, entitled "Back to the real problem":

"For U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell the Middle East trip that ended yesterday in Syria must have been sobering. Ten years ago, as the widely respected chairman of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, he had good, often personal relations with most of the Middle East heads of state. This time, however, a cold wind blew in his face — and in that of the United States...

"The new U.S. administration is attempting a balancing act that can scarcely succeed. On the one hand Washington is demonstrating little initiative or new ideas that can get the stalled peace process back on track. On the other the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been supplanted at the top of the U.S. list of priorities by the battle against Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. But Powell's attempt to forge an Arab alliance against the Iraqi dictator like 10 years ago has failed.

Feb. 27: The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, on Bush really did win.

The supposed treasure trove of uncounted votes in Florida for former Vice President Al Gore — Miami-Dade County — is proving elusive in newspaper-sponsored ballot reviews, including one for USA Today and two other news organizations that shows Gore might have lost votes if the hand count he wanted had been completed.

USA Today reports that under the most lenient standard for counting even faintly dimpled ballots, Gore would have a net gain of just 49 votes in Miami-Dade. If a more stringent standard was used, Bush probably would have gained votes in the county.

Officially, Bush won Florida by 537 votes, and the state's Electoral College votes propelled him to the presidency. Gore supporters continue to whine about Florida, claiming uncounted ballots would have given Gore the state and the White House. According to their mythology, Miami-Dade alone would net Gore 600 new votes.

Not so. The review sponsored by USA Today, the Miami Herald and the Knight Ridder company showed Gore wouldn't have gained even 10 percent of that total, even under conditions most favorable to the former vice president. ...

Feb. 27: The Seattle Times on restricting cell phone use among motorists.

A motorist tries to change lanes on the highway when another driver, yammering on a cell phone, cuts in front, nearly causing a wreck. Good grief. Hang up and drive.

Cell-phone frustrations have moved from bumper stickers to legislation. Thirty-five states, including Washington, are considering bills to restrict handheld car phones. Three bills in Olympia have limited chance of success this year, but something has to give.

This issue is ripe for compromise...

With 110 million cell-phone users, and more signing up every day, cell phones are here to stay. They save lives; they're a convenience people won't give up. ... A law that presumes negligence for cell-phone users places responsibility where it belongs: on the person who bet — and bet wrongly — he or she could talk and drive safely at the same time.

Memories of 'lectures' in VI political elections

Michael Joseph
My Turn

"To night, it ga' a lecture," you would hear someone say. We kids got very happy for that occasion. That meant we had extra hours to play that evening and run around the crowd as adults listened to the loud speech.

The lecturer would get louder by approving chants of the crowd.

We couldn't go far from the crowd, but we certainly enjoyed the attention they paid to the politician lecturing. These lectures would take place mostly in the market or in the bandstand. They would go on for hours, sometimes.

They were not exactly speeches. Instead, the lectures they gave were mostly extemporaneous and loud attempts to get the crowd convinced why they should vote for that particular politician.

Sometimes, before a set of politicians would run as a team, the individual candidates would lecture for their position on that slate. If the crowd liked lectures, word spread and that politician was assured a slot.

Brother Walter I.M. Hodge and Fritz Lawaetz were the Democratic chieftains. C. Lloyd W. Joseph, my father, ran as the lone Republican candidate.

The League of Women Voters, T.V., and radio talk show hosts were not yet invented. The media did not afford an hour as a public service to each candidate. The lectures were the message. Politicians lived and died by these open, non-produced affairs.

For those who lived far from town in the small villages like Bethlehem, Coble, Korea, and Slab (Grove Place was then considered the third town, and it had a bandstand), a loudspeaker was mounted on the top on the roof of, usually, a pick-up truck, and the politician drove into that village and lectured to his heart's content as he drove, slowly stopping where groups gathered.

I couldn't believe how many hours my father would spend going through these villages with me in his pick-up lecturing. Although these lectures were loud, they were respectful and civil. The crowd seemed to love them.

Sometimes melee would be thrown around, and I am sure attendance would increase when melee was anticipated.

The lectures created a closeness to the politician, and an inner-knowledge of the politician's character, which seems to be lacking today.

Sincerity and honesty seemed to rise from these unprepared speeches, appeals for public support.

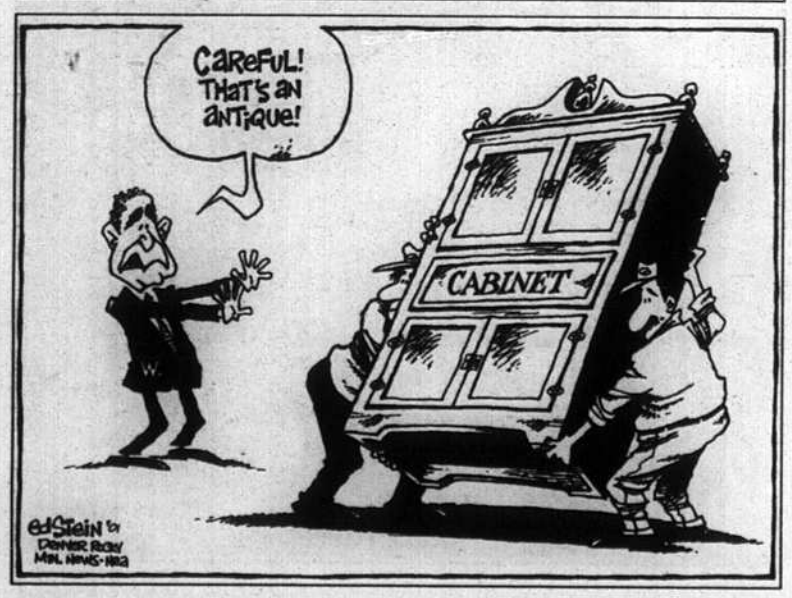
I remember Daddy mimeographing position papers, as he called them, passing them out at the lecture.

Today, local politics is now confined to sound bites, buzzwords, and 15-second jingles according to ability to pay both print and electronic media. The fun and sincerity seems to have been lost. Bring back the lectures, why not?

It just dawned on me that Sen. Alicia Hansen keeping in touch with the people is the closest thing we have to a lecture left. For she, probably without realizing it, approaches politics in the old-fashioned way. That may account for her repeated successful political gains; notwithstanding, she never aligns herself during her election with a slate or even a political label.

I am just saying this to say that the past does have links to the future.

Attorney Michael Joseph lives on St. Croix.



New York City schools adopt new bilingual education policy

NEW YORK (AP) — Parents of students in the city's bilingual education program will get to choose how quickly their children face English immersion under a plan approved by the New York City Board of Education.

The new policy ends the automatic assignment of children who fail an English competency exam to the bilingual program, in which enrollees are taught core subjects, such as math and science, in their native tongue.

Parents will be allowed to choose from four programs for their children: the bilingual education program; English as a second language, in which core subjects are taught in English; a new program that would provide after-school and weekend instruction to move students rapidly into an English language program; or a dual language program.

The board's unanimous approval Tuesday of Schools Chancellor Harold O. Levy's $75 million proposal follows years of criticism that parents had little say on whether to place their children in bilingual classes.

There are currently 176,000 New York students enrolled in New York's bilingual education or English as a second language program. More than 65 percent of the students are Hispanic; the rest are largely Chinese and Russian.

The board directed Levy to come up with a plan to pay for the program. Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani has set aside roughly $9 million to pay for after-school and weekend bilingual programs.

The board Tuesday also was served with a lawsuit that seeks to block its $250 million proposal to turn over five failing schools to a private education company.

Budget on its way

Sales effort begins on $1.6T across-the-board tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush sent Congress a $1.96 trillion budget Wednesday that would curtail spending in programs ranging from farm aid to transportation while using ballooning surpluses to provide Americans with an across-the-board tax cut.

Bush and his top economic policy-makers wasted no time embarking on a major sales effort to win congressional approval of a program that faces heavy opposition from Democrats who complain that its $1.6 trillion 10-year tax cut is too large and too weighted to the rich.

The president hit the road to tout the benefits of his economic program, telling a crowd in Beaver, Pa., that his budget plan was responsible, a matter of fairness and a good-faith effort to brake runaway government spending.

"The surplus is your money, it's not the government's money," he said, earning cheers from the crowd.

Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill appeared before the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday afternoon to explain details of the budget, breaking with tradition in which Cabinet secretaries wait until the day after the budget is released to testify before Congress.

"It seems to the president and the rest of us that we should speed this money on the way back to the people who sent it in," O'Neill told the committee in explaining Bush's request that the tax cut be made retroactive to the first of this year to combat an economic slowdown.



Associated Press

President Bush addresses a Joint Session of the 107th Congress on Capitol Hill Tuesday in Washington. Vice President Dick Cheney, left, and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., look on.

Bush said in his 207-page budget plan, called "A Blueprint for New Beginnings," that the proposal would create a federal government "that is both active to promote opportunity and limited to preserve freedom." The budget provides "reasonable spending increases to meet needs while slowing the recent explosive growth that could threaten future prosperity," he said. But Democrats complained that his $1.6 trillion, 10-year tax cut was too generous to the wealthy, saying $750 billion in tax relief weighted to lower income Americans would be more responsible. They also pledged that during the upcoming congressional battle, they would protect various programs Bush is trying to trim.

"All of the democratic principles he espoused, we support. It just doesn't fit into a budget process," said Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., the House Ways and Means Committee's top Democrat.

Democrats contended GOP leaders were trying to ram Bush's massive tax cut through Congress, scheduling a Ways and Means vote on Thursday. "Something with such consequence should not be delivered in such haste," said Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

NEW YORK

FBI agent: Defendant said attack a 'blunder'

NEW YORK (AP) — A suspect in the deadly bombing of the U.S. embassy in Kenya told the FBI that it was a "big mistake" because the bomb was improperly placed in a truck, killing too many civilians, an FBI agent testified Wednesday.

The agent, John Anticed, told a jury in federal court in Manhattan that Mohamed Sadeek Odeh said during an interrogation that he did not know about the Aug. 7, 1998, blast in Nairobi before it happened. "He thought it was a blunder," Anticed recalled Odeh saying. "He didn't like that so many civilians were killed."

The agent said Odeh told him the bomb vehicle should have been backed into the embassy rather than striking it head-on so the blast would not have been directed toward other buildings and scores of civilians.

Prosecutors allege Odeh, 35, and his co-defendants followed Osama bin Laden's orders to bomb that embassy and the one in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the same day as part of a holy war against Americans. The explosions killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

On Tuesday, Anticed testified that Odeh had in 1992 "pledged allegiance to bin Laden and would follow his orders."

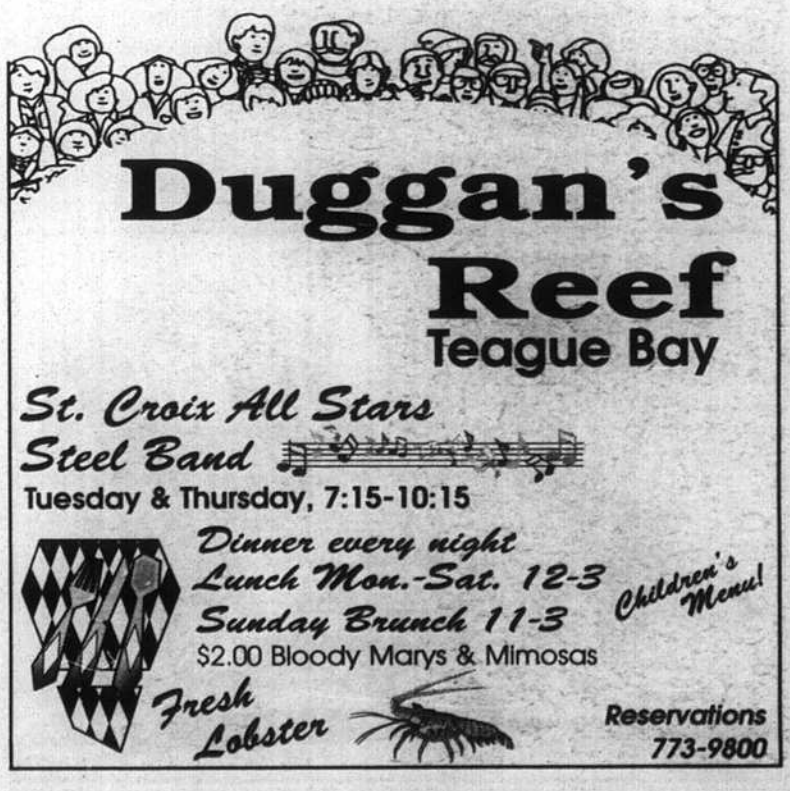
On Wednesday, the agent said Odeh admitted during an interview that spanned 12 days in August 1998 that he spent the days before the blast with men he believed carried out the attacks.

He recalled one of them telling him a day before the bombing that he had just spoken to members of bin Laden's al-Qaeda organization in Afghanistan who told him "that all of the people have been evacuated," Anticed said.

"We're expecting a retaliation by the U.S. Army. We're expecting their warplanes to start hitting us and missile attacks," the agent said Odeh recalled the man saying without elaboration.

Odeh said the men had ordered him to flee the country in the first week of August and had given him a razor to shave his beard so that he would not seem Muslim when he traveled.

The agent said Odeh revealed after his arrest that he used a false passport to enter Kenya five days before the bombings and met an explosives expert who led the terrorism cell there.







Associated Press

Brian Neman, center, gestures toward the earthquake-damaged Fenix Cafe in Seattle's Pioneer Square district Wednesday. The Pacific Northwest was rocked by a powerful earthquake Wednesday, sending people fleeing into the streets of Seattle and Portland, Ore., damaging buildings and roads, and closing Seattle's two airports.

Northwest jolted

Thousands still without power in earthquake's aftermath

SEATTLE (AP) — A powerful earthquake jolted the Northwest on Wednesday, sending people fleeing into the streets of Seattle and Portland, Ore., knocking out power to thousands and sending bricks cascading to the ground.

Twelve people were treated at Seattle's Haborview Medical Center, three for serious injuries, spokeswoman Marsha Rule said. There were no other immediate reports of injuries.

The magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit at 10:55 a.m., according to the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo. Centered 35 miles southwest of Seattle, it was felt across the region and into Canada. The dome of the Washington Capitol had a visible crack.

"Everyone was panicked," said Paulette DeRooy, who was in an elevator descending from the 15th floor of a Seattle building when the earthquake struck. She and several others scrambled out and onto a fire escape.

Screams erupted at a nearby hotel, where Microsoft founder Bill Gates was addressing an education and technology conference. He was whisked away as his audience bolted for the exits. Some were knocked down by others trying to get out and overhead lights fell to the floor.

The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport was closed and the tower and other offices were evacuated, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman William Shumann said.

The FAA ordered a national ground stop for Seattle, which means no flights to the Northwest's largest city were being allowed to take off anywhere in the country. The center handling air traffic in Washington and Oregon, near Auburn, Wash., was operating on backup power.

Utility officials estimated that 17,000 customers in the Seattle area were without power.

In Olympia, about 10 miles from the epicenter, a crack was visible in the Capitol dome. Legislators, government workers and visiting school children flooded out of the Capitol and other buildings.

The state Senate was in session.

"The chandelier started going and the floor started shaking. Someone yelled get under the table and so we did," Sen. Bob Morton said. "The sudden violence let us know that this was a bad one."

Cracked plaster, gilt and even paintings fell from the walls, but Morton said he saw no sign of major structural damage.

Officials were particularly afraid the Capitol dome would collapse and people linked hands as they walked down the marble stairs under the heavy dome.

"If that rascal had tumbled down, it would have been all over," Morton said.

Seattle's popular Pioneer Square neighborhood, site of recent Mardi Gras riots, was damaged. Bricks from buildings were piled up on sidewalks. Structural damage also was reported at Bellevue Community College, which was shut down for the day.

"I thought a car had hit my building," said Sam Song, who owns a restaurant in Everett, 30 miles north of Seattle. "Then the ground started moving around."

Seattle, Philadelphia revelry turns violent

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Mardi Gras revelry turned violent early Wednesday in Seattle, Philadelphia and Fresno, Calif., with crowds fighting, smashing storefronts and looting.

Police fought back on horseback and with pepper spray.

Some 100 people were arrested in Philadelphia. About 70 people were injured in Seattle, and two of them were described as in severely critical condition with head injuries, one from a fall off an overpass.

In Fresno, one person was stabbed as an unruly crowd stormed the city's Tower District, overturning portable toilets, smashing windows and hurling bottles at police officers.

By contrast, the more notorious pre-Lenten partying in New Orleans was largely peaceful, even though upward of a million people — many in costume and some in little more than a smile — had jammed the streets as Fat Tuesday jiggled and giggled its way into Ash Wednesday.

Philadelphia revelers smashed windows and dozens of people looted a liquor store and other businesses on South Street, a trendy stretch of bars and shops at the edge of downtown. It took police about an hour to clear the street.

"Disappointing is the only word I can think to say," city managing director Joe Martz said early Wednesday as he walked down the street strewn with trash, broken glass, empty beer cans and a few lace bras. "It's disgraceful."

At a news conference Wednesday, Philadelphia Mayor John Street said he wouldn't call for cancellation of the annual event, although officials had discussed a curfew or other restrictions.

"Those businesses who are pumping people full of booze from 7 a.m. in the morning until they basically explode should be held accountable," City Councilman Frank DiCicco said Wednesday.

Philadelphia police had set up barricades to keep pedestrians on the sidewalks, but late Tuesday the crowds poured into the street.

Eventually, police closed the street to vehicles instead of trying to push back the partiers.

Just after 11 p.m., police started to clear the street with a line of officers on bicycles and horses.

But after advancing about four blocks into the heart of the club district, they were assaulted with bottles thrown by revelers who stood their ground, police said.

"What happened here tonight that disturbed me was the viciousness with the bottles," Philadelphia Police Chief Inspector Frank Pryor said. "We didn't touch anyone. We were very nice to them. But it seems they wanted a confrontation with the police."

Most of the Philadelphia arrests were for public drunkenness, disorderly conduct and fighting. Most defendants were fined $300.

The fights in Seattle broke out when as many as 4,000 people crowded into the streets.

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■ LOS ANGELES

Members of anti-Iran terror group busted

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Seven members of an anti-Iranian terror group have been arrested for soliciting thousands of dollars from travelers arriving in Los Angeles, the FBI said Wednesday.

The seven members of the Mujahedeen Khalq Organization of Iran, or the People's Holy Warriors, were arrested Tuesday following a three-year international investigation, the FBI's James DeSarno told reporters.

"The subjects in this case targeted travelers, primarily of Asian descent, as they arrived at Los Angeles International Airport. They dressed in business attire and used binders containing photographs of starving children and other documents," DeSarno said.

The group deposited $1 million in a Turkish bank during a 12-month period, and the money was used to buy rocket propelled grenades, mortars and other arms, he said.

The State Department has previously said that Iraq has spent millions of dollars building a military base for the mujahedeen, a group that U.S. officials have linked to terror activities around the world.

The mujahedeen is believed to have participated in the 1979 takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran, and to have killed several U.S. military personnel and civilians, DeSarno said.

He said the airport solicitations were remarkably effective.

"Some $5,000 to $10,000 a day was collected in this manner. They also aggressively solicited members of the Iranian community," he said.

"No evidence in the case supports the fact that any of these persons solicited either at the airport or in the Iranian community had knowledge of the fact that this money was being used to support terrorist activity," he said.

The cell raised the funds on behalf of a charity fund known as the Committee for Human Rights, which is known as CHR in Iran, he said.

"The CHR purported to use the money for humanitarian aid," DeSarno said. "This investigation has revealed that money was really used to support terrorist actions."

Cryptology buffs abuzz over perfect code claim

BOSTON (AP) — Cryptology experts are abuzz over a Harvard professor's claim that he can make an unbreakable code that can be used over and over again.

Computer science professor Michael Rabin, with the help of doctoral student Yanzhong Ding, developed a mathematical proof that experts say could be used to make a code indecipherable even by the most powerful computers.

"We are doing something that is seemingly impossible, and that is, of course, extremely exciting," Rabin said Wednesday.

Rabin's method uses a stream of randomly generated characters that can be decoded with a mathematical formula. Once the message is decoded, the stream disappears, leaving nothing for hackers to decipher, Rabin said. The key can be reused on a different message.

"There are a few places in which I would need to investigate much more before I would accept these claims."

Richard Kaye, Mathematics professor at the University of Birmingham in England

"Unbreakable codes" have been created before, but they were for one-time-use only, experts say.

Rabin said he is not yet planning to commercialize the system. If he does, it could be used by corporations, governments or any group that wanted to keep top-secret information secure.

Richard Lipton, a computer science professor at Princeton University, said he has seen the formula and is convinced it could work. Lipton said Rabin's most significant achievement was proving his ideas mathematically.

"Though the idea seems obvious, the math behind it is quite hard," he said.

Another professor, however, said by e-mail that he has reservations.

"There are a few places in which I would need to investigate much more before I would accept these claims," said Richard Kaye, a mathematics professor at the University of Birmingham in England. Kaye made headlines last fall when he argued that playing the computer game Minesweeper could lead to a way of cracking codes efficiently.

Even supporters such as Lipton do not believe Rabin's work will create a code that is unbreakable forever. Someday, they say, computers will be able to store enough information to render Rabin's code vulnerable.

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Pardons examined

Attorneys call last bout 'an accident waiting to happen'

WASHINGTON (AP) — From the beginning of his presidency, Bill Clinton moved to take away the Justice Department's traditional role of being first to review requests for clemency, the agency's former pardon attorney told a congressional committee Wednesday.

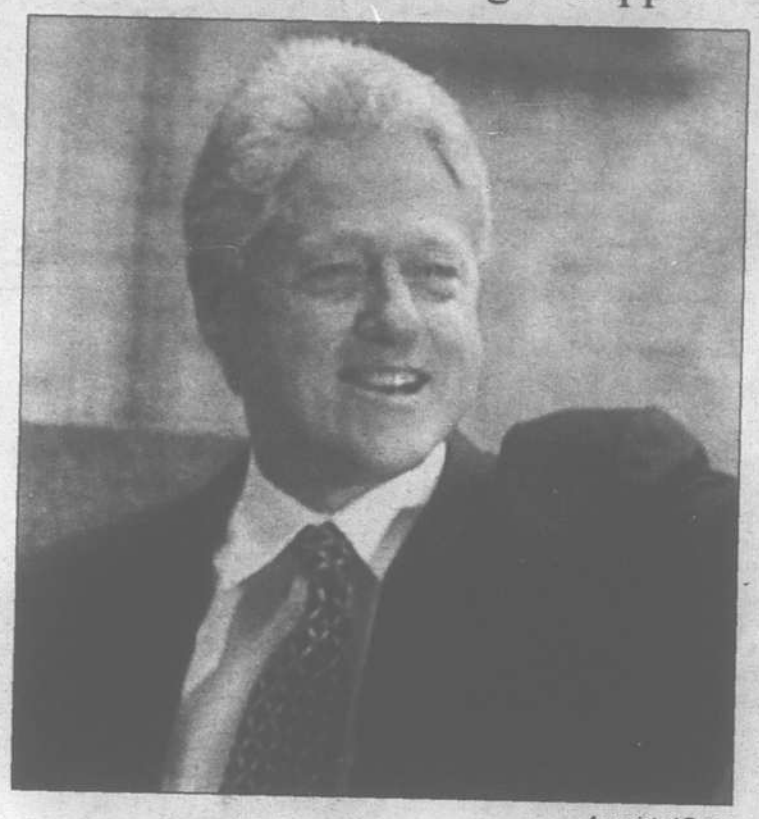
"The final Clinton pardons were an accident waiting to happen," Margaret Colgate Love, who served as pardon attorney from 1990 to 1997, told the House Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution.

Traditionally, presidents let the Justice Department take the first look at clemency requests, but Clinton's White House took it upon itself to answer pardon inquiries, and made it known that Justice officials would be among many people who would advise Clinton on the requests, she said in written testimony.

"The Clinton administration's shortsighted and ill-advised decision to abandon the long-standing regular system of Justice Department review led directly to the reported free-for-all at the end of his term and the resultant appearance of cronyism and influence-peddling," Love asserted.

Also Wednesday, two members of the House Government Reform Committee began to review a list of 150 people who contributed more than $5,000 to Clinton's presidential library project. The Clinton foundation, which is raising money for the library in Little Rock, Ark., had resisted giving its donor list to the committee, but on Wednesday agreed to let the congressmen review it, while taking steps to protect the privacy of donors unrelated to the committee's investigation.

In an effort to convince Congress he has nothing to hide, Clinton said Tuesday that three of his closest ex-aides are free to testify to another House committee Thursday about the clemencies he granted in his last hours in the White House.



Associated Press

Former President Bill Clinton arrives for a Credit Suisse First Boston Conference on the Business of Media and Entertainment Tuesday, in New York. The House Government Reform Committee continues to investigate Clinton's last minute pardon of the fugitive financier Marc Rich.

Clinton has waived his claim to executive privilege, which could have kept his former aides from telling lawmakers everything they know about the pardon of billionaire Marc Rich, who has lived in Switzerland since just before he was indicted in 1983 on charges of tax evasion, fraud and making illegal oil deals with Iran.

But while Clinton decided to let his aides testify freely, Rich declined to be a witness before the House Government Reform Committee, which is trying to determine whether money played a role in the presidential pardons of Rich and others.

Rich also refused to release his lawyers from attorney-client privilege. If he did, his lawyer said it could be later argued in criminal or civil proceedings that the privilege no longer exists. The Rich pardon is the subject of a criminal investigation by U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White in New York City.

"Mr. Rich has asked me to inform the committee that he must continue to rely on the advice of his lawyers and, therefore, is unable to comply with the committee's requests at this time," his attorney, Laurence Urgenson, said in a letter to the committee.

Powell putting imprint on job as top diplomat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Colin Powell is putting his own imprint on his job as America's top diplomat: straight talk and fewer frills. His motorcades are shorter and he steers clear of ambiguous diplo-speak.

Other secretaries of state have started out promising to speak openly to the public through the reporters traveling with them. In most cases, they soon retreated to the disguise of being a "senior U.S. official" aboard the secretary's plane. That avoids accountability.

So, after only five weeks, the jury on Powell is still out, although so far, at least, he isn't ducking.

Is Ariel Sharon interested in resuming negotiations with Syria? It didn't come up in his meeting with Israel's prime minister-elect in Jerusalem, Powell said.

Is Syria importing Iraqi oil illegally? President Bashar Assad agreed to put his suspicious pipeline under U.N. scrutiny. "I didn't get into details as to what the pipeline is being used for now," Powell said leaving Damascus.

There is a risk in admitting he did not press for answers. Powell appears willing to take it by dealing with hot issues one step at a time.

He also seems to enjoy briefing reporters after his meetings with foreign leaders. Even more, he likes to talk about his interest in automobiles. He owns four of them, and is an avid tinkerer.

Powell's hectic four-day trip to six countries ended Tuesday night with his return to Washington in time to attend President Bush's speech to Congress.

On the road, his work-style was brisk. He was punctual. And he listened.

The Arabs pressed their complaints that curbs on trade with Iraq were hurting the Iraqi people. Powell, who had said his mind was open, agreed to relax bans on consumer goods, although he insisted on tighter controls on material for weapons programs.



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell

He also managed a breakthrough, persuading Assad to submit to U.N. supervision of a pipeline from Iraqi oilfields to the Mediterranean to make sure it does not circumvent the rule that the revenue is used for food and medicine.

Even in this jet age, covering six countries in four days is hard work, but the 62-year-old former top U.S. general gave no sign of fatigue or irritation.

Asked toward the end if the job was turning out to be fun, Powell replied: "Ah, yes."

Indeed, he seemed to be enjoying himself.

Accepting a ride to Amman airport from King Abdullah II of Jordan after talks in the royal palace, Powell slipped behind the wheel of the king's rust-colored Mercedes limousine and drove them to the tarmac.

Powell said he wanted to step on the gas to test the 12-cylinder engine, but wary U.S. security agents maneuvered their car to stay in front of the king's, keeping Powell to 30 miles an hour.

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Heart surgery's burning question:

Do laser holes really cure chest pain?

BY DANIEL Q. HANEY
AP MEDICAL EDITOR

CHICAGO (AP) — The surgeon took aim at his patient's naked beating heart with a bent plastic nozzle. The thing looked like something borrowed from a water faucet.

But it was a laser gun, the hot end of a 2,000-pound machine, and the surgeon was about to burn a hole clear through the woman's left ventricle, the main pumping chamber of her heart.

"Arm laser!" he ordered.

A red dot of light showed exactly where the laser beam would hit. He held the gun against the fat-streaked heart, pulsing like a nervous animal inside the open chest.

The surgeon stepped on a foot pedal. Thud. Gray-white smoke puffed from an exquisitely round hole, followed by a little geyser of blood.

"Hit?" the surgeon asked. An anesthesiologist watched the result on an ultrasound screen. A dark cloud blossomed inside the heart. Vaporized blood. "Yes," came the reply.

Until that moment, the operation had been an ordinary coronary bypass, much like 600,000 others done in the United States each year. Dr. Keith Horvath, the surgeon, had spent three hours stitching wormlike strands of vein and artery onto the woman's heart, detouring blood around her clogged blood vessels.

The laser, however, was something new. Horvath moved the gun a fraction of an inch and fired again. Ten minutes and 17 holes later, he was done.

What the surgeon accomplished with this final flourish — so elegant yet crude — is something no one can say beyond a doubt.

Horvath hoped that he improved his patients' chances of escaping bad chest pain, that he increased the flow of blood to parts of the heart muscle that would not be helped by the bypass operation.

But did he? Or had he just added several thousand dollars to the patient's hospital bill for no good reason?

The questions are the core of a debate over an unusual piece of medical technology. Those who believe in the laser say it can profoundly relieve otherwise unmanageable angina. But even if people feel better — and they clearly often do — some wonder if the laser is simply an expensive placebo, a surgical version of the sugar pill.

The technology has been held back in part by a public relations problem: Drilling holes through the heart is an odd thing to do, and no one can explain with certainty why it works. If in fact it does.

The idea of drilling holes through the heart has been around since the 1980s. Early advocates supposed the holes would act like new blood vessels, bringing blood directly from the pumping chambers into the oxygen-starved muscle that surrounds them.

But this theory has been largely refuted. It turns out the holes quickly fill up with clots and then heal. Within a few months, they disappear.

Nevertheless, drilling holes in the heart does something. Between half and three-quarters of patients studied have dramatic relief from chest pain.

"In 20 years of medicine, I have never seen anything that gives as much symptomatic benefit for patients," says Dr. William O'Neill of William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich.

O'Neill is a cardiologist, a nonsurgical heart specialist, and he has tested a still experimental form of heart laser that is delivered into the heart through a tube called a catheter. Instead of burning holes from the outside in, as the surgeons do, this technique burns notches into the walls of the heart from the inside.

Practically every doctor who has tried the laser, whether the surgical or catheter variety, tells stories of almost unbelievable recoveries. Among O'Neill's patients is Frank Warren, 41, an auto worker from Sterling Heights, Mich.

Warren suffered with heart problems for almost 10 years. Sometimes it was a burning sensation, other times a pain that came on even while resting. He had no energy. The slightest exercise was exhausting. Over the years he underwent eight angioplasties, but nothing helped.

"After the laser, I felt immediate results," says Warren. "I felt a warmth in my face. My color seemed to change. I made a decision right there on the table that if this thing worked, I would begin to try to run."

He started out in rehab. He walked and eventually took up running, first a half mile and then longer. Almost a year to the day after his laser, Warren ran a marathon and finished in a respectable four hours, 29 minutes.

Most laser patients are too old to run marathons, but substantial and even complete relief of angina is common. Often they are able to give up nitroglycerin, the medicine they take, often in large quantities, for chest pain.

"I had an 80-year-old man who could not even wash himself," remembers Washington University cardiologist John Lasala. "Then I got calls from family members the next week saying, 'Dad's out gardening.'"

Such anecdotes are impressive, but doctors prefer large-scale follow-up studies to make sure the successes are more than flukes. Many doctors say this uncertainty makes them uncomfortable about recommending lasers. Even some surgeons are uneasy.

"We're trained to understand how things make patients better," says Dr. Gary Marrone of Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh. "Since we don't understand this, it makes me a little leery about doing it."

Lst year, Medicare agreed to pay for lasers used during bypass, as was done on a recent morning in Horvath's operating room in Chicago.

The patient, a 69-year-old diabetic recovering from a heart attack, had clogged arteries. Horvath could reroute blood around three of them. But two more were too skinny and diseased to fix. That left a 3 by 4 inch section of her heart with less than optimal blood flow.

Two weeks after her operation, Horvath's patient was walking without chest pain. However, it is always possible she might have fared as well with bypass alone.

The laser adds about $8,000 to the price of a bypass, and some surgeons worry it would be an expensive mistake to burn holes in the hearts of large numbers of patients.



Associated Press
A team of surgeons led by Dr. Keith Horvath administers laser pulses to the heart of a patient during heart surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Horvath holds a laser gun, center, that burns a hole into the patient's heart to improve circulation.

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A WORLD APART



Uighur relatives and neighbors gather for a meal while waiting for the bride to arrive at a Muslim wedding in Hotan, in China's remote Xinjiang region on the frontier with Central Asia. Culturally, the Muslim groups in the region have less in common with China than they do with the nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, on China's border.

Associated Press

China's Muslims strive to maintain culture

URUMQI, China (AP) — Beijing is 2,000 miles to the east. But clocks in the dusty towns of Xinjiang on China's desert frontier with Central Asia are required to show the same time as the national capital.

This odd stamp of Beijing's distant authority is one of the few things that the remote, sparsely settled Northwest has in common with the rest of China.

Its indigenous peoples are Caucasian-featured Muslims who speak Turkic languages unrelated to Chinese. They turn their backs on Beijing as they bow in prayer toward Mecca.

In this world apart, the Muslims are striving to maintain a distinctive way of life against an influx of settlers from China's Han majority who bring Chinese culture and economic influence.

Xinjiang — Chinese for "New Territory" — sprawls over 640,000 square miles, or a full one-sixth of China's land area. It includes the arid Taklamakan Desert and some of China's last unspoiled wild beauty in the remote Kunlun Mountains.

China's efforts to control Xinjiang have ebbed and flowed over 20 centuries since its glory days as the start of the Silk Road trading route to the West. That effort never has been greater than today as Beijing tries to crush a smoldering separatist movement in a region it believes holds immense reserves of oil, natural gas and other resources.



Uighur Muslim men talk as they sit at a sidewalk in Kashgar, in the Xinjiang region.

Associated Press

The Muslims, who had an independent republic for a few decades early in the 20th century, still regard the Han Chinese as invaders.

The biggest Muslim group is the Uighurs, the easternmost branch of the Turkic groups of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Xinjiang also touches Pakistan, Afghanistan and India.

Worried about the radical, politicized Islam of Afghanistan crossing the border, China maintains a strong military presence in the region. Chinese soldiers are seen everywhere in the cities, especially in Hotan and Kashgar in the far west.

Muslim unrest has been fed by the influx of Han Chinese settlers drawn to Xinjiang by subsidies meant to develop the region. The new arrivals are thought to make up just over half of Xinjiang's population of 15 million.

Some accuse Beijing of trying to cement its hold on the region by making Muslims a minority in their own land, and critics contend most economic benefits flow to Han Chinese.

The two groups remain aloof from one another. Han Chinese live in newly built districts, Muslims in mud-brick houses.

After decades of attempts to minimize the Muslims' cultural identity, the communist government is trying to woo them with more liberal policies as it simultaneously tries to crush the militants.

Beijing is paying to build mosques, though they remain under state control. Five times a day, in an act that once would have been punished, Muslims make their way to the mosque. Along the way, they pass Chinese soldiers and police, and the two groups ignore each other.

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The Avis
OUR TIMES
THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2001

SWAP SHOP

Radio trading marts, born in rural America, still strong

BY ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Shawn Allen never knows what he'll hear when he opens the phone lines.

As the host of Trade Mart, a popular call-in show at WXLR-FM in rural eastern Kentucky, he has helped people sell everything from billy goats to bass boats, fighting roosters to four-wheel drives.

"I get a kick out of it," Allen said Tuesday morning as he prepared to take the deluge of calls lighting up the switchboard. "Sometimes, I can't help but laugh."

Neither can the listeners who tune in throughout rural America for similar programs born in the golden age of radio.

Swap shop programs, though fewer in number nowadays, continue to garner solid ratings.

The programs give people a chance to sell, trade or give away unneeded items or animals while at the same time allowing them to go on the air for a brief moment of fame.

The best shows are the ones people go to work talking about, like the time an old man called in advertising for a wife or when a woman called trying, without much success, to find someone to adopt a cat that had attacked her child, said Barry Boyd, general manager at WXLR in Harold.

Michael Biel, professor of radio and television at Morehead State University, said the programs have been dying away over the past 20 years as more radio stations opt for national programming piped in via satellite. He said he's glad some are still hanging on to locally produced programs, like swap shop.

"As I'm traveling, I like listening to them because it gives me a flavor for the communities I'm driving through," Biel said. "I don't recall ever hearing anything like a swap shop until I moved out of the New York suburbs."

One man who called Allen on Tuesday needed a tailgate for his pickup truck. Another had fighting roosters for sale. About a dozen goats were advertised, as were a collection of Tennessee Ernie Ford and Elvis Presley records, two CB radios, several vehicles, two mobile homes, a treadle-type sewing machine, a George Foreman rotisserie grill.

"We get things like pocket watches, living-room suites, appliances, jewelry, houses, saddles," said Trish Stacy, who does a similar show, Free Market, for WSGS-FM in Hazard. "We get a lot of poultry and fowl. It's definitely an interesting program. A lot of people just like to be on the radio. It's their way of getting attention."

"People get up in the mornings and have their coffee to this show. It's a very important part of their morning."

Trish Stacy,
call-in show host

One of Stacy's favorite calls? The man who wanted to sell 722 boxes of Kraft deluxe macaroni and cheese. "Or I'd trade them for a good rooster."

"It could have been a fake call," Stacy said. "But you just never know."

Many of the calls, she said, sound stranger than fiction, but, then, truth often is.

"People get up in the mornings and have their coffee to this show," Stacy said. "It's a very important part of their morning. It's like their entertainment for the day. People are in amazement at all the things that are for sale."

In rural areas that do not have local daily newspapers, radio fills the gap. Swap shop programs became the on-air version of classified ads.

"I have to take a breather after the show," Stacy said. "It can be that funny."



Associated Press

Shawn "The Buzz" Allen hosts "Trade Mart," a radio program that allows listeners to call in with items for sale or trade on WXLR-FM in Harold, Ky. As the host of Trade Mart, Allen has helped people sell everything from billy goats to bass boats, fighting roosters to four-wheel drives.

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Congo peace process showing new life

PWETO, Congo (AP) — More than 3,000 Rwandan troops marched north Wednesday after withdrawing from positions around this town in southeastern Congo, the most significant step in a sputtering peace process to end a 2 1/2-year war involving six African nations.

Dressed in brand-new camouflage uniforms and carrying assault rifles, mortars and rocket-propelled grenade launchers on their shoulders, the troops sang victory songs as they marched across the rain-soaked savannah.

Rwandan troops have been in Congo since 1998 to support rebels fighting against the Congolese government and to protect Rwanda's western boundary from incursions by Hutu militiamen. They took Pweto, 250 miles north of Lubumbashi, Congo's third-largest city, in December from coalition of forces supporting the government.

Col. Karenzi Karake, Rwandan army chief of operations, said the burden is now on the Congolese army to reciprocate Rwanda's goodwill, and on the international community to ensure that all sides observe a July 1999 agreement to end the fighting and bring democracy to this central African nation.

"We are doing this to support the peace process," Karake said. "There are indications of good behavior in Kinshasa and the United Nations has come in more powerfully, so we are ready to give peace a chance."

Four unarmed U.N. observers witnessed Wednesday's withdrawal from Pweto and will remain there to make sure no Congolese government forces try to enter the town on the Zambian border. Rebels from the Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy will also remain in Pweto until March 15, when all armed forces are required under a U.N. Security Council resolution to pull back nine miles from their front-line positions.



Associated Press

Rwandan troops pull back from their postions near Pweto, in southeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Wednesday. About 3,000 troops were leaving Pweto on Wednesday, said a Rwandan commander.

"I am more optimistic than I have been in the last four months I've been here," said Col. Simon Caraffi, the U.N. observers' chief of staff.

Congolese rebels took up arms against former President Laurent Kabila's government in August 1998, accusing it of corruption and ethnic war-mongering. Rwanda, and later Uganda, both sent troops into Congo to support the rebels.

On Wednesday, 120 Ugandan troops arrived in the northern Ugandan garrison town of Gulu, the first of 1,500 that are to be withdrawn from Bunia in northeastern Congo, Ugandan army spokesman Maj. Phineas Katirima said.

Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia had intervened to prop up Kabila's government. There is now a stalemate, and each side controls roughly half of Congo.

Kabila also recruited the Rwandan and Burundian rebels to join his troops. Rwandan and Ugandan leaders say they will not withdraw their troops completely from Congo until the rebels are disarmed.

Karake said he believes the Congolese government can do that and effectively end the war.

The agreement signed in 1999 in Lusaka, Zambia, calls for a cease-fire, the disarming of the rebel groups and the deployment of U.N. military observers. But when the rebels earlier allowed the observers to deploy, Kabila refused.

However, since his assassination last month, Congo's new president — his son Joseph Kabila — has shown new commitment to the Lusaka accords, and the U.N. observers have begun deploying in government-held towns.

The commander of the Rwandan-backed rebels, Sylvain Buki, said his forces are ready to observe the peace process and pull back from their front-line positions.

Train-truck collision kills 13

GREAT HECK, England (AP) — With a high-speed passenger train bearing down on his Land Rover stuck on the train tracks, the frantic motorist called an emergency number, but it was too late. "The train's coming!" he shouted into his mobile phone — just before it hit.

In a bizarre wreck that left at least 13 dead and more than 70 injured, the passenger train smashed into the Land Rover and a trailer it was towing — which themselves had tumbled down an embankment and onto the tracks from a roadway above — then plowed into an oncoming freight train on a parallel track.

"The carriage roof was torn off and I was flung down the length of the corridor," said passenger Laurie Gunson of the northern city of York, one of dozens of dazed survivors of Wednesday's crash outside the village of Great Heck, about 200 miles north of London.

Rescuers were met with a chaotic scene. Sheared-off undercarriages and mangled rail cars were strewn across a muddy field, and crews had to use cranes to pry open the twisted cars.

The last survivor was pulled out five hours after the early-morning crash, but as night fell, bodies were still being retrieved from the wreckage, and police said the death toll could rise.

Work crews brought in generators and lights to work through the freezing night. The smell of diesel fuel hung in the air.



Associated Press

Officials inspect the scene of a train collision at Great Heck near Selby, some 200 miles north of London, England, Wednesday. At least 13 people were killed when a high-speed passenger train collided with a freight train.

"It is a tremendous tragedy, and a huge mess," said Police Superintendent Tony Thompson.

Prime Minister Tony Blair promised lawmakers "the fullest possible inquiry" into the crash, Britain's fourth fatal train wreck in 3 1/2 years and the latest blow to its troubled rail system.

After a full day, it was still not certain how many people had been on the train. Thompson, the police superintendent, said 144 passengers had booked tickets, but there could have been more, or fewer actually aboard.

Police said the driver of the Land Rover had called Britain's equivalent of 911 just before the crash. "While the operator was speaking to him we heard him shout: 'The train's coming!' and then there was a bang," a police spokesman said.

The driver, who was not identified, was being interviewed by police. "He's completely devastated knowing what happened as a result of his vehicle going onto the tracks," said Thompson.

WTO rules against US in steel import case

GENEVA (AP) — The World Trade Organization ruled Wednesday that the United States acted illegally in deciding to increase duties on Japanese steel imports.

A panel of trade experts said the U.S. International Trade Commission was wrong when it refused to consider information from three Japanese steel companies because their submissions arrived late.

The increased duties were put in place in June 1999 after U.S. steel companies and steelworkers associations complained that Japanese hot-rolled steel was being "dumped" at below-market prices, making it impossible for U.S. producers to compete.

The commission carried out an investigation and upheld the claim. Extra duties were also imposed on steel from Brazil and Russia. Japan took its complaint to the WTO last year.

In its 713-page report, the panel said the U.S. commission's conclusion that the Japanese companies had failed to cooperate was "not a decision that could properly be made by an unbiased and objective investigating authority."

It ordered the United States to "bring its measures into conformity" but rejected a suggestion by Japan that they should order Washington to remove the duties immediately. It also rejected claims by Japan that the commission had acted too hastily in making a determination of "critical circumstances" which allowed it to impose retroactive duties.

The United States has 60 days to appeal.

In another ruling released Wednesday, a WTO arbitrator said Washington has until July 26 to comply with a WTO decision last year that its 1916 Anti-Dumping Act is illegal.

The law, created to fend off unfair competition after the end of World War I, had been considered obsolete until the U.S. company Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. brought a lawsuit against importers of Russian and Japanese hot-rolled steel in 1998.

The WTO investigated following a complaint by the European Union and supported by Japan.

Palestinian Authority accused of ordering attacks on Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) — The commander of Israel's armed forces charged Wednesday that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority is ordering attacks against Israel, and Tel Aviv police safely detonated a bomb planted on a downtown street a few hours later.

"The authority is being converted into a terrorist entity," said Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, the military chief of staff, charging that "senior security officials" are directing attacks against Israel by militias that are "operational arms" of the Palestinian Authority.

Israeli officials in the past have complained that Arafat has encouraged, or at least not stopped, armed attacks by Palestinians during five months of violence, but this was the first time Israel charged that Arafat's quasi-government has adopted terrorism as a policy.

Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi called the accusations "wrong and misleading."

Violence persisted in the West Bank and Gaza, and in Tel Aviv, police safely detonated a bomb. A passer-by spotted an abandoned plastic bag and alerted police. After clearing the area, police used a robot to detonate the device, estimated at more than 4 pounds.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

In the Gaza Strip, a 5-year-old girl playing outside a kindergarten was critically wounded by an Israeli bullet, Palestinian officials said.

The Israeli military said soldiers returned Palestinian fire, but ordered an investigation.

Palestinians said Israeli forces opened a heavy barrage of gunfire at a Palestinian police outpost near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, south of Gaza City, hitting a residential neighborhood.

In the West Bank, Palestinians opened fire on an Israeli work crew building a highway just across the line from the West Bank, wounding a worker. The incident took place near the Palestinian town of Qalqilya. Israeli forces closed off the town.



Associated Press

A Bedouin woman takes care of her flock of sheep as hundreds of Palestinian cars and trucks line up to cross an Israeli Army checkpoint between northern and southern Gaza strip in the town of Der el Balah Wednesday.

Sub captain apologizes to Japanese families

TOKYO (AP) — After apologies from President Bush and other top officials, the families of nine Japanese presumed dead received the words of remorse they wanted most — from the captain of the U.S. submarine that scattered their loved ones in the sea.

Cmdr. Scott Waddle visited a senior Foreign Ministry official at Japan's consulate in Honolulu on Tuesday and hand-delivered 13 apologies addressed to the families of the nine missing, Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and others.

The gesture is likely to go a long way toward soothing anger in Japan, where the tradition for making amends with a formal bow and a teary-eyed apology is taken very seriously.

The Foreign Ministry, which on Wednesday confirmed Waddle's apology in Tokyo, said the letters will be sent promptly. Other letters were directed to the captain of the Japanese fishing trawler, the governor of the state where the missing lived and the principal of the school that four missing students attended.

"Cmdr. Waddle wrote letters of apology and asked that they be delivered as soon as possible," Foreign Ministry official Atushi Kaifu said.

Tensions between Japan and the United States had already been eased by the visit of the Navy's No. 2 officer, Adm. William Fallon, who impressed relatives of the missing with the sincerity of his apology when he met them on Wednesday.

"I felt the envoy was sincere, and it was the most satisfying meeting we have had yet (with American officials)," said Ryosuke Terata, whose 17-year-old son is among the missing.

Fallon said he would go to the boat's home port on Thursday to meet with one representative of each family of the missing.

"The message I will deliver is very simple," he said. "I came seeking their understanding, seeking their acceptance of our apology."

The Avis

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Fighting flares in ethnic areas outside Kosovo

BUJANOVAC, Yugoslavia (AP) — Heavy shooting erupted in two ethnic Albanian areas just outside Kosovo on Wednesday, as NATO dispatched a team to one of the front lines in hopes of curbing new violence in the Balkans.

The fighting broke out in southern Serbia and northern Macedonia — volatile neighboring regions bordering Kosovo where ethnic Albanian rebels have taken up arms against government forces.

Though separated by borders, the conflicts appear similar — both sparked by insurgents in heavily ethnic Albanian areas in apparent hopes of joining the areas to Kosovo as part of ultimate goals of independence.

Serb troops and Albanian militants clashed only hours ahead of scheduled talks with NATO officials on the possible narrowing of a southern Serbian buffer zone with Kosovo where the rebels have taken up positions.

At least one Serbian policeman was wounded by shrapnel to his knee during the fighting. Local residents in the nearby town of Bujanovac gathered in the streets in panic as mortar and machine-gun bursts echoed in the distance.

In Macedonia, the state television reported that the ethnic Albanian rebels in the border village of Tanusevci opened fire on the army and police. The security forces returned fire. No injuries were reported. A Macedonian border checkpoint was also targeted by an anti-tank rocket that missed, Macedonian state radio said, without giving details.

Across the border, in the Kosovo village of Debelde, reporters heard the shooting and saw around a dozen Albanian rebels running across the mountainside, apparently away from the government fire. U.S. troops — part of the NATO-led Kosovo peacekeeping force — could be seen monitoring the situation.

The latest upsurge of fighting around Kosovo has raised fears of another major crisis that could threaten the whole region, less than two years after NATO and the United Nations moved into Kosovo in the wake of a pullout of troops loyal to former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

In Brussels on Tuesday, the NATO allies urged ethnic Albanians and Serbs to begin direct talks and said the alliance would consider a "phased and conditioned" reduction of the demilitarized buffer zone between Kosovo and central Serbia.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, meeting with the 18 other NATO foreign ministers, said the message to the ethnic Albanians was: "This is not the time to start a new conflict in Europe."

They also suggested that the Yugoslav Army Pristina Corps, which took part in major ethnic cleansing campaigns in Kosovo during the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, should be replaced on the edges of the buffer zone with other, less controversial Yugoslav troops.

A NATO team headed by Pieter Feith, the alliance's new envoy to Belgrade, arrived in Bujanovac on the edge of the zone Wednesday for talks with Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic on the proposed reduction of the buffer zone.

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Mon-Fri: 7:20, 9:15; Sat.-Sun: 3:20, 5:15, 7:20, 9:15. "PG-13"

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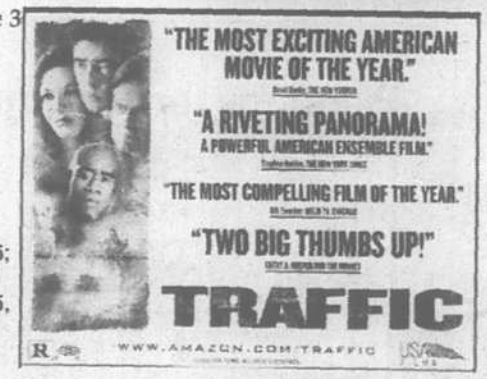
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Theatre 2



Mon-Fri: 7:30 ONLY; Sat.-Sun: 4:00, 6:50, 9:15. "R"

Theatre 3



Mon-Fri: 6:45, 9:15; Sat.-Sun: 3:45, 6:35, 9:15. "R"

Theatre 4



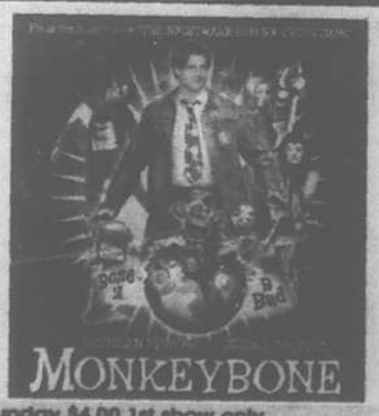
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Theatre 6



Mon-Fri: 7:20, 9:15; Sat.-Sun: 3:20, 5:15, 7:20, 9:15. "PG-13"

No Courtesy Passes on NEW MOVIES this week. Saturday and Sunday $4.00 1st show only.
Senior citizens $4.00 Saturday, Sunday and Monday only.

Briefs

El Salvador rattled by another quake

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — A strong earthquake shook the capital of El Salvador on Wednesday, panicking residents still recovering from two devastating quakes in a month and a string of powerful aftershocks. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The 5.4-magnitude quake hit at 12:42 p.m. and was centered along the Pacific coast about 100 miles southeast of the capital. It lasted about 40 seconds and was felt throughout the country and as far away as Nicaragua.

Rescue crews raced around the city to check for damage, while panicked people stayed outside.

The quake caused landslides along main highways in central and western El Salvador.

Two powerful earthquakes, on Jan. 13 and Feb. 13, killed at least 1,246 people and injured another 8,000. The first quake was magnitude 7.6. The second was 6.6.

Pope gives out ashes in symbolic ceremony

ROME (AP) — Dabbing ashes on the foreheads of cardinals, lesser clergy and laity, Pope John Paul II opened the Roman Catholic Church's Lenten period of penitence Wednesday evening with a solemn ceremony in an ancient Rome church.

The 80-year-old pope, who looked tired, read his homily but did not lead the celebration of the Mass in 5th-century St. Sabina Basilica on the Aventine Hill, one of the seven hills of ancient Rome.

He told the faithful that "in today's world the need for pacification and pardon is growing."

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a period of reflection and penitence in preparation for Christianity's most important feast day, Easter, which falls on April 15 this year. John Paul has scheduled a period of spiritual exercises during Lent.

Church to uphold Tolstoy excommunication

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian Orthodox Church's excommunication of Leo Tolstoy, which the author's great-great-grandson has asked to be lifted, was not a condemnation but a reflection of differing views, a church spokesman was quoted as saying Wednesday.

The comments by Father Vsevolod Chaplin could indicate that the church will not repeal the 1901 excommunication.

The author's descendant, Vladimir Tolstoy, has asked the church to reconsider, saying he should be forgiven in the name of national reconciliation. "Russian people are forced to choose between a national genius and the national religion," he said Monday.

Tolstoy rejected the authority of the church and developed his own version of Christianity, emphasizing that people can affirm the good in themselves through self-examination and reformation.

"I think all people in our country, including the (Orthodox) believers, respect Tolstoy as a writer," Chaplin said, according to the news agency Interfax.

But because Tolstoy "expressed views contradicting the church's teaching and spirit, the church naturally had the right to say that these views could not be considered orthodox," he was quoted as saying.

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BLONDIE By Dean Young and Stan Drake



BEETLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



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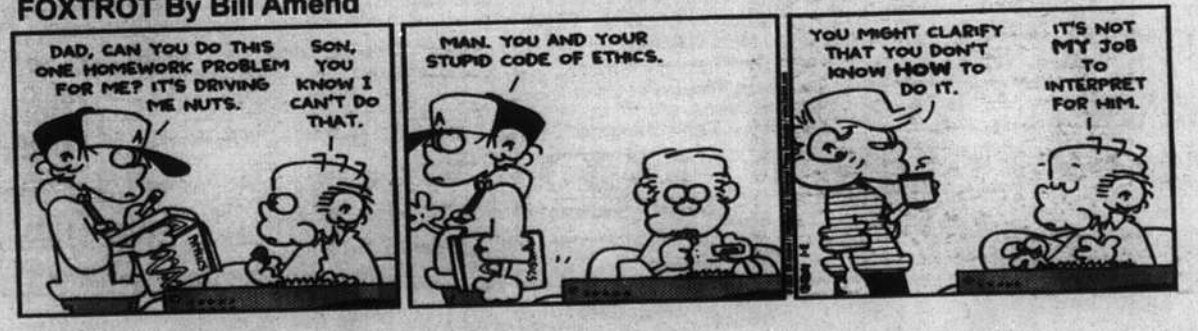
HERB & JAMAAL By Stephen Bentley



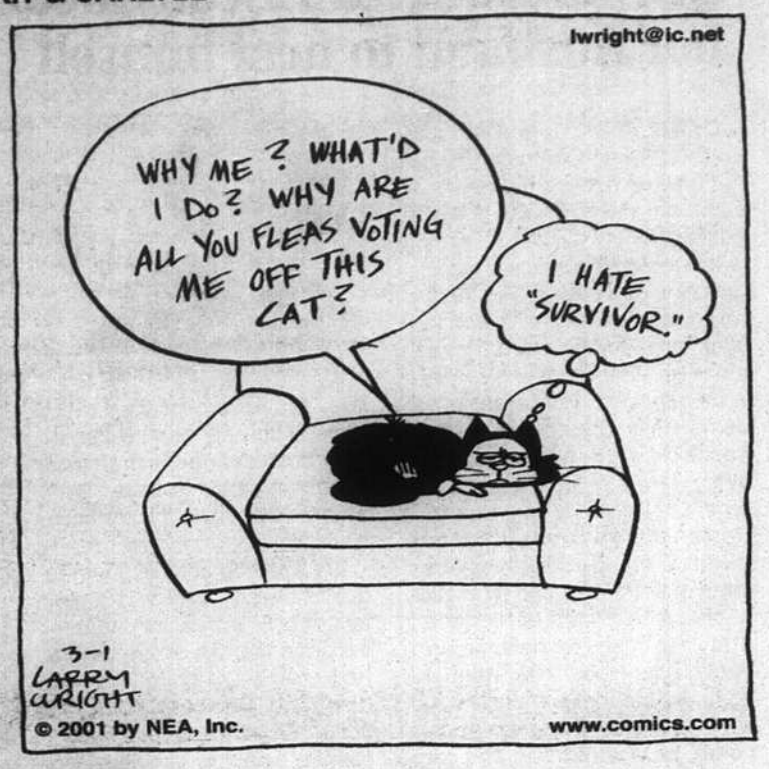
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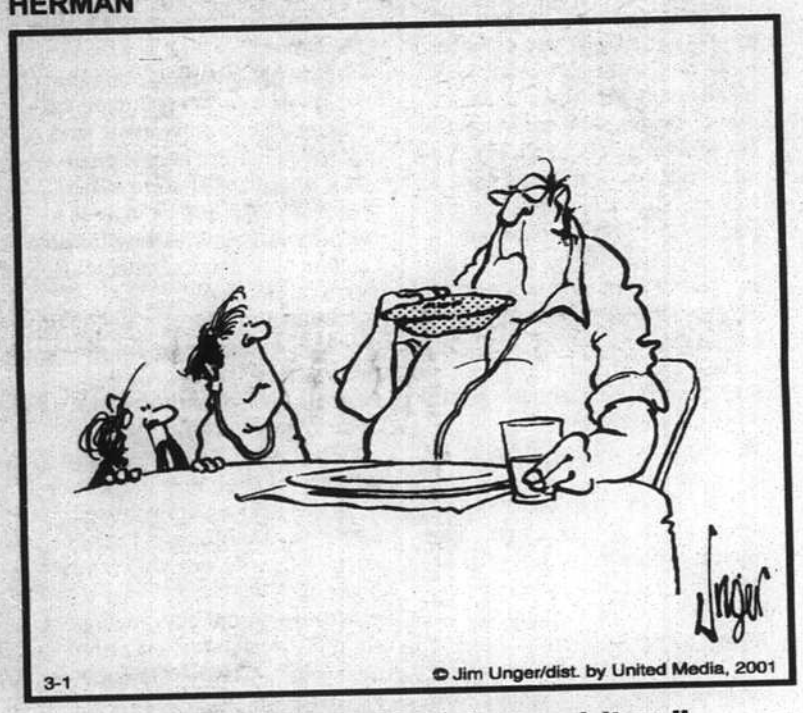
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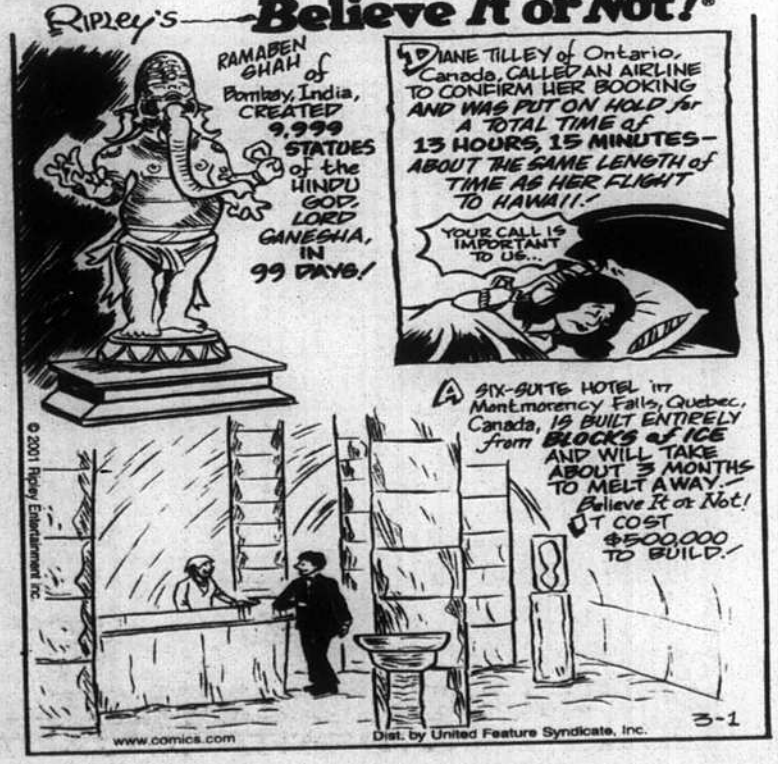


HERMAN



"Watch this! It'll go in two bites."

RIPLEY'S



Doctor's wife can't convince her husband to heal himself



DEAR ABBY: I am an educated middle-aged woman who has not worked outside the home since my first child was born 12 years ago. My husband, "Jack," is a respected physician who makes a good living. We have two daughters, ages 11 and 9. Jack loves the girls and tries to make time for them in his busy work schedule. His career is demanding. Over the years it has taken more and more from him in terms of time, energy and emotions, which is why I have chosen to be at home. Jack has given up many of the things he used to do for fun and relaxation because he is tired all the time.

My husband has become an angry, depressed man. He manages to hide it at work and functions very well. But when he is home, he is controlling and complains constantly.

I have repeatedly asked him to see a therapist and consider taking an anti-depressant, but he absolutely refuses to do either. He says he can manage his problems. He can't. His constant criticism has killed any feelings I had for him. I am not interested in his thoughts or opinions, and I'm certainly not interested in having sex with him, which I do to keep the peace.

Jack says he is happy with me and doesn't want another wife. I am NOT happy with him and I don't want another husband. It's too much work!

If we didn't have children I would leave. But how can I take my daughters away from their father? If I left him, I wouldn't know what to do to support myself since I no longer have any marketable skills. I'm afraid he'd be so angry he would leave me financially destitute.

Abby, I'm stuck. I don't know what to do. — **TIRED OF IT ALL**

DEAR TIRED: Leaving isn't an option. Your husband needs you. You have described symptoms of chronic depression, and your husband needs professional help. Although it hasn't yet affected his work, if it continues, it will.

Try again to convince him to get the help he needs. Remind him of how things used to be between the two of you before he became self-protective and defensive. Do not be confrontational. Tell him you love him. Remind him how important he is to his daughters, that as a family you need his support, not his criticism.

If that has no effect, talk to one of his close and trusted colleagues, preferably one who is trained in mental health disorders, about the change in his behavior. Depression is an illness, and he or she may be able to convince him, in a way you can't, to get help.

Medication and counseling do wonders in the treatment of depression. The sooner it is treated, the faster the patient (or doctor) gets better.

DEAR ABBY: Three years ago, my mother sent me a birthday card with a penny inside. She died recently, and I'm still wondering why she sent me just a penny.

Is there an old adage connected to giving someone a penny as a gift? — **DAUGHTER OF A FRUGAL MOM**

DEAR DAUGHTER: Have you never heard of "a penny for luck"? Your mother included the penny because she was wishing you good luck.

Horoscope

By Francis Drake

ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)
Make sure that you back up your words with the appropriate actions — lest they appear hollow and meaningless. You are likely to charm someone in a position of power.

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)
Your sense of good timing is likely to help you work your way out of a sticky situation. It costs you nothing to bring entertainment to a friend who is in a bad mood.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)
Now is the perfect moment to trade on the wealth of information that you can provide. Someone important will be exceptionally grateful for your assistance.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)
Tackle the easiest thing on your to-do list first, or you might feel overwhelmed. Friends and family suddenly become much easier to forgive and accept.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)
Cooperation is the name of the game, and you might get much further working on a joint project than going solo. Being part of something larger than yourself is tremendously exciting.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Communication with others is infinitely constructive. Suddenly, the key you've been frantically searching for is right in front of you. Put your knowledge to good use.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
You are more open to new ideas, experiences and different cultures than ever. Immerse yourself in a unique environment, and the connections made will be invaluable.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Insider gossip might well turn out to be just another tall tale. Resist the temptation to spend that extra money that's burning a hole in your pocket.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
If you're the only one who seems to get the joke, think twice before laughing. You might blush later when you realize why your humor was in such poor taste.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
The moment you start taking the joke too seriously, be prepared for trouble. Learn how to laugh at your mistakes a little more, and people will respect your good grace.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Paint a big, bright splash of fun and romance across a life that has become a little too serious lately. Devote an evening to whatever you call your art.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)
An argument might set off bells from your past. Make sure that you are examining all the facts and not just reacting on an emotional level.

YOU BORN TODAY Because of your flamboyant, theatrical nature, you tend to attract admirers from all walks of life. You have an unusually creative streak and know how to use it to your best advantage. When it comes to love affairs, you tend to be neither jealous nor possessive.

BIRTHDATE OF: Dr. Seuss, children's book author; Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet premier; Lou Reed, singer/songwriter.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Picture is missing. 2. Shoes are different. 3. Button is missing. 4. Necklace is removed. 5. Dress is shorter. 6. Sleeve is longer.

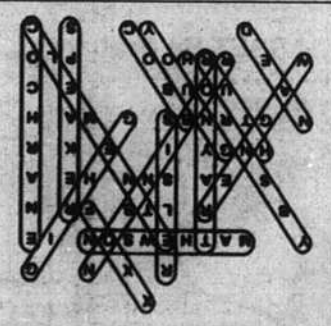
SPORTS SLEUTH • LEGENDS OF BASEBALL POSTAGE STAMPS

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

Wednesday's unlisted clue: HINDI

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

Clemente	Foxx	Robinson	Traynor
Cobb	Gehrig	Ruth	Wagner
Cochrane	Hornsby	Sisler	Young
Dean	Mathewson	Speaker	



LEGENDS OF BASEBALL POSTAGE STAMPS

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS

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V4	T1	B3	R1	O1	A1	I1	Triple Word Score
U1	C3	N1	V4	L1	I1	I1	3rd Letter Triple
G2	H4	N1	R1	I1	I1	I1	
I1	A1	R1	O1	N1	T1	O1	Double Word Score

RACK 1 | RACK 2 | RACK 3 | RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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.

WYSOH

NAHEN

INCOVE

MACENE

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www.jumble.com



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

Answer:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD © 2001, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

V4	I	B3	R	A	T	O									
U	N	C	I	V	I	L									
H4	I	R	I	N	G2										
O	R	A	T	I	O	N									

RACK 1 = 86
RACK 2 = 68
RACK 3 = 10
RACK 4 = 64
JUDD'S TOTAL 228

PAR SCORE 145-155

3-1-01

Prosecutor says Puffy blew gag order with Lopez statement

NEW YORK (AP) — A prosecutor complained Wednesday that Sean "Puffy" Combs violated a gag order by issuing a statement saying he would testify in his own defense on weapons charges and that ex-girlfriend Jennifer Lopez would not testify.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Bogdanos asked state Supreme Court Justice Charles Solomon to hold Combs in contempt of court for violating a gag order barring both sides from talking to the press. He asked that Combs be sentenced to 30 days in jail.

However, the gag order does allow Combs to assert his innocence and defense lawyer Benjamin Brafman argued that Combs' statement fell within that guideline.

The judge said he would consider Bogdanos' request, and in the meantime he barred all statements and interviews from both sides, promising that any violation would be "swiftly and severely" punished.

The morning arguments were made outside the hearing of the jury.

Combs, 31, and his bodyguard, Anthony "Wolf" Jones, 34, are charged with two counts of gun possession. A third suspect, Jamal "Shyne" Barrow, 21, is charged with three counts of attempted murder for allegedly shooting three people at a nightclub near Times Square on Dec. 27, 1999.

Prosecutors allege Combs was illegally carrying a gun at the time the shots were fired, and that he later tried to bribe his chauffeur into accepting responsibility for a handgun that police believe was thrown out of their vehicle. Lopez, who had accompanied Combs to the club, is not charged.

The statement that Combs issued Tuesday read, in part: "Since I intend to testify on my own behalf I feel it is no longer necessary for Jennifer to be involved in these proceedings."

TV GUIDE

THURSDAY EVENING — MARCH 1, 2001

		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
FOX	5	Judge Joe Brown (N)	Divorce Court (CC)	Judge Judy (N)	Home Improve-	Simpsons (CC)	Blind Date	World's Funniest! "Classic Clips" (N) (CC)		Truth Behind the Rumors 7 (N) (CC)		Fox Report		Simpsons (CC)	Blind Date
TBS	6	Full House (CC)	Full House "Secret Admirer"	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne "Happy Birth-day"	Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	(:05) Movie ★★★½ "Fargo" (1996, Comedy-Drama) Frances McDormand, Steve Buscemi, William H. Macy. A businessman's kidnapping scheme spins out of control.					(:20) Movie ★★ "Sniper" (1993) Tom Berenger. Two Army assassins take on a mission in Panama.		
WGN	7	7th Heaven "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do" (CC)		Full House (CC)	Clueless (CC)	Fresh Prince	Suddenly Susan (CC)	Movie ★★½ "The River Rat" (1984, Drama) Tommy Lee Jones, Martha Plimpton. (CC)				News (CC)		MacGyver "The Battle of Tommy Giordano"	
WSVI	8	All My Children (CC)		News	ABC World News Tonight (CC)	Real Estate Preview	Famous Homes and Hideaways	Whose Line Is It Any-way?	Whose Line Is It Any-way?	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (CC)		Primetime Thursday (N) (CC)		News	(:35) Night-line (N) (CC)
WSEE	9	Inside Edi-tion (CC)	News	News	CBS Evening	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (CC)	Survivor: The Australian Outback "Trial by Fire"		CSI: Crime Scene Investi-gation (N) (CC)		Big Apple "Episode One" (N) (CC)		News	(:35) Late Show (N)
WNBC	11	News (CC)		News (CC)	NBC Nightly News (CC)	Extra (N) (CC)	Access Hol-lywood (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace (CC)	Just Shoot Me (CC)	ER "Witch Hunt" (N) (CC)		News (CC)	(:35) Tonight Show (N) (CC)
TLC	12	Home Again	Home Again	Paramedics "The Night Shift"		Mysteries of the Bible		Medical Detectives	Medical Detectives	Secrets of Forensic Sci-ence		Case of the Deadly Doctor (N)		Medical Detectives	Medical Detectives
WPIX	13	Reading Rainbow	Great Entre-preneurs	Newshour With Jim Lehrer (CC)		Topics		Emile Griffith vs Benny Paret 1961 welterweight title fight.							Charlie Rose (CC)
CSPAN	14	(5:00) House of Representatives (Live) (CC)				House of Rep.		Prime Time Public Affairs						Public Affairs	
ETW	16	Refurbish-ing-SI	Kids Banner	Builders of Hope	Mir./Eucharist	Our Lady of the Angels Monastery Daily Mass		Life on the Rock (Live Phone-In)		We Are One Body	Rosary-Land	Edith Stein			G.K. Cheser-ton
WPIX	17	7th Heaven "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do" (CC)		Sabrina-Witch	Fresh Prince	Friends (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Gilmore Girls "Christopher Returns" (N) (CC)		Charmed "Sight Unseen" (CC)		WB11 News at Ten W/ Kaity, Jim, & Mr. G		Friends (CC)	Frasier (CC)
WKAQ	20	Abrázame Muy Fuerte		Yo Soy Betty la Fea		Wilson Wil-son	Atrévete			Telenoticias		La Corte del Pueblo		Programa Pagado	Ocurrió Así
CNN	21	Inside Politics (N) (CC)		Worldview	Moneyline Newshour		Crossfire	Blitzer	The Point	Larry King Live (CC)		Tonight	Spin Room	Sports	Moneyline
ESPN	22	Wm. Final Four	Up Close (N)	Sportscenter (CC)		College Basketball Penn State at Iowa. (Live) (CC)				College Basketball Cincinnati at South Florida. (Live) (CC)				Sportscenter (CC)	
FAM	24	S Club 7 (CC)	Two of a Kind (CC)	Two of a Kind (CC)	Who's the Boss?	Two of a Kind (CC)	Who's the Boss?	Movie ★★ "Oh, Heavenly Dog!" (1980, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Jane Seymour. A detective returns as a dog to solve his own murder.				Early Edition "March in Time" (CC) (DVS)		700 Club Politically correct health care and bad medi-cine. (CC)	
USA	25	PGA Golf: Genuity Champi-onship		Walker, Texas Ranger "The Plague" (CC)		JAG "Chains of Command" (CC)		Nash Bridges "Sniper" (CC)		Movie ★★½ "Secret Cutting" (2000, Drama) Sean Young, Kimberlee Peterson. (CC)				Martin (CC)	Martin (CC)
NICK	26	Rocket Power	U Pick Nick-toons	Pinky & the Brain	Catdog	Hey Arnold! (CC)	Rugrats (CC)	Thornberrys	Brady Bunch	Facts of Life	Facts of Life	Three's Company	Three's Company	All in the Family	Jeffersons (CC)
WGVI	27	Headline News	Infotainment	Entertain-ment	Adrenaline TV	Thunderbox (N)		WWF Smackdown! (CC)				Headline News (CC)	Infotainment	Infotainment	(Off Air)
A&E	28	Magnum, P.I. "Ghostwriter" (CC)		Night Court "Branded"	Newsradio (CC)	Law & Order "The Blue Wall" (CC)		Biography "Ethel Kennedy: Carrying On" (N)		Behind Closed Doors (CC)		Investigative Reports (CC)		Law & Order "Deceit" (CC)	
E!	29	Hollywood Off-Ramp	Hollywood Off-Ramp	Fashion Emergency	News Daily (N)	Celebrity Homes	Talk Soup (N)	Mysteries & Scandals	Mysteries & Scandals	True Hollywood Story "Fabio"		True Hollywood Story "Mamma Cass"		Howard Stern (N)	Howard Stern
COM	32	(5:00) Movie "My Best Friend Is a Vampire"		Saturday Night Live (CC)		Daily Show (CC)	Stein's Money	Comedy Salute to Andy Kaufman		Battlebots (CC)	Battlebots (CC)	Sports Night (CC)	Sports Night (CC)	Daily Show (CC)	Turn Ben Stein On
DISCH	33	Medical Diary	Medical Diary	Children's Hospital		Operation "Blue Baby Syn-drome"		Chicago's Lifeline Twin sisters share kidneys.		Pregnant Man		Lifeforce "Fighting for a Cause"		Chicago's Lifeline Twin sisters share kidneys.	
MTV	34	Making the Video (N)	Direct Effect		Senseless Acts	Celebrity Death	Cribs	Revenge of the Rejects		Journey of Dr. Dre		Cribs (N)	Diary (N)	Undressed (N) (CC)	Making the Video
BET	35	(5:00) Rap City: Tha Bass-ment		106 & Park: BET's Top Ten Live Top music videos.			Oh Drama!		Linc's (CC)	Comicview		BET Live		BET News	BET Tonight
DISC	36	Your New House		Wild Discovery "Riddle of the Rays"		Wild Discovery: Myster-ies-Twilight Zone		Medical Mysteries: Light-ning Strikes		Beyond Bizarre		Mysteries of the Unex-plained		Justice Files "Robbing Us Blind" (CC)	
CNNFN	37	N.E.W.		Biz Buzz	Moneyline Newshour (CC)		Business Unusual	Street Sweep	Business Unusual	Biz Buzz	Moneyline Newshour (CC)		Business Unusual	Street Sweep (CC)	
AMC	38	"Tobor the Great"	Hollywood Diaries	Three Stooges		Hollywood Lives and Leg-ends (CC)		Movie ★★★ "Picnic" (1955, Drama) William Holden, Kim Novak, Cliff Robertson.				Movie ★★★½ "Halls of Montezuma" (1950, Drama) Richard Widmark, Jack Palance.			
VH1	40	Behind the Music	Before They Were Rock Stars IV		Before They	Behind the Music "Celine Dion"		Behind the Music "Faith Hill"		Madonna's Greatest TV Moments		Michael Jackson's Great-est TV Moments		Movie "Friends 'Til the End" (1997)	
TRAV	41	Adventure Bound (CC)		Treasure Islands	Vacation Video	Curious World		Demolition Day: Seattle Kingdome		Mount St. Helens Fury		Amazing Destinations Mount Rainier. (CC)		Demolition Day: Seattle Kingdome	
LIFE	42	Murphy Brown (CC)	Murphy Brown "Bad Girls"	Golden Girls (CC)	Golden Girls (CC)	Intimate Portrait "Marilyn Monroe" (CC)		Unsolved Mysteries		Movie "Taking Back My Life: The Nancy Ziegenmeyer Story" (1992, Drama) Patricia Wettig, Stephen Lang, Ellen Burstyn. (CC)				Golden Girls (CC)	Golden Girls (CC)
TNT	43	Pensacola: Wings of Gold "True Stories"		ER "Full Moon, Saturday Night" (CC)		Pretender "Collateral Dam-age" (CC)		NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at San Antonio Spurs. From the Alam-odome in San Antonio. (Live) (CC)					Inside the NBA (CC)	Movie ★★½ "Rumble in the Bronx" (1995) Jackie Chan.	
SCIFI	46	Star Trek (CC)		Hercules-Jrnys.		Babylon 5		Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	Crossing	Crossing
BRAVO	47	Movie ★★ "The Hotel New Hampshire" (1984) Jodie Foster, Beau Bridges. From John Irving's novel about an unconventional family.				St. Elsewhere		Movie ★★★ "The Milagro Beanfield War" (1988, Comedy-Drama) Chick Vennera, Sonia Braga, Ruben Blades. Tensions rise between a Chicano farmer and land developers.					Movie ★★★ "Blood and Wine" (1996, Drama) Jack Nicholson, Stephen Dorff, Jennifer Lopez.		
DISN	48	Jersey "The Sadie Inci-dent"	Boy Meets World (CC)	Smart Guy "Never Too Young"	Boy Meets World (CC)	Movie ★★ "Shiloh" (1997) Blake Heron. A boy tries to buy a runaway dog from its cruel owner. (CC)			(:40) Movie "Alley Cats Strike!" (2000) Kyle Schmid, Robert Richard. Teen misfits are pegged for an inter-school bowling contest. (CC)				(:20) Totally Hoops (CC)	(11:50) Movie ★★ "Leapin' Leprechauns!" (1995) John Bluthal.	
HIST	49	FBI: The Untold Sto-ries	History's Crimes & Trials	Black Sheep Squadron "The Show Must Go On... Sometimes"		History's Lost & Found (CC)	History IQ	Vikings: Fury From the North (CC)		Real Spartacus (CC)		Hadrian's Wall (N) (CC)		Suicide Missions "Forward Air Controllers" (CC)	
TOON	50	Dragon-Z	Outlaw	Tenchi	Superman	Scooby	Bravo	Chicken	Dexter	Bugs	Tom Jerry	Flintstones	Scooby	Chicken	Dexter
SOAP	51	Knots Landing "You Can Call Me Nick"		Ryan's Hope	Ryan's Hope	Port Charles	Port Charles	All My Children (CC)		One Life to Live (CC)		General Hospital (CC)		Port Charles	Port Charles
ESPN2	53	ESPNews	Wtr. X-Games	Street Rod-der (N)	NHRA Heat (N)	RPM 2Night (N)	NHL Hockey Philadelphia.	Buffalo Sabres at Philadelphia Flyers. From the First Union Center in (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)					NHL 2Night (N) (CC)	Strongest Man	Life
COURT	54	Catherine Crier (N)		Hollywood	Cops (CC)	Wanted	Forensic	Profiler (CC)		Cops (CC)	Cops (CC)	Crime Stories		Homicide: Life	
RMNC	55	Tea With Fi "Fifteen Streets." (Part 1 of 2)		Movie ★★★ "Love Hurts" (1990, Comedy-Drama) Jeff Daniels, Judith Ivey, Cynthia Sikes.				Journey-Map	Great Romances	Movie ★★★½ "Spellbound" (1945, Suspense) Ingrid Bergman, Gregory Peck.				Movie ★★★½ "Portrait of Jennie"	

People *in the* News

Conger wedding ring went to good cause

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — A year after the ill-fated marriage of TV bride Darva Conger, her 3-carat diamond wedding ring was sold for $20,000 at a charity auction.


Conger

"I'm glad it finally went for a good cause and to a couple truly in love," Conger said after the auction, benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The winning bid came from a Los Angeles couple who bought the ring to celebrate their 19th wedding anniversary. The couple's name wasn't disclosed.

The ring was designed by a Las Vegas jeweler and purchased by the producers of the Fox show "Who Wants To Marry A Multimillionaire?" Rick Rockwell and Conger's marriage was annulled a short time later.

"It was a bad TV show. That's all it was," the 35-year-old Conger said.

She and Rockwell, 43, appeared together last week on CNN's "Larry King Live." Rockwell was promoting his forthcoming book and Conger was promoting her new Web site, www.darvashouse.com.

Nucci to appear in sitcom with Bateman

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Danny Nucci couldn't be happier about co-starring in a new CBS sitcom with Jason Bateman.

But the title, "Some of My Best Friends," is "the worst title ever known to man," the 32-year-old actor tells People magazine in the March 5 issue.

"It's like you're looking in the dustbin: Let's find the worst title for a sitcom that's a mouthful and nobody will get."

CommunityCalendar

St. Croix

MARCH 1

The LaVallee Community is invited to participate in a discussion of the design of a multi-purpose community building to serve the LaVallee community to be built in LaVallee Village at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1 at Chrisuts Victor Lutheran Church, North Shore road, LaVallee. For more information call Kelly at 778-4266.

The Virgin Islands Basketball Federation will a hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1 at the Election System office in the Sunny Isle Annex. Anyone interested can call 772-3524.

MARCH 2

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America invites the public to there World Day of Prayer 2001 which will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, March 2, at Lord God of Sabaoth Lutheran Church. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information call all 773-1320.

MARCH 3

St. Joseph High School Home School Association announce a food sale and fun day to held at 11 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at the school. The annual raffle will be drawn in the afternoon.

The AARP Chapter 3167 of St. Croix regular monthly meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 3 in the Cafeteria of the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital. The guest speaker will be Mr. Dennis Brow of Chase Manhattan Bank.

MARCH 4

Are you from Northside? Have "cousins" who are family, but you don't know how? Reclaiming our "Northside" Roots: A Family History Workshop can help you discover family connections at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 4 at St. Gerard's Hall. For more information call Carol Wakefield at 772-0598.

Mary's Fancy West Homeowners committee will hold their next monthly meeting at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at #272 Mary's Fancy. All Homeowners are encouraged to attend and to be on time.

MARCH 5

Interfaith Coalition of St. Croix invites all members and friends to their annual meeting and election of directors at 6 p.m. Monday, March 5 at United Methodist Church by Williams Delight traffic light. Refreshments will be served. Call 778-7880.

The Church of God Prophecy youth and children ministries, invites the general public to attend our annual international youth week at 7:30 p.m. nightly Monday, March 5 to Friday, March 9 at # 171 Richmond. Theme: Intimacy with the Invisible God. For more information contact Pastor Lenord Hamilton 7724686 or Sis. Francine DeLande 773-2518.

MARCH 6

Special Olympics of the Virgin Islands will be having a very important meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Wendy's. Volunteers need to call Janice Lee at 772-2277 or P. McFarland 779-3499.

General Announcements

•••

J & J Fun Troupe & Associates will be taking part in St. Thomas Carnival adult parade on April 28. All interested members and new members are welcome. Call Judith at 778-3177 or Averil at 778-2784 after 6 p.m.

Are you in debt up to your neck? Do you want "a dream house?" We have the answer Consumer Credit Counseling Course offered free of charge beginning Thursday, March 6 through April 5 at the St. Croix Vocational High School, Room H109. For further information call 713-0337 to register.

A Taste Of St. Croix - All restaurants/caterers interested in participating in "A Taste Of St. Croix" April 19th held at Divi Carina Bay Casino banquet area. A night of food, wine & jazz. Show off your "Best of St. Croix" attire. For information please call Katherine at 692-9922 afternoon.

St. Thomas-St. John

MARCH 3

The Lockhart Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association announces a Family Fun Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 3 on the school campus. The activities will include games, music, videos and much more. Food, drinks and craft items will also be on sale. We encourage all parents and friends to come out with your children and enjoy a fun day for all.

General Announcements

•••

The Charlotte Amalie High School Class of 72 will be drawing the raffle dated February 14 on March 4. Call Dale Gregory or Anthony Greene for further information.

Obituaries

Theodora Alexandria Edwards-Petersen aka "Dee Dee"/"Mamma"/"Mai"/"Ms. P," age 77, of Est. New Castle Coakley passed away on Monday, Feb. 19, 2001 at Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital.

She is survived by her husband: David A. Petersen; daughters: Elisa "Lisa" Petersen Harrison, Agneta "Benny" C. Petersen, Sherrill T. Petersen and Mercedes "Melsie" M. Petersen; sons: James "Boxie" A. Petersen, Randolph "Junie" A. Petersen, Sr., and Michael "Mickey" A. Petersen; grandchildren: Kacy, Kevin, Cleon, Ameen, Germaine and Shermaine Harrison, Andrea, Karen, Kevin, Shauna, Theodora, Cherelyn, Michael, Lawrence and Randolph Petersen, Jr., April Brown, Zakkeem Harrigan and Carlos Perez; 6 great grandchildren; sister: Hulda "Hullie" A. Huggins; nieces: Hulda Durant, Doreen Robinson, Hulda, Sylvammy and Isabelle; nephews: Henry, Irving and Michael Edwards; 8 nieces-in-law; 9 nephews-in-law; godchildren: Sharon Greenidge, Carol Christian, William and Raymond Galloway; daughter-in-law: Sheena A. Petersen; sons-in-law: Elroy Harrison, Raymond L. Edwards and Maurice Gaskin; sisters-in-law: Cynthia Petersen Rodgers (NY), Ceciia and Mary Petersen, Sylvia McIntosh Edwards and Theresa Petersen; brother-in-law: James "Kelly" Petersen; special cousins: Elsa Pedro and Anna C. Maynard; families and close friends: The Milligan's, Hendrick's, Christians's, Henry's, Benjamin's, Martin's, Johnson's, McAlpin's, Walcott's, Byrons and Neilsen's; other relatives and friends to numerous to mention.

Funeral services will take place on Friday, March 2, at St. Ann's Catholic Church at 11 a.m. with viewing beginning at 10 a.m. Interment will take place at Kingshill Cemetery.

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

***

Jose Antonio Boulogne aka " Tonin", age 50, of Ralph DeChabert Housing Community passed away on Monday, Feb. 26, 2001 at Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital.

She is survived by her father: Pedro Boulogne Perez; daughter: Griselle Boulogne; son: Jose Antonio Boulogne, Jr.; grandchildren: Jose A. Boulogne III and Enrique Omar Boulogne; sisters: Manuela Torres and Crisita Maldonado; brothers: Santiago, Jaime and Angel Boulogne; nieces: Sindis, Yarie, Carmen, Maria, Emily, Aida, Edilia, Eliza, Evelis, Maria Luisa, Zaida and Taliah; nephews: Angel, Adaberto, Jose M., Edmanuel Omar, Eduan Jomar, Pedro Emil and Jean; uncles: Javier Ramos, Rafeal Boulogne and Juan Boulogne; sisters-in-law: Grecienca Donato, Maria Ester Ramos, Brunilda Santos; brother-in-law: Alberto Sanes; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will take place on Friday, March 2 at Samaria Envagelista in La Grande Princesse at noon with viewing beginning at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in Kingshill Cemetery.

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

***

Myron Elias Johannes aka "Micro", age 66, of Estate Calquohoun passed away on Wednesday, February 21, 2001 at Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital.

He is survived by his daughter: Yvette West (KY); sons: Roberto Rivera, Marcelino Ventura, Sr., Ray Johannes, Sr., Myron Johannes, Jr., (STX) and Jose Johannes (PR); grandchildren: Mario, Rashad and Renita (KY), Gail, Roberto, Jr., Christina, Sara, Eliezar, Marcelino, Jr., Marcelina, Myles, Ray, Jr., Angela, Ivanna, Robin, Raymond, Akeem Elias, Akeem Alijawon, Jahmali and Elijah (STX), Iveliz, Jonathon, Jose, Jr., Eric and Janice (PR); sister: Anna Johannes Lindo; nieces: Kimberly Jean-Marie, Pamela "Pam" Harris and Horolyn "Lyn" Lindo; great nieces and nephews: Kahalima, Kianna, Khamal, Jamal, and Rashawn; daughters-in-law: Andrea Rivera, Aretha Ventura, Beulah "Bea" Johannes, Jacqueline "Jackie" Springer and Judith; sons-in-law: Edward Bibb; special cousins: Ruby Simmonds and Professor Ruth Beagles; friends and families: The Johanne's, Urgent's, Ventura's, Walcott's, James's, and William's, The Horsemen's Association Racing Protective Syndicate, The New Drive-In, Larry Oliver, Derby, Macedon, Dwayne Thomas, Mighty Grover, Eddie Bramble and Sarah James; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will take place on Tuesday, March 6 at St. Ann's Catholic Church at 10 a.m, with viewing beginning at 9 a.m. Interment will take place at Kingshill Cemetery (Veteran Section)

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

***

Martha Herrick Jung, age 75, of Sierra Verde, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2001 at the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital.

She is survived by her daughter: Karen Stanton Rebecca Darrington Higgins (New Hampshire); son-in-law: Walter Stanton; grandsons: Christopher, Scott and Peter Stanton; stateside son: Herbert Charles Jung (South Carolina); sisters-in-law: Joanna Jung and Katherine Herrich Wister; nieces: Darri Wister, Betsy Kahn, Cheryl, Laura and Wendy Jung; brother-in-law: Richard Jung; nephews: Wynne Wister and Rick Horrick; special friend: Ada Golden; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

A seaside burial will take place on Saturday, March 10.

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

***

Josephine Hill passed away on Friday, Feb. 23, 2001.

She is survived by her husband: John Hill; sons: John and Kenneth Hill; brothers: Hubert and Barley Nancoo (Trinidad); sisters: Stella Attai, Catherine Goorasingh and Thelma Nancoo (Trinidad); grandchildren: Shirley, Sherry-Lyne, Michelle and John Hill; 40 nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will take place on Sunday, March 4 at the Peter's Rest Seven Day Adventist Church at 11 a.m. with viewing beginning at 10 a.m. Interment will follow in Kingshill Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, St. Thomas and James Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

***

Benigna Brignoni Carrasquillo, age 79, died on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2001 in League City, Texas.

She is survived by her daughters: Carmen Berrios and Amelia Carrasquillo; son-in-law: Carlos Juan Berrios; one grandson;; three granddaughters; four great grandchildren; seven sisters; two brothers and many other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Burial services was held on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at the Southpark Funeral Home in Pearland, Texas.

***

Kenneth Edwin James died on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2001 in Washington, DC.

Funeral services will take place at Willis Avenue United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 3. Interment will follow at Rosehill Cemetery, New Jersey.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Unity Funeral Chapel Inc.

ClassifiedAds / Call 773-2300

Real Estate for Sale

Hotel/Casino Beachfront Site. For sale by owner. 22.68 acres zoned R-3. Five Corners area, close to town, easy access. Utilities, pool, cottages, boat dock. Price drastically reduced, owner financing possible. Serious inquires only! **340-713-8521.**

Land for sale 1/3 acre 10-Y Work and Rest $26,000.00. Phone **773-5236.**

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.

Vista Mar Condo one bedroom corner apt. unfurnished breezy/view, pool on premises. Call (8-5) **778-6505.**

House for Sale

96 Carlton 2 acre, well, 3 bedroom w/2 bath & separate apt. 1 br. & 1 bath. **513-4439.**

House for Sale: Beautiful clean renovated Mahogany Welcome Townhouse. Two bedrooms, bath, country kitchen, back room, new flooring, new furniture, east of town. Must sell $89,000.00. **713-1799.**

For Rent

2 bedroom apartment, 24F Hannahs Rest. 1 bath kitchen, living room. **772-0092.**

2 bedroom apt. good location in Two Williams. Semi-furnished/furnished. Call **772-0399.** For more info.

2 Br. apartment for rent. Near Christiansted. Paved, gated driveway. 450.00/mth, utilities not included. Call **778-0704** or **778-1157**

Beach front Condo Granada Del Mar. 2 bedroom, 2 bath pool on premises. Gated community deposit $1085.00 per month + security deposit and first & last month rent. Call **778-5069** (days)

Beachfront second floor spacious one bedroom apartment, Danish modern house. Fully furnished utilities included. $1,000.00 monthly. Two bedroom, ground floor. Range, refrigerator, free water. $500.00. Tan Tan Terrace three bedroom, two baths unfurnished $900.00. **773-1851**

For Rent: 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Semi-furnished, laundry room, large porch, swimming pool with Buck Island view. Estate Seven Hills $1,850.00. Call **773-9173.**

The Jaber Co. #17 Church Street. La Grande Princess-1 br. apartment with view of Christiansted-$575.00 includes electric. Sion Hill-1 br. apt. very close to school & day care-$400.00 plus utilities. Call **713-0720.**

Tan Tan Terrace 3 bedroom, unfurnished 2 bath security bars den $800.00 plus security. **778-5457 773-9692.**

Room for rent, $250.00, unfurnished, Christiansted. Call now! **773-6899.**

House for Rent

3 bedroom, 1 bath house for rent located in St. Georges. Washer, dryer and major appliances included partially furnished. Asking $900.00 security required plus first and last month rent. Call **690-6130** or **719-0496.**

3 bedroom / 2 bath Estate St. George house big yard with fruit trees in very safe neighborhood $850.00/mo. **719-2678.**

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bath house, safe. East End neighborhood, fully furnished, pool, hurricane shutters, generator, pool and lawn maintenance. One month security, $2,000.00/month. Call **773-4875.**

For Sale

Tesoro
Strand Street

NEW ARRIVALS

Delightful Placemats
Mocko Jumbies
Market Ladies
Roosters
Geckos
Caribbean Kids

Sixteen Inch Steel Pans
From Trinidad.....$119

Pottery from Barbados
Bowls, Plates,
Mugs, Vases
100's of new pieces

Gommier Galore
800 Pieces including
Gorgeous Goblets

Sea Life Metal Sculpture
Angel, Lion, Trigger,
Big Mouth and Fanciful Fish,
Dolphins, Octopus, Crabs,
Turtles, Seahorses, Eels and
more. Sea Fan, Sponge and
Finger Coral.

Louis-Auguste Metal Art
6 inch x 30 inch.....$39

Strand Street across from
Royal Poinciana

Furniture Lovers Sale: All stock furniture less 10% selected furniture from 15-40% off at Patalidis/Designers 126 Gallows Bay (South East section behind Schooner Bay Market) or call **778-6560** for directions.

Family pack $35.00-Whole chicken, one pound spare ribs, one pound beef brisket, four pieces of corn, potato salad, season rice, bread. Las Amigas Barren Spot B.B.Q. Take out available. **778-9798.** Voted No.1 on St. Croix.

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!**

Are you looking for Tupperware? Want a free party or place an order? Call Victoria at **713-1813** 9:00 am-4:00 pm or **778-2047** 6:00 pm-10:00 pm.

Sale! sale! sale! chairs- chairs- wood and metal- dining room- living room- office- secretary & executive- woods & metal desks. 2 Dr. files- laterals- 14 Cu fridge- washer & dryers- restaurant S.S work table large rolling B.B.Q. grill- Pop corn machine & more. Trading Post **773-9668.**

Twin 150 hp Evenrude outboard engines. 1998, 600 hrs, counter rotation, fuel injection. **$6,000.00. 773-6603.**

The St. George Village Botanical Garden gift shop is your new decorating resource. We specialize in those unique, hard, hard to find items for making wonderful flower arrangements-dried, silk, and fresh. Come see our large selection of botanical prints of tropical plants. We may also have the perfect pot for a prized plant, special tableware for a dinner party, a salad bowl crafted of rare tropical wood or a colorful tea towel of fine linen. Many wonderful ideas for hostess gifts. Open M-F 10:00-4:30 & Sundays 10-4.

You don't need a truckload of speakers! What you need is a pair of these: Carvin pro sound speakers. Tremendous power handling: 1000 watts continuous program power, 1600 watts peak: shipped in from California save hundreds. Your cost $1,000.00. Also peavey 200 watt montors $1,300.00 takes all. Pearl 5 piece export series drum set complete with hardware & cymbals $1,000.00. **719-9549.**

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

Loose weight or build muscles naturally and safety with Herbalife. For more information call Dayna at **713-0416.** 30 day money back guarantee.

Ford truck for sale $2,900.00- king size box spring and mattress- T.V Panasonic 20". Call for info at **779-3340.**

Guyana Heritage outdoor furniture of Courbaril "green compliant" sustained managed, selectively felled hardwood, incredibly durable & heavy) Special net cash introductory prices at Patalidis/Designers 126 Gallows Bay (South East section behind Schooner Bay Market) **778-6560.**

Concrete forms 1400 sq. ft.-$1,500.00. 3 large shipping crates-$100.00. 4 pump jacks-$200.00. **340-719-3466.**

Boats for Sale

1972 27' Coronado newly rebuilt 15HP Evinrude new sails extra set two spineicker, hurricane mooring and all equipment on board. Also two fiberglass dingys one 2.3HP Evinrude. Must sell $15,000.00 or B.O. **778-3335.**

44' Marine Trader 1977. 2 Ford-Lehman 120 hp motors 7.5 k northern lights (1990) generator, 2 heads with 1/2 tubes. All in excellent mechanical condition. Great cruising boat. Asking $85k **719-1990** (days) **778-1695** (evenings).

88 Searay Weekender, low hours 454 Mercruiser Engines, GPS chart plotter new upholstery, great shape, priced right. Call Bill St. Croix **773-9448.**

Boat trailer. New never used heavy duty aluminum I beams triple axles, heavy duty winch 2000 lbs tongue Jack, aluminum fenders. Front & rear loading guides fits up to 32' boat. Call **778-4854.**

Autos for Sale

'91 Nissan Sentra. 4dr, automatic, A.C. good body. Good interior. runs great. Asking $3,800.00. Call Jim before 9 a.m. **778-4655.**

89 **Ford** F-350 Econoline Cargo Van excellent conditions. 88 **Mercedes** Benz 300 SEL, 6 cylinder, fully loaded, leather seats. **Forklift** Clark 5000 Lbs load, 16 ft. lift. **Ricoh** Ft 4522 Professional commercial copier. Call **772-0185.**

Leaving Island sale. 1994 Isuzu Rodeo, LS, 4 wd. Fully loaded. Excellent condition. Low mileage. $10,500.00. O.B.O. Call **800-268-2632** or **712-7776.**

93 Camero T-top. 25th original red-black stripe on top. Garage kept need moto & trang. **513-1078.**

1988 Ford Tempo strong engine, good body, runs good need a new PTC for computer asking $1,200.00. O.B.O. **719-3263.**

'86 Firebird excellent condition, $3,500.00. **773-2128.**

1996 Geo Metro Hatchback. Airbags, A/C, 39,000 miles. $3,900.00. Call **773-0569.**

1990 Grand Am, runs good. Asking $2,800.00 or O.B.O. **772-0036** or **642-0007.**

91 Ford Aerostar. Extended length, 4WD, seats 7. Fully loaded $5,500.00. **773-4977.**

'97 Volkswagen Jetta GL runs perfect. $12,495.00 O.B.O. **719-2678.**

For Sale:1997 Chevy Silverado. 4X4, leather seats, power everything, CD player. Z71 package $11,000.00 O.B.O. **778-7347.** Very good condition.

For sale 1992 Chevy Cavalier Z-24 green color. Runs perfect, owner leaving the island March 15. Price $3,000.00 or best offer. Call **692-5607** or **692-2118.**

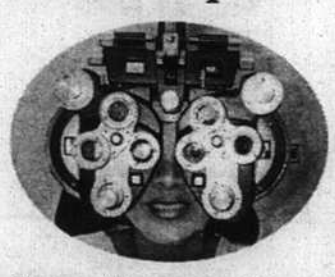
90 Toyota Camry for sale $3,200.00. EZ self propelled lawn mower $1,000.00. Call **773-2855.** Evenings

Bus. Opportunity

Convenience Store and Deli for sale: good location, establish customers, long term lease only serious person call. Ask for Mr. Gordon. **778-3010, 778-4314.**

Business Services

Dr. Otto Campos
Ophthalmologist
is now available at PEARLE VISION for eye examinations.
Se Habla Español



Please call for your appointment.
773-2020
Sunny Isle
PEARLE VISION™
The VI's ONLY Vision Care Provider with Ophthalmologists, Optometrists and Certified Opthalmic Technicians

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

Rachels Hair Cutting Salon is now located in Gallows. Please call 773-3815 for directions, open 9-5 Tuesday thru Saturday. Great parking wheel chair accessible. **773-3815.**

Big Big sale at TTs Flea Market and Consignment 79 Castle Coakley behind the ice plant. Shoes, clothes, and many more at a low price. Come visit us or call **713-1813.** You will be glad you did.

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

Help Wanted

$$ TOP SALARY $$
To Experienced help.
East End Restaurant
Hiring Cooks, Food Prep
& Waitresses.
Call between 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Only.
Leave brief message and number
773-4513

Wow $999.00 special paint job, and small compact car, no rust, minor dents. Bodyman wanted must have your own tools 8-5pm. 1998 Chevy S-Ten. Asking price $8,500.00 could be seen at Slice Auto Clinic 18-19 Bassing Triangle.

SGS Redwood Services, World leader in Petroleum Inspection and testing, has the following vacancies at the St. Croix branch. Petroleum Inspector. Minimum of 3 years working as a petroleum Inspector, with ship and shore experience is required. Trainee Inspector. High school Diploma or Ged preferred. Previous experience in Inspection or the Oil Industry would be and advantage, but is not essential, as full training will be given. Both positions involve working shifts, as well as weekend work. Own transport is required. We offer a competitive wage, car allowance and other big company benefits. Please call at the SGS office, New Castle Coakley, to collect an application form, or post Resume to P.O. box **1528,** Kingshill St. Croix 00851.

The fastest growing communications company in the USVI is seeking applicants for:

Customer Service Representative

Requirements:
- College Degree, preferably in Business Administration or 3-5 years of Customer Service experience.
- Excellent organizational skills.
- Problem Solver.
- Team Player.
- Computer Literate
- Must work weekends and holidays
- Articulate self-starter
- Work with minimum supervision

EOE/No Phone calls
Please fax resumes to 778-4935
or mail to:
Cingular Wireless -
Operations Manager
#3 Diamond Crest Plaza
Christiansted VI 00820

Cingular Wireless℠
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

ClassifiedAds / Call 773-2300

Rental Agent wanted for fast growing Car Rental Agency. Experience not necessary as we will train you. Familiarity with computers necessary. Must have good attitude, good communication skills and be willing to provide top-notch customer service. If you feel you can work in a fast paced environment please send resume to: Rental Agent, P.O. Box 1529 Kingshill, St. Croix, VI 00851-1529.

GAF Security & Consulton Services is looking for security officers. Must be able to work on weekends & holidays. Experience preferable but is willing to train. Call **773-7233** from 8-5 M-F on weekend 7-10.

X-ray Technologist needed for busy Orthopaedic Practice. Claims and administrative duties included. Some cast room experience preferred. Please fax resume to **(340)778-2919.**

Member Service Representative: energetic, enthusiastic and friendly person needed for VI family sports & fitness center. Good communication skills required. Computer knowledge helpful. Must be willing to work weekends. Fax resume to **773-1935.**

Sales position and Administrative Assistant, for Internationai Tour Co. in Frederiksted. Excellent communication skills required. Full time with benefits. Fax resume to **772-1392**

Psychics\Astrology

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 am-10:00 pm.

Free reading by phone. Mother Mary Holistic healer. Spiritual psychic. Helps love, money, business, health. Call enemies by name. Removes evil/bad luck. Spiritual enlightment with one phone call. 1-800-808-3246 1-602-944-1536.

Mrs. Dee spiritual reader/adviser. Reunites separated. Love, marriage, business. Removes evil/bad luck. Interprets dreams. Guaranteed results. **1-800-850-1178, 1-609-671-1700.**

Ms. Autumn psychic reader/advisor. Specializes love, business, marriage. Reunites separated. Returns stolen lover. Restores happiness. Results 45 minutes. Free question. **1-713-334-4006 1-888-613-5226.**

Psychic Charla. One reading will convince you that I can help you with all your problems. Specializes reuniting lovers. Restores harmony. **1-561-620-1804.**

Messages

"Acts 2:38
...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

IF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE STILL ON PLANET EARTH, PLEASE CALL SUN STORAGE, 778-7867:

Richard Wilson
Alvin Jones
Eva Williams
Allen Razus
Rheney Hodge
Joshua Gordon
Claude Elcock
Maria Soto

Food & Entertainment

The Deep End Bar
What a GREAT idea!
Fun, Food, & Friends
Happy Hour
7 Days a week• 5 to 6
$1.00 domestic beer
$1.50 Well drinks • 1/2 Price wine
Sunday, always a tropical treat drink special.
Lunch and Dinner Specials Daily
THURSDAY NIGHT
STEEL PAN
5:30 - 7:30
FRIDAY
TEXAS JIM
6:30 - 9:30
SUNDAY SPLASH
5:00pm - 8:00pm
TUESDAY TRIVIA
7:30pm
Breakfast served Daily
7am to 10am
Tamarind Reef Hotel, East End Road
Next to Green Cay Marina

The Great House at Villa Madeleine
Elegant Dining Mon. - Sat.
6-10 PM
Wed: Sam Pasco
Thurs: Bill Bass
Fri & Sat: Ben Miele
Sat. Late Night Jazz
Reservations Recommended
778-7377
Cigar Bar Now Open Wed-Sat!

FOOD **CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE** FUN
* FULL MENU *
PLUS DAILY SPECIALS
Including Steaks, Veggie Burgers, Caesar Salad & Burritos
Music
Thurs. **SPLASH** Pop Rock & Pork Specials
Fri. **RUFUS** Welcome Back BBQ & Dancing
Sat. **Llewellyn & Dem** Prime Rib & Calypso
Sun. **X-Itement Band** Reggae & Soca
773-1119

Fort Christian Brew Pub
King's Alley Walk • 713-9820
TONIGHT
JAZZ
Jack Peterson
8pm to 10pm
Dinner upstairs 6pm


Saturday Evening
Dinner at the Club
Theme Menu for March 3
Roast Turkey
Shepard's Pie
Grilled Tuna
Seasoned Rice
Scalloped Potatoes
Fresh Steamed Vegetables
Open to The Public
Serving 5:30-8:45 pm
Please call for reservations
778-5638
CARAMBOLA GOLF CLUB
Rt. 69 just past Annaly Farms

BOGEY'S AT THE CANE BAY REEF CLUB
778-2966

THURSDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
Buy one Spaghetti dinner for
$10.00
Get 2nd Spaghetti dinner FREE
Dinner includes salad, garlic bread & spaghetti
(meatballs & sausage extra)
Starting March 1st

WATER SAMPLE TAKEN THE LATTER PART OF JANUARY INDICATED THAT THE DRINKING WATER AT THE ST. CROIX YACHT CLUB HAD EXCEEDED THE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL FOR COLIFORM BACTERIA.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ST. CROIX YACHT CLUB WORKED TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISINFECTING SYSTEM. ADDITIONAL TESTS WERE CONDUCTED AND THE SITUATION HAS BEEN CORRECTED AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2001.

ANYONE REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SITUATION CAN CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 773-9531.

02/27,28, 03/01, 2001

SUMMONS

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

FAIRBANK'S CAPITAL CORP.,

Plaintiff,

v.

CIVIL NO. 2000/0124

MARK MILLIGAN, GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS (Virgin Islands Employment Security), BANCO POPULAR de PUERTO RICO, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DR. STEVEN E. LERNER AND ASSOCITATES, GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS (Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue,

ACTION FOR DEBT AND FORECLOSURE OF REAL PROPERTY MORTGAGE

Defendants.

TO: Dr. Steven E. Lerner & Associates
ADDRESS: 86 & 87 Mt. Pleasant
Christiansted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820

Within the time limited by law (see note below) you are hereby required to appear before this Court and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as demanded in the Complaint for Action for Debt and Foreclosure of Real Property Mortgage.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Court this 13 day of September, 2000.

ORINN ARNOLD
Clerk of the Court

By: Margret Richards

Richard P. Farrelly, Esq.
Birch, de Jongh, Hindels & Hall
Poinsettia House at Bluebeard's
Castle 1330 Estate Taarnebjerg
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

NOTE: The defendant, if served personally, is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after service of this summons, excluding the date of service. If served by publication or by personal service outside of the jurisdiction, the defendant is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction.

02/08,15,22, 03/01, 2001

GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-188-2001

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

It being within the providence 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 CUPPLES TRADING 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, CUPPLES TRADING 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 December 15, 2000.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 18th Day of December, A.D. 2000.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor
02/08,15,22, 03/01, 2001

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000/0124

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et Richards

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3/01, 2001

188-2001

signed, Lieu- roof, hereby he domestic S TRADING law, pursuant

olution thus pursuant to ul fulfillment tle 13, Virgin 5, 2000.

y hand and d at Charlotte r. A.D. 2000.

JAMES II vernor 3/01, 2001

ClassifiedAds / Call 773-2300

Thursdays
#1 for Food & Fun!
BBQ Extravaganza!
Seaside Outdoor Grill!
Beef, Chicken & Ribs
Music by TEXAS JIM
CHENAY BAY BEACH RESORT
HAPPY HOURS
4 til 6 daily!
2 drinks for 1 price!
Just Show Up!
East End Rd., Rt. 82
773-2918
King Conch's Coconut Hut

BOGEY'S
AT THE
CANE BAY REEF
778-2966 CLUB
Friday:
The Reef Rangers
Saturday:
Horace Clark
& Out of Nowhere

Notices

Antique Auction Website. See the 18th Annual St. Croix Landmarks Society Whim Antiques Auction on line. Over 100 lots in color for you to preview and more being added all the time.www.stcroix-landmarks.com/auction. See you Sunday, March 11, 1:00 p.m!

The Tennis Club of St. Croix, Inc. is pleased to announce its 2001-2002 board of directors: Douglas L. Capdeville, Esq.- President, Jo Bell- Vice President, Mario Aiello-Treasurer, Joanna Isherwood- Secretary, Susan Nissmann-Director, Angie Klein-Director, and Cheryl Nelthrop- Director.

Raise Up a Child



United Way of St. Thomas-St. John
The power of U
P.O. Box 6168
St. Thomas, VI 00804
340-774-3185

GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-56-2001

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

It being within the province of my office, I, the undersigned, Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands, being satisfied by due proof, hereby certify that consent by the stockholders to the dissolution of the domestic corporation known by the firm name and style of BMS LIQUIDITY FOREIGN SALES CORP 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, BMS LIQUIDITY FOREIGN SALES CORP is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Sections 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective October 18, 2000.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 18th Day of October, A.D. 2000.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor
02/08,15,22, 03/01, 2001

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

JOSE DEL CARMEN CABREJA CORNIER, Petitioner
v.
SAHARA RIVERA MORALES, Respondent

FAM. NO. D15/2001
ACTION FOR DIVORCE

SUMMONS

TO: SAHARA RIVERA MORALES, Respondent
Within the time limited by law, thirty (30) days from the last date of publication of this Summons, you are hereby required to appear before the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands and answer a Complaint filed against you in this action and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be entered against you as requested in the complaint in this action.
WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court dated the 30th day of January, 2001.

DENISE D. ABRAMSEN,
Clerk of the Territorial Court

02/15,22, 03/01,08, 2001

SUMMONS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS , ST. JOHN AND ST. CROIX

V.I. CEMENT AND BUILDING PRODUCTS, INC. d/b/a ROE WIN

Plaintiff,

vs.
CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION - V.I., ROBERT CURRY AND WHITE CLIFFS, INC.,

CIVIL NO. 829/1994

ACTION FOR DEBT, UNJUST ENRICHMENT AND FORECLOSURE OF A CONSTRUCTION LIEN

Defendants.

TO: Capital International Corporation - V.I.
ADDRESS: 150 Spartan Drive, Suite A
Maitland, Florida 32751

Within the time limited by law (see note below) you are hereby required to appear before this Court and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as demanded in the Complaint for ACTION FOR DEBT , UNJUST ENRICHMENT AND FORECLOSURE OF A CONSTRUCTION LIEN.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Court this 28 day of September, 2000.

DENISE D. ABRAMSEN
Clerk of the Court

Richard P. Farrelly, Esq.
Birch, de Jongh, Hindels & Hall
Poinsettia House at Bluebeard's Castle
1330 Estate Taarnebjerg
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

NOTE: The defendant, if served personally, is required to file his/heranswer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after service of this summons, excluding the date of service. If served by publication or by personal service outside of the jurisdiction, the defendant is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction.

02/22, 03/1, 8, 15, 2001

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

PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

FAM. NO. NC17/2000

IN THE MATTER OF
STEVEN ARTHUR ZIARKOWSKI

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Steven Arthur Ziarkowski has petitioned the Court for a change of name to Steven Arthur Forest. All persons having objections to this request are required to appear and show cause why the petition should not be granted. Notice of appearance shall be filed with the court and a copy mailed to the attorneys address below.

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF FELICE M. QUIGLEY
P.O. Box 3209
Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI 00822
(340) 773-7700
Attorney for Petitioner

Date: February 21, 2001

Felice M. Quigley, Esq.

02/22, 03/01, 08, 2001

SUMMONS
IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS-ST. JOHN

SANTOS Z. GUERRERO (ZAPATA)
Plaintiff

FAMILY NO. D26/2001

vs.

ACTION FOR DIVORCE

LOURDES ARGILAFGOS GUERRERO
Defendant

TO: LOURDES ARGILAFGOS GUERRERO.....DEFENDANT
ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

Within the time limited by law (see note below) you are hereby required to appear before this Court and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as demanded in the complaint, for ACTION FOR DIVORCE.

Witness my hand and the Seal of this Court this 15th day of FEBRUARY 2001.

DENISE D. ABRAMSEN
Clerk of the Court

By: BERYL V. Farrington
Deputy

SANTOS Z. GUERRERO (ZAPATA)
(Attorney for Plaintiff)
Pro-Se
Contant #41-A
St. Thomas, V.I. 00802
776-7869

NOTE: The defendant, if served personally, is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Administrator/Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after service of this summons, excluding the date of service. If served by publication or by personal service outside of the jurisdiction the defendant is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction.

02/22, 03/01, 08, 15/2001

IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS & ST. JOHN

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF MARGARET MERCER, Deceased

PROBATE NO. 108/2000

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that EILEEN HENDRICKSON has been appointed Administrator of the above-captioned Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them to the Administrator or to Court, with proper voucher, within six (6) months from the date of the publication of this notice. All persons indebted to the Estate should make payment promptly to the Administrator in care of the undersigned attorney.

DATED: January 19, 2001

EILEEN HENDRICKSON, Administrator
c/o Desmond L. Maynard, Esq.
LAW OFFICES OF DEMSOND L. MAYNARD
49A AND 50A Kongens Gade
Post Office Box 8388
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00801
Telephone: (340) 774-8333
Telecopier: (340) 776-4947

02/22, 03/01, 8, 15, 2001

Panthers can three

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — George Seifert severed ties with three players from his San Francisco days when the Carolina Panthers cut Eric Davis, William Floyd and Lee Woodall on Wednesday.

All three played for Seifert when he coached the 49ers to the 1995 Super Bowl title.

The moves were not unexpected for the salary-cap strapped Panthers, who also released offensive lineman James Dexter. Carolina needed to trim $11 million to get under the $67.4 million cap by Friday's deadline.

"None of these were easy decisions, and this is the most difficult aspect of coaching," Seifert said. "Eric has played a significant role in the history of the franchise and played for me in San Francisco, as did William and Lee. It's tough seeing guys like these go."



Davis, a two-time Pro Bowl cornerback, is Carolina's career interceptions leader with 25. He's the only active NFL player with at least five interceptions in each of the last five seasons.

An 11-year veteran, he was one of the first big name free agents the Panthers acquired when they signed him in 1996 after he spent six seasons playing for Seifert in San Francisco.

He was one of Carolina's most productive players, starting all 16 games last season. But he would have had a salary cap value of $6.317 million next year.

Floyd, a fullback, joined the Panthers as an unrestricted free agent in 1998. He spent his first four seasons in San Francisco, where Seifert chose him in the first round of the 1994 draft.

Slowed by injuries last season, Floyd appeared in only 10 games and tied his career low with just eight starts. He also had career lows in rushing attempts (16), rushing yards (33), receptions (17), receiving yards (114) and touchdowns (two).

By cutting Floyd, 29, Carolina saves his base salary of $1.7 million, and avoids paying him a $450,000 bonus if he had still been on the roster in mid-March.

Woodall, who started 15 games as a rookie on San Francisco's Super Bowl team, played only one season for Carolina. He starting all 16 games at outside linebacker last season and finished third on the team with 109 tackles. He was set to make $1.5 million this year.

Dexter also only played one season in Carolina, but was limited all year because he tore a triceps muscle during training camp. He played in nine games and only started two.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PROBATE NO. 72/1998

ERYLE A. ROHLSEN, JR.
Deceased.

NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY ON EXECUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICES that pursuant to the provision of 5 V.I.C. section 471 et. seq., the V.I. Marshal shall sell at public auction on April 6, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., at the Office of the Virgin Islands Marshal in the Hall of Justice Building, Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, the following real property situate in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands in the name of the Deceased, to satisfy the execution issued herein for Judgment entered on September 16, 1999, against the Estate of Earyle A. Rohlsen in this matter. The below-described property shall be sold as stated herein:

Plot No. 12-1B estate Montpellier, Queen Quarter, consisting of 0.580 U.S. Acres, as more fully shown on P.W.D. No. 4510.

TOGETHER WITH all of the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto is belonging, without any representation or guarantee. The property described as Plot no. 12-1B Estate Montpellier, St. Croix includes .580 U.S. Acres of undeveloped property.

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

DATED: February 13, 2001

SOBERS JOSEPH
Territorial Court Marshal

JEFFREY B.C. MOORHEAD, ESQ.
C.R.T. Brown Building
1132 King Street
Christiansted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820-4943
(340) 773-2539/773-8659 Fax
jeffrey@jeffreymoorhead.com

02/22,03/01, 8, 15, 2001

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
PROBATE NO. 3/2000

JOSE I. LARSEN,

PETITION FOR

ADMINISTRATION
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

Please take notice that on July 11, 2000 Letters of Administration were issued to Josephine Larsen who has been appointed as Administratrix of the Estate of Jose I. Larsen. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them within six (6) months, verified by affidavit, and persons indebted to the Estate to make payment promptly, to Josephine Larsen, Administratrix, c/o Adam Hoover, Esq., Law Office of Adam Hoover, 4000 La Grande Princesse, Suite 1, P.O. Box 24342, St. Croix, VI 00824.

Adam Hoover, Esq.
Law Office of Adam Hoover
Attorney for the Estate of Jose I. Larsen
4000 La Grande Princesse, Suite 1
P.O. Box 24342
St. Croix, VI 00824.
340 773-6239

02/22, 03/1, 8, 15, 2001

Duke's Boozer injures foot

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Duke center Carlos Boozer will miss the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament with a broken foot.

Boozer fractured the third metatarsal in his right foot during the No. 2 Blue Devils' 91-to-80 loss to Maryland on Tuesday.

The injury will keep him out of Sunday's regular-season finale game against North Carolina and the ACC tournament March 8-11 in Atlanta. The status of the 6-foot-9, 270-pound center's status will be determined after the conference tournament.

"We're optimistic that Carlos can return for the NCAA tournament," said Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski.

The Juneau, Alaska, native has averaged 14 points a game this season.

Crossword
by Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Poke
4 Ready for the picking
8 React in horror
12 Have bills
13 Notion
14 State
15 Pellet-filled chairs
17 Color quality
18 Gist
19 Three-score and 10
21 Chapter XI filer
24 Perry Mason's field
25 Caviar, e.g.
26 Kinder-garteners' break
28 Dinette necessity
32 Factory
34 Prized possession
36 2001, e.g.
37 Perry of fashion
39 Charlotte's creation
41 Football filler
42 Occupation
44 What Faith Popcorn writes about
46 Brought the food
50 Cleo's vanquisher
51 The Tentmaker
52 Boston nickname
56 Sea dog
57 Incursion
58 Old card game
59 Black
60 Role for Calista
61 Finale

DOWN
1 Chore
2 Idolater's emotion
3 Pitch that hits the batter's head
4 Dog-show prize
5 Cretan mountain
6 Cribbage-board items
7 Supporter of the arts
8 Entrance
9 English river
10 Faxed, e.g.
11 Quarry
16 Enthusiast
20 Cistern
21 Cupola
22 Satan's forte
23 Cleaning cloth
27 Church seat
29 Tall, skinny type
30 Deposited
31 Screws up
33 Freedom
35 Bumped into
38 Private address?
40 Napoleon, e.g.
43 Striped equine
45 Superlative suffix
46 Mozart's "— fan tutte"
47 "Walk Like —"
48 Converse
49 Transaction
53 Have a bug
54 Triumphed
55 Affirmative action

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-1

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

UNFE LEN D JFHR L IPNHCLJHQ RPN QLF L NFH-CLF IPNG: PH RLI OPH INUH GQNGQDHONQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A WRITER WANTS TO CROSS THE OCEAN, I PRESUME HE USES A PENMANSHIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals H

TV SportsWatch

(All Times EST)

Thursday, March 1

GOLF
4:30 a.m.
TGC — European PGA Tour, Dubai Desert Classic, first round, at Dubai, United Arab Emirates
1:30 p.m.
TGC — Canadian PGA Tour, Barefoot Classic, first round, at Myrtle Beach, S.C.
4 p.m.
USA — PGA, Genuity Championship, first round, at Miami

MEN'S NCAA BASKETBALL
7 p.m.
ESPN — Penn St. at Iowa
9 p.m.
ESPN — Cincinnati at South Florida
10:30 p.m.
FOXSN — California at UCLA

NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
TNT — Phoenix at San Antonio

NHL HOCKEY
7:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Buffalo at Philadelphia

Garciaparra out with injury

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Boston Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra will miss at least two weeks with a right wrist injury.

The two-time defending AL batting champion has a split in a tendon in the wrist, which also is inflamed. It will be immobilized in a removable cast for 1-to-2 weeks and treated with medication.

The injury probably is a recurrence of the wrist problem he had after being hit by a pitch on Sept. 25, 1999, by Baltimore's Al Reyes. Garciaparra said the wrist ached but wasn't a major problem last year when he led the league with a .372 batting average.

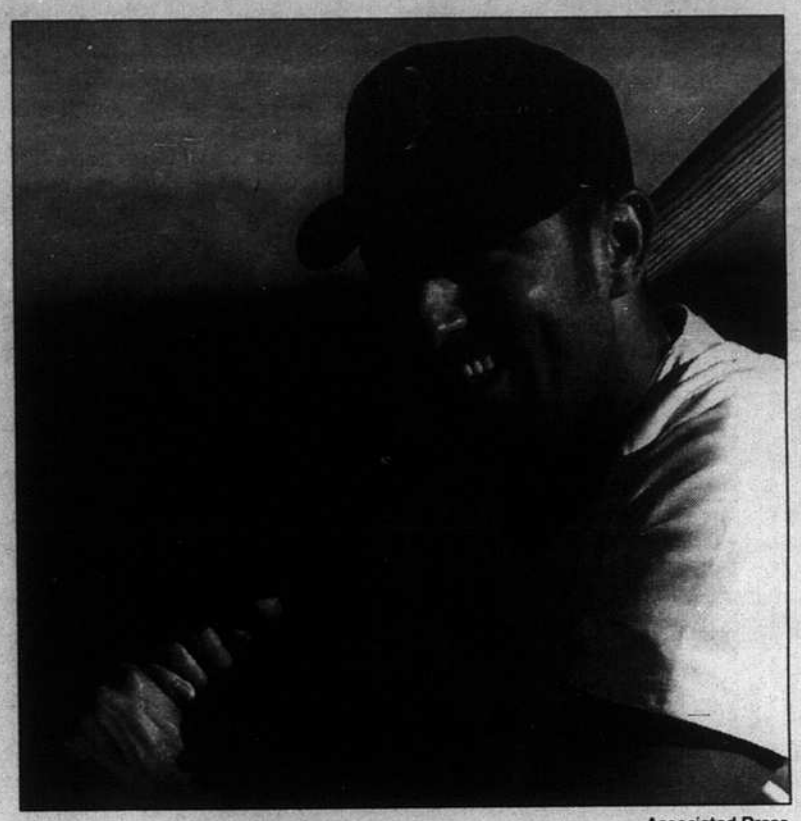
Garciaparra said Wednesday he can't throw a ball or swing a bat. He had gone through his usual workout without a problem Sunday but woke up the next morning with a swollen wrist.

"I'd feel a lot better if I knew I did a swing and I just felt something or I threw a ball and I felt something," he said. "There's an uncertainty, definitely.

"It's one of those things where ... hopefully your body will take care of it."

He said the team physician, Dr. Bill Morgan, did not discuss the possibility of surgery.

"If they were thinking about it they didn't tell me and I didn't want to hear it right now," Garciaparra said.



Associated Press
Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, shown posing for a baseball card on photo day Feb. 25 in Fort Myers, Fla., will be out two weeks with a wrist injury.

Boston improved its offense in the offseason by signing free agent outfielder Manny Ramirez. He was slated to bat fourth, one spot behind Garciaparra and one ahead of Carl Everett.

Briefs

Bulls activate Guyton, El-Amin is sidelined

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls on Wednesday activated rookie guard A.J. Guyton and placed rookie guard Khalid El-Amin on the injured list with tendinitis in his left knee.

Guyton has missed the last 40 games with a strained right knee. Before his injury, he appeared in 14 games, averaging 4.4 points and scoring a season-high 18 points against the Orlando Magic.

El-Amin has appeared in 50 games, averaging 6.3 points and 2.9 assists. El-Amin reached double figures in 13 games and scored a season-high 21 points in November against the Washington Wizards.

Timberwolves sign free-agent Lopez

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Timberwolves signed free-agent guard Felipe Lopez on Wednesday, one day after waiving veteran swingman Todd Day.

Lopez, waived by the Washington Wizards on Feb. 22, was signed to a contract for the rest of the season.

Lopez started 38 of 47 games for the Wizards this season, averaging 8.1 points and 3.4 rebounds. The 6-foot-6 guard scored a career-high 26 points against the Wolves on Jan. 2.

Randle to be released from contract

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — John Randle has been one of the NFL's best defensive lineman for a decade. But now, his agent says, he will be released by the Minnesota Vikings because of a contract dispute.

Randle and the Vikings have been trying to restructure his contract. Negotiations resumed this week with Dennis Green, the Vikings' coach and vice president of football operations.

Randle, a six-time Pro Bowl player who has spent 11 seasons with the Vikings, was to make $8 million next season. He had asked for a trade nearly one month ago.

"There are no hard feelings," agent Gary Uberstine said. "He understands the business aspect of it."

Randle balked at the Vikings' latest offer and asked for his release. Uberstine said the Vikings have agreed to the request.

The Vikings did not immediately comment. Randle also did not want to comment, his agent said.



The team wanted to move a $2 million roster bonus from March 2002 to June 2002.

"John had re-evaluated his stance based on the attractiveness of retiring with the Vikings," Uberstine said. "With their latest offer, it became clear it was a one-year commitment. He wasn't trying to buy one year.

"If it's a one-year commitment, he'd rather start over with another team. It's that simple."

The frenetic, face-painting Randle began his career with the Vikings in 1990 as an undrafted free agent out of Texas A&I. He had eight sacks last season, ending a string of eight consecutive seasons with at least 10 sacks. Randle will leave the Vikings with 114 sacks, third on their all-time list behind Carl Eller (130) and Alan Page (127).

By releasing Randle, the Vikings will save about $2.5 million in their effort to get under the $67.4 million cap limit by the Thursday deadline.

Sid showing improvement in practice

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Sid Fernandez threw batting practice for the second time since joining the New York Yankees and could see his first game action in four years next week.

"I'm just happy I'm throwing strikes," Fernandez said after Wednesday's session. "That's what I'm most happy about."

Fernandez was invited to spring training after a bullpen audition last week. Should he make the big league roster, the 38-year old left-hander would get a $500,000, one-year contract and the chance to make an additional $150,000 in performance bonuses.

"We're curious," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "We want to see more of him."

Torre said Fernandez could windup as candidate for either the fifth starter spot or a position in the bullpen.

Fernandez, 114-96 in 15 seasons, last pitched in 1997 with the Houston Astros, making one appearance before retiring because of pain near his elbow. Fernandez said it stemmed from a nerve problem in his neck.

"I feel more comfortable," Fernandez said. "I've been throwing. The hardest thing is to pitch, not throw."

Torre said shortstop Derek Jeter, who was scratched from intrasquad games Monday and Tuesday, probably won't resume throwing until Friday.

NBAStandings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	42	16	.724	—
Miami	34	23	.596	7 1/2
New York	33	23	.589	8
Orlando	29	26	.527	11 1/2
Boston	25	32	.439	16 1/2
New Jersey	20	38	.345	22
Washington	13	45	.224	29

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	35	20	.636	—
Charlotte	31	26	.544	5
Toronto	30	27	.526	6
Indiana	25	29	.463	9 1/2
Cleveland	22	33	.400	13
Detroit	21	35	.375	14 1/2
Atlanta	18	39	.316	18
Chicago	9	46	.164	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	38	17	.691	—
San Antonio	37	19	.661	1 1/2
Dallas	36	22	.621	3 1/2
Minnesota	33	24	.579	6
Houston	30	27	.526	9
Denver	29	29	.500	10 1/2
Vancouver	18	40	.310	21 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	40	18	.690	—
L.A. Lakers	37	18	.673	1 1/2
Sacramento	37	18	.673	1 1/2
Phoenix	34	21	.618	4 1/2
Seattle	29	29	.500	11
L.A. Clippers	20	40	.333	21
Golden State	16	41	.281	23 1/2

NBASchedule

Tuesday's Games
Toronto 101, Cleveland 89
Miami 103, Washington 95
New York 101, Seattle 92
Portland 95, San Antonio 87
Dallas 116, Vancouver 112
Sacramento 106, L.A. Clippers 93, OT

Wednesday's Games
Milwaukee at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Utah, 9 p.m.
Orlando at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 10:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Seattle at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Houston at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Portland, 10 p.m.



Associated Press

Laila Ali, daughter of Muhammad Ali, left, spars with her husband and promoter Johnnie McClain during a workout at the Oneida Indian Nation's Turning Stone Casino Resort in Verona, N.Y., Tuesday, in preparation for her upcoming fight Friday at the casino. Ali will appear on the same card as Jacqui Frazier-Lyde, daughter of "Smokin" Joe Frazier. The two may fight each other in June.

McGwire inks deal

Mark McGwire and the St. Louis Cardinals have agreed to a two-year extension worth about $30 million, The Associated Press learned Wednesday.

The new deal runs through 2003, the season McGwire could be approaching Hank Aaron's home-run record of 755.

McGwire, 37, missed most of the second half of last season with a knee injury and had surgery during the offseason, but has been healthy this spring.

St. Louis called a Thursday news conference at its training camp in Jupiter, Fla., to announce the deal.

McGwire and the Cardinals were talking about an extension that would pay him $14 million in 2002 and $16 million the following year, according to two baseball officials familiar with the negotiations who spoke on the condition they not be identified.

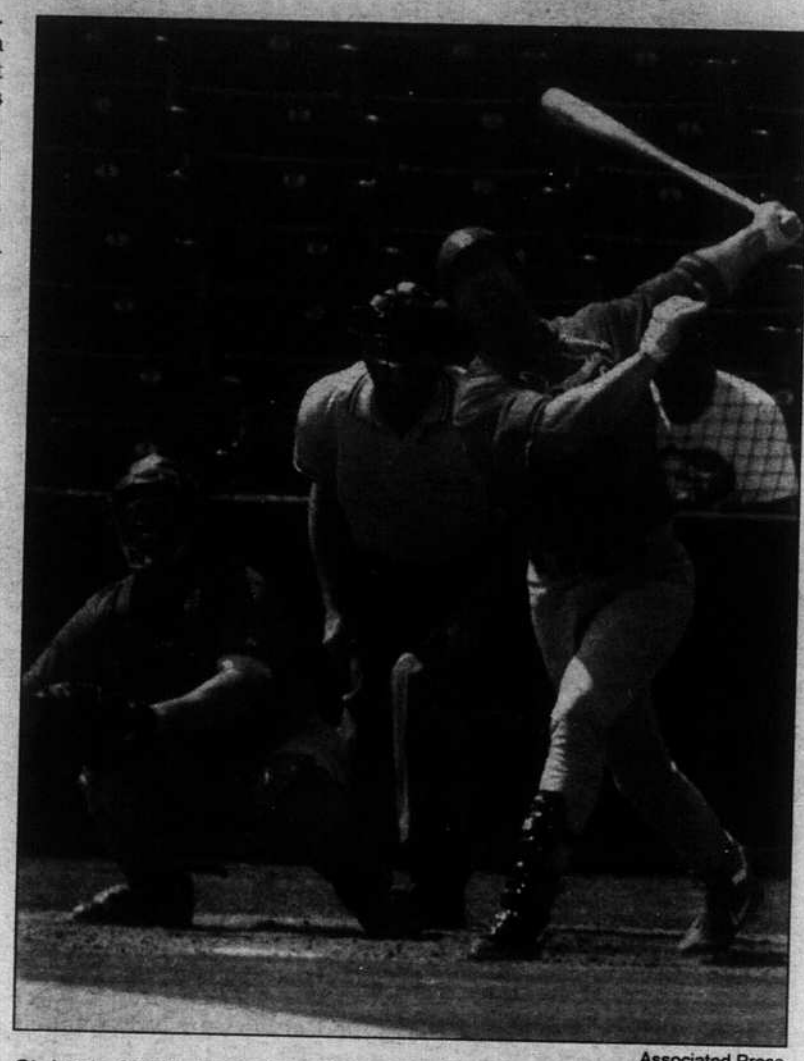
He is seventh on the career home-run list with 554, just 201 behind Aaron, and would have to average 67 homers in the next three seasons to tie the mark.

McGwire set the single-season record with 70 homers in 1998, then hit 65 the following year. He hit 32 last season in just 236 at-bats.

With an average salary of about $15 million, McGwire will rank about eighth in baseball.

He could command far more money if he became a free agent after this season, perhaps even top the average salary record of $25.2 million set by Alex Rodriguez in his $252 million, 10-year contract with Texas, but McGwire has never been interested in obtaining top dollar.

His current deal, agreed to after he was traded from Oakland to St. Louis in the 1997 season, guaranteed him $28.5 million over three years: a $1 million signing bonus, $8 in 1998, $8.5 million in 1999 and $9 million in 2000.



Associated Press

St. Louis Cardinals' Mark McGwire follows the flight of a fly ball during an intrasquad game at the Cardinals training camp in Jupiter, Fla., Wednesday. At left is catcher Mike Stefanski.

BoxingSchedule

March 2

At Turning Stone Casino, Verona, N.Y., Ivan Robinson, Philadelphia, vs. Andre Cray, Columbus, Ohio, 10, welterweight; Jacqui Frazier-Lyde, Philadelphia, vs. Genevia Buckhalter, Columbus, Miss., 6, super middleweights; Laila Ali, Los Angeles, vs. Bethany Payne, Atlanta, 6, super middeweights.

At Texas Station Gambling Hall & Casino, Las Vegas (ESPN2) Tony Marshall, Guyana, vs. Alex Bunema, Congo, 10, middleweights.

March 3

At Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas (PPV), Evander Holyfield, Atlanta, vs. John Ruiz, Methuen, Mass., 12, for Holyfield's WBA heavyweight title; Tim Austin, Cincinnati, vs. Jesus Perez, Colombia, 12, for Austin's IBF bantamweight title; Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Mexico, vs. Manuel Gomez, Mexico, 10, welterweights.

March 10

At Caesars Palace, Las Vegas (HBO), Shane Mosley, Pomona, Calif., vs. Shannan Taylor, Australia, 12, for Mosley's WBC welterweight title.

March 16

At Blue Horizon, Philadelphia (ESPN2), Lamar Murphy, Miami, vs. Efren Hinojosa, Lakeside, Calif., 12 lightweights.

March 17

At Silver Staar Casino, Philadelphia, Miss., Ray Mercer, Absecon, N.J., vs. Sherman Williams, Las Vegas, 10, heavies.

March 23

At Texas Station Gambling Hall and Hotel (SHO), Las Vegas, David Tua, New Zealand, vs. Danell Nicholson, Chicago, 12, heavyweights; Clifford Etienne, Baton Rouge, La., vs. Fres Oquendo, Chicago, 10, heavyweights.

At SportsCenter, Owensboro, Ky.. (ESPN2), Clarence "Bones" Adams, Henderson, Ky., vs. Yobert Ortega, Venezuela, 12, for Adams' WBA super bantamweight title.

March 24

At MGM Grand, Las Vegas (HBO), Oscar De La Hoya, Whittier, Calif., vs. Arturo Gatti, Jersey City, N.J., 12, welterweights.

At Munich, Germany (HBO), Wladimir Klitschko, Ukraine, vs. Derrick Jefferson, San Diego, 12, for Klitschko's WBO heavyweight title.

March 29

At Cobo Arena, Detroit, James Toney, Detroit, vs. Saul Montana, Mexico, 10, cruiserweights.

March 30

At the Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas (ESPN2), Paulie Ayala, Fort Worth, vs. Genaro Garcia, Mexico, 12, WBA bantamweight title.

April 6

At Las Vegas (ESPN2), Mbulelo Botile, South Africa, vs. David Toledo, Paterson, N.J., 12, for Botile's IBF featherweight title.

April 7

At MGM Grand Las Vegas (PPV), Prince Naseem Hamed, England, vs. Marco Antonio Barrera, Mexico, 12, featherweights.

The Avis
all sports all year long

Report: Strickland may exit Wizards early

WASHINGTON (AP) — Would Rod Strickland give up $1 million just to be in the playoffs this year? How about $2 million? Or $4 million? The Washington Wizards point guard might have to make that decision Thursday.



Strickland

According to The Washington Post, the Wizards are considering whether to offer to buy out the rest of Strickland's contract for a reduced amount. In exchange, the Wizards would agree to cut Strickland by midnight Thursday, making him eligible for the postseason if he's signed by another team.

Strickland's contract expires after next season. He is scheduled to make $10 million, but the Wizards can buy out the final season for $5 million.

The Post, citing an unidentified source, said the Wizards and Strickland's agent, David Falk, are discussing a buyout ranging from $1 million to $4 million.

Neither Falk nor Wizards president of basketball operations Michael Jordan returned calls seeking comment Wednesday. Jordan confirmed to the Post that he was "in conversation" with Falk, but offered no specifics.

The Wizards want to get rid of Strickland, whose hefty contract and poor work ethic have been major contributors to the team's recent losing seasons.

Since Christmas, Strickland has been suspended for one game for missing a road trip and has been arrested on drunken driving charges for the third time in four years. He is currently on the injured list with sore hamstrings.

Bills drop Flutie, Johnson gets starting spot

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — The Buffalo Bills have decided to cut Doug Flutie and go with Rob Johnson as their starting quarterback.

The team was set to officially announce the decision at a 7 p.m. news conference.

The decision settles a long-brewing controversy that divided the team and its fans over which of the two quarterbacks who were brought in three seasons ago should be the starter.

The Bills were forced to make a decision mostly for salary cap reasons as they had to cut almost $8 million off their payroll in time for Thursday's 4 p.m. deadline.

By cutting Flutie instead of Johnson, the Bills save about $3 million in cap dollars, about $1.4 million more than they would have saved by cutting Johnson.

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Associated Press
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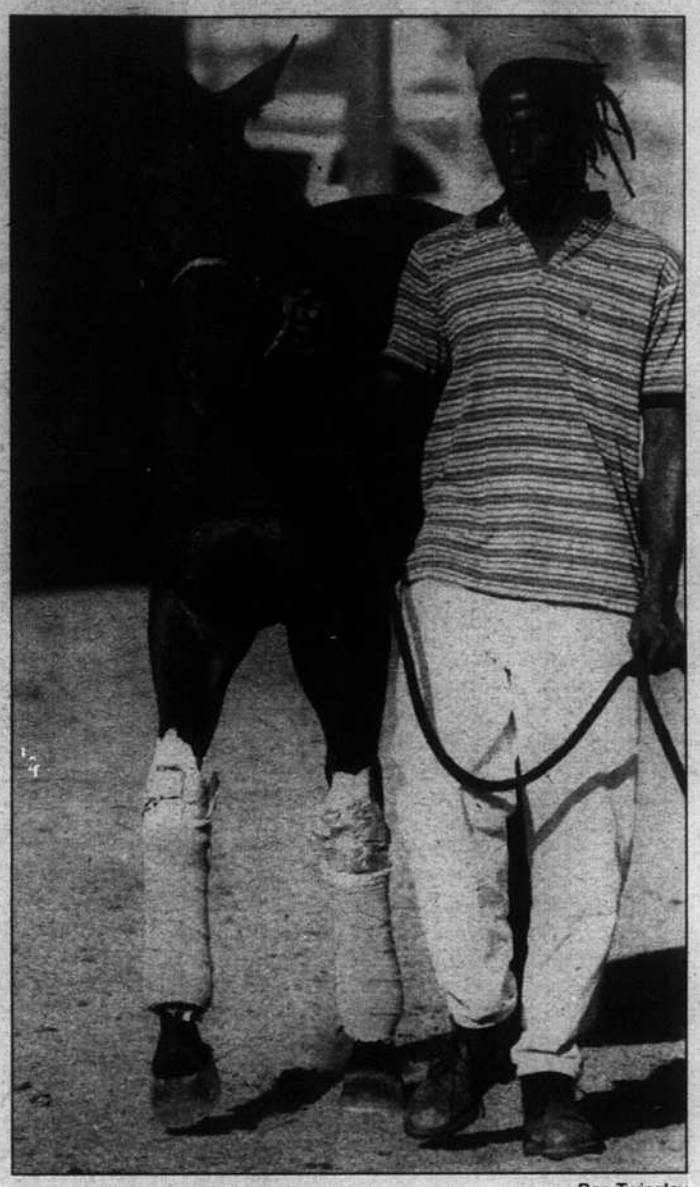
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Ben Twingley

Best of the best

"Dasha" Graham takes race horse Flak Man for his evening walk Wednesday outside the stables at the Randall "Doc" James racetrack. The seven year old thoroughbred horse is considered the best race horse on St. Croix and St. Thomas.

Victor nails 15 for Murray St.

MURRAY, Ky. — Freshman guard Cuthbert Victor of St. Croix scored 15 points, grabbed seven rebounds and blocked two shots as the Murray State men's basketball team advanced to the semifinals of the Ohio Valley Conference tournament after a 114-100 win over Tennessee State.

MSU (17-11) will play Eastern Illinois at 8 p.m. on Friday at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville. The Racer offense was in high gear throughout the game as MSU shot a blistering 65 percent from the field on 40-of-62 shooting.

The first 10 minutes were very close as neither team took more than a five-point lead. TSU's last lead was 20-19 with 11:25 to go in the first half. MSU regained the lead for good and never looked back. The Racers closed the first half with a 25-8 run for a 51-33 lead at the break.

TSU came back in the second half and got as close as six (85-79) with 8:01 left. But the Racers sealed the deal in the final eight minutes by outscoring the Tigers 29-21.

Gumbs shines in semifinal loss

GLASGOW, Ky. — Senior guard Jerome Gumbs of St. Thomas scored 35 points and pulled down 16 rebounds, but Barren County's boy's basketball team lost 71-59 to rival Glasgow High School in the District 15 semifinal Monday night.

Glasgow never trailed after taking an early 15-14 lead in the second quarter. The cushion would grow to as many as 11 before Glasgow took a 29-20 cushion into halftime. The Scotties stretched their advantage to 42-26 with 4:39 left in the third. But Gumbs exploded for nine points in a 14-3 Barren County run that made it 45-40 with 7:47 remaining.

"Jerome was Superman," Head Coach John Tinsley said. "When you get behind Glasgow, it takes so much energy to catch them."

Roberts has all-around game

MIAMI SHORES, Fla. —Senior forward Leberth Roberts of St. Thomas scored 11 points and collected six rebounds and four blocked shots as Champagnat Catholic boy's basketball team defeated Pompano Beach 84-52 Tuesday night in Region 4-2A game.

The Lions jumped out to a 30-12 lead en route to an easy victory and a spot in the regional final. "Our defense picked up the intensity and it led to turnovers and easy baskets on the other end," coach Daniel Serrano said. "As defending champs, the pressure is on us. We have to stay focused and keep working hard."

Lewis leads Hallandale to final

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. — Senior guard Akil Lewis of St. Thomas scored 29 points, dished out seven assists and made five steals to lead Hallandale's boys basketball team to a 75-47 Region 4A win at home against Fort Pierce Central.

The Chargers (21-9) advance to Saturday night's regional final against Glades Central, which defeated Centennial.

"After the first quarter when we gave up 21 points, we talked about what this team needed to do to win this basketball game," Hallandale coach David Daniels said. "We play defense as well as anyone, so getting back to what got us here was important for us to settle down and do what we do best. I think we came out nervous and didn't do the little things."

7 teams to compete in Good Hope tourney

AVIS STAFF

ST. CROIX — The fourth annual Good Hope Invitational Basketball Tournament will tip off at 4 p.m. today, with seven St. Croix teams taking part.

The St. Joseph Saints, the defending tournament and St. Croix varsity league champs, will start play with a 4 p.m. game against Country Day.

The Good Hope girls will face Central High at 5:30 p.m., and the Good Hope boys will take on Manor in the 7 p.m. final game at the Good Hope School gym.

The tournament, sponsored by Attorney Joel Holt, is designed to bring together the area's top private schools. This year Educational Complex and Central High were invited because only one private girls school could attend.

Three girls teams — Good Hope, Educational Complex and Central High — will compete. Good Hope, St. Joseph, Manor and Country Day are the boys teams.

The tournament will resume Friday and ends Saturday. None of the St. Thomas private schools are competing in the event.

Elementary and junior-varsity games are also scheduled for Saturday.

Briefs

STT's Wilkinson gets 2 runs in loss

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Junior Outfielder Kurt Wilkinson of St. Thomas was 3-for-5 and scored two runs as New Mexico State dropped a 14-12 decision to New Mexico Tuesday afternoon in college baseball.

NMSU falls to 15-4. Wilkinson's batting average improves to .438 with 11 stolen bases, 21 RBIs and five home runs.

Triathlons Sunday at Divi Carina Bay

ST. CROIX — The entry fee for the Endurance Sports East End Sprint and the Try-A-Tri triathlons is $10. Helmets are required.

The triathlons will start at 7 a.m. Sunday at the Divi Carina Bay Resort. For details, call 773-4470.

Tennis tournament to run March 13-18

ST. THOMAS — The St. Thomas Racquet Club tennis tournament is scheduled for March 13-18 at the Sub Base Tennis Courts. The sign-up deadline is 6 p.m. March 12. For details, contact Edwin Sprauve or Doris Hodge at 775-0833 or 775-5578.

Swim-O-Thon to include biathlon

ST. THOMAS — The annual Snapple Swim-O-Thon is scheduled for March 15 at Magens Bay.

This year, the St. Thomas Swimming Association is teaming with the St. Thomas Roadrunners Association to host a biathlon, a 1/2-mile swim and a 3.1 run. The biathlon will start at 7 a.m. For details, contact Kathy Huttel at 779-2500.

CyclingResults

(North Shore race)

"A" Group

1. Jamie Keys 1:41:28
2. Jose Prado 1:45:41
3. Tom Guthrie 1:47:36
4. Angel Encarnacion 1:51:13
5. Jamie Bate DNF
6. John Harper DNF

"B" Group

1. Sue Brown 1:08:41
2. Luke DeFour 1:20:15
3. Eric Hutchins 1:21:29
4. Juancito Gario 1:25:48
5. Will Franks 1:25:48
6. Nick Franks 1:25:49
7. Bret Dalphinus 1:37:40
8. Danny Fontello 1:41:20

BowlingResults

(Youth Bowling League)

(Girls)
Scratch Games
Caren Andrews 165
Epernay Quigley 90
Janette Quigley 81
Scratch Series
Caren Andrews 430
Epernay Quigley 262
Erika Lustig 209

(Boys)
Scratch Games
Delvin Ebbesen 177
Charles Richards 166
Michael Nissman 149
Scratch Series
Charles Richards 473
Beron Harvey 401
John Gumbs 362
Michael Nissman 362

BasketballScores

(Wednesday's games)

Ujima 102, Showtime 83
UJIMA (9-3) - E. Jarvis 26, A. McIntosh 14, K. Smith 12, K. McIntosh 9, S. Hodge 8, G. Bryce 8, W. Meryl 7, L. Yarwood 4, C. Archibald 3.
SHOWTIME (1-11) - K. Milligan 27, G. Southwell 18, E. Brandy 16, T. Shoy 13, E. Charles 9.

Guidance 61, Exodus 45
GUIDANCE (6-6) - J. Dopwell 22, R. Iles 19, S. Walker 8, C. Hodge 6, J. Gonzales 4, S. Francis 2.
EXODUS (2-10) - A. Dubique 17, G. Nicholas 14, K. Walcott 6, S. Canton 6, C. Guzman 2.

Men's League Standings

Man Dem	11	1
Ujima	9	3
Hoyas	7	5
Guidance	6	6
Exodus	2	10
Showtime	1	11

Friday's games
(AA Richards gym)

Man-Dem 81, Hoyas 71
Ujima 88, Guidance 84

Monday's games
(AA Richards gym)
Guidance 61, Exodus 45
Ujima 102, Showtime 83

SportsThursday

Today's weather

Pacers prevail, Bucks fall, 99-86

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Reggie Miller scored 24 points as the Indiana Pacers found their shooting touch in a 99-86 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Wednesday night.

The Pacers, who hit just 34 percent in Monday's loss at Charlotte, sank 40 of 71 field goals (56.3 percent) to build leads as large as 25 points in the third quarter.

Despite hitting 8 of 16 3-pointers, the Pacers had to overcome a shooting barrage by Bucks backup guard Lindsey Hunter, who hit five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. He hit four in consecutive possessions that cut the deficit to 91-81 with 6:23 to play. Hunter led the Bucks with 21 points.

Indiana has won five of its last six games to climb back into playoff contention in the Eastern Conference.

Miller hit 10 of 18 field goals and four of nine 3-pointers.

Five Pacers scored in double figures.

Jalen Rose added 16 points and a career high-tying 12 assists for the Pacers. Jermaine O'Neal and Austin Croshere scored 17 points each, and Zan Tabak had 13.

Ray Allen and Sam Cassell scored 16 each for Milwaukee.

Miller scored eight points and Rose five to fuel an 18-9 surge over the first 5:25 of the second half that improved the Pacers' lead to 77-53. They led 87-64 going into the fourth quarter.

Croshere hit two 3-point baskets and scored 12 points to lead 10-3 and 12-6 runs over the final 8:23 of the first half that boosted the Pacers' lead to 59-44 at halftime.

Notes: Through three quarters Wednesday, Rose had 11 assists, equal to the entire Milwaukee team. ... Glenn Robinson, who scored a career-high 45 points in Milwaukee's 122-95 win over Golden State on Sunday, did not play against the Pacers (sprained right ankle). ... Pacers guard Travis Best missed the game with a strained lower back. ... In the last five games, Miller has hit 21 of 43 3-point field-goal attempts. ... In the four games with the Bucks, Rose and Miller combined to average 40 points.



Associated Press
Milwaukee Bucks forward Jason Caffey, right, shoots over Indiana Pacers forward Jermaine O'Neal in the first quarter in Indianapolis Wednesday.

UVI's Freeman, Abbot will play in ODI games

ISAAC CAUSEY

ST. THOMAS — Two suspended UVI Bucs who missed the team's only conference loss will return to the squad this weekend when the school heads to Puerto Rico to play three ODI League college basketball games.

UVI athletics director Peter Sauer said Dashell Freeman and Kevin Abbott will suit up Friday night when the Bucs start the two-day road trip.

Freeman and Abbott served a mandatory one-game suspension for a Saturday altercation between Freeman and a player from UPR-Carolina. Because Abbott left the UVI bench to assist Freeman, he too was also suspended, according to Sauer.

They missed UVI's 74-67 Saturday night loss to UPR-Utaudo, the Bucs only defeat in the ODI League.

"It might have a been a mistake, but that's over now," Sauer said.

Ahead for the Bucs are three games that will have a lot of impact on the league standings. The Bucs, 3-1 in the conference and 6-1 overall, will play Puerto Rico CUE at 6:30 p.m. Friday. On Saturday, the Bucs will have two games — 3 p.m. against UPR-Arecibo and 7 p.m. against UPR-Mayaguez.

"We're going to be all right," said UVI coach Cyril Benjamin. "We're in good condition."

Benjamin said the loss of Freeman and Abbott hurt his team on Saturday night. The Bucs also played without regular starting center Melvin Samuel, who suffered a season-ending ankle fracture earlier in the season.

"We had a chance but our rotation made us a lot smaller," Benjamin said about the seven-point loss to Utaudo. "Our rotation got messed up."

The coach said UVI missed 30 points and 25 rebounds with the absence of Freeman and Abbott. Freeman, a former Ivanna Eudora Kean star, scored 25 points in UVI's 84-60 victory over San Juan Tech on Friday night.

Benjamin said Freeman is the anchor to UVI's strong bench play. "When your leading scorer comes off the bench and he is playing against starters who are tired or against second stringers, you are at an advantage," Benjamin reasoned.

Benjamin said he has discussed with his players the importance of controlling tempers during the upcoming trip. He said UVI has experienced some questionable calls before while playing in Puerto Rico, but he has challenged his players to keep cool.

The Bucs finished seventh in the ODI League last season, but Benjamin expects to contend for the title this year. The Bucs started the season with six-straight wins, including the championship of the Caribbean University Sports Organization Tournament.

We're going to be all right,We're in good condition."
Cyril Benjamin, UVI coach

The Bucs have a good mixture of experienced and young talent. Freeman, Abbott, Torian Henry and John St. Luce are all freshmen. Abbott, Freeman and Henry played with Benjamin on the Virgin Islands' Housing, Parks and Recreation team that competed in the World Youth Basketball Festival last summer. The squad finished second there.

In the past, Benjamin has coached Virgin Islands teams to the World Youth Basketball Festival Championships.

The 19-and-under division claimed the 1997 and 1998 titles and the 16-and-under team won the crowns in 1998 and 1999.

The Lady Bucs, who are on a two-game winning streak, will play two games this weekend. The Lady Bucs, coached by Angel Morales, will take on UPR-Ponce at 5 p.m. Friday. The Lady Bucs will go against UPR-Aguadilla at 5 p.m. Saturday.