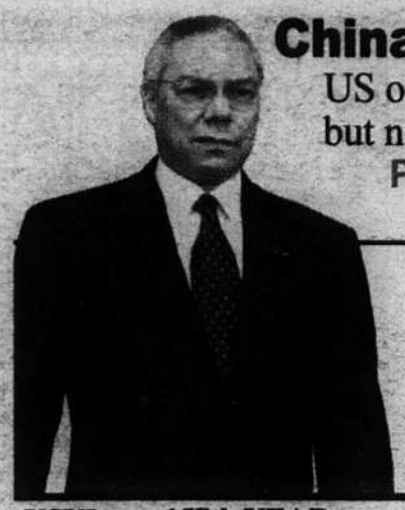


China standoff
US offers regrets but no apologies.
Page 16

Landfill dilemma
Governor says he won't let STX airport be closed.
Page 3



A long past
New STX museum to focus on Indian tribes.
Page 4

The Avis

LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1844

USVI 157th YEAR THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2001, NO. 79 60¢

WOW

National program to make black home ownership easier in territory

WILL JONES

USVI — The Virgin Islands is included in the Congressional Black Caucus' nationwide program to make one million black families home owners by 2005.

The caucus announced in Washington, D.C., Tuesday that the program, called "With Ownership, Wealth," or WOW, will begin next month in the territory, the District of Columbia and 20 states.

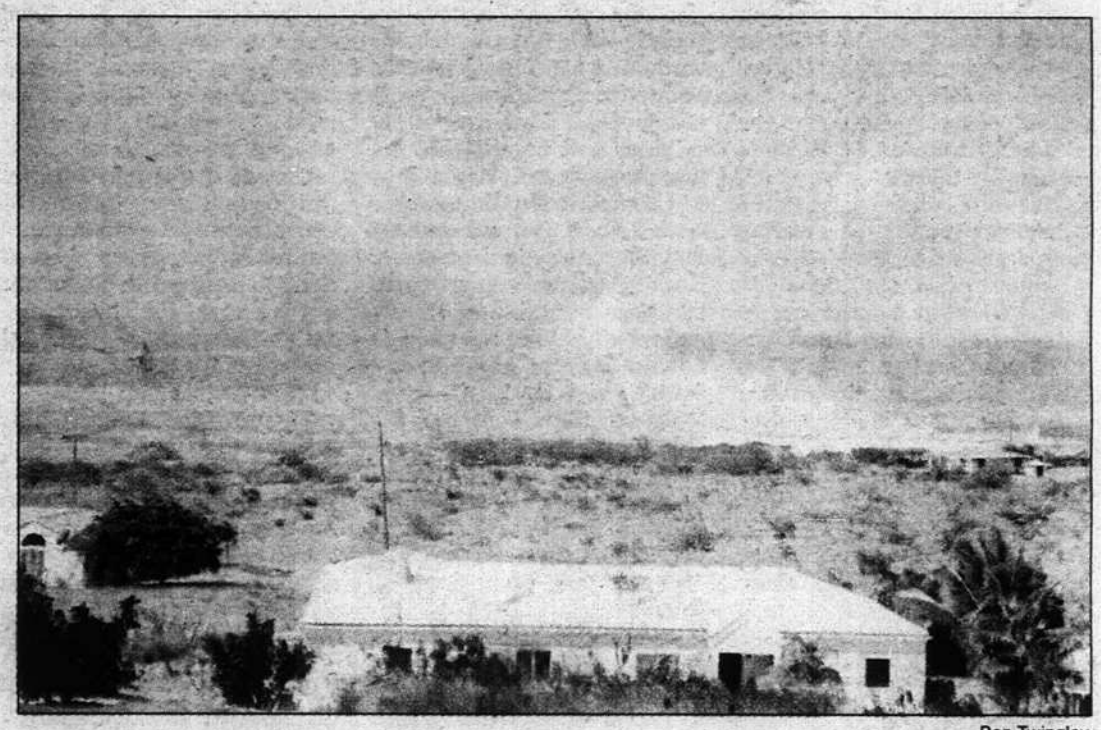
It will involve the combined efforts of mortgage-market giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, banks, mortgage companies and community groups putting together a plan with special terms for low-income borrowers and those with bad credit records.

"America is only as strong as its communities, and its communities are only as strong as the families that live within. Home ownership is part of the foundation of a stable family."

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas

The program, which could total $50 billion, is designed to remove barriers for African-American families to purchase their own

PROGRAM, PAGE 2



Ben Twingley
A view from the entrance to Green Cay Marina shows smoke from a fire that started at Chenay Bay Wednesday. A steady east wind fueled the blaze.

One after another

Firefighters struggle to keep up with blazes

VALERIE LOVETT

ST. CROIX — The rash of brush fires east of Christiansted this week has taken a toll on the Department of Fire Services' firefighters and equipment, according to Fire Chief Robert Santos.

"They are exhausted," Santos said. "But management is supportive of them. They are giving all they can to protect the community."

Smoke filled the sky as flames engulfed about five

FIRE, PAGE 2



Ben Twingley
Firefighter Earl Phoenix looks back at the thick smoke from Wednesday's brush fire that started near Chenay Bay.

Man given 30 years for murder

KC BURGARD

ST. CROIX — Nineteen-year-old Renaldo Santos was given a 30-year prison term Wednesday in Territorial Court for shooting another teen in the head and killing him.

Santos, who shot Vincent Lawrence Jr. on Oct. 5, 2000, received the maximum allowable sentence in accordance with a second-degree murder plea agreement he made with the Virgin

INSIDE
Attorney says another man should also be prosecuted for crime, **page 2.**

MURDER, PAGE 2

Another man should share blame for murder, attorney says

KC BURGARD

ST. CROIX — Even though Renaldo Santos admitted that he shot and killed someone last October during an argument, many at his sentencing Wednesday in Territorial Court thought he shouldn't have sat at the defendant's table alone.

"He is the one who pulled the trigger and caused Vincent Lawrence's death, but if it had not been for Alex Walker, that young man would still be alive," defense attorney Martial Webster said.

Webster placed much of the blame surrounding the events of Oct. 5, 2000 — in which Lawrence, 19, was shot in the head at Peppertree Terrace — squarely on the shoulders of Santos' friend.

"He instigated the entire provocation with Vincent," Webster said. Additionally, Walker allegedly told police that the .38-caliber revolver Santos used to shoot Lawrence was his — a gun that one source told The Avis was stolen.

Walker, who is the son of retired Army Col. Gene Walker, was never arrested or charged in connection with the shooting or circumstances leading up to it. Walker's father currently serves as director for the VI Territorial Emergency Management Agency.

"Alex should have been arrested along with Renaldo," said a relative of Santos' who asked that her name not be printed. "He should have been sitting right next to (Santos)."

According to a police investigation, Santos and Walker fought with Lawrence, who worked as a groundskeeper at Peppertree, after the 19-year-old chopped down a marijuana plant near Santos' trailer. A knife was allegedly drawn during the confrontation, which ended when a co-worker took Lawrence away to calm down. But afterwards, tempers flared again as Santos and Walker reportedly threw bottles at Lawrence as he attempted to return to work.

Santos then went into his trailer and got a gun — supposedly put there by Walker — while his mother pleaded with him not to leave. Ignoring her, Santos ran up to Lawrence and shot him point-blank in the head.

"They were both equally wrong," Santos' relative said.

The victim's father also expressed frustration that Walker was never charged in the attacks upon his son and said the Attorney General's Office treated his family with the "utmost disrespect" by allowing Santos to plead guilty to a lesser charge instead of prosecuting him for first-degree murder.

"There is no way that I feel that this crime should be second-degree murder," Vincent Lawrence Sr. said. "I wish this plea agreement was not accepted."

Deputy Attorney General Cornelius Evans explained in court that the decision to offer Santos a plea agreement was done to ensure the defendant served time for the crime, rather than possibly be let off scot-free by a jury.

"Sometimes you come up with nothing," Evans said, referring to a conviction at trial.

When asked later about Walker's involvement in the incident and whether charges would be brought against him, Evans declined to comment.

"Not at this time," he said.

MURDER: 19-year-old sentenced to 30 years

FROM PAGE ONE

Islands Attorney General's Office. Dressed in a red prison-issued uniform, Santos kept his head lowered in his hands while listening to emotional remarks made by both his family and that of the victim.

"We are very sorry for what happened," said Latiff Hussein, Santos' brother. "I know if Renaldo could change it, he would."

One of Santo's sisters, Debbie Hodge, also expressed regret to the victim's family on behalf of her own.

"My brother is not a bad person," Hodge said. "I'm sure Mr. Lawrence was not a bad person, either."

Hodge read a statement prepared for the occasion by Santos, who was too emotional to stand and do so himself.

"I go to bed every night with so much sadness and regret in my heart that I cannot sleep," Santos said in the statement. "I have to live with this for eternity — and that's the worst part."

"I need to let everyone know that I'm not a bad person or a murderer," Santos said. "I'm just a human being who made a bad choice."

In the statement, Santos asked Lawrence's parents for forgiveness.

"I realize that I've taken your son's life and I can never bring him back," Santos said.

But Lawrence's mother, Caroline Sackey Lawrence, had no sympathy for the young man who pointed a .38-caliber gun at her son's head and pulled the trigger.

"That I cannot forgive," she said. "Renaldo Santos, you have changed my life forever."

The victim's father, Vincent Lawrence Sr., remembered a tall — 6 foot, 5 inches — son who was intelligent and ambitious.

"His intention was to be a marine biologist," said Vincent Lawrence Sr. He was also without sympathy for his son's killer.

"(Santos) cannot sleep? Neither can I," he said. "I get up in the night drenched in sweat thinking about my son."

While Santos' defense attorney, Martial Webster, said his client acted in the heat of the moment — in which he was arguing with Lawrence — Deputy Attorney General Cornelius Evans disagreed.

"It is not a mistake to take a gun and shoot somebody point-blank in the head," Evans said. "That's intentional."

The judge said sentencing Santos required him to make a "heart-breaking decision" considering the defendant's age.

"Youth is often wasted on the young," Ross said borrowing from a famous phrase. Nonetheless, those who "dance to the music of lawlessness" must pay for their crimes, he said.

Ross gave Santos a 30-year prison term for second-degree murder, as well as a five-year sentence for possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence. The two sentences will be served simultaneously and Santos will be eligible for parole after serving half his term.

Santos was arrested exactly six months ago after police arrived at Peppertree Terrace, a gated mobile-home community in the Sunny Isle-Estate Diamond area, and found Lawrence dead shortly before 9:30 a.m. from a single gunshot wound to the head. Lawrence, who worked as a groundskeeper there, had argued twice before with Santos and another man over a marijuana plant, which belonged to Santos and Lawrence had cut down.

After the second confrontation, Santos went inside his No. 4-10 residence, emerged with a revolver and shot Lawrence — whose nickname was Spyder — in the head.

FIRE: Blazes tax firefighters on STX

FROM PAGE ONE

acres of grass and bush just west of Chenay Bay Wednesday afternoon. It was the third fire since Monday.

Santos said they can't pinpoint the cause of Wednesday's fire, but he said he heard about some people being seen in unauthorized areas near there.

Although the terrain was a "kind of swampy area," Santos said the low grass made the fire spread faster than Tuesday's flames.

The department began extinguishing the fire at about 2:30 p.m. and finished around 5 p.m., Santos said. Because of the flat, low-lying land, he said the work went faster than the day before.

No homes were in the path of the blaze, but it did briefly threaten Seven Seas Water Corporation.

Martin Serrano, an employee, said he saw the flames moving toward the business.

"I put the sprinklers on to protect around us," Serrano said. "Everything is under control now."

Santos said the employees of Fire Services will be on the lookout for fires until conditions improve. He asked that members of the community do the same.

"I ask that the community keep their eyes and ears open for anything that looks suspicious," Santos said.

He said all the Virgin Islands are in desperate need of rain. On St. Croix, only about 18 inches of rain fell from last August to March.

"If we don't get any heavy rain, it's going to get worse," he said. "This year the fire season started a lot sooner than we expected."

PROGRAM: Home ownership offered

FROM PAGE ONE

homes, rather than rent housing, according to Darryl Smith, communications director for Rep. Eva Clayton, D-NC.

Clayton is head of the nonprofit Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the coordinating, research and fund-raising arm of the CBC.

Smith said the program is the brainchild of the foundation and encourages blacks to become homeowners.

Although home ownership among minorities grew four times faster than for whites in the 1990s, only 46.7 percent of black families own their homes, compared to 73 percent of white families and 67 percent of the country overall, according to Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Smith said banks and other lenders will offer a variety of mortgages with special terms, and Freddie Mae and Freddie Mac have agreed to buy them while several mortgage insurance companies will insure them.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are government-sponsored but publicly traded companies that buy mortgages from original lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies, and package them into securities for resale to investors.

The special terms will include down payments as low as $1,000, or 2 percent of a home's value; mortgage at interest rates below the usual rates for borrowers with weak credit histories; and one-time reduction in interest rates for home owners who make their mortgage payments on time for 24 consecutive months.

"Far too long, minority communities have been left out of the home ownership process," Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas, who is chairwoman of the CBC, said at a Washington news conference Tuesday.

"America is only as strong as its communities, and its communities are only as strong as the families that live within," she added. "Home ownership is part of the foundation of a stable family."

The program also has the support of HUD Secretary Mel Martinez, who said that it means one million more African-American families can now "live their American dream."

Smith said the program will be promoted in the eligible areas by home-ownership fairs and seminars, radio and newspaper advertisement and individual credit counseling.

He said it probably will be coordinated in the Virgin Islands through the office of VI Delegate to Congress Donna Christensen, who also is a member of the CBC.

Elena Shaubah, who is the housing coordinator in Christensen's St. Croix office, said Christensen supports the CBC program and has an additional plan to increase minority home ownership.

Shaubah noted that Christensen sponsored a series of meetings last year with representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program, which is backing a home-ownership plan geared more toward middle-income families.

She said Fannie Mae also is a sponsor of that program and sent counselors to the Virgin Islands to explain it.

Christensen's office will be holding a housing fair in June on the Rural Development program.

More information on the WOW program is available at 1-800-822-1669 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday.

The Web sites are:

- WOW — www.wowcbcf.org
- Fannie Mae — www.fanniemae.com
- Freddie Mac — www.freddiemac.com

Turnbull says airport won't close

FAA threatens to shut it down over landfill problems

WILL JONES

ST. CROIX — Gov. Charles Turnbull has vowed that his administration will not allow the Federal Aviation Administration to force the closure of the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport because of problems at the nearby Anguilla Landfill.

"Under no circumstances will I allow the Henry Rohlsen airport to close," the governor said in a Government House news release.

"While the issue of safety is, of course, paramount, we must face the economic reality and come up with a solution that will gain federal support and keep the airport open for business," Turnbull said.

The governor was responding to the FAA's threat to shut down the airport unless the government closes the landfill by the end of 2002.

Gordon Finch, executive director of the VI Port Authority, which operates the airport, said Wednesday that "if the governor says the airport will not be closed, I guess we have to take his word for it."

Finch had expressed concerns that the airport could be shut down or federal funds could be in jeopardy because of the government's slow pace on plans to close the landfill by the deadline.

He said the FAA also might withhold federal grants to the authority and force it repay federal funds that already have been granted unless the landfill problem is resolved.

"If we receive a grant that is conditioned on the landfill being closed by the end of next year and it is not, it would be a default on the grant agreement and we may be required to repay the money," Finch said.

But he said federal funds for the ongoing renovation of the terminal and expansion of the runway are not in jeopardy because of the landfill issue.

The authority, however, has lost a "few hundred thousands of dollars" because of delays in completing the runway, primarily because of complaints from nearby Yellow Cedar residents who complained that dust from the expansion projects was settling over their neighborhood and causing serious health problems, Finch said.

He said dogs that frequent the landfill also get on the airport runway and the scavenger birds around the garbage dump cause unsafe conditions for aircraft.

"The FAA does not want a dump near the airport because it creates a myriad of problems," Finch said.

Turnbull said that he has assembled a "critical action" team, headed by Kent Bernier, his assistant for economic affairs, to develop a two-part solution to the airport situation.

"The first phase is a fast-track process to identify an alternative solid-waste disposal system to allow expedited closure of the Anguilla Landfill" the governor said.

He added that one of the options under consideration is a new environmentally clean technology that would eliminate solid waste through gasification.

The process also would assist in the production of needed power and water in the territory, Turnbull said.

He said the team met in Washington, D.C., last week with representatives of the developer selected for negotiations on the gasification plant.

Turnbull did not name the developer, but a Department of Public Works official said last December that the government had selected Caribe Waste Technologies of Pennsylvania to operate a gasification plant in the Virgin Islands that will convert garbage to energy.

Phase two of the team's plan is to identify a firm that will develop and implement an interim mitigation plan to address bird and fire hazards at the landfill.

Turnbull said he will seek approval from the FAA for his two-pronged solution.

"Closure of the airport is something that neither the FAA nor I believe is an acceptable option," the governor said. "I remain confident that we can develop a solution that will be satisfactory to everyone."

Turnbull also said there is a need for a public education process so that people can understand the severity of the crisis the territory is facing.

"The process required to close the landfill and to construct a new comprehensive solid-waste facility for the territory could cost upwards of $200 million," Turnbull said. "While we will continue to seek federal funds to mitigate the financial impact of the project, the public must understand the costs involved."

Dowe defends payment received from settlement

Berry says payments were illegal, Dowe threatens lawsuit

DAN KUEMMEL AND TIM HAY

ST. THOMAS — Sen. Carleton Dowe said $100,000 he received from a provision in the massive Omnibus Act of 2000 was a legal transaction and Sen. Lorraine Berry is wrong in her claim that Dowe and seven other former Fire Services workers received illegal payments from the VI government.

Dowe, a former Director of Fire Services; John McIntosh, retired Fire Chief on St. Croix; Lindsay Evans, a former administrator for Fire Services; Kenneth Huyghe, former Assistant Director of Fire Services; Elroy Pickering, retired Fire Chief; Elroy Matthais, retired Deputy Chief of Fire Services; Hubert Davis, retired Deputy Chief of St. Croix; and Sidney Challenger, retired Fire Chief all received a portion of a $600,000 lump-sum payment from the VI government.

Dowe says the money was to cover a settlement reached with the VI government after he and the other employees filed a discrimination complaint with the PERB. He provided documentation to The Avis defending the payments and said during a Rules Committee hearing on Wednesday that he may pursue a slander and defamation of character lawsuit against Berry for making the accusations.

But Sen. Berry — who voted with other majority members in the 23rd Legislature to pass the Omnibus Act of 2000 — has requested that the VI inspector general look into the payments and said the provision did not intend for the money to go to the seven former employees, but instead to "fund lump-sum payments owed to individuals who were employees of various departments and agencies," as stated in the Omnibus Bill.

According to PERB documents detailing Dowe's complaint, all Fire Services employees were to receive compensation for 1992 and 1993 salary increases. However, increases due to the seven men were withheld in Jan. 1995 by then Gov. Roy Schneider, and a discrimination complaint was filed with the PERB in Dec. of 1998.

"The basis for settlement is that the claimants were discriminated against since other Fire Service personnel in similar positions were restored to salary benefits in 1995, and new hires also received increased compensation all as demonstrated and documented by the claimants," mediator Patrick Williams said.

The PERB ruled that the former employees were entitled to compensation. The seven former employees then sent a letter to former Senate President of the 23rd Legislature Vargrave Richards asking the senate to allocate the money reached in the settlement.

"We, the undersigned former members of the Virgin Islands Fire Service, were discriminated against and filed a grievance with the PERB in Dec. of 1998," the letter stated. "The VI Fire Service must pay, to each claimant, a portion that will satisfy the agreement."

Neither the provision in the Omnibus Act nor documents obtained by The Avis state how much each of the former employees received. Dowe has told The Avis he received $100,000 from the settlement.

Berry says the inspector general should review the case and decide whether the payments were illegal.

"Questions should be asked and answered regarding funds paid to VI Fire Service claimants in a stipulated settlement dated Feb. 22, 2000," Berry said in a March 30 letter to Beverhoudt. "(The funds used) were not authorized or appropriated for that purpose."

VI Inspector General Steven Van Beverhoudt said he has not reviewed Berry's request for an investigation, but has received documents from Berry.

"I just got it (Tuesday)," he said. "I haven't digested the details. The stack is building up on my desk."

Perez to be held for trial

KC BURGARD

ST. CROIX — Although he's not a flight risk, Wilfredo "Freddy" Perez's release from prison could pose a danger to the community, ruled U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Resnick Wednesday.

Resnick granted the U.S. Attorney's Office motion to detain Perez pending his trial on local charges of assault and federal charges of being a felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, possession of a firearm during a crime of violence and possession of marijuana.

While Perez's arrest came after an April 1 shooting in downtown Christiansted — in which Perez is alleged to have fired upon two men in a car before fleeing into The Wreck Bar — other incidents of violence between the defendant and the alleged victims in this case factored into the judge's decision.

"There is a long and convoluted history of blood feud (between the men)," Resnick said.

Felix Parilla and Clint Sobratti were the occupants of a Nissan Maxima that received a bullet to its engine in a hail of gunfire about 12:30 a.m. on the date in question — allegedly by Perez. Parilla and Sobratti stood trial in District Court last December for shooting at Perez and another man on March 24, 2000, in the Sunny Isle area. Two innocent bystanders were also shot during the incident, but the men were acquitted of all criminal charges against them.

Despite the acquittal, the possibility of violence erupting whenever the men see one another exists, according to police.

"The ongoing feud ... suggests continuing danger to the community (and defendant) if he were released," Resnick said.

The judge also considered Perez's criminal history when making his decision to detain the defendant.

"Defendant has three prior convictions, which implicated firearms, and at the time of this incident was on supervised release," Resnick said. Resnick found probable cause to revoke Perez's supervised release — which began in June 1999 — and a hearing on the matter will be scheduled for a future date.

When ordering Perez held, the judge did take into account that the man said he fears for his life and that he's been shot on at least one other occasion.

Indian culture

Archeological Society to open museum in Christiansted

VALERIE LOVETT

ST. CROIX — Humans have inhabited St. Croix for some 3,000 years, and soon, visitors to the St. Croix Archeological Society's museum will be able to explore evidence of the Indian tribes that once lived here.

According to Bob White, a founder of the society, the museum should be open by Thanksgiving. The organization, now three months old, will offer the public an opportunity to view valuable artifacts and learn about Indian culture.

"There is already a vast collection on St. Croix," White said. "Many things were found after storms or hurricanes."

The collection will display items such as pottery, axe heads, beads and a canoe.

White said the Indians who lived on St. Croix migrated from South America and became indigenous to the island. As a result, all of the items found here are domestic.

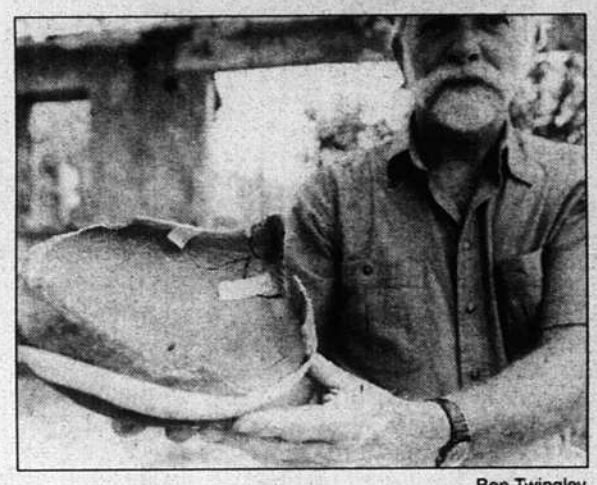
Studying archeology and history are hobbies, White said, but part of the purpose of the project is to invite professional archeologists to come to St. Croix and study to help develop knowledge about historic peoples.

Additionally, he said the museum will make a good repository for artifacts.

"There are lots of collections sitting in other places," he said. "This is one thing that concerns us."

The museum will be an added attraction for tourists, he added.

"It has a great tourist component. People are interested in history, and we have 1,000 years of Indian history here and no place to go look at it," White said.



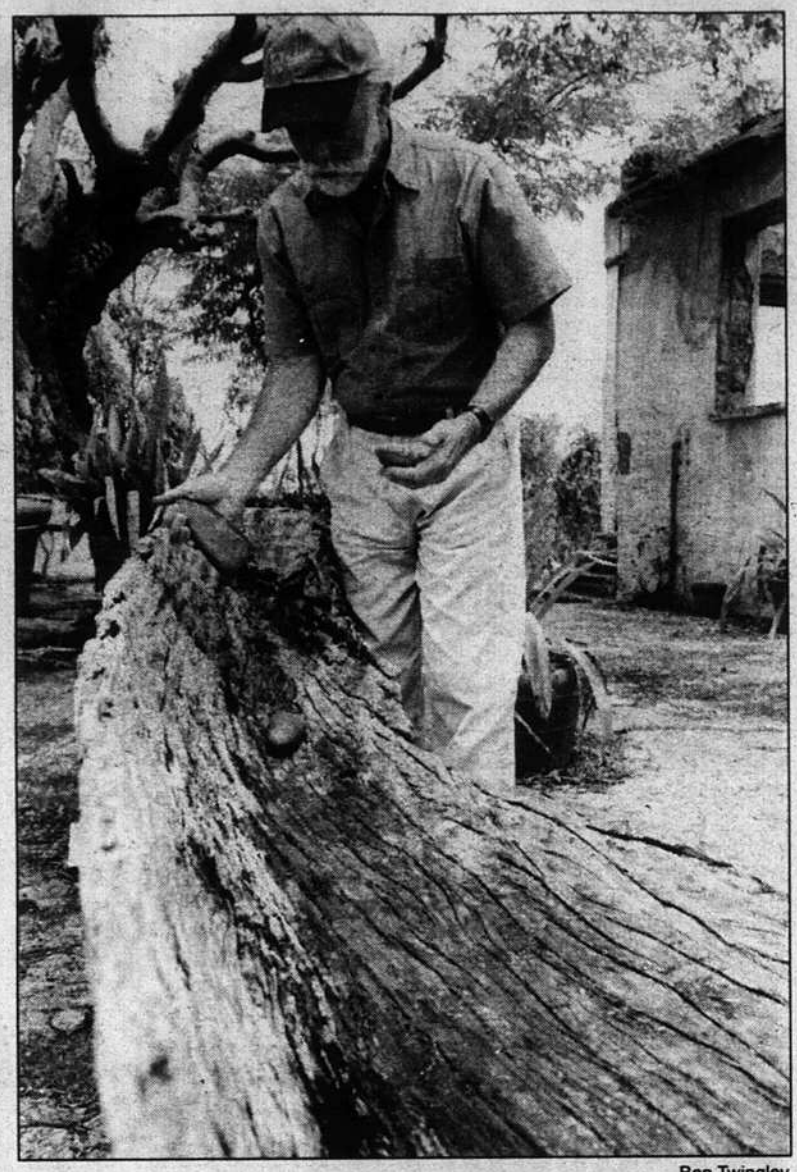
Ben Twingley
Bob White, one of the founders of St. Croix's Archeological Society, holds a bowl dated over a thousand years old, Wednesday outside his home.

David Hayes, historian and archeologist, donated the use of a building in Apothecary Hall, in downtown Christiansted, which will house the museum.

Hayes said the attraction will be an important part of preserving the history of the island.

"When you lose art, you lose history and culture in the community," Hayes said. "We need to preserve their memory and culture to the best of our ability."

White said the organization is still very much in need of more showcases. For information about donating or loaning artifacts or for information about The St. Croix Archeological Society, call White at 773-1519.



Ben Twingley
Bob White, one of the founders of St. Croix's Archeological Society, talks Wednesday about how a stone hand-axe would have been used to carve a Carib canoe.

Police blotter

ST. CROIX

Assaults:

8:58 p.m., Tues., Estate Humbug.

10:17 a.m., Wed., Central High School, Kingshill.

11 a.m., Wed., Arthur A. Richards School, Stoney Ground.

Grand larcenies:

1:58 p.m., Tues., Rave, Sunny Isle Shopping Center.

2:35 p.m., Tues., Estate Belvedere.

5:05 p.m., Tues., Moonlight Superette, Hannah's Rest.

9:40 p.m., Tues., The Frederiksted Hotel, Strand Street.

8:28 a.m., Wed., Estate Carlton.

10:10 a.m., Wed., Custom Street, Frederiksted.

Burglaries:

1:06 p.m., Tues., All for the Better.

8:44 p.m., Tues., Church Street Apartments.

8:38 a.m., Wed., Mt. Mint Bar, Petronella Farm.

8:55 a.m., Wed., Super Save Supermarket, Estate Concordia.

Other:

8 p.m., Tues., a stolen vehicle reported from Estate St. John.

10:01 p.m., Tues., a discharging of shots reported from Grove Place.

9:39 a.m., Wed., a stolen vehicle reported from Petronella Farm.

ST. THOMAS

Assaults:

1:44 p.m., Tues., Cruz Bay, St. John.

7:57 p.m., Tues., Veterans' Drive.

8:49 p.m., Tues., Bovoni.

9:21 p.m., Tues., Savan.

1:20 p.m., Wed., Hospital Ground.

Burglaries:

6:14 p.m., Tues., Anna's Retreat.

8:30 p.m., Tues., Anna's Retreat.

1:36 a.m., Wed., Tutu.

7:20 a.m., Wed., Nadir.

9:33 a.m., Wed., Estate Tutu.

Larcenies:

3:25 p.m., Tues., Main Street.

4:45 p.m., Tues., Contant.

9:30 p.m., Tues., Smith Bay.

11:56 p.m., Tues., Smith Bay.

Other:

10:52 p.m., Tues., fire reported in Bournefield.

Rules Committee moves 13 bills

TIM HAY

ST. THOMAS — The Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday passed 13 bills, among them a measure that would require the VI attorney general to be popularly elected and one that tacks an 8 percent tax on timeshare units.

The bill establishing the timeshare tax was sponsored by Sen. Alicia Hansen and co-sponsored by Sens. Donald Cole, Carlton Dowe, Almando Liburd and Celestino White.

"This is not a tax break," Hansen said. "This is a new tax on an industry that has gotten away with financial murder for years."

The funds collected would go into the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund, with 25 percent earmarked to promote St. Croix and another 25 percent going to advertising the territory's marine industry.

The bill requiring the attorney general to run for elected office, sponsored by Sen. Adlah Donastorg, aims to make the VI's top law enforcer independent of the executive branch. Attorneys general in the territory are appointed by the governor.

According to the bill, "an attorney general who serves at the pleasure of the governor is unable to exercise his independent judgment in performing his duties, but instead does the bidding of the governor ..."

Attorneys general are elected in 43 mainland states, the measure says.

Senators also approved a bill that would give free medical benefits to military veterans. Critics of the bill have said the VI's hospitals were not prepared to absorb the cost, but its proponents have said something must be done immediately to help veterans — even if some details of the proposal need to be hammered out later.

Sen. Norma Samuel, who chairs the Labor and Veterans' Affairs Committee and sponsored the bill, said at a previous hearing that federal grants were available that would ease the burden on the territory's hospitals.

A bill that would use all revenues collected by the Internal Revenue Bureau in excess of those collected last fiscal year to give unionized workers retroactive wage increases also passed.

Sen. Lorraine Berry has said the increased IRB collections were already accounted for in the budget her Finance Committee passed in the 23rd Legislature, but majority-bloc lawmakers have countered that fiscal officers have showed additional millions that remain uncollected.

Other measures passed would include the following:

- Authorize the IRB director to implement an incentive program.
- Establish a military museum and veterans' memorial complex.
- Confer posthumously the Medal of Honor on Earle B. Ottley.
- Extend tuition exemptions at the University of the Virgin Islands for members of the National Guard.
- Honor Virgin Islanders United for developing pride and unity among Virgin Islanders in New York.
- Reduce the number of employees needed for charter boats to receive Industrial Development Commission benefits from 10 to three.
- Transfer the former Virgin Islands Hotel for use as a veterans' multipurpose center and authorize the governor to negotiate a land-swap deal for a new cemetery on St. Thomas.
- Appropriate $500,000 from bond interest to the Department of Education for school repairs.

The bills now move to the full Senate for consideration at three meetings next week.



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Lyssa Graham

Munchkins visit St. Thomas

Five of the remaining 10 Munchkins from the classic movie "The Wizard Of Oz" spent the afternoon signing autographs at Gem Palace in Havensight Mall. A total of 124 Munchkins appeared in the 1939 movie.

Poor driving could cost more

High-risk drivers may be hit with higher premiums

WILL JONES

ST. CROIX — The Banking and Insurance Division is in the process of finalizing guidelines for insurance companies to include a surcharge on premiums for high-risk drivers and discount points and incentives for good drivers.

Lt. Gov. Gerard Luz James, who also is insurance commissioner, said the Compulsory Automobile Liability law, which went into effect in February 2000, allows the commissioner to set surcharge rates for drivers who are high-risk because of their driving records.

Maryleen Thomas, director of Banking and Insurance, said Tuesday that the guidelines are expected to be completed in about three weeks and will be distributed to insurance companies and their agents.

She said insurers already include a surcharge in the rates they submit to the commissioner's office for approval, but the law now allows the commissioner to set the rates and to determine discounts for good drivers.

Under the law, a vehicle driver or motorcycle operator can be given from two to 12 points for various traffic violations.

If a driver or motorcycle operator is convicted of traffic violations totaling 12 points within a year, his or her license can be automatically suspended for six months, according to Lt. William Harvey, police traffic commander. He said paying a traffic fine is the same as a conviction.

In a speech last week to the VI Insurance Association, James said his office will continue to monitor the insurance law and make recommendations on any changes that might be necessary.

"As the implementation and enforcement of the Compulsory Automobile Liability law continue to evolve, my office will closely monitor it with a view towards amending the law if necessary, cure any deficiencies and draft rules and regulations for effectuating its provisions," James said.

The point system under the law are:

- 2 — carrying more than one person on a motorcycle designed for one.
- 2 — operating a motorcycle without a protective helmet.
- 3 — failure to wear a seat belt.
- 6 — failure to restrain an infant or a toddler under the age of five by use of a specially designed seat.
- 3 — failure to obey the direction of a police officer.
- 2 — failure to observe traffic signals.
- 3 — failure to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk, and passing a vehicle yielding to pedestrians in a crosswalk.
- 9 — operating a motor vehicle in a reckless manner.
- 12 — driving under the influence of intoxicating liquors or controlled substances.
- 10 — exceeding the speed limit by 30 mph or more.

Veterans to help clean up Kingshill cemetery

ST. CROIX — Members of the Veterans Service Organization invite all veterans to join them at 8 a.m. Saturday to help clean up the veterans section of the Kingshill Cemetery.

The VSO members agreed to clean this section once a month and invite all families whose loved ones are buried in any cemetery in the Virgin Islands to join in cleaning their graves on this day.

Participants are asked to bring a weed eater, machete, pick axe, pitchfork or rake.

Governor appoints members to defunct FSC task force

DAN KUEMMELL AND WILL JONES

ST. THOMAS — Gov. Charles Turnbull has named seven VI residents to a local Foreign Sales Corporation task force to help determine how to replace roughly $10 million in revenues that have been lost since the Foreign Sales Corporation program was killed by the federal government.

President Bill Clinton signed a bill in November dismantling the FSC program.

The appointees are: tax attorney Marjorie Rawls Roberts, economist Dr. Richard Moore, Government House Deputy Chief of Staff Alric Simmonds, Mary Busenberg, former Sen. Anne Golden and Nathan Simmonds, director of the Five Year Economic Recovery Plan Implementation program.

Lt. Gov. Gerard Luz James II, whose office had jurisdiction over the FSC program, is also on the task force.

"The FSC Task Force is a very important body charged with the critical task of determining viable options for the government to replace the revenue which will be lost as the result of the termination of the FSC tax benefits and the expected concurrent termination of those (businesses) doing business in the territory," Turnbull said in a Government House release.

The FSC program granted the VI franchise taxes for the roughly 3,500 Foreign Sales Corporations that were operating in the Virgin Islands. The program allowed corporations to get income-tax reductions by creating export subsidiaries in certain "foreign" locations outside the mainland United States — including Guam and the Virgin Islands.

The FSC program was killed by Congress under pressure from the European Union and World Trade Organization, who said the program gave an unfair trade advantage to the United States.

Meanwhile, Sen. Adelbert Bryan, Economic Development, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Committee chairman, has asked James for specific information about the FSC program and other businesses licensed by the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

Bryan's request included:

- A list of all corporations authorized to do business in the Virgin Islands, including FSCs;
- The total outstanding franchise tax fees owed by these corporations for the past 10 years;
- Who the resident agents representing the corporations are; and
- How many of the corporations were dissolved and revised under new ownership, with the same resident agents.

Christensen gets back from visting Barbados and Dominica on business

WILL JONES

USVI — Delegate to Congress Donna Christensen returned to her Washington office Monday following a trip to Barbados and Dominica as a member of a congressional delegation visiting the Caribbean nations.

The delegation was made up of members of the House International Relations' Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Cass Ballenger.

She said the group met with the prime ministers, their deputies and other officials of both governments and discussed issues such as drug interdiction, the banana dispute and criticism by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development of tax policies in Caribbean nations and the Virgin Islands.

Christensen said the OECD wrongly included the Virgin Islands in its criticism of tax polices that the group believes creates unfair competition.

Not only has the Turnbull administration protested the label, but Christensen said she each member of the Congressional Black Caucus has written a letter to the OECD to protest the inclusion.

Christensen said she was the only member of the delegation that was from an English-speaking territory or nation in the Caribbean.

She said the trip was more of a mission for the committee members to familiarize themselves with the Caribbean and the problems they face.

"Most of the members knew very little about the Caribbean," Christensen said.

She added that she has invited the committee to visit the Virgin Islands.

"The Virgin Islands in in a good position to play a major roles in the Western Hemisphere," Christensen said.

St. Thomas police are investigating shooting, robbery

DAN KUEMMEL

ST. THOMAS — Virgin Islands police officers are investigating a shooting and robbery that took place on St. Thomas Tuesday night.

Diane Correa was shot once in the buttocks while walking in the area of General Gade in Savan, just after 8:11 p.m., according to Deputy Police Chief Theodore Carty. Carty said Correa was shot with a pellet gun, and was transported to Schneider Hospital by police officers at the scene. Police are classifying the incident as an assault, and believe two male minors are possible suspects in the attack.

Marlen Dias of Smith Bay told police she was robbed at gunpoint of $1,500 cash, her purse and cellular phone near the former Mini-Golf in Smith Bay at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday night, Carty said. The two men then fled on foot into a bushy area, according to police.

The two suspects in the armed robbery are being described as clean shaven black males between the ages of 18 and 25 years old. The two men are roughly 5 feet 3 inches and 5 feet 6 inches tall. Both had short black hair and spoke with West Indian accents, Carty said.

Anyone with information on these incidents is being asked to contact police at 911, or the Crime Line at 777-8711.

St. Croix police investigating death of 20-year-old visitor

STEVE S. BULLOCK

ST. CROIX — Police are investigating the death of a 20-year-old woman who was taken to the Gov. Juan Luis Hospital early Tuesday morning after she apparently passed out at a friend's home.

Police said the woman — whose name has been withheld pending the notification of her family — had recently arrived on the island, and was staying with friends.

Reports indicated that the woman became ill after partying and drinking with four other women at a friend's home.

Dr. William Fogarty, the medical examiner at the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital, said the woman — a native of Oklahoma — died shortly after she was brought to the hospital.

Fogarty said the autopsy results, which were released Wednesday, showed no evidence of foul play and the woman appeared to have died from natural causes.

Fogarty refused to confirm or deny reports that the young woman was pregnant at the time of her death.

One source familiar with the case said the young woman complained of stomach pains while dancing late Monday night.

United Way celebrates fund raising

ST. THOMAS — The United Way of St. Thomas - St. John exceeded their 2000-2001 fund raising goal of $525,000 by nearly $4,000 with more money still slowly flowing into the coffers.

The charitable organization met March 30 to celebrate their success and introduce new officers and directors for the upcoming year. Newly elected president, Scott Barber, credited the work of volunteers for a "great year."

Newly elected for the year were vice president Norman Jones, secretary Debra Watlington and treasurer Katherine Gibson. Elected to three-year terms on the board of directors were Steve Baker, Pamela Hagley, Beverly Nicholson, Angel Rosado, Elizabeth Scarbriel, Averricia Williams and Jaunita Young.

Funds raised by the United Way go to support 16 VI charitable agencies including the American Red Cross among others.



Ben Twingley

Gimme shelter

Cute, cuddly kittens play at the St. Croix Animal Shelter Wednesday awaiting adoption into a loving home. The shelter has had a recent influx of kittens — currently housing more than 40. Many of the kittens' mothers and other adult cats are also available. For more information about adopting a cat or kitten for a $40 fee, visit the shelter in Clifton Hill from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to noon Thursday; or 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or call 778-1650. Adoption fees also cover the cost of first vaccinations, deworming if necessary and spaying or neutering.

Traffic report

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

Police said six people received minor injuries in those accidents.

A resident of LBJ Gardens reported the hit-and-run accident in the vicinity of Market Street in Frederiksted around 10:15 p.m. On Tuesday.

Police also received a report of a car fire on Wednesday shortly after 10 a.m. in the vicinity of Hannah's Rest.

There were two reports of vehicle tampering from the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport Parking Lot on Tuesday and near Kmart in Sunny Isle on Wednesday.

One person was arrested around 2:15 a.m. on Tuesday for damaging a vehicle.

Police recovered three abandoned vehicles during the period.

Two vehicles were recovered on Wednesday — in the vicinity of Vitelco in Estate Mt. Pleasant and near Diamond Crest Plaza.

The third vehicle was recovered on Tuesday near General Gases in Peter's Rest.

Two vehicles were stolen between Tuesday and Wednesday.

A resident of Estate St. John reported a stolen vehicle on Tuesday around 8 p.m.

The second vehicle — with license plate number CAE-729 — was stolen on Wednesday from the Petronella Farm shortly after 9:30 a.m.

Police confiscated a license plate from a vehicle at La Reine Laundry around 10:06 a.m. on Wednesday.

Police impounded a vehicle on Queen Mary Highway near the Whim Museum just after 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

Gov't health insurance extended until May

USVI — Members of the Government Employees Service Commission's Health Insurance Board of Trustees advised all government employees and retirees that the existing group health insurance contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield was extended through April 30. Board members said they continue to work toward finalizing a new group health insurance plan that is slated to become effective May 1.

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Public officials ponder future of health care

Federal, local governments share ideas, look for solutions

DAN KUEMMEL

ST. THOMAS — Health officials from the Federal and local government gathered at Palms Court Harbor View Hotel on Tuesday to discuss the past, present and future of health care in the Virgin Islands.

As part of National Health Week, the conference was to discuss various issues in local health care and the VI Department of Health's objectives for the next ten years, which include providing better access to quality health care, educating the community towards healthier lifestyles, increasing revenue collections from overdue medical bills and improving health care facilities and equipment.

HIV and AIDS were also topics of discussion and health officials discussed in a workshop ways to curb the rising number of VI residents who are contracting the deadly HIV virus. According to Dr. Cora Christian, medical director of the Health Care Quality Improvement Program at the VI Medical Institute, AIDS was the seventh leading cause of death in 1997. Last year AIDS ranked as the second leading cause of death in the VI.

Christian said while the history of health care in the Virgin Islands has changed dramatically through the years, many of the same problems still face health officials and the community.

"We are not clear where we want to go or where we want to be."

Dr. Cora Christian, medical director of the Health Care Quality Improvement Program

She said hiring local doctors and medical staff, providing adequate care and facilities and improving facilities are challenges the VI still faces, and the biggest challenge to improving health care in the territory may be a lack of direction.

"We are not clear where we want to go or where we want to be," Christian said.

She added that although health care in the VI is below average when compared with the mainland, it is on par with other Caribbean islands. Some diseases and problems — such as Denge Fever — are relatively minor when compared with other islands.

Dr. John Moorehead, the first locally appointed health commissioner, was also honored at the all-day event for his contributions to health care in the territory.

Other speakers included Claude Marie Colimon, Regional Program Consultant for the Office of Minority Health; Sen. Douglas Canton, Phyllis Wallace, Ed. Department Deputy Commissioner; Dr. Maxine Nunez, professor of Nursing at the University of the Virgin Islands, and Gilberto Cardona, regional health administrator for the US Public Health Service.

Gov. Charles Turnbull, Lt. Gov. Gerard Luz James II and Delegate to Congress Donna Christian-Christensen were scheduled to speak early Tuesday morning, but all were unable to attend and sent representatives on their behalf.

Workshop for advanced ASL interpreters set for Saturday

ANGELA BORCHERT

ST. CROIX — Deaf and hearing signers are invited to an advanced workshop this weekend to delve into how an interpreter's mind works.

Admission is free. The seminar is entitled "Taking Control of Your Interpreting Process: How Does an Interpreter's Mind Work?" and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Virgin Islands University-Affiliated Program (VIUAP) office in Golden Grove on the Public Safety road.

Presented by the VIUAP and the City University of New York-LaGuardia Community College Interpreter Education Project (CIEP), the seminar is specifically for advanced American Sign Language signers. Students who completed ASL IV are welcome to participate.

Leading the workshop will be Carole Lazorisak, an ASL/Deaf Studies professor and a certified deaf interpreter, and Rob Hills, CIEP coordinator and a certified hearing interpreter.

The event will focus on developing interpreters' thinking processes for appropriate cultural and linguistic interpretation.

Through demonstrations, role-playing and working in small groups, both deaf and hearing participants will have the opportunity to learn and apply the "goal-to-detail oriented" interpreting approach.

Call the St. Croix Deaf Coalition at 773-1920, Ester Perez-Johnson at 772-9827 or Natalie Franklin at 772-3583.

CFVI accepting applications for scholarships

USVI — The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands is accepting applications from Virgin Islands students for the 2001-2001 school year for the following awards:

- **Anna Walsh Scholar Awards** — Approximately $8,000 will be dispersed this year in one-year, renewable grants to students enrolled in any accredited college or university who will have completed at least two semesters by June.
- **Theodore E. Sharp Scholar Award** — A total of $2,000 in cash awards will be made to students with outstanding records in community service who have applied to or are already enrolled in any accredited college or university.
- **Artrelle M. Wheatley Scholarship** — One year's full tuition to the University of the Virgin Islands will be awarded to a student with an outstanding record in community service who will have completed at least two semesters at UVI by June.

Call CFVI at 774-6031. Deadline to apply is May 31.

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Printed and published daily except holidays by
Brodhurst Printery, Inc., *36A/B La Grande Princesse,*
PO Box 750, Christiansted, U.S.V.I., 00820
Telephone (340) 773-2300; Fax (340) 773-5511
16 Norre Gade, Charlotte Amalie
Telephone (340) 774-7576; Fax (340) 774-8039
Second-class Postage paid at Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S.V.I.
Publication No. 475860
Postmaster: Send Form 3579 (Notice of Address Change) to Publisher,
PO Box 750, Christiansted, V.I., 00821

Member: The Associated Press
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EDITORIAL:

An early storm

Local property owners don't have to wait until hurricane season to get blown away. Massive increases in windstorm insurance is creating quite a storm. The enormous increases range from 25 to 40 percent with high deductibles attached.

Insurers have taken the position that because the Virgin Islands lies in the hurricane belt, they must charge higher rates for windstorm coverage. The territory has been hit by several hurricanes in the past 11 years, therefore, the insurers consider this area to be high risk.

Most homeowners don't have a choice when it comes to purchasing windstorm insurance. All banks require that a property be insured in order to maintain or get a mortgage.

Businesses are also reeling from the huge increases. The increases will no doubt cause businesses to implement cost-cutting measures. These cuts could include layoffs.

Unfortunately, the Virgin Islands is not the only location suffering from this problem. In June 2000, Florida property owners experienced premium hikes of up to 380 percent. Florida is also in the hurricane belt.

A group of Florida citizens filed a lawsuit on Jan. 9, against the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association (FWUA) and Insurance Commissioner Tom Gallagher, alleging that the insurer's rate-setting process violates the state Constitution and asking the court to reverse massive wind insurance rate hikes.

In a move unrelated to the lawsuit, two state legislators have proposed windstorm insurance legislation that would reform the FWUA's rate-setting process. If enacted, the legislation would mandate that insurers use a state-developed model for determining potential hurricane losses, rather than a proprietary model. It would also reorganize FWUA's board of directors, currently weighted in favor of the insurance industry, to include non-industry representatives, such as FWUA policy holders, experts in state building codes, and licensed property-casualty insurance agents.

At a recent meeting on insurance, Lt. Gov. Gerard Luz James II said, "I will balance the interest of insurance companies and the local insurance industry against the interest of the public to determine whether, and to what extent, rate increases will be allowed."

Some insurers have already increased premiums. We know this for a fact because we got our inflated bill several weeks ago.

James must use his position as head of insurance and banking to attract more insurers to do business in the territory. One insurance agent told us that the major problem is that there are not enough carriers willing to provide insurance to the territory.

We need to find more carriers willing to provide protection here and we need to do it soon. These astronomical hikes will only serve to weaken an already shaky economy. We can't afford layoffs and foreclosures because of sky-high insurance rates.



Letters to the editor

Hail, Emperor of Frederiksted

Dear Editor:

One opinion is that Sen. Bryan became a bully because he grew up with a bunch of sisters. Another is that he had problems with academia. Thus he could not make it to law school. In time he was also grandfathered in as a police captain. Whatever the cause of his obsessions, it is evident to many persons that Adelbert Bryan is bitter, selfish, confused and a megalomaniac.

He once made a pilgrimage to Antigua in order to reconnect with his family there. Yet Bryan attacks Eastern Caribbean people, including Antiguans, with such venom. This is the same Bryan who a few years ago stopped wearing European-style clothing because he had been reborn a pan-Africanist. Does he understand the concept?

The very name "Bryan" celebrates the senator's Antiguan connection. Yet he rants and raves against his cousins and brothers, other African people, like a maniac on the verge.

Marcus Garvey, from Jamaica, one of the greatest pan-Africanists, suggested that people without a sense of their past are like ships without rudders. Thus Bryan attacks even aspects of his own cultural roots.

He once noted that "cricket" has no place in Virgin Islands culture. However, that was the most popular game here for many years. Lionel Roberts, Edith Williams, Rothschild Francis, Cyril E. King, Earle B. Ottley and Bryan's own grandmother and mother would laugh at the ignorance he spews out on such matters.

This fact has been hidden or denied for too long. Whether one was born in the Virgin Islands or on another Caribbean island, we are all linked by more than skin color and a shared past tainted by capitalism and slavery. Most African people in the Virgin Islands have links to other Caribbean islands. We are real cousins, sisters, brothers and more. Should time be taken to peel the veneers of years of travel — a mixing between these islands — the revelations may be stunning and humbling.

We all came here at different times from other places. Not even Bryan is aborginal to these islands. Anthropologists are amused by such contrived nonsense.

Bryan's real danger to the Virgin Islands, however, is not that he attacks people from the Easten Caribbean for illogical reasons; it is that Senator Adelbert Bryan allegedly has ugly skeletons in his closet, is burdened by baggage and resides in a whopping glass house. But he is allowed to throw stones continuously. Like Adolph Hitler, he devises cunning arguments and manipulates these societies. Too often when Bryan stands stark naked, wearing no clothes, sectors of our societies, including attorneys general, politicians, judges, governors, teachers, commissioners and other citizens smile at Bryan and say, "What a good boy he is. He speaks for us." What intellectual cowardice.

Where in this world does a man who in the eyes of everyone had a hand in the brutal death of his son become a demigod? Should such a person dictate to others whom they need to represent them? Everyone here knows that if someone else had hired a friend for $60,000, to re-do what is already being done, Bryan would have been a thorn in their life.

Maybe Bryan is Emperor of Frederiksted. But someone ought to say to his majesty Adelbert Bryan I, "You are without clothes. Naked! There is something wrong and very unattractive about your style."

W.T. Browne
St. Thomas

Got something to say? Write to the Editor, St. Croix Avis, PO Box 750, Christiansted, St. Croix 00820; e-mail stxavis@viaccess.net.
All letters *must* contain the name, address and phone number of the writer.



ICM abuses give Democrats chance

Aimery Caron
My Turn

Leaders of the ICM Party, including Senate President Almando Liburd, Sen. Bert Bryan, would-be Sen. Raymond Richards and some independent Senate followers, have recently made it known that they do not support the referendum to reduce the size of the Senate, although the voting results showed that more than 90% of those who voted are in favor of it.

How could the ICM leadership have the front to dismiss these results and claim that the "masses were misled, uneducated and ill-informed?"

The ICMers tell us that they know that the only reason we voted to reduce the Senate is to reduce the expenditures of the Senate; but they have promised us that as long as they lead the new majority, they will make sure that expenses will not be reduced. Personally, I have additional reasons for wishing to reduce the size of the Senate: to cut down on rancorous debates and "pappy-shows," on behind-the-scenes maneuvering, on waffling and to bring more visibility to the actions of each Senator. I also believe that a smaller Senate would be forced to confine its activities to making laws and passing an annual budget. Finally, it is hoped that a smaller Senate would have to spend less time intervening on behalf of friends and family for government favors and put more controversial issues to a referendum to let the voters decide.

The ICM Party has become an elitist minority party of special interests, which does not believe in majority rule because it is a minority. This neocolonialist party knows what is good for us because its leaders know better and they are "aborigines." This party has denied the results of the last three referenda, again because the "masses" have erred. How can the new majority hope to benefit from the munificence of the Congress after having requested authorization for the referendum and ignoring its results, and after wishing to abridge the rights of naturalized citizens, in contravention to the U.S. Constitution?

The ICM Party is fundamentally opposed to accepting outside investors on the grounds that they only exploit the Islands and that the "aborigines" can build the economy by themselves, without outside help. The fact is that our economy is suffering because more outside investors are leaving than coming to VI.

The ICM Party is pro-independence in order that it may impose a constitution that will advantage the "aborigines" above other citizens, and will enable it to control immigration, employment and land ownership.

Thus, it looks upon the Federal Government as an arbitrary authority interfering into the Islands' affairs. How, then, with such an adversarial attitude, can the ICM Party spend large sums of money lobbying both the federal administration and the Congress hoping to benefit from some special largess denied to any other State or Territory? "Give us the money and don't ask any questions!"

Long ago, both the administration and the Senate separated themselves from the voters and lost credibility in the eyes of the informed Virgin Islands "masses."

The only way to mend this break is to call upon all segments of the community to participate in the governance of each island. In practical terms, this means that we should have more referenda; the initiative and recall processes should be simplified and made usable; the IWO elected Boards of Education should manage the Department of Education; existing boards of various agencies should not be packed with commissioners and functionaries; the Justice Department should have a Territorial Grand Jury (as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution); and the Departments of Police, Public Works and Tourism should have advisory boards on each island.

Advisory boards would reduce the oversight responsibilities of the Senate, obviate the need for administrators and municipal councils and involve more citizens in the day-to-day operation of the government — thereby returning the voters' confidence in and respect for the government.

How could the Democratic Party, with six members in the Senate, allow two ICM senators to take over? The abuses of the ICM Party against the Virgin Islands voting majority provide unique opportunities for the Democratic Party to regain its past glory and the Senate majority: to begin, it must denounce these abuses loudly and clearly. It was the Democratic Party that forged an alliance between business, the grassroots and the future naturalized citizens in order to move these islands into the mainstream of the Western World.

It is the party that embraces all groups and segments of the community and the party that has always believed in majority rule. Why does it not come out squarely on the side of the majority of the voters, whoever they might be, and whatever the issue?

Why does it not call on all citizens of good will to come join in the governance of these islands?

Watch out if you've been born a male



Kathleen Parker

In our hypervigilant world of zero tolerance, pedophiliac paranoia and incest sensitivity, everyone's a pervert until proven innocent. If you've had the extremely bad judgment to be born a male, you're automatically suspicious. Two recent examples seem to prove the rule:

Earlier this month, an executive for a head-hunting firm traveling on British Airways was asked to move when he sat next to two unaccompanied children. The man hadn't talked to the children or thrust candy into their innocent little mugs. He hadn't touched them. He had merely sat down beside them.

Apparently British Airways has a policy against such brash — and possibly lewd — behavior. A man sitting next to children, why, you just don't know what he might do. A spokeswoman for the airline said the company created the policy against seating men next to children in response to concerns about sexual assault. On airplanes?

Meanwhile, back on Earth, a single dad from Maryland last week was halted by a Target store employee when he tried to accompany his 8-year-old daughter into a woman's dressing room. Jim Schmidt, who has been a single father for seven years, says he always helps his daughter try on clothes when they go shopping.

But he can't in Columbia, Md., where this Target store is located. The employee who stopped Schmidt wasn't worried about father-daughter molestation, however. He was concerned about an even more serious problem common to males, though we usually associate this particular affliction with mythical teens in the '50s who go by the name of "Fonz."

"You can't go in there," the watchdog told Schmidt, "because men can use mirrors to look up women's dresses." Well done, Holmes, well done. Another mirror incident nipped in the bud!

Schmidt, an executive with a mental-health consortium, had a spirited discussion with the employee and a store manager, and subsequently has contacted Target's corporate office asking for apologies for both him and his daughter. He also has contacted fathers' rights groups and is considering legal action.

"I was humiliated," Schmidt says. "Being a single dad to a daughter is complicated enough without this. I've shopped for clothes with her a hundred times and it's never been a problem before. If they think they have a problem (with mirror stalkers), then they should choose a more passive method of solving the problem."

The Target employee, though notable for single-handedly disproving the theory of evolution, wasn't enforcing specific company policy, according to a Target spokesperson. When it comes to who goes into dressing rooms with whom, it's a judgment call.

Clearly some people have better judgment than others. On the other hand, the Target store in question (ital) is (end ital) in the same state where public-housing rules forbid opposite-sex siblings sleeping in the same room after one of them reaches puberty. Sexual deviancy, you know. It's everywhere.

Target has referred Schmidt to a guest-service leader at the store where he was embarrassed in front of his daughter, while British Airways has apologized to the man who was asked to change seats. Apologies are nice, but idiots - and absurd policies - are dangerous.

In our overzealous efforts to protect children from real predators, we've created a world where all men are considered potentially deviant, while children are taught to suspect even their own fathers. For the sake of these same children, shouldn't someone be teaching them to beware of fools?

Kathleen Parker, an Orlando Sentinel columnist, welcomes comments via e-mail at kparker@kparker.com, although she cannot respond to all mail individually.

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

Bush wins another round of recounts

Lead in Florida may have tripled, newspapers say

MIAMI (AP) — George W. Bush's narrow margin of victory in Florida would have as much as tripled had the U.S. Supreme Court allowed a hand recount of the undervotes to be completed, a newspaper review of the ballots concluded.

Bush would have expanded his 537-vote victory to a 1,665 margin if the recount ordered by the Florida Supreme Court had gone ahead under the most inclusive standards, The Miami Herald and USA Today reported Wednesday. Those standards would have included as votes even partial punches and dimples on the punch-card ballots.

When the process was stopped, recounts using a variety of standards had already had been completed in seven counties — Palm Beach, Volusia, Broward, Hamilton, Manatee, Escambia and Madison — and in 139 Miami-Dade County precincts.

Bush's 1,665-vote margin was based on the assumption those numbers would stand, but that in all the rest of the state the most generous standards would be applied. The newspapers also gave Bush the advantage under two more restrictive standards.

But the Herald reported that the balance would have tipped to Al Gore if a recount of the undervotes had been started from scratch in all 67 Florida counties using the most inclusive standards. Under that hypothetical recount, free from the fragmented chronology of the post-election contest, Gore would have won the White House by 393 votes, the paper found.



Associated Press

Miami Herald reporter Phil Long, right, seeks the clearest possible view of one of the questionable Duval County ballots as city employee Frankie Knight, left, holds it up in Jacksonville, Fla.

An undervote is a ballot on which no preference for president registered; an overvote is a ballot on which more than one preference registered.

USA Today's analysis focused exclusively on what might have happened if the recount had been allowed to continue.

The results bucked the expectations of the Democratic and Republican teams during the Florida recount contest, finding that the more inclusive recount standards sought by Gore would have helped Bush. And the strictest standard sought by Republicans — that only clean ballot punches be counted — would have given Gore an extremely narrow three-vote victory. Both newspapers said that was too close to withstand the possibility of errors.

"Many Americans were asking the question 'What would the result be if the Florida Supreme Court's order to conduct hand recounts in all 67 counties were carried out?'" Martin Baron, the Herald's executive editor, said Tuesday. "We felt it was our responsibility to answer questions that so many people had."

The review of 61,195 undervotes — a joint project involving the Herald, USA Today and Knight Ridder — did not examine the approximately 110,000 overvotes cast in the election. Both papers are planning a separate analysis of the overvote next month.

A group consisting of The Associated Press, The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, The Palm Beach Post, St. Petersburg Times, The Wall Street Journal and Tribune Publishing, which owns The Orlando Sentinel and the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, is analyzing all uncounted presidential ballots cast in the Florida election, including overvotes.

That ballot review, which is being conducted by the Chicago-based National Opinion Research Center, is expected to be released next month.

The Florida Supreme Court order to conduct the hand counts specified only undervotes should be counted. However, the U.S. Supreme Court decision halting the recount noted that overvotes were being excluded.

Gore supporters were quick to interpret the newspaper findings as evidence that the vice president should have won the election — and thus Florida' 25 electoral votes and the presidency.

"What this shows is that if you count the voter's intent, Gore wins. If you look for excuses not to count votes, Bush does better," said Doug Hattaway, Gore's national campaign spokesman, now working as a Democratic consultant in Boston.

But the White House said the 537-vote victory is the correct tally.

"The president has thought that the case was closed for months," spokesman Ari Fleischer said Wednesday. "He thought the case was closed last year. The American people spoke and George W. Bush was elected the president."

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AT&T sinceramente lamenta la inconveniencia causada y aprecia su paciencia mientras que revisamos y corregimos esta situación.

AT&T Virgin Islands



Briefs

Gambling judge must reimburse state

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A former traffic court judge who left the courtroom during office hours to gamble must reimburse the state for time he missed from work, the state Supreme Court ruled.

John F. Lallo admitted he left work 66 times between 1993 and 1997 to go to Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard, Conn. The court ruling, issued Tuesday, said the conduct was unacceptable.

A state oversight panel had recommended Lallo pay $28,000, the entire salary earned on days he gambled. However, the high court said the amount must be recalculated because he completed his work before leaving.

Lallo had argued that the monetary sanction was punitive and that the issue should be put before a jury.

Teen whistle-blower wins board seat

HAYSVILLE, Kan. (AP) — An 18-year-old student newspaper editor who exposed questionable spending by the school superintendent has been elected to the school board.

Seth Konkel, student body president and a senior at Campus High School, won 28 percent of the votes in a six-way race on Tuesday.

During the campaign, Konkel discovered documents showing that District Superintendent H. Lynn Stevens had charged up to $16,000 a month on a school credit card over the past two years.

According to the documents, Stevens bought flowers, chocolates, car washes, airline tickets and meals and charged items at casinos and Las Vegas hotels.

Stevens has been on paid leave since last month and said he will retire in July. Police are investigating.

Stevens did not return calls for comment, and school officials said they have no comment while the matter is under investigation.

Konkel is also a magician — one of only 15 young wizards selected to perform in the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas.

California regulators suffer backlash as power rates rise

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Some Californians have turned to song and rhyme to vent their anger at the commission that approved electricity rate increases for customers of the state's cash-strapped utilities.

"Your stench of unspoken arrogance disgusts us," said San Francisco resident David Alt, reading an acerbic poem.

"I'm reading now by candlelight, wrapped in blankets day and night," rapped retired teacher Wellingby Boyce of Davis, drawing applause Tuesday at a meeting of the Public Utilities Commission.

The commission last week approved rate increases of more than 40 percent for customers of Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and Southern California Edison Co.

On Wednesday morning, the state was free of power alerts as reserves stayed above 7 percent. State power grid officials issued a Stage 2 alert — meaning reserves were below 5 percent — on Monday after transmission lines were downed by high wind, interfering with electricity imported from the Northwest.

Commissioner Geoffrey Brown dismissed the protesters at Tuesday's meeting as unruly "self-appointed activists" who were long on rhetoric and short on solutions.

Commission President Loretta Lynch said she believed the protesters conveyed widespread frustration over the rapidly rising price of power.

"I'm glad people are upset because it means they are paying attention," Lynch said. "Hopefully, we can all band together against the energy wholesalers responsible for this mess."

The majority of protesters belonged to the Green Party and a group called Public Power Now, which are pushing the state to seize control of the regulated utilities and California's electricity plants.



Associated Press

San Francisco resident Kenny Annis voices his opposition to rising power prices in California, during a meeting of the state Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco, Tuesday.

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House criticizes Postal Service plan to end Saturday delivery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers came down hard on the U.S. Postal Service's plan to explore eliminating Saturday mail delivery, with one House member calling it a "fatal mistake" that could destroy the agency.

"This is one of the most self-defeating proposals I've heard in my life," Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., said Wednesday. "If there's one thing the Postal Service could do that would guarantee its demise, it's eliminate service on Saturday."

Facing $2 billion to $3 billion in projected losses this year, the Postal Service has announced numerous cutbacks over the past months. On Tuesday, agency officials said they would investigate the possibility of ending virtually all Saturday mail delivery and closing some post offices and facilities. The changes would require congressional approval.

Postmaster General William J. Henderson told the House Government Reform Committee on Wednesday that the poor economy and declining mail volume had hit the agency hard.

He urged changes in the law to give the post office more flexibility in setting rates and services to contend with rising costs. It now takes almost a year to change rates. Postal managers are preparing to apply this summer to postal overseers for a rate increase, to take effect in 2002; in January, the price of first class mail went up a penny, to 34 cents.



Associated Press

Postmaster General William Henderson testifies on Capitol Hill Wednesday before the House Government Reform Committee hearing on the U.S. Postal Service's uncertain financial outlook.

"If we take the necessary steps now to fix the problems, maybe we can avoid a full-blown crisis in the next few years," said the committee chairman, Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind. "More cost containment options must be examined. Nothing should be off the table. Another rate increase should be the last option, not the first."

While most committee members agreed that overhauling the Postal Service was long overdue, several criticized the idea of ending Saturday delivery.

"Reducing the number of delivery days will have a devastating impact on our economy," said Rep. Constance Morella, R-Md.

Henderson, who is leaving the Postal Service next month, said his agency was just conducting an internal study to determine possible savings from a five-day delivery schedule.

"A decision to curtail Saturday delivery has not been made," he said.

Briefs

Five found dead in Colorado house

HIGHLANDS RANCH, Colo. (AP) — The bodies of five people, believed to be members of the same family, were found shot to death in a house.

Authorities were investigating the deaths as homicides.

The county coroner removed the bodies by dawn Wednesday, and autopsies could be concluded by the end of the day, Douglas County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Moore said.

The bodies were found Tuesday evening in the bedrooms of the home. Moore declined to comment on how long they may have been there, but a neighbor said newspapers had been piling up outside the house.

Moore wouldn't confirm reports that the deaths were an apparent murder-suicide, but said investigators did not feel neighbors were in danger.

Authorities did not immediately release names of the victims, but a neighbor identified the man as John Bishop, who worked at Qwest Communications International Inc.

Matt Barkett, spokesman for the telecommunications firm, said Bishop was a 20-year employee recently promoted to senior director of local network planning. Bishop was on vacation when the shootings occurred.

Student charged with slaying infant

MURRAY, Ky. (AP) — A 19-year old college freshman was charged with murder after an infant believed to be her newborn girl was found dead in her dorm room, authorities said.

Murray State University student Angelita Turner apparently gave birth in her dorm room last week, police said. Turner was arrested Thursday on a tampering with evidence charge and was being held on $50,000 cash bond.

Police "received information she'd had a child but refused to acknowledge she'd had one," said prosecutor Randy Hutchens. He would not comment on the results of an autopsy.

Turner was released from the hospital Thursday and social service officials contacted the university to alert them of her condition.

Murray State housing director Paula Hulick said Turner has a 2- or 3-year-old daughter who lives with Turner's grandmother.

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Public Notice

The U.S.V.1. Soccer Federation would like to inform the public that it did not participate, nor sanction the participation in any soccer tournament in Puerto Rico the weekend of March 31 to April 1, 2001.

Whatever tournament took place in Puerto Rico on the said dates was not sanctioned by the Puerto Rico Football Federation. It was an illegal tournament according to FIFA's rules and regulations (FIFA Statues, Article 57 and 58). Therefore, the U.S.V.1. Soccer Federation could not participate, neither could sanction any of its affiliate member Associations to participate.

Effective immediately, the public should not honor any soccer group or individuals who claim to represent the U.S. Virgin Islands or its affiliate Associations without the proper evidences to substantiate their claim or activities.

For information, please contact the office of the U.S.V.I. Soccer Federation at

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AT&T sincerely regrets any inconvenience this may cause and appreciates your patience as we review and correct this issue.

AT&T Virgin Islands

Alabama residents take company to court

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A federal trial opened Wednesday over claims the Monsanto Co. poisoned an Alabama community with toxic chemicals for decades and tried to cover up the problem.

Attorneys representing about 1,600 Anniston residents in a class-action lawsuit told jurors that the company, now called Solutia, should be forced to pay a "substantial" amount.

"The evidence is going to show that Monsanto dumped PCBs out its back door into the neighborhood for years and years," plaintiffs' lawyer Bob Shields said.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, were manufactured in Anniston from 1927 through 1972 for use as insulation in electrical equipment. Their production was banned in the 1970s amid questions about possible health risks.

PCBs-laden wastewater and storm water from a Monsanto plant emptied into a drainage ditch and creek in a poor section of Anniston. From there, the water ran to a nearby creek and lake.

Monsanto previously agreed to pay $43.7 million to property owners along the creek and lake and has said it spent more than $30 million since 1995 to remove PCBs around Anniston.

Monsanto hasn't denied that the chemical seeped into the area's water supply but claims there is no proof anyone was harmed. The chemical has been proven to cause cancer only in lab rats, company lawyer Jere White said.

Bush budget gets double setback

Senate trims $450B while GOP senator says he'll vote 'no'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's proposed 10-year, $1.6 trillion tax cut suffered a double body blow Wednesday as the Senate tentatively sliced it by $450 billion and a crucial Republican senator threatened to oppose it as too costly.

"The president's original proposal, as far as the Senate goes, for all intents and purposes appears to be over," crowed Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., after the Senate voted 53-47 to siphon $450 billion from Bush's cherished tax package and split it evenly between education and debt reduction.

Minutes before that vote, moderate Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., said he was inclined to vote against a $1.94 trillion budget for 2002 the Senate was debating that embraces Bush's tax cut. Jeffords said the $1.6 trillion tax reduction would shortchange education spending for the mentally and physically disabled.

"The president's original proposal, as far as the Senate goes, for all intents and purposes, appears to be over."

Tom Daschle,
Senate Minority Leader

"Unless a miracle occurs, I fear I'm bending in that direction," Jeffords told reporters.

Wednesday's double setback made it the worst day yet for Bush's budget and his tax proposal, which has been the centerpiece of his economic program ever since he unfurled it during his battle for the GOP presidential nomination in December 1999. The House easily approved a similar Republican-written budget last week.

Despite competing efforts by lawmakers to make it bigger and smaller, Bush has repeatedly insisted that its $1.6 trillion size is "just right." Daschle said that with Wednesday's vote, he hoped the administration would agree to bipartisan budget negotiations.

Behind the scenes, Bush aides were trying to determine how to sway Jeffords and suggested there were other votes up for grabs that could save the $1.6 trillion package. Still, a senior adviser conceded the vote was a major legislative setback and public relations blow heading into next week, when the details of Bush's budget cuts will be revealed.

White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan said Bush "remains confident that the budget that will pass will substantially resemble what he has proposed." The words "substantially resemble" were a new addition to the White House position.

With the Senate divided 50-50 between the two parties and Sens. Lincoln Chafee, R-R.I., and Zell Miller, D-Ga., considered the only senators certain to cross party lines, a Jeffords defection could be a backbreaker for the administration.

The education vote and Jeffords' remarks could pressure the White House to either meet Jeffords' demands or negotiate with Democrats over the size of the tax package.

Jeffords, who said he would continue bargaining with the administration, wants to increase special education spending by $180 billion over the next decade. It is receiving $6.3 billion this year. In talks, Republicans have offered him more than $100 billion.

Senate GOP leaders, who met privately to decide their next move, emerged with upbeat words.

"We're going to have a tax cut in the $1.6 trillion range," predicted Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. "Along the way, there'll be some bumps in the road. It's typical, Congress has always added more spending."

Lott switched his vote on the Democratic education amendment to "yes" at the last minute. Under Senate rules, he can demand a second roll call after GOP leaders try finding two senators to change their votes. With a 50-50 roll call, Republicans could use Vice President Dick Cheney's tie-breaking vote to carry the day for Bush.



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Girl sentenced in school shooting

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — A 14-year-old girl who admitted she shot and wounded a classmate at a parochial school was sentenced Wednesday to an open-ended term at a psychiatric facility.

Before the sentencing, Elizabeth Bush was asked if she took the .22-caliber revolver to Bishop Neumann Junior-Senior High School with the intention of shooting 13-year-old Kimberly Marchese on March 7. Kimberly was wounded in one shoulder.

She said she was upset over being teased by the victim and her friends.

"My original intent was to shoot myself and show everybody how much it (teasing) hurts so they could see," she told Judge William S. Kieser.

The judge asked what changed her mind.

"It just happened, sir. I don't know," she said.

In sentencing the teen, Kieser said he did not buy her explanation, citing statements she made to police and notes found in her possession after the shooting.

"I find that you intentionally sought her out and intentionally sought to cause her death," the judge said.

Bush was sentenced to an indeterminate term at a residential treatment facility for juveniles. The judge will decide when she can be released, and he said that may not be until after her 21st birthday.

Briefs

Boy uses belt to save his life

ABBEVILLE, S.C. (AP) — A boy whose leg was severed by a train when he tripped and fell on the tracks saved his life by using his belt as a tourniquet, rescue workers say.

Alex Compton, 10, was crossing the tracks near his home Monday when his foot got caught on some rocks, WYFF-TV reported.

After the accident, the boy removed his belt and tightened it around his thigh to stem the bleeding. A neighbor found the boy along the tracks.

He was listed in fair condition Tuesday.

Medical marijuana study launched

SAN MATEO, Calif. (AP) — The first federally approved study to give AIDS patients marijuana to determine whether the drug can effectively control their pain is under way in northern California.

In November, the federal government authorized the use of marijuana it grew to be transferred to San Mateo County Health Center for a 12-week study. The center launched the study Tuesday.

Patients will be given 15 marijuana cigarettes over a prescribed time and will be asked to keep a detailed log of their drug use, said Dr. Dennis Israelski, chief of infectious diseases and AIDS medicine at the center. The study will involve 60 AIDS patients who have pain in their limbs and who have already used marijuana.

School official busted on sex charges

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — An assistant school superintendent was arrested Wednesday after allegedly sending sexually explicit messages over the Internet to an undercover agent posing as a 14-year-old boy.

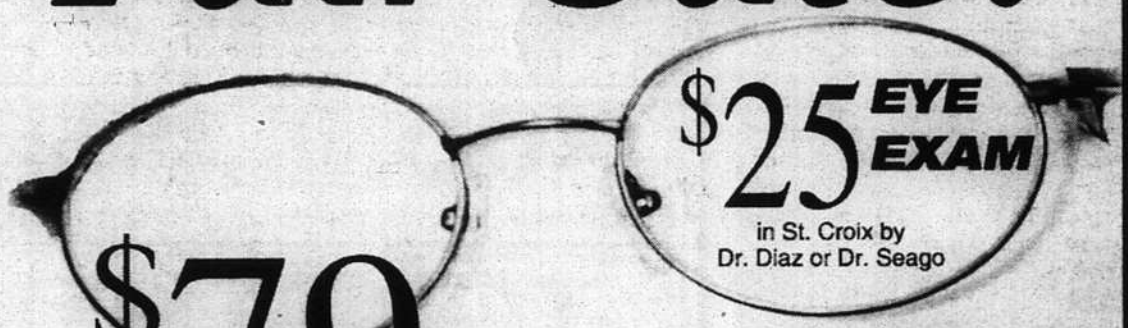
Stephen Graeber, 55, of Brookfield, Conn., was charged with trying to send indecent materials to a minor, a felony punishable by up to four years in prison. He was being held on $50,000 bail.

Graeber did not return a telephone call to his home.

Westchester County District Attorney Jeanine Pirro said Graeber used his school-owned computer in February and March to indicate "the type of sexual activity he wanted to engage in with this 'boy.'"

Pirro said Graeber, who is married with two grown children, was the sixth educator arrested in an ongoing Internet sex sting in Westchester County in which a total of 38 people have been arrested.

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Bioprospecting

Drug companies accused of stealing poor nations' traditions, biology

RANCHERIA NABALAM, Mexico (AP) — When a pregnant woman goes into labor, Hilaria Rodriguez does what generations of Mayan midwives before her have done: She hikes into the hills to find medicinal plants that will speed up delivery, stop excessive bleeding or relieve the mother's pain.

For nearly a half century, Rodriguez, 69, has practiced herbal medicine both to honor the traditions of her ancestors and to meet basic necessities. Until five years ago, there was no medical clinic or pharmacy in this poor village tucked in the highlands of southern Chiapas state.

"We are still curing ourselves with the plants," she said. "It is what allows us to survive."

It also has drawn the interest of big pharmaceutical companies, which are developing the medical traditions of Mayans, as well as indigenous peoples around the world, into high-priced drugs.

The practice has brought an escalating battle over ownership of natural resources.

While the process of collecting genetic resources, known as "bioprospecting," is nothing new, it has increased exponentially over the past 20 years, spurred by dramatic advances in genetic engineering that allow scientists to more easily manipulate active compounds in plants, soils and fungi.

For hundreds of years, scientists have tapped jungles, rainforests, deserts and farms in Latin America to develop new agricultural products and modern medicines ranging from aspirin to the anti-malarial drug quinine.

But a wave of resistance is growing among newly politically active Indians fighting centuries of exploitation, and from governments slowly awakening to the need to protect the right to benefit from dwindling natural resources.

In Mexico, an organization representing Indian doctors, backed by aid groups and academics, waged such fierce opposition to a bioprospecting project in Chiapas that Mexico's environmental agency stopped issuing permits last fall. The move resulted in at least the partial suspension of that program and another in Mexico's deserts.

Opponents say that in the absence of national and international laws to regulate bioprospecting, the practice is nothing more than biopiracy — the expropriation of genetic materials with no fair return to the people they are taken from.

The critics worry that companies may patent the genetic materials they discover — preventing communities in the future from using their own resources — and claim scientists fail to obtain full permission from local populations before launching their research programs.

Both supporters and detractors of bioprospecting claim that the 1992 U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, an international treaty designed to protect host countries and Indian communities, is riddled with loopholes and poorly implemented. The United States never ratified the convention.

The new administration of President Vicente Fox has pledged to make the issue a priority, said Victor Manuel Villalobos, executive secretary for Mexico's Intersecretarial Commission on Biosecurity, a collaboration of six Cabinet secretariats.

Villalobos said the government plans to create national centers for the preservation of genetic resources and to pass a law guaranteeing benefits for all Mexicans, including the Indians who live in the most biologically rich areas.

"Mexico is a mega-diverse country biologically, but it has not been protected scientifically or legally," Villalobos said. "The Fox administration is going to elevate this theme to its important place."

The change can't come soon enough in Chiapas, where a full-scale war has broken out between the Council of Traditional Indigenous Doctors and Midwives from Chiapas and the Maya-International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups.

The latter is a collaboration between several U.S. government agencies, the British company Molecular Nature Ltd., the University of Georgia at Athens and the San Cristobal de las Casas branch of the College of the Southern Border.

Program director Brent Berlin, a professor of anthropology at the University of Georgia at Athens, said the project's goals were to combine the search for new drugs and agricultural products with programs to help Mayan communities.

Such programs included training students in scientific research, helping develop profitable new uses for medicinal plants and conducting investigations on local health problems.

Researchers also planted medicinal gardens in eight communities designed to promote traditional medicine.

Berlin said he received permission to proceed from nearly 50 communities representing more than 30,000 people. Under agreements forged with the participants, the communities would share any profits if commercial products were developed, but Berlin said he warned them that financial windfalls were a long shot.

But the Council of Traditional Indigenous Doctors claims Berlin ignored a large number of communities opposed to the project and failed to truthfully explain his group's motives to those who agreed to participate.

They also claim the program has damaged the cooperative spirit of Indian communities long used to trading knowledge and customs at no cost.

"They get together a small group and try to work out these individual negotiations in the absence of any law," said Rafael Alarcon Lavin, an adviser to the council. "Without law, whatever project arrives in Mexico and whatever they do is going to be biopiracy."

The irony is that the Maya-International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups was designed to be a model in benefit-sharing and respect for local communities, said Joshua Rosenthal, biodiversity program director at the Fogarty International Center of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, which administers the program.

"What we've tried to do is work hand in hand with governments and communities to provide examples of how this can be done in an ethical and efficient way," Rosenthal said.

The Chiapas dispute underscores the complex moral and ethical issues involved in bioprospecting, said Arthur Caplan, director of the center for bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

"History, culture, religious views about plants and nature and our relationship to them — and also just plain economics — they're all interconnected here," Caplan said.

In Mayan and many other Indian communities, plants are seen as gifts from the gods — bestowed on traditional healers to cure illnesses afflicting both body and soul — and they are treated with reverence and respect.

"The plants are not mine," said Rodriguez, speaking in the Tzeltal Indian language. "They aren't of anyone. They are of all the people. No one should sell them or authorize anyone to take them."

Stomach aches, rheumatism, high blood pressure? Plants can heal all

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — Victorio Vasquez has seen — and cured — it all in his 42 years as a traditional Mayan healer: stomachaches, headaches, rheumatism, high blood pressure.

For every ailment in his small town of Yacteclum in the highlands of Chiapas, there's a plant that can chase it away, he says.

"For nausea there is a plant we call chikin burro or xulem vomol, which is also used for rheumatism," Vasquez says, using the Tzotzil Indian names for the herbs.

"Sometimes one plant doesn't get rid of a sickness, but two or three will take care of it. If the sickness is very grave, we also pray."

Vasquez, 60, is president of the Organization of Indigenous Doctors of the State of Chiapas, which represents about 600 traditional healers and midwives serving 30 communities in the Chiapas highlands.

Like other Mayan healers, he learned his skills under the guidance of family members — his parents, a grandmother and an uncle — who passed along traditional knowledge dating from the Mayas of pre-Hispanic times.

The many facets of that tradition are on display at the Museum of Mayan Medicine in San Cristobal de las Casas, where colorful displays provide a detailed history of herbal medicine.

The museum is a part of the Mayan medicine development center, a small complex run by the healers organization that also includes an herbal medicine laboratory, storage room, pharmacy, guest rooms for overnight patients and a small garden where samples of healing herbs grow.

The small pharmacy overflows with a wide assortment of syrups, teas, lotions and pills made from herbs designed to cure everything from the common cold to miscarriages.

Such herbs don't just serve rural communities. They are widely in evidence at Mexico City markets, where specialists dish out prescriptions from herb-filled barrels to city dwellers who don't trust or have the money for modern medicine.

Diego Gomez Geron, a 40-year-old herbist at the development center, treks into the surrounding fields, forests and hills to collect herbs. Most are hung up to dry, then sorted and combined into various mixtures before being ground into teas or mixed into syrups and lotions.

"You take the tea three times: a glass in the morning, a glass at midday and a glass in the evening," Vasquez instructs.

For Vasquez, Mayan medicine is the only medicine.

"We are poor peasants. Modern medicine is very expensive," he says. "All of our customs are there inside the plant. The plant is life for us."

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No apologies

China continues to hold plane and crew

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration offered Beijing a chorus of regrets but no apology for the collision between a U.S. spy plane and a Chinese jet fighter. China, still detaining 24 American crew members, said it was a step in the right direction amid signs that both sides wanted a face-saving resolution.

President Bush, who issued a stern warning to Beijing a day earlier, had his advisers extend the olive branch Wednesday.

"We regret the loss of life of that Chinese pilot but now we need to move on," Secretary of State Colin Powell said. "We need to bring this to a resolution and we're using every avenue available to us to talk to the Chinese side to exchange explanations and move on."

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer echoed Powell's remarks, saying "we have expressed our concern and our regrets about that incident," but he declined China's demand for an apology. In China, a similar regrets-but-no-apology formulation was offered to the nation's foreign minister by the U.S. ambassador.

"The United States doesn't understand the reason for an apology," Fleischer said. "Our airplanes are operating in international airspace, and the United States did nothing wrong."

An apology would imply wrongdoing by the United States, officials said, something Bush has not been willing to concede.

Powell, in a little-noticed comment, had said Tuesday that the crash was "fatal for the pilot of the Chinese plane and I regret that."

But the remarks Wednesday were the administration's most emphatic expressions of sympathy, designed to set the course for a middle ground that could lead to the crew's release and allow both sides to escape dangerous diplomatic territory, officials said.

Since the first day of the standoff, the president has steadily increased rhetorical pressure on the Chinese while leaving room for a diplomatic settlement.

Despite the signs of progress, both sides held publicly to contradictory positions: China called itself the "injured party" and blamed the United States for the crash while the White House called it an accident and Pentagon officials said the Chinese pilots buzzed the lumbering spy plane.

On Capitol Hill, the sister of 31-year-old detained Petty Officer Kenneth Richter said a carefully crafted apology might be in order.

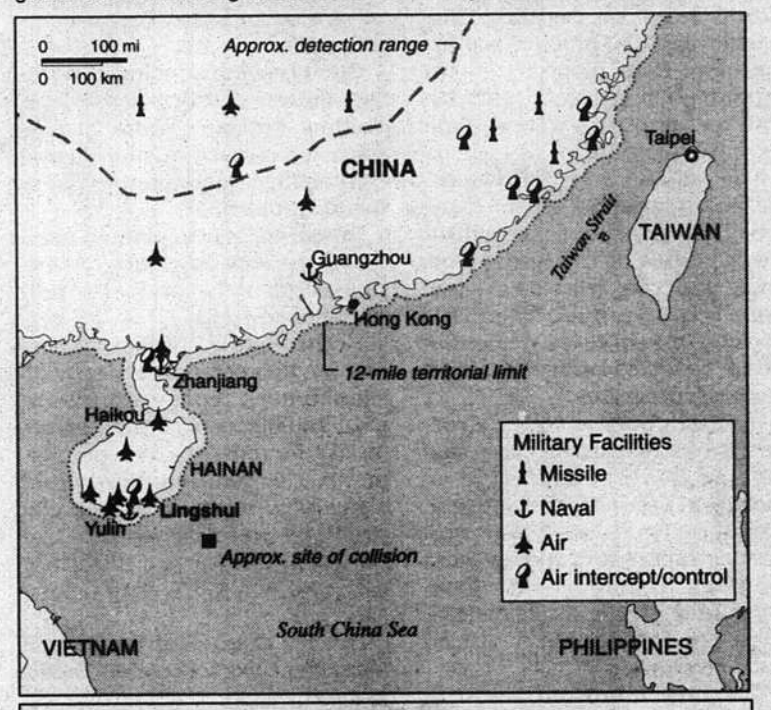
"If it's just a simple apology that's going to get them back, then that should be fine," said Barbara DiStefano of Staten Island, N.Y., before tying a yellow ribbon around an elm tree outside near the Senate chamber. "But if it's an apology with conditions, then the United States government has to decide what they're going to do."

Day 4 of the standoff began with Chinese President Jiang Zemin demanding an apology for the collision between the Navy EP-3E Aries II electronic surveillance plane and a Chinese jet.

He also said the United States should "do something favorable to the smooth development of China-U.S. relations," a statement taken by administration officials as a sign that Beijing would welcome any act of contrition from the United States.

World watchers

The Navy's EP-3 Aries II spy plane has been described as a giant electronic vacuum cleaner in the sky, sucking up sensitive information for use by U.S. commanders. The plane involved in Sunday's incident, forced to make an emergency landing on China's Hainan island in the South China Sea, belonged to the squadron nicknamed "World Watchers." The spy plane's mission is to gather electronic intelligence and monitor military activities.





SOURCES: ESRI; Jane's Electronic Mission Aircraft; GlobalSecurity.org; Federation of American Scientists; U.S. Navy; compiled from AP wire reports AP

Lawmakers target China's trade status

WASHINGTON (AP) — China's new normal trade status with the United States could be on the congressional chopping block as lawmakers vent their anger over China's refusal to free 24 crew members of a U.S. spy plane damaged in a collision with a Chinese jet fighter.

Lawmakers rejected either a violent confrontation or a U.S. apology for the incident, but the trade status was up for grabs. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., who opposed granting China permanent normal trade relations last year, introduced a bill Wednesday to revoke the status.

"A favored trading partner with our country would follow proper protocol and not continue to hold our service men and women, along with our equipment, after being asked for their return," said Hunter, who wrote the bill with Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo. "The fact is, while we trade with China, they prepare for war."

Congress voted last year to end its annual review of China's trade status by granting normal trade status permanently. Congress could end up dealing with the trade issue this year even if the repeal legislation goes nowhere.

That's because the permanent benefits only flow to China once it joins the World Trade Organization, and China's entry has yet to be completed. Negotiations are bogged down over terms.

A generation ago, China shot down U.S. spy plane over same island

WASHINGTON (AP) — The history of American aerial surveillance of southern China goes back decades and includes a 1970 incident in which a pilotless U.S. spy plane was shot down by Chinese forces on Hainan Island — the same island where a Navy spy plane landed on Sunday.

References to the Feb. 10, 1970 incident are contained in a State Department memorandum that was declassified last year. It is among several formerly secret documents related to U.S. aerial surveillance of China made available to news organizations Wednesday.

The documents contain few details about the 1970 shootdown. They make clear that senior U.S. officials feared the incident could have unwanted diplomatic consequences. Then, as now, apologies were at issue.

A memo from Harry Thayer of the State Department's bureau of East Asian and Pacific affairs nine days after the shootdown by air defense forces on Hainan, in the South China Sea, discussed how U.S. officials should respond if Chinese officials raised the issue during the next round of U.S-China talks in Warsaw, Poland.

"As far as I know, we have never apologized to the Chinese in the past for aerial reconnaissance incidents," Thayer wrote.

"If we apologize in this case, we are putting ourselves in the position both of having to explain past cases and, more importantly, of having to apologize in future cases." He went on to say that if it were certain that any future overflight of Chinese territory would be accidental, then an apology might be appropriate.

"But future overflights might not be accidental," he wrote.

Although the U.S. government has declassified little about intentional spy flights over Chinese territory, Air Force veterans who flew such missions along the Chinese coast have said they sometimes flew over Chinese territory.

A Jan. 9, 1970 memo from U. Alexis Johnson, the undersecretary of state for political affairs, to Deputy Defense Secretary David Packard said the CIA had been advised to put off a planned U-2 spy flight from Taiwan until after the next meeting in Warsaw on establishing U.S.-China relations.

Johnson also suggested that "special precautions" be taken with U.S. Air Force and Navy operations "that could give rise to incidents." In reply, Packard agreed and said that surveillance aircraft should stick to the existing rule of flying no closer than 50 miles to Chinese-claimed territory.

An Oct. 6, 1969 State Department memo said U.S. spy planes were coming no closer than 75 miles to the Chinese mainland.

In his Feb. 19, 1970 memo about whether to apologize for the U.S. drone spy plane's overflight of Hainan, Thayer wrote that an apology might "lead the Chinese to press us to take the next step of foreswearing such acts for the future."

"An apology would not alter the Chinese view of the drone's presence as a hostile act, and the Chinese in any event would consider the apology to be a hypocritical gesture having nothing to do with the basic U.S. attitude regarding reconnaissance".

An anxious Asia

Countries eye repercussions of US-China standoff, call for climb-down

TOKYO (AP) — As the United States and China wrangle over an intercepted U.S. spy plane, countries in Asia expressed fears the standoff could affect peace talks between North and South Korea, territorial disputes in Southeast Asia and billions of dollars in international business.

There are few signs the dispute between the two superpowers has had a wider impact. But government officials and editorial writers in Asia wasted no time urging Washington and Beijing to resolve the crisis over the plane before the conflict gets out of hand.

"American allies, including Thailand, could be drawn into the standoff," warned The Nation newspaper in Bangkok.

The prospect of a spillover is especially worrying for Japan, which hosts 50,000 American troops on its territory under a mutual security alliance with the United States.

Japan also depends completely on imported oil that arrives through shipping lanes in the South China Sea to power its economy.

"We don't want to see any escalation," said Kazuhiko Koshikawa, a spokesman for Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori. "We strongly hope this case will be settled in an appropriate and ... acceptable manner."

The U.S. Navy EP-3E aircraft has been grounded on the Chinese island of Hainan since a collision with a Chinese warplane Sunday, with the United States demanding the release of the plane and 24-member crew.

In Europe, reaction was largely muted, though British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook called on the return the plane and crew.

"I wouldn't wish to be alarmist, but obviously it is in everybody's interests that these two countries should resolve the dispute and should do so as quickly as possible," Cook told the BBC.

Concern has mounted in Asia since President Bush warned China that relations were at risk.

A rupture between Washington and Beijing could shake delicate relations with Taiwan, which China claims as a wayward province.

North Korea's detente could be set back. As North Korea's only ally, the Chinese government has also played an important behind-the-scenes role in efforts to coax Pyongyang out of its 50-year-old isolation.

Kim Sung-han, a researcher at South Korea's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, said the standoff could hamper Seoul's plans for four-way peace talks to include both Koreas, the United States and China.

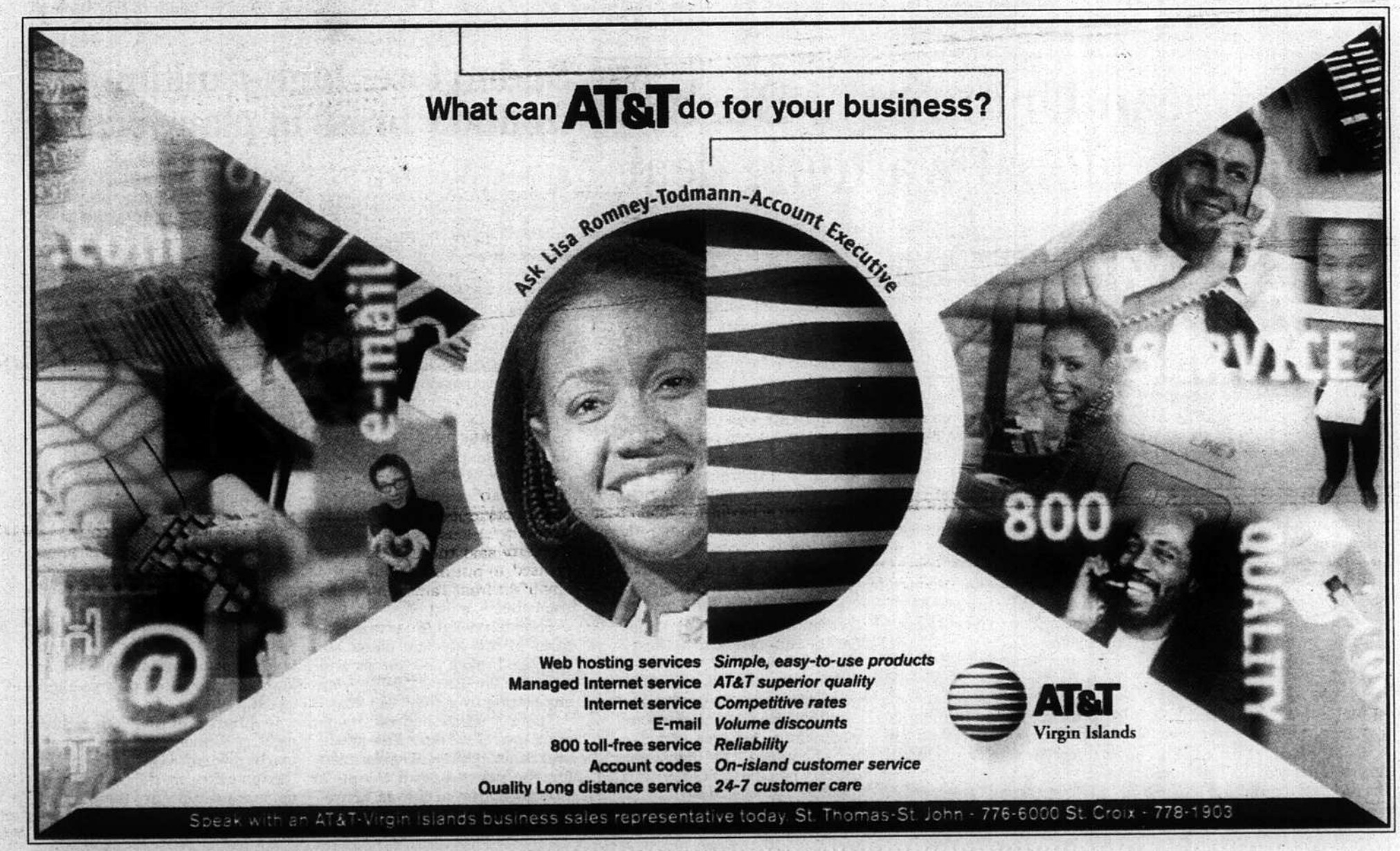
"If U.S.-China relations worsen, it would be very hard to even build the very basic channel of communications to discuss peace," he said.

Putting Beijing on the defensive could complicate efforts by Asian diplomats to sort out completing claims to islands in the South China Sea, which China, Vietnam and the Philippines all call their own.

Business, too, could feel the effects of the crisis.

Companies from the United States, Europe and Japan have greatly expanded their presence in China in the past decade and are committed to the world's most populous nation as a manufacturing center and consumer market.





Israel, Palestine try to stem flow of violence

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — In their first high-level talks since Ariel Sharon took office as Israel's prime minister, Palestinians and Israelis searched Wednesday for a way to halt the latest surge in Mideast violence. But back home, the two sides traded mortar fire in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and two senior Palestinian leaders, Nabil Shaath and Saeb Erekat, said the sides would renew security talks, which have repeatedly broken down during the more than six months of fighting.

"We are now trying to get out of an extremely difficult period," Peres said after a meeting with Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou.

Security officials met late Wednesday at the home of U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv, Palestinian officials said. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a representative of the CIA was also present. It was the first such meeting in several months.

Tuesday's political contacts — the most active since Sharon came to power a month ago — focused on the immediate problem of halting the bloodshed, and not on the collapsed peace talks. Sharon has insisted he will not open any peace negotiations until the violence ends, and in the current hostile atmosphere, a strong majority of Israelis appear to support his hard-line stance.

There appeared little hope of reviving the peace talks in the short term. Both sides have warned the fighting, which has intensified in the past week, could spiral out of control.

Shaath said the aim was to "move toward a just peace with not one Palestinian child, not one Israeli child hurt in the process."



Associated Press

A Jewish settler yells at an Israeli soldier who intervened to restrain Jewish settlers and Palestinians after scuffles between the two broke out in the West Bank divided city of Hebron Wednesday.

But the Palestinians cautioned that no breakthroughs appeared imminent.

"I don't want to raise anyone's expectations. We had a very long and candid exchange of thoughts on all issues, the political aspect, the security aspect. We have different points of views in the ways we see things on the ground," Erekat said.

In renewed violence Wednesday, Palestinians fired four mortar shells on the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in central Gaza, but no one was hurt, Israel's army said. Israeli forces answered the fire with several mortar rounds that targeted a nearby Palestinian security base.

In another attempt to reduce tensions, three Israeli lawmakers met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank city of Ramallah and agreed a way to defuse the crisis had to be found.

"It is very important to have a solution under the political umbrella to achieve a reduction in the violence," said Naomi Chazan, a member of Israel's dovish Meretz party, which is not affiliated to Sharon's ruling coalition.

With peace talks broken down, President Bush's administration has said it will not mediate as actively as did former President Clinton, and will rely on the Israelis and Palestinians to take the lead in direct talks. But the bloodshed is likely to pressure the Americans to take a more active role.

"The American role is not enough and not acceptable. We need American intervention now," Mahmoud Abbas, a senior Palestinian leader said in Ramallah.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush "reiterates his call for the violence to end and for the two parties to begin talking, continue talking, so that they can forge a peace agreement."

In Gaza, meanwhile, dozens of settlers from the Gush Katif settlement bloc protested Wednesday, a day after mortars landed inside one of the settlements, spraying shrapnel that seriously injured a 1-year-old Israeli boy, Ariel Yered.

Following surgery, he was in improved condition, the Israeli media reported. His mother, Leah, suffered a broken arm and shrapnel wounds to the stomach.

To protect the Israeli protesters, the army moved in a tank and an armored personnel carrier to block Gaza's main north-south road for three hours to Palestinian traffic.

European Union says Bush wrong on global warming deal

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — European Union leaders on Wednesday said President Bush was "completely wrong" to pull out of a global warming agreement and promised to fight for the pact.

"We are in genuine disagreement," said Prime Minister Goeran Persson of Sweden, which holds the rotating EU presidency. "We are going to speak loudly and clearly" to save the deal, Persson said at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin also criticized Bush, saying his decision not to apply the agreement, reached four years ago in Kyoto, Japan, was a "serious unilateral act."

"This is not an isolationist administration as has been the case before in the Republican tradition. This is more like a unilateralist administration," Jospin said.

Bush sparked an international outcry last month when he reversed a campaign promise to treat carbon dioxide from power plants as a pollutant and source of global warming. He said the Kyoto accord's mandatory cuts on carbon dioxide emissions and short timetable are no longer acceptable to the United States. He expressed concern about its impact on the economy.

"We are in genuine disagreement. We are going to speak loudly and clearly."

Goeran Persson, EU president

Germany Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer urged the U.S. administration to reconsider its opposition.

Letting the accord fail "would be a fatal mistake that would set back all international efforts to protect the environment," Fischer was quoted as saying in an interview with Bunte magazine.

EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstroem and Swedish Environment Minister Kjell Larsson were on a whirlwind tour to rally support for the embattled agreement following a two-day visit to Washington.

During the two-day visit, Christie Whitman, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator, said the Kyoto treaty was unfair to the United States but pledged U.S. cooperation in seeking technologies and incentives to address climate change.

Wallstroem she was saddened by her meetings with U.S. officials.

"The message was very clear," Wallstrom said Wednesday. "The United States want to turn their back to the Kyoto Protocol. For the European Union this is unacceptable."

"We will go ahead, hopefully with other industrialized countries that also take their responsibilities in this area seriously," she added. "No individual country has the right to declare the Kyoto process dead."

Sudan loses high-ranking military brass in plane crash

Sandstorm believed to have been cause of tragedy

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — In a blow to Sudan's powerful military at a critical point in the civil war, the country's deputy defense minister and 13 other high-ranking officers were killed Wednesday as their plane crashed on takeoff in the war-torn south.

The Russian-made Antonov plane broke in two after it skidded off the runway in bad weather, military spokesman Lt. Gen. Mohammed Bashir Osman said. He did not describe the weather, but it was believed to be a sandstorm.

Sixteen people on the plane survived the crash, six of whom were flown to Khartoum for treatment, Osman said. He said the crash site was far away from the war zone.

State television broadcast pictures of the wrecked plane, its fuselage broken into pieces and gutted by fire. Part of the plane lay smoldering by a small building.

Sudan's rebels had no troops in the area at the time of the crash, said Samson Kwaje, a spokesman for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army in Nairobi, Kenya.

The deputy defense minister, Col. Ibrahim Shamsul-Din, and the others had been touring a southern military area and were headed back to Khartoum when their plane crashed, state television said.

Besides the deputy defense minister, those killed were a general, seven lieutenant generals, three brigadiers, a lieutenant colonel, a colonel and a corporal.

The crash took place in Adaril, in an oil-rich area 470 miles south of Khartoum that has been the scene of attacks on aircraft by southern rebels.

Shamsul-Din had backed the coup in which President Omar el-Bashir's took power in 1989. The military remains the main power broker in Sudan, not least because the country has been embroiled in civil war for 18 years.

All the dead were buried in Adaril hours after the crash, Osman said. Muslim tradition holds that burial take place following the first noon prayers after death.

In Khartoum on Wednesday night, el-Bashir hailed the dead as martyrs whom God had chosen "because they are the best among us, because they are the purest, because He loves them."

Milosevic faces trial at home and before UN court

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — The U.N. war crimes tribunal hardened its position Wednesday on Slobodan Milosevic, demanding the former Yugoslav president be immediately surrendered for trial — even as the European Union signaled he can first be prosecuted at home as long as he ultimately answers to the U.N. court.

The senior political adviser to the tribunal, Jean-Jacques Joris, said Yugoslavia "must comply and must transfer Mr. Milosevic."

"It must occur immediately," he told reporters at tribunal headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands.

A senior court official, Hans Holthuis, left for Belgrade on Wednesday to meet with Yugoslav authorities "to clarify the steps that have to be taken to fulfill their legal obligations," the tribunal said in a statement.

In New York, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said Holthuis would hand Yugoslav authorities the tribunal's arrest warrant "to ensure that it is served on the accused."

Milosevic surrendered to police on Sunday and was imprisoned in Belgrade to face charges of corruption and abuse of power during his 13 years in power. He was also charged with inciting his bodyguards to shoot at police during a 26-hour standoff before his arrest.

Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic, said war crimes charges might be added to charges Milosevic already faces in Yugoslavia.

President Vojislav Kostunica has refused to extradite Milosevic, citing a constitutional ban and insisting that his predecessor must face charges before his own people for ruining the country.

Although the United States and its allies insist Milosevic must eventually answer the war crimes charges, the EU appears willing to wait while the Yugoslavs pursue their case against the deposed president.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, the first senior Western official to visit Belgrade since the arrest, said such proceedings would allow Yugoslavs "to hear in full the crimes committed by Milosevic against his people."

Still, ultimately, "he must be handed over to The Hague tribunal to stand justice for his crimes against other people in the region," Cook told reporters. Cook linked further Western aid to compliance with U.N. tribunal, saying "there is a limit" to Western support if Belgrade does not comply.

Despite Western insistence on Milosevic's extradition, the United States and its European allies want to shore up the new democratic government in Yugoslavia.

Russian journalists defy takeover, seek investors

MOSCOW (AP) — Journalists desperate to keep Russia's only independent nationwide television network out of government hands cheered U.S. media mogul Ted Turner's announcement Wednesday that he would buy into debt-laden NTV.

But Turner's statement was no guarantee the increasingly tense battle between NTV and state-run gas giant Gazprom for control of the station was nearing an end.

NTV sees the takeover as a crude bid by the Kremlin — and President Vladimir Putin — to bring to heel the network known for often-critical reporting on problems from the wars in Chechnya to the sharp decline in Russian living standards.

All night, NTV's journalists occupied their offices to prevent their new, Gazprom-appointed director from entering the building. All day, frazzled employees shuttled between impromptu meetings about NTV's fate and sleeping at their computers. All entertainment programming was canceled.

In between newscasts, the network flashed a short statement saying NTV protested the "illegal takeover." On the bottom left hand of the screen, the familiar NTV logo was stamped over by the word "protest" in red.

Heightening the dispute, the validity of Gazprom's takeover of NTV fell into doubt on Wednesday as a crucial shareholder denied having supported the move.

Gazprom, which holds 46 percent of shares in NTV, purged the station's leadership in a shareholders' meeting Tuesday, after teaming up with U.S.-based Capital Research, which holds 4.4 percent of NTV. Gazprom said that gave them just above the 50 percent needed for sweeping changes.

But Capital Research spokesman Chuck Freadhofer said Wednesday in Los Angeles, where the firm is based, that representatives of his company had abstained from voting in the meeting.

It was unclear whether that would invalidate the decision, as NTV claimed. In any case, Freadhofer said his company accepted the results of the meeting.

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■ ETHIOPIA

Nation to release war casualties list

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Four months after Ethiopia's 2 1/2 year war with Eritrea ended, authorities are starting to notify the families of soldiers killed in the brutal conflict, state and independent media reported Wednesday.

The process began Tuesday in the northwestern town of Bahr Dar after a rally was held in "honor of the martyrs," the state-owned Ethiopian News Agency reported. Defense officials gave certificates to families who had lost relatives in the war, ENA said. The agency did not say how many families received certificates, or if it was taking place in other parts of the country.

However, Tomar, an independent weekly newspaper, reported Wednesday that the certificates were given to families throughout the country. Relatives also gathered in Gondar, 155 miles north of Bahr Dar, to mourn the war dead, Tomar reported.

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South African panel divided on HIV testing, medication

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — An AIDS panel torn between mainstream and dissident scientists issued a sharply divided report Wednesday on how to deal with the disease in South Africa, with dissidents urging a halt to HIV testing and the use of AIDS medications.

President Thabo Mbeki created the advisory council last year and came under fire for including revisionist theorists, many of whom question whether the HIV virus causes the disease, the effectiveness of AIDS medication and whether AIDS exists at all.

The 134-page report noted the two groups have a "fundamental disagreement" on the cause of AIDS and, as a result, emerged with "different sets of recommendations."

The dissidents urged the suspension of all HIV testing and said AIDS medication should no longer be prescribed.

Among their recommendations for preventing AIDS were detoxification of the body through massage therapy, music therapy, yoga and spiritual care and the use of supplements like ginseng, Chinese cucumber, aloe vera, garlic and echinacea.

The mainstream scientists urged HIV testing and the use of anti-retroviral drugs. "A stronger emphasis should be placed on sex education," they said, including more widespread condom use and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

Both sides agreed on the need to continue to improve social conditions, reduce poverty and improve nutrition — factors Mbeki has said would help curb the spread of the disease. Some 4.7 million South Africans are infected with HIV.

Britain says slaughter curbing livestock disease

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday that an emergency vaccination of animals against foot-and-mouth disease may not be necessary because widespread slaughter appears to be stemming the epidemic's spread.

The government's chief scientist offered an optimistic assessment of the 6-week-old outbreak, saying if officials continue slaughtering infected animals as quickly as possible, and culling those on neighboring farms, it could reduce new cases substantially by June.

"What has happened in the past 10 days has been that the number of new cases ... has flattened out," Blair told the House of Commons. "We have to see whether that is maintained or not."

Vaccination "remains an option if the containment by slaughter policy does not work," he said. "We keep it under review ... but at the present time we believe it is right to see the present policy working."

Blair has been reluctant to approve even limited vaccination because of its harmful impact on trade. Some claim it would be a faster and more humane way to combat the disease.

Chief government scientist David King gave Blair one of the first encouraging takes on the disease Wednesday, and told reporters the daily case toll was finally beginning to decrease.

"I believe the policy is beginning to bite," King said. "It's vitally important that we continue the policy of achieving culls within 24 hours on infected farms and 48 hours on neighboring farms. ... That's the key to getting us on the downward curve."

King was part of a panel of experts who predicted last month that there could be as many as 4,000 cases by June. He also said then that up to half of Britain's 63 million farm animals might have to be sacrificed to stop the disease.

The hopeful reassessment came as the total number of infection sites reached 1,003 on Wednesday.

The government recently called in the army to speed the pace of killing, after farmers complained that the virus was spreading while they waited as long as a week for animals to be put down.

While the goal of 24 hours from diagnosis to slaughter has not been achieved in the worst-hit areas, Blair told legislators that the pace of killing had increased dramatically.

He said the rate of slaughter doubled between March 11 and March 25.

The government has twice postponed a decision on vaccination, although officials got European Union permission to inoculate up to 180,000 dairy cattle in the worst-hit areas.

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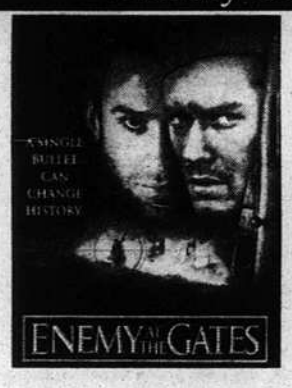
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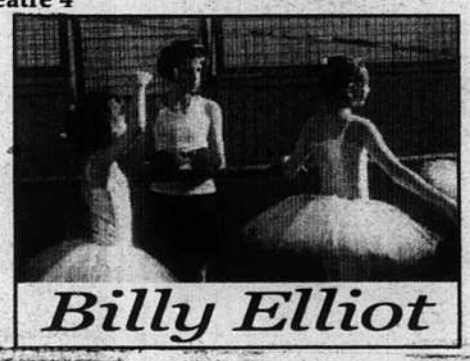
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Theatre 3



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Theatre 4



Theatre 5



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

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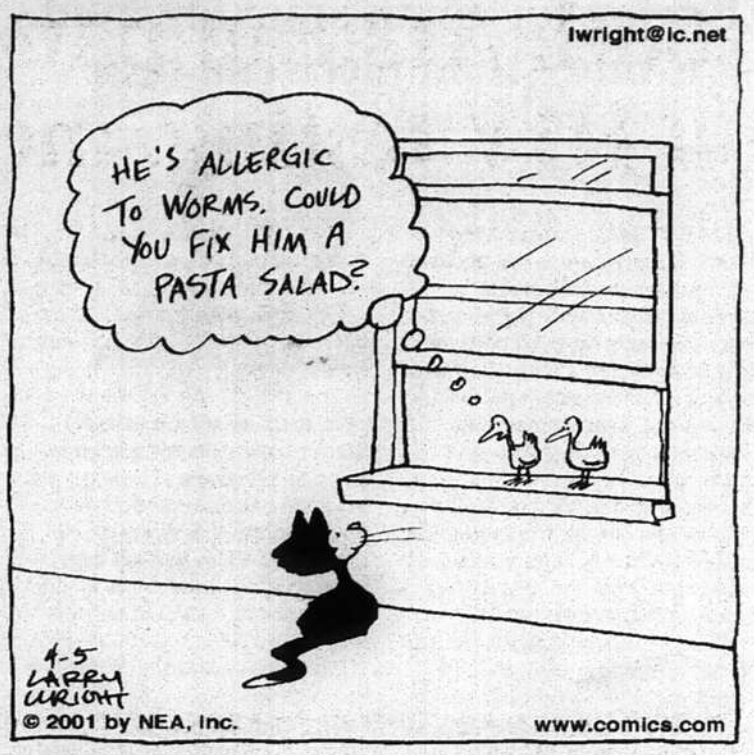
FRED BASSET By Graham



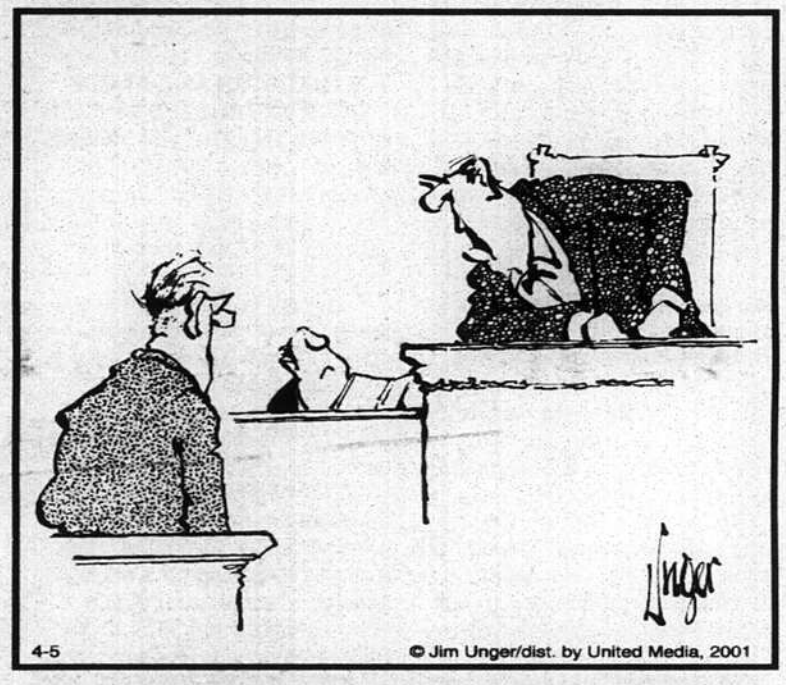
FOXTROT By Bill Amend



KIT & CARLYLE

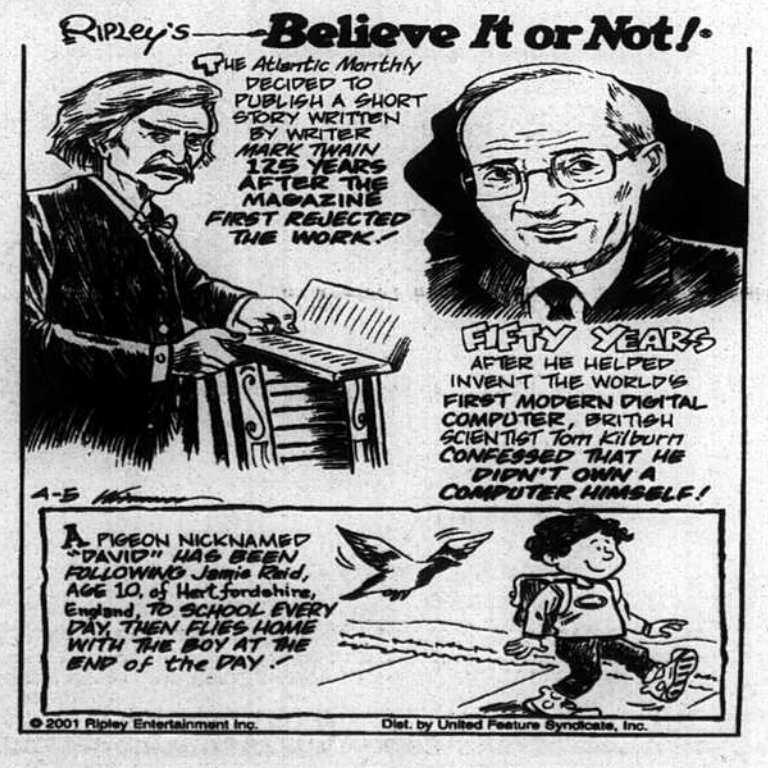


HERMAN



"What does the Guinness Book of Records say about dishing out long sentences?"

RIPLEY'S



Caring for chain-smoking aunt is more than niece can bear



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am at my wit's end. I don't know if I can go on.

My mother's 64-year-old sister, Aunt "Stella," is suffering from pulmonary disease and can no longer care for herself. I already take care of my bedridden mother in Mom's home that she shares with my children and me, while I hold down a 40-hour-a-week job and single-handedly raise my two teenagers.

Last evening, Mother asked me to take in Aunt Stella and care for her, because she is estranged from the rest of the family and has little money.

Abby, I am ashamed to admit it, but I hate the woman! Aunt Stella is the most self-centered, uncaring person I have ever known. In spite of her illness, she is never without a cigarette — even when others are in the car with her.

All my life — even as an infant and small child — she was forever stinking up the air with her smoke. She didn't (and still doesn't) care about the safety and comfort of others, as long as she gets to smoke her cigs.

Everyone, including my mother, was afraid to say anything to her about her smoking, because she would become angry and verbally abusive. (No one was going to tell HER what to do!) The few times I spoke up (or lowered the car window so I could breathe) Aunt Stella either scolded or slapped me.

She was at our place for any and all family events. I could not escape her. She was never helpful to my mother or me; just a nuisance.

I love my mother dearly, as I do my children, and do not want them to experience what I suffered all my life. Although terminal, my aunt still smokes as much as she ever has.

Mom's days are short. She is often incoherent, but she does have days when she is really "with it," and I do not want her going to her grave knowing I did not fulfill her deathbed wishes. However, my fear is that Aunt Stella would live on long after Mom passes, and my life — and my children's — would be pure hell.

I thought I could place her in a home at some point, but I would have to sell this place to cover the costs of keeping Stella in a facility.

Do you have any ideas, Abby? I'll be watching your column and hoping. Thank you for listening. **— EXHAUSTED AND ANGRY**

DEAR EXHAUSTED AND ANGRY: Gently tell your mother that the reality is that you are unable to care for her sister. Your wishes are as important as your mother's, and should be respected.

The state or local agency on aging may be able to suggest other alternatives available to your aunt in her time of need. Call and tell them about your aunt, but make it clear that YOU cannot be responsible for her.

DEAR ABBY: I am a pilot. I fly a private Learjet for a living. I have no fear of flying, but when it comes to getting on a roller coaster or some other thrill ride, I can't bring myself to try it. Please help me understand why. **— JOEY JET, DEERFIELD BEACH, FLA.**

DEAR JOEY: I'll hazard a guess. On the amusement park rides you aren't in control, as you are when you're the pilot flying thousands of feet in the air.

Horoscope

By Francis Drake

ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)
Be patient, or you will only generate more hysteria in the middle of a complex situation. If you feel unable to move forward, why not try backing up a few steps?

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)
The subtleties of other people's emotional states are obvious to you. Make your own statement with flowers and an apology, if necessary.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)
You are cursed with the task of explaining jargon to someone who has a literal mind. Take a deep breath and try to stay calm.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)
Time flies when you're having fun, but remember to stop for a rest at some point. Make sure you're not neglecting any important responsibilities.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)
An old habit might become too expensive to continue. A change in your domestic sphere bodes well for the future.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Your movements are efficient, and your stride is filled with purpose. With such force and dedication behind you, success is inevitable.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Believe it or not, that little voice inside your head really does have an "off" switch. Try to stop worrying long enough to enjoy what you've recently gained.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Become a part of something rather than turning it into a part of you. You have absolutely no tolerance for other people's foolishness.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Your natural enthusiasm for life can carry you through a trying period. Add a touch of humor for a little comic relief.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Others come to be inspired by your forward-thinking attitude. A practical assessment of your co-workers' skills wins everyone a place on the team.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Others might be channeling events along a course that is not in your best interest. This is a good time to be selfish about your needs.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)
A steamy romantic interlude has the capacity to change the way you view the world. Just make sure you're not seeing matters through glasses that are completely rose-tinted.

YOU BORN TODAY People who try to understand you on a rational level generally fail miserably. You are an intuitive, sensitive and creative creature who operates on a different realm. Many gravitate to your theatrical talent and flair for the dramatic only to be put off by your temper tantrums.

BIRTHDATE OF: John Ratzenberger, actor; Merle Haggard, musician; Billy Dee Williams, actor.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Picture is missing. 2. Hair is longer. 3. Sleeve is shorter. 4. Pillow is smaller. 5. Collar is missing. 6. Picture is reversed.

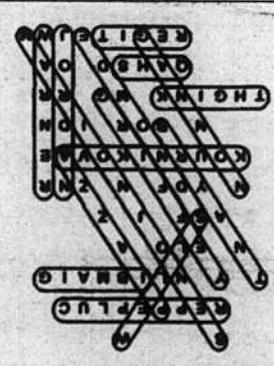
SPORTS SLEUTH • ON THE COVER OF SI IN 2000

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

Wednesday's unlisted clue: BATMAN

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

Bryant	Giambi	Kournikova	Tiger
Culpepper	Griffey	Marion Jones	Warner
Edmonds	Jordan	Piazza	Wells
Gannon	Knight	Shaq	



ON THE COVER OF SI IN 2000

WORD SCRIMMAGE™

U1	C3	D2	O1	L1	O1	O1	Triple Word Score
W4	G2	N1	I1	D2	E1	L1	Double Word Score
Y4	D2	R1	M3	A1	A1	I1	
K5	P3	C3	G2	A1	A1	E1	4th Letter Triple

RACK 1 RACK 2 RACK 3 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 115-125
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

PAR SCORE 115-125 JUDD'S TOTAL 186

RACK 4 = 76	P3	A1	C3	K5	A1	G2	E1		
RACK 3 = 12	M3	Y4	R1	I1	A1	D2			
RACK 2 = 74	W4	E1	L1	D2	I1	N1	G2		
RACK 1 = 24	C3	L1	O1	U1	D2				

WORD SCRIMMAGE™ SOLUTION BY JUDD
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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.

VERAB

DINEK

LUNYUR

MAYLIF

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www.jumble.com



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

Ans: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CURRY SHAKY UNCOIL HUMBLE
Answer: What he pushed when he ran out of gas — HIS LUCK

TV GUIDE

ABC, CBS in dead heat in ratings for new shows

NEW YORK (AP) — During a week of promising series debuts, ABC and CBS finished in a virtual dead heat in Nielsen Media Research's prime-time ratings race.

Meanwhile, NBC sunk to another historic low with XFL football and Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly marked a milestone in his continuing rivalry with Larry King.

Fox's latest reality series, "Boot Camp," was the network's most-watched program during its first week on the air. Nielsen said 15.8 million people tuned in to watch leather-lunged military personnel scream at money-hungry contestants.

ABC had strong starts for two new comedies. "What About Joan," starring Joan Cusack, reached 14.9 million viewers and "My Wife and Kids," with Damon Wayans, had 13.7 million people watching.

CBS breathed a sigh of relief that viewers flocked back to "Survivor II" after a one-week hiatus. The week's most popular show drew 28.1 million viewers.

NBC's XFL broadcast Saturday night had a 1.5 rating, believed to be the lowest-ever prime-time night among the big three networks in Nielsen history. It broke its own dubious record of 1.6 set two weeks ago.

The XFL game ranked 108th among 137 prime-time programs last week. Sunday's XFL broadcast on UPN finished in a six-way tie for 131st place.

THURSDAY EVENING — APRIL 5, 2001

		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
FOX	5	Judge Judy (N)	Home Improve-	Simpsons (CC)	Blind Date	Movie ★★½ "Beethoven's 2nd" (1993, Comedy) Charles Grodin, Bonnie Hunt. (CC)				Fox Report		Simpsons (CC)	Blind Date	Arrest & Trial (CC)	Paid Program
TBS	6	Roseanne "Mommy Nearest"	Roseanne "Pretty in Black" (CC)	Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	Major League Baseball New York Mets at Atlanta Braves. From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)						Movie ★★ "6 Seconds" (1994) Luke Perry, Stephen Baldwin. Time Approximate. Based on the life and death of rodeo champion Lane Frost.			(:45) "Another 48 HRS."	
WGN	7	Full House (CC)	Fresh Prince	Family Matters	Suddenly Susan (CC)	Movie ★★ "3 Ninjas" (1992, Comedy) Victor Wong, Michael Treanor. (CC)				MacGyver "Gold Rush"		In the Heat of the Night "Stranger in Town"		Matlock "The Witness Killings" (CC)	
WSVN	8	All My Children (CC)		News	ABC World News Tonight (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (CC)		Primetime Thursday (N) (CC)		News	(:35) Nightline (N) (CC)	(12:06) Politically Incorrect (N)	(:36) Sexwars (CC)
WSEE	9	News	CBS Evening	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (CC)	Survivor: The Australian Outback (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (CC)		Big Apple "Follow the Blender" (N) (CC)		News	Masters Highlights	(11:50) Late Show (N) (CC)	
WNBC	11	News (CC)	NBC Nightly News (CC)	Extra (N) (CC)	Access Hollywood (N) (CC)	Friends (CC)	Weber (N) (CC)	Will & Grace "Lows in the Mid-Eighties" (CC)		ER "Hell & High Water" (CC)		News (CC)	(:35) Tonight Show (N) (CC)		(:37) Late Night (CC)
TLC	12	Arnold Schwarzenegger -- Hollywood Hero		Ancient Prophecies III -- Part One (Part 1 of 2)		Medical Detectives	Medical Detectives	UFOs and Alien Encounters		Secret World of Close Encounters (N)		Medical Detectives	Medical Detectives	UFOs and Alien Encounters	
WTIX	13	Behind the Headlines	Business Rpt.	Newshour With Jim Lehrer (CC)		Topics		Mystery! "Second Sight" "Hide and Seek"		World of National Geographic (CC)		Charlie Rose (CC)		(Off Air)	
CSPAN	14	House of Rep.		House of Rep.		Prime Time Public Affairs						Prime Time Public Affairs			
ETW	16	Builders of Hope	Mir./Eucharist	Our Lady of the Angels Monastery Daily Mass		Life on the Rock (Live Phone-In)		We Are One Body	Rosary-Land	Mother Earth: A Journey With Francis in His Land			G.K. Chesterton	Our Lady of the Angels Monastery Daily Mass	
WPIX	17	Sabrina-Witch	Fresh Prince	Friends (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Gilmore Girls "Rory's Dance" (CC)		Charmed "Sleuthing With the Enemy" (CC)		WB11 News at Ten W/ Kaity, Jim, & Mr. G		Friends (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Coach (CC)	Suddenly Susan (CC)
WHAQ	20	Abrázame Muy Fuerte		Yo Soy Betty la Fea		Wilson Wilson	Atrévete			Telenoticias		La Corte del Pueblo		Programa Pagado	Ocurrió Así
CNN	21	Politics	Moneyline Newshour		Crossfire	Blitzer	The Point	Larry King Live (CC)		Tonight	Spin Room	Sports	Moneyline	Larry King Live	
ESPN	22	Sportscenter (CC)		Big League Challenge	Big League Challenge	NFL's Greatest Moments		Bikes, Blades and Boards Bikes.		Baseball Tonight (N) (CC)		Sportscenter (CC)		Baseball Tonight (N)	Life (CC)
FAM	24	Two of a Kind "Welcome Matt"	Who's the Boss?	Major League Baseball Boston Red Sox at Baltimore Orioles. From Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)						Exploring the Unknown (N)		700 Club (CC)		Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?
USA	25	Golf: The Masters	Martin (CC)	JAG "Shakedown" (CC)		Nash Bridges "Overdrive" (CC)		Golf The Masters -- First Round. From Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga.					Martin (CC)	Eco-Challenge Borneo (Part 4 of 5)	
NICK	26	Invader Zim	Catdog	Hey Arnold! (CC)	Rugrats (CC)	Thornberrys	Brady Bunch	Diff'rent Strokes	Facts of Life	Three's Company	Three's Company	All in the Family	All in the Family	Jeffersons (CC)	Jeffersons (CC)
WGVI	27	Headline News	Infotainment	Entertainment	Adrenaline TV	WWF Smackdown! (CC)				Thunderbox (N)		Headline News (CC)	Cheaters		(Off Air)
A&E	28	Night Court	Newsradio (CC)	Law & Order "Severance" (CC)		Biography: Anthony Perkins: In the Shadows		Movie ★★★ "No Way Out" (1987, Drama) Kevin Costner. A Pentagon job leads a Navy officer into a deadly game.					Newsradio "Rap" (CC)	Biography: Anthony Perkins: In the Shadows	
E!	29	Fashion Emergency	News Daily (N)	Celebrity Homes	Talk Soup (N)	Mysteries & Scandals	Mysteries & Scandals	True Hollywood Story "Joan Rivers"		Academy Awards Fashion Review		Howard Stern (N)	Howard Stern	Wild On "Wild on Ice"	
COM	32	Saturday Night Live (CC)		Daily Show (CC)	Stein's Money	Movie ★★½ "Booty Call" (1997, Comedy) Jamie Foxx, Tommy Davidson, Vivica A. Fox.				Sports Night (CC)	Sports Night (CC)	Daily Show (CC)	Turn Ben Stein On	Saturday Night Live (CC)	
DISCH	33	Children's Hospital		Operation "Cleft Palate Reconstruction"		D.C. Children's Lifeline "Hearts and Minds"		Birth Stories		Small Wonders Treating sick children.		D.C. Children's Lifeline "Hearts and Minds"		Birth Stories	
MTV	34	(5:30) Direct Effect	MTV News Now: Celebrity Brush With the Law		Cribs	Ultra Sound "Two Hit Wonders"		Cribs	To Be Announced	Cribs (N)	Diary (N)	Undressed (CC)	Bare: Nirvana	Johnny Depp	Direct Effect
BET	35	106 & Park: BET's Top Ten Live Top music videos.			BET.com Countdown	Oh Drama!		Comicview		BET Live		BET News	BET Tonight	Midnight Love Mellow rhythm and blues.	
DISC	36	Wild Discovery: Supernature: Encounters		Wild Discovery "Supernature" "Outer Limits"		Bermuda Triangle		X-Creatures "Loch Ness and Giant Squid"		Atlantis Found? (CC)		Justice Files "Double Lives"		Bermuda Triangle	
CNNFN	37	(5:00) N.E.W.	Moneyline Newshour (CC)		Biz	Business Unusual	N.E.W.			Moneyline Newshour	Business Unusual	Biz	Business Unusual	N.E.W.	
AMC	38	Three Stooges	Hollywood Lives and Legends (CC)		Three Stooges	Movie ★★★ "Bang the Drum Slowly" (1973) Robert De Niro.		(:45) Movie ★★★★ "Twelve O'Clock High" (1949, Adventure) Gregory Peck, Hugh Marlowe, Dean Jagger.						(12:05) Lot (CC)	(:35) "Family Plot"
VH1	40	(5:00) Divas Live '99		Video Collection	Name That Video	Legends Aretha Franklin's life and career.		Behind the Music "Saturday Night Fever"		Divas		Name That Video	Divas		Behind the Music
TRAV	41	Treasure Hunters	Vacation Video	Curious World		Polar Bear Attacks		Dead or Alive in Alaska		Amazing Destinations Traveling to the Alps.		Polar Bear Attacks		Dead or Alive in Alaska	
LIFE	42	Golden Girls (CC)	Golden Girls "Feelings" (CC)	Intimate Portrait "Ricki Lake" (CC)		Unsolved Mysteries		Movie "Dangerous Intentions" (1995, Drama) Donna Mills, Corbin Bernsen. A woman attempts to escape from her abusive husband. (CC)				Golden Girls "The Flu" (CC)	Golden Girls "Blind Ambitions"	Designing Women (CC)	Designing Women (CC)
TNT	43	ER "Take These Broken Wings" (CC)		Pretender "The Assassin" (CC)		NBA Basketball Sacramento Kings at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live) (CC)					Inside the NBA (CC)	Movie ★★ "American Ninja 3: Blood Hunt" (1989) David Bradley, Steve James. A madman searches for a guinea pig for a deadly virus.			
SCIFI	46	Hercules-Jrnys.		Babylon 5 "Legacies"		Outer Limits (CC)		Movie ★½ "Fortress 2: Re-Entry" (1999)				Crossing	Crossing	"Fortress 2: Re-Entry"	
BRAVO	47	(5:00) Movie ★★ "The Myth of Fingerprints" (1997, Drama)		St. Elsewhere		Movie ★★★ "Mary, Queen of Scots" (1972, Drama) Vanessa Redgrave, Glenda Jackson, Patrick McGoohan. Catholic Mary defies her cousin, the Queen of England.				Movie ★★★ "Agnes of God" (1985, Drama) Jane Fonda, Anne Bancroft, Meg Tilly. A psychiatrist probes the birth and death of a nun's child.					"Mary, Queen of Scots"
DISN	48	Smart Guy (CC)	Boy Meets World (CC)	Movie ★★★ "Selma, Lord, Selma" (1999, Drama) Mackenzie Astin, Jurnee Smollett. (CC)		(:40) Movie ★★★ "Cinderella" (1997, Musical) Whitney Houston, Brandy, Whoopi Goldberg. (CC)				(:10) Movie "Windrunner" (1994, Drama) Russell Means, Jason Wiles. A high-school football player is coached by Jim Thorpe. (CC)				(12:05) Zorro (CC)	Mickey Mouse Club (CC)
HIST	49	History IQ	History's Lost & Found (CC)	Black Sheep Squadron "W.A.S.P.S." (CC)		FBI Celebrity Files (CC)		Nazis: A Warning From History (Part 5 of 6) (CC)		Nazis: A Warning From History (Part 6 of 6) (CC)		Suicide Missions "Snipers"		FBI Celebrity Files (CC)	
TOON	50	Tenchi	Superman	Scooby	Dexter	Bravo	Dexter	Bugs	Tom Jerry	Flintstones	Scooby	Bravo	Dexter	Dragon-Z	Big O
SOAP	51	Ryan's Hope	Ryan's Hope	Port Charles	Port Charles	All My Children (CC)		One Life to Live (CC)		General Hospital (CC)		Port Charles	Port Charles	All My Children (CC)	
ESPN2	53	NHRA Heat (N)	Life	RPM 2Night (N)	College Hockey NCAA Division I Tournament Semifinal -- Boston College vs. Michigan. From the Pepsi Arena in Albany, N.Y. (Live)						NHL Hockey Phoenix Coyotes at San Jose Sharks. From the Compaq Center at San Jose in San Jose, Calif. (Live) (CC)				
COURT	54	Hollywood	Cops (CC)	Wanted	Forensic	Profiler "Reunion" (CC)		Cops (CC)	Cops (CC)	Crime Stories (N)		Homicide: Life		Profiler "Reunion" (CC)	
RMNG	55	Movie "Wildflowers" (2000, Drama) Clea DuVall, Daryl Hannah, Tomas Arana.				Everyday Elegance	Great Romances	Movie ★★★ "Cheaper by the Dozen" (1950) Clifton Webb.		(:45) Movie ★★★½ "Cabaret" (1972) Liza Minnelli. An American woman in Berlin is caught in the tide of Nazism.					

Names *in the* News

Furtado trying to get used to new fame

NEW YORK (AP) — Nelly Furtado can't get used to all the fancy trappings that her newfound fame has brought her.

"It is weird. I felt really guilty about it," the 22-year-old Canadian singer told The Associated Press during a recent interview at the upscale Hudson Hotel.

Furtado, whose debut album, "Whoa, Nelly," has been certified gold, grew up in a working-class family in Victoria. Her parents were Portuguese immigrants; her mother, a hotel worker, and her father, a mason.

"I associate myself so much with working-class people that I feel weird staying at fancy hotels, and I still don't feel comfortable buying nice things," she said.

Furtado said she recently bought her parents a VCR, but they were upset because they felt she had wasted her money.

"My parents are really nonmaterialistic," she said. "And growing up, that stuff didn't really matter."

Actress Ashley Judd to play 'Catwoman'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ashley Judd has snagged a purrfect new role as Batman's nemesis in the new movie "Catwoman."

The Caped Crusader will play a supporting role to the "felonious feline" in the new Warner Bros. film, Variety reported Monday.

Michelle Pfeiffer played Catwoman in the 1992 sequel "Batman Returns."

"Catwoman" is the third film in the comic-book franchise in development at Warner Bros.

Darren Aronofsky, director of the bleak drug-addiction tragedy "Requiem for a Dream," is working on a prequel titled "Batman: Year One."

Meanwhile, "Remember the Titans" director Boaz Yakin is developing the movie "Batman Beyond," based on the futuristic WB cartoon about a young crime-fighter who replaces the retired Bruce Wayne.

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CommunityCalendar

St. Croix

APRIL 5

St. Croix Seventh Day Adventist School will be having a Science Fair from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Thursday, April 5. The theme will be "Creativity of Gods Youth in 2001." Everyone is invited to attend.

There will be a general meeting for all retired personnel of the Department of Education at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5 at the Curriculum Center. Please be on time and bring or know your Employee Number.

The Eulalie R. Rivera Professional Development School invites all parents and guardians of students to a very important PTA meeting to held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5. Come and learn of the power that parents have to make a difference in our schools. Become an active member of our PTA.

APRIL 6

VI WAPA Family Club invites the general public to a Grand Fish Fry to be held at WAPA, Sunny Isles office parking lot. Event to be held at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 6. Food and drinks will be on sale. Come on out and dance the night away with DJ Junie.

Elena Christian Beacon and Elena Christian PTA invite Beacon families, Teachers, Elena PTA, and friends to a Game Night from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 6. Pokeno, Bid Whiz, Bingo, Scrabble, Monopoly, Life, Uno, Guess Who, Sorry, Play Station One and Two, Up Words, Computer Games, Checkers, Dominoes, Volley Ball and Basketball in the Gym. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

In honor of National Library Week and School Library Media Month, the St. Croix Library Association in inviting librarians, co-workers, friends, family and supporters to a Happy Hour from 5-7 p.m. Friday, April 6 at the Boardwalk In, where Usual Suspects and Holger Danske used to be in Christiansted, at the back of the government parking lot. Call 772-0315 or 773-5715 for more information.

Sun Stroke invites you to an After party and Video Shoot with 2EKWIP, The APostle, VIO International and The Glamarous Crew at 10 p.m. Friday, April 6 at the Paparazzy Night Club.

The Village Virgin Islands Partners In Recovery invites parents of children and adolescents to a focus group meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 6 at VIUAP offices, #1 Golden Grove. Purpose of meetings to express views/concerns regarding the issue of drug use/abuse. For more information contact Annette Jacobs at 719-9900 or Olga N. Santos at 693-1189.

APRIL 7

The National Guard family support group of St. Croix will hold its monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 7 at the L.T.C Lionel Jackson Armory, for further information contact Ms. Jaslyn Scatliffe at 778-6540.

The Annual meeting for the Legal Services of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 7 at Gertrude's Restaurant. The public is invited to attend.

The Charles H. Emmanuel School will hold a "Unity Recognition Dinner" on Saturday, April 7 in the school cafeteria. TIckets may be obtained at Charles H. Emmanuel School or from a member of the CHES Booster Club for $15. Entertainment will be provided and door prizes will be awarded. The general public is encouraged to support the school in its fundraising efforts.

APRIL 8

Attorney David Nissman will talk about a creative writing project for school children at a meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Croixat 10 a.m. Sunday, April 8 at the Nature Conservancy's Little Princess Estate. Sunday School is held simultaneously. A coffee hour follows. For more information call 773-7461.

The Arthur A. Richards Junior High School Parent-Teacher's Association (PTA) will meet at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 8 in the school' s library. Parents and guardians are urged to attend.

The Parent Body of Beulah A.M.E. Zion Church, Est. Lower Bethlehem, invites the general public to their Missionary program and Palm Sunday Tea. The Ladies will be presenting " The Good Samaritan Skit"at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 8 at Beulah A.M.E Zion Church. All are welcome. For more information and direction contact Rev. Evadney N. Elwin at 773-8003.

APRIL 9

The STX Reading Council will hold its monthly meeting at 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 9 at the Pearl B. Larsen School. Linda Perez will present a workshop entitled, "Reading and Technology: What Works." Members and Prospective members are invited.

APRIL 14

The St. Croix Amateur Radio Club announces that examinations for radio licenses will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 14. All amateur classes and upgrades will be offered. Exams will be held at The Garden Spot, Five Corners. Please call 773-4725.

Antigua and Barbuda Association invites the general public to a book signing and poetry reading event by poet, playwright and author, Antiguan born Leon Chaku Symister at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 14 at the Little Theatre, UVI. An exciting evening is promised to all.

APRIL 15

St. Croix Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will host its 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt from 5 - 5 p.m. Sunday, April 15 at the Frederiksted Playground. The Easter Bunny will be present along with exciting fun-filled events for all ages. Food and drinks will be on sale.

APRIL 17

The Legislative Committee of the St. Croix Federation of Teachers would like to announce the first in a series of Townhall meetings will be a used means to keep our membership informed and involved in pertinent community issues the first meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 at the St. Croix Educational Complez. All members of the St. Croix Federation of Teachers are cordially invited and encouraged to come.

APRIL 21

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

General Announcements

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

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

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

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

UVI St. Croix Campus is conducting registration of all returning students for Fall 2001. Register by Wednesday, April 11 until 6 p.m. Tuition and fees are due by Wednesday, August 15. For more information contact 692-4158/4160.

The Business and Professional Women's Organization of St. Croix is planning its annual Toddler's Pageant and is seeking toddlers ages 3-5 years to participate. The pageant is scheduled to be held on Sunday, April 22. Please call 713-9148 or 778-7464 for further information.

Calling all Tennis Players ninth annual women's coalition tennis classic will be held Thursday, April 26 through Sunday, April 29 at the Buccaneer hotel. Categories include: Women's A, B and C double. Men's A and B doubles and, new for this year, A and B mixed doubles. Entry Fees are $30 for one event and $40 for two events. The last day to sign up for this great annual events is Monday, April 23. Call Don Dewilde at 773-3036.

The entire St. Thomas Community is asked to come out on Thursday, May 31 to Sunday, June 3 at the Lionel Roberts Stadium in support of an Island Wide Crusade. For further information, please contact Pastor James Petty, your Island Crusade Coordinator at 774-4896 or 774-8199 or fax 693-6367.

WSTX will host a call in program for College-Bound Juniors and their parents at 6:30 p.m. Robin S. Groelle, MA - college counselor will answer students and parents questions about the college admissions and financial aid process. For more information call Ms. Groelle at 719-1550 or check out www.collegecounselling.com (free informational website).

St. Thomas-St. John

APRIL 5

The Administrator, of St. Thomas/Water Island, Mr. Louis P. Hill, will be conducting a series of town meetings geared to address the needs and concern of the residents of St. Thomas and Water Island the first meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5 at the Grace Baptist Church located at 4R Estate Fortuna.

APRIL 7

Elskoe and Associates will have a Food Sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 7 at the Fort Christian Parking Lot.

Women for Positive Change is hosting an informative discussion on the impact of Bill 24-0013 to enact the Child Protection Act of 2001. Join WFPC and participate in the discussion at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 7 at Gladys' Cafe Royal Dane Mall. Bring a friend. Call 775-0635 for more information.

APRIL 9

There will be a general meeting of the Virgin Islands Public Services Commission comencing at 10 a.m. Monday, April 9 at the Commission's Office, Barbel Plaza St. Thomas, VI.

APRIL 10

The next PTA meeting for Addelita Cancryn Jr. High School will be at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 10 in the school's cafeteria.

Department of Planning and Natural Resources, advises the public that the St. Thomas/St. John Historic Preservation Commission monthly meeting will commence at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 10 at the State Historic Preservaton Office located at #17 Kongens Gade, Government Hill. For additional information, contact the State Historic Preservation office at 776-8605.

APRIL 16

Caribbean Chorale and Children's Choir presents the Easter portion of Handel's Messiah at 8 p.m. Monday, April 16 at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

APRIL 19

UVI Alumni Association - St. Thomas/St. John Chapter will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19 UVI Conference Room in the Library. All Alumni are asked to attend. For more information call 693-1046.

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

General Announcements

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

ClassifiedAds / Call 773•2300

Real Estate for Sale

TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN FOR SALE
By Owner
(1) 16 acre (+/-) Parcel
Best views of St. Thomas to Virgin Gorda and St. Croix's North Shore from
ESTATE MOUNT PLEASANT on St. Croix's Scenic Road East
(1/2 mile east of intersection of Routes 73 and 78)
Call 778-0665
$465,000. TERMS AND/OR TRADE

Candle Reef One. Best location. Upper level freestanding building. Gorgeous beach, pool and views. Three bedrooms plus extra room. Tropically furnished. $329,000. Call Patrice Kelly, Hamilton Real Estate, Caravelle Arcade, **773-3300.**

Cotton Valley, .925 acre hillside lot, pastoral view. High elevation, quiet, remote, good roads. $25,000.00, owner will carry, $1,000.00 down and $250.00 per month. **773-1852.**

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.

Want a piece of the Sunny Isle pie? 1 1/2 acres of commercial land available fronting the 4-lane highway. $125,000.00 per acre is a steal for this location. Half acre purchase also possible. Lawaetz Real Estate **772-4411.**

House for Sale

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

Three bedroom, one bath house plus separate two story, one bedroom apartment each floor. Great investment and the price is right. Call 773-1116 for information. **Four bedroom**, two bath house. Owner financing a possibility with $20,000.00 down payment. Call **773-1116** for information.

For Rent

2 bedroom apartment in Boetzberg overlooking Buccaneer Hotel. Great sea view, ceiling fans, air-conditioned bedrooms, fully furnished with utilities (cable, electricity, water, gas) $1,600.00. Without utilities $1,200.00. Call **773-6094** or **513-1561.**

Beach front Condo Granada Del Mar. 2 bedroom, 2 bath pool on premises. Gated community deposit $1,800.00 per month + security deposit and first & last month rent. Call **778-5069** (days)

For lease. Spacious 3 br. 2 1/2 bath Questa Verde Condo. Fully furnished + equipped. $1600./mo. 1 mo. deposit + utilities. No pets. Available immediately **513-4040.**

Large, secure studio apt. Separate kitchen. Pool, patio, gas, water, A/C, electric included. $600 mo. plus security. Est. Carlton Condo. **772-0897.**

Beachfront Condo-Spacious 2 br., 2 ba. Cathedral ceilings, condo, beach and pool. Furnished, security locked gate parking. Excellent view of Caribbean. Phone, cable T.V. microwave, many amenities. Cruzan Princess Condo near Hibiscus. Available May thru Dec. $850.00 per month plus utilities. Tel. **773-0973.** Deposit negotiable.

Beautiful **one bedroom apartment** fully furnished, central air conditioning, utilities (power & cable) included, laundry facilities, overlooking Green Cay Marina and Buck Island, $1,200.00 per month long term and $1,500.00 per month short term. Looking for a couple or single individual, non-smokers, and no pets, please call **773-1498**

Golden Rock Apartments-one bedroom apartment, unfurnished, separate kitchen and living area, balcony and great view, water included on bus route. $500. Call **773-4693.**

Long term 1 and 2 bedroom villa rentals. Fully furnished, quiet, gated community. Golf course, pool, tennis court. References required. On-site property manger. Call Pam Tirk, The Reef Golf & Beach Resort. **773-9827.**

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

House for Rent

Large one bedroom house furnished with antiques, beautiful views completely private and secure located on large horse ranch with miles of open space near Buccaneer Hotel $1,250.00 per mo. includes utilities. **773-1519.**

Executive style home. Three to four bedrooms, beautifully furnished (including master bedroom suite). Fully equipped "dream" kitchen as well as outdoor BBQ. Formal dining-room. Comfortable living-room with cable TV and phone. Much more. **(340)773-1851.**

For Sale

For Sale: 3 piece living room set (new), 3 piece (wood) living room tables. 1 professional pool table, brand new with accessories. One master bedroom set king size "real wood". One compaq presario computer, new in box. DVD & CD-RW. 60 gig H.D. One 17" view sonic monitor in box. 2001 Jeep Cherokee Sport, fully loaded. New. Call:Jamie **778-9656-513-8312.**

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**

Attention Music Lovers: CD-man has CD's as low as $8 when buying in bulks. Dealers welcome. Get Reggae, Soca, R&B, Love Jams. Call **(340)719-1451** or request a catalog by mail-P.O. Box 3923 Kingshill V.I. 00850.

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!**

Leaving Island-must sell sofa, queen sleeper, love seat, chair + ottoman. 1 yr. old. Like new-plush! Top of the line. **692-5074.**

For Sale: Brand new 17" chrome typhoon rims and tires. $950.00. Call **514-6112.**

One year old aluminum boat trailer easily fits 18' or 19' boat. Cost new was $1,950.00 accepting best offer, please call **773-1498.**

Timi Day Care. 134 Barren Spot. Easter baskets fund-raiser on sale only $10.00. Assorted baskets includes: balls, pencils, hersheys, candies, easter eggs, crayons, coloring books, toys and lots more. Kids would love them. Call **719-0684.**

Walk-in cooler/freezer: 8 foot by 8 foot walk in cooler/freezer. Two sections, front part is cooler, back part freezer, each section 8 foot X 4 foot. $1000 or best offer. Ask for Dan, **692-5270.**

Boats for Sale

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

Autos for Sale

1990 Chevrolet Pickup. $7,000.00 or best offer. Please call **719-3487.**

1991 Isuzu Trooper $1,500.00 or B.O. Fax **719-0283.**

1991 Mazda Truck, recent tune-up, great Island vehicle, very reliable-$4,500.00. Please call **713-1394.**

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

1994 Isuzu Rodeo, LS, 4WD. Fully loaded. A/C, sunroof, CD changer and low mileage. $9,500.00 O.B.O. Also 1986 S-10 Pick-Up. $1,500.00. Call **712-7776** or **772-0202.**

1995 Ford F-150. 5 sp. V8, cold air, long box, locking cap, dual tanks, am/fm. 2 new tires, new brakes, excellent condition. $8,900.00. Call evenings **719-3598.**

1995 Jeep Wrangler Rio Grande Edition. Upgraded stereo, new tires, green w/aztec interior, runs perfect, low miles. Must sell ASAP. $8,200.00 O.B.O. Call Eric at **954-610-4100** anytime or **340-719-4167** evenings.

1996 Infinite G20, gold, leather int. Power everything, abs, CD, alum. wheels. Very well maint. 45K miles. Must see asking $9,500.00. Tel. **773-1351 773-8370** Linda.

1999 Geo Tracker convert. Red with Black top automatic, CD 22,000 miles excellent condition $11,500.00. **692-9128.**

2001 Honda Accord. Wood grain, leather, moon roof, fully powered & loaded red exterior Tan interior tinted glass 4 cyl. V-Tec auto, mileage under 1,000 3 months old. Thousands under purchase price mint condition. Call anytime **513-2856.**

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

95 Nissan Sentra. White, 4 dr., automatic, A/C, stereo/cass. Low miles, excellent condition. $5,500.00. Call **713-0519.**

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

Jeep tool truck: US Military Surplus Jeep 4x4 ton tool truck. Vehicle has locked aluminum cab on back with external tool boxes. Military used as mobile maintenance shop. Vehicle includes AC/ DC welder and generator, plus air compressor. Fewer than 50, 000 miles. $6000 or best offer. Ask for Dan, **692-5270.**

Leaving Island must sell 1991 Jaguar XJ6, sovereign edition. Fully loaded, excellent condition. A/C, CD changer, car phone and low mileage. $9,500.00 O.B.O. Call **712-7776** or **772-0202.**

Priced for immediate sale. 92' Chrysler New Yorker was asking $5,000.00 dropped in price to $2,500.00. Excellent condition. Phone **778-2426.**

Bus. Opportunity

Excellent Business Opportunity. Landscaping business for sale. $30,000 includes tools and existing clients. Make your money back with a profit in two years guaranteed. Serious inquires only. Call Mr. Richardson or Ms. Jackson at **(340)778-9754.**

Business Services

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

•DIVORCES•
$550 UNCONTESTED
AMELIA B. JOSEPH
Attorney at Law
St. Croix Avis Building
36AB LaGrande Princesse
773-6363

Looking for debris removal or rummage removal from your yard or home. (Sat. from 7-noon). Call us at **772-2966** leave a message.

Help Wanted

Bilingual female with some knowledge (could be very little) of auto parts. Must be willing to learn. Call **778-5007** between 4:30-5:30 p.m. only.

Accountant needed with following skills: Experience in accounts payable & receivable. JDEDWARDS accounting system experience preferred. MS Access. Job costing skills. Time & material reconciliation. Supervising people (timekeepers & clerks). Knowledge of payroll. Petty cash/Checking account. Reconciliation SAP/True track. Customer relations skills. Please contact Personnel at 340-692-7548 or send resume to P.O. Box 3013 Kingshill U.S.V.I. 00851.

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

Administrative Assistant position available. Experience in investment management or brokerage industry, previous administrative experience, strong written/verbal communication skills in an independent working environment and extensive computer knowledge are required. Resumes accepted via fax **340-692-5110.**

Looking for a qualified + dependable person with own transportation to tutor 10 yr. old. 2 hours per weekday. For more information call **692-6428** if no response call **513-0750.**

Solitude Store & Cafe on East End is now hiring for pm cook. 3 shifts a week plus Sunday Brunch. Experience preferred, but will train. Call Lori for interview **773-9354.**

AT&T of the VIRGIN ISLANDS, INC.

A leader in telecommunications seeks qualified bilingual individuals for employment based in St. Croix, Virgin Islands on part-time temporary basis

PAYMENT CENTER CASHIER

Responsibilities include collecting and processing customer payment to include handling and recording cash, checks, money orders and credit card transactions that must be entered into the cash register and a software program designed to capture specific customer information. There is a testing requirement and some Saturday work may be involved.

Education:
High School Diploma/ GED/equivalency

Experience:
One year as a cashier/teller or cash handler

Skills:
- Prior knowledge of PC and some accounting software
- Possess cash counting and handling skills
- Good oral communication skills
- Ability to work under stress
- Ability to sell
- Good Time Management Skills
- Fully Bilingual in English and Spanish (Required)

Please mail your résumé to:
AT&T of the Virgin Islands
Department 085-01
211-B Buccaneer Mall
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(No calls please)

AT&T Virgin Islands

An EEO/AA/ADA/WA employer and hires without regard to race, creed, gender, ethnic or national origin, religion or disability

Bar/Poolhall position available. Manger, experience necessary, minimum 5 years. Must be available for shift work and on weekends. Ask for Baldin **719-9684.**

Part-time Spanish Teacher needed for April, 9, 2001. Must be committed Christian. Degree and experience preferred. Call **772-2280.**

Production Assistant needed:WTJX Channel 8 is seeking part-time production assistant for St. Croix studio; high school grad w/at least 2 years experience in broadcast TV industry; must be able to operate TV cameras with knowledge in editors and character generators 774-6255, ext. 221.

Legal Secretary: Must have five plus years of experience. Salary commensurate with experience. Will respond to qualified applicants only. Please send resume to: Legal Secretarial position, Box 3078 Christiansted, 00822. Replies confidential.

Position Wanted

Attention Rev Bell. Love specialist spiritual. Solves problems. Reunites separated. Love, money, health. Reveals if your love is true or false. Reveals enemies. Removes all evil influences. Results hours. Too free **1-800-730-5570.**

Psychics\Astrology

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

Corrina spiritualist healer. Tarot crystal candle readings. Solves all problems. Reunites separated, love, marriage, business. Reveals friends and enemies. Removes evil, bad luck. Guaranteed results. Toll free **1-866-873-4112.**

Psychic Natalie James one phone call will convince you that you can be helped. Specializes in reuniting loved ones. Guaranteed results. **1-817-834-4261.**

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

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

The house of mystics, anything, everything, whatever the problem, don't surrender before you contact us, most powerful, most feared. We get the job done. Papa Jay, P.O. Box 2717 Des Casiers Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Tel. **011-509-511-8973.**

Food & Entertainment

The Great House at Villa Madeleine

Elegant Dining Mon. - Sat.
6-10 PM
Wed: Sam Pasco
Thurs: Bill Bass
Fri & Sat: Ben Miele

Reservations Recommended
778-7377
Cigar Bar Now Open Wed-Sat!

Knoley's
719-1469 Hess Rd
RESTAURANT & BAR
(formerly Guava Corp. - 1/2 block west of Gertrudes)
SERVING
Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner
FRIDAY . . . ALL YOU CAN PEEL and EAT SHRIMP
Now serving Sunday Brunch
5am - 3pm

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 One Night Only
JOHN MELNICK
5pm to 8pm
TUESDAY TRIVIA
7:30pm
Breakfast served Daily
7am to 10am
Tamarind Reef Hotel, East End Road
Next to Green Cay Marina

Smuggler's Cove
at Mill Harbour 719-1333
Lunch
11 am till
Dinner
6pm to 10pm
All-You-Can Eat BBQ FRIDAY
Specializing in Homemade Italian cuisine.
Friday Nite - 4/6
Music by SPLASH
Saturday
"J" Jay Seager

BOGEY'S
AT THE CANE BAY REEF CLUB
778-2966
THURSDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
Buy one Spaghetti dinner for
$10.00
Get 2nd Spaghetti dinner FREE
Dinner includes salad, garlic bread & spaghetti
(meatballs & sausage extra)
Every Thursday

CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE
IT'S A FULL MOON PARTY WEEKEND!
Music
Thurs. SPLASH, Pop Rock & Pork Nite
Fri. From Philly "The Phipps Bros" Rock n' Blues & BBQ Nite
Sat. Llewellyn & Dem Calypso & Prime Rib Nite
Sun. X-ITEMENTS Reggae, Soca & Dancing
East End Road 773-1119

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

Messages

Novena

Novena to the Holy spirit. You who solve all problems, who light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. (The person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days). After 3 days the favor requested will be granted even if it may appear difficult. J.T.

Jeremiah 29:13
And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

God is inviting all believers to join together for a week of fasting and prayer on behalf of our island.

Beginning Palm Sunday/Passover (April 8) and ending Easter morning (April 15).

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

Barbara Jackson
Alvin Jones
Eva Willimas
Joseph Liddie
Allen Razus
Dan Beckman
Michael Homa
Lorna Benjamin
Hortenese M. Rowe
James Leonard
Rheney Hodge
Claude Elcock

Notices

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY THEATRE
presents
The Fantasticks
a musical
MARCH 30, 31
APRIL 6, 7, 13, 14
8PM
SIDNEY LEE THEATER
AT ISLAND CENTER
Tickets available at the door
$13. ea. • Book/6 $65. • Student $6.
Reservations: 773-7171 M-F 8am-5pm
713-1369 Evenings and Weekends

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-255-2001

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

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

I do further certify that, pursuant to consent to dissolution thus filed, DATASOUTH INTERNATIONAL SALES CORPORATION CORPORATION is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Section 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective December 29, 2000.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 3rd day of January, A.D. 2001.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor
04/05, 12, 19, 26/2001

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-256-2001

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

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

I do further certify that, pursuant to consent to dissolution thus filed, DARLING FOREIGN SALES CORPORATION is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Section 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective December 29, 2000.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 3rd day of January, A.D. 2001.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor
04/05, 12, 19, 26/2001

GOVERNMENT OF CD-260-2001
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00802

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

It being within the providence of my office, I, the undersigned Gerard Luz James II, Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands, being satisfied by due proof, hereby certify that consent by the stockholders to the dissolution of the domestic corporation known by the firm name and style of, BARED JEWELERS OF THE V.I., 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 filedBARED JEWELERS OF THE V.I., 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 March 12, 1999.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands this 22nd day of January, A.D 2001.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor
03/15, 22,29, 04/05, 2001

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-269-2001

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

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

I do further certify that, pursuant to consent to dissolution thus filed, CRESTING WAVE SALES, INC. is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Section 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective January 29, 2001.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 30th day of January, A.D. 2001.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor
04/05, 12, 19, 26/2001

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Benjamin L. Hunton,

PROBATE NO. 23/2001

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS FOR SETTLEMENT
WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for Settlement Without Administration has been filed with the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four (4) weeks from the date of this Notice verified by affidavit, and all persons indebted to the estate to make payment promptly to the undersigned attorney for the Estate c/o Marise C. James, P.C. Persons claiming to be next of kin shall file their proof of heirship with the undersigned, or the Clerk of the Territorial Court, within the aforesaid time.

Dated: March 19, 2001

By: Marise C. James, Esq.
Marise C. James, P.C.
PO Box 546
Christiansted, VI 00820
Tel.: (340) 778-5598
Fax: (340) 773-7115

03/22,29, 04/05,12, 2001

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Kelsy B. Beshears,

PROBATE NO. 22/2001

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS FOR SETTLEMENT
WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for Settlement Without Administration has been filed with the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four (4) weeks from the date of this Notice verified by affidavit, and all persons indebted to the estate to make payment promptly to the undersigned attorney for the Estate c/o Marise C. James, P.C. Persons claiming to be next of kin shall file their proof of heirship with the undersigned, or the Clerk of the Territorial Court, within the aforesaid time.

Dated: March 19, 2001

By: Marise C. James, Esq.
Marise C. James, P.C.
PO Box 546
Christiansted, VI 00820
Tel.: (340) 778-5598
Fax: (340) 773-7115

03/22,29, 04/05,12, 2001

Legislature of the Virgin Islands
CAPITAL BUILDING, CHARLOTTE AMALIE
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00804

March 19, 2001

THE MEMBERS OF THE TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS will meet in Committee of the Whole (Zoning Hearing) to receive testimony on the following zoning amendments to the Official Zoning District Maps of St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands:

LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Senate Conference Room
Lagoon Street Complex, St. Croix
Thursday, April 5, 2001
6:00 p.m.

The agenda is as follows:

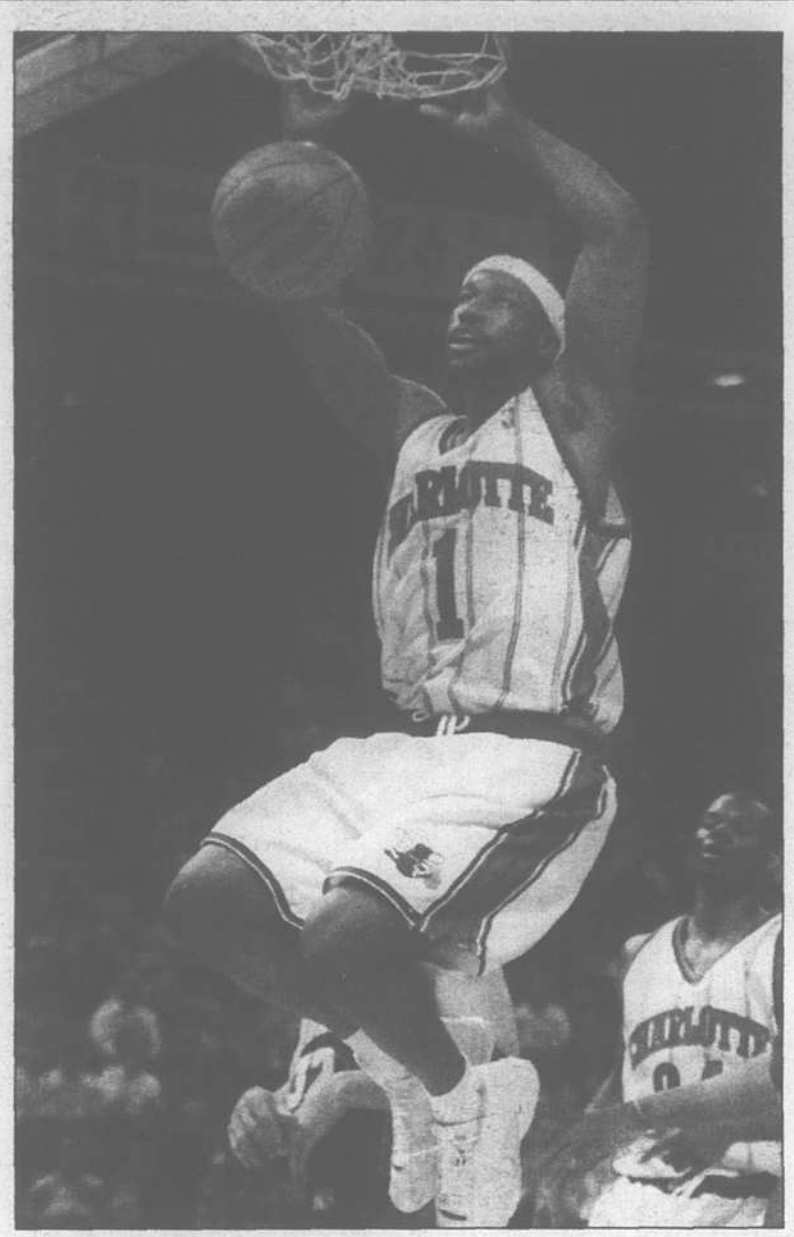
Herman Marcus- Request for Amendment to Official Zoning Map No. SCZ-12 for Plot No. 109, Estate Peter's Rest, Queen's Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, from R-2 (Residential - Low Density, One and Two Family) to B-3 (Business-Scattered), in order to expand an existing business.

Stephen Delemos - Request for Amendment to Official Zoning Map No. SCZ-10, for Plot No. 49 J, Estate Whim, West End Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, from R-2 (Residential - Low Density, One and Two Family) to B-3 (Business - Scattered) in order to legitimize the continuation of a business.

Salustiano Saldana - Request for Amendment to Official Zoning District Map No. SCZ-12, for No. 20 Estate Profit, King's Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, from R-4 (Residential - Medium Density) to B-2 (Business Secondary/Neighborhood) in order to operate a used automobile dealership.

Anyone wishing to give testimony or request information on the above-mentioned zoning amendments, please contact the Office of the Assistant Executive Director in St. Thomas at 774-0880, extension 3538 or in St. Croix at 773-2424, extension 2235.

04/3,4,5,2001



Associated Press
Charlotte Hornets' Baron Davis (1) dunks in the second quarter against the Phoenix Suns at the Charlotte Coliseum in Charlotte, N.C., Wednesday.

Suns surpass Hornets, 103-94

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Jason Kidd scored 25 of his 29 points in the second half to rally the Phoenix Suns to a 103-94 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Wednesday night.

The Suns, who had their seven-game winning streak snapped Tuesday night at Indiana, moved closer to a playoff berth with the victory. The Suns are in seventh place in the Western Conference but only 2 1/2 games out of the Pacific Division lead with eight games left to play.

Shawn Marion scored 25 for the Suns. Kidd also had 10 assists. David Wesley led Charlotte with 22 points. Baron Davis added 17.

The Hornets continued their struggles when Derrick Coleman plays, falling to 9-20. In his second game back after missing 20 with a calf injury, Coleman was on the floor when the Suns rallied from 11 points down.

Charlotte led 65-54 with 6:17 to play in the third when Coleman made his first appearance of the second half. With Coleman on the floor, the Hornets' defense stalled and Kidd and the Suns rallied to a 75-73 lead by the end of the third.

Coleman had five points and five rebounds in 20 minutes and was booed heartily throughout the second half.

Kidd had just four points in the first half while Charlotte built a 56-39 lead at the break. He came alive in the third quarter, scoring 15 points.

Kidd hit a 3-pointer to make it 73-70, and he hit one free throw to tie the game at 73 with 34 seconds to play. Phoenix ended the quarter with a slam dunk by Tony Delk to take a 75-73 lead into the fourth.

Kidd opened the fourth quarter with two quick jumpers. He then stole P.J. Brown's inbounds pass and tossed to Marion for a slam dunk. Marion was fouled by Brown on the dunk and made his free throw, giving Phoenix an 82-73 lead.

Test Your Horse Sense

By Mark Skoneki

Score one point for a correct answer to each of the first five questions. The last question counts five points. Score yourself as follows: 0-1, poor; 2-4, average; 5-6, above average; 7-8, superior; 9-10, very superior.

1. Where are the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu? a) MEXICO
b) PERU
c) TURKEY
d) IRAN

2. When did writer George Bernard Shaw die?
a) 1899
b) 1933
c) 1950
d) 1970

3. Where was tennis star Monica Seles born?
a) CZECHOSLOVAKIA
b) YUGOSLAVIA
c) MACEDONIA
d) FRANCE

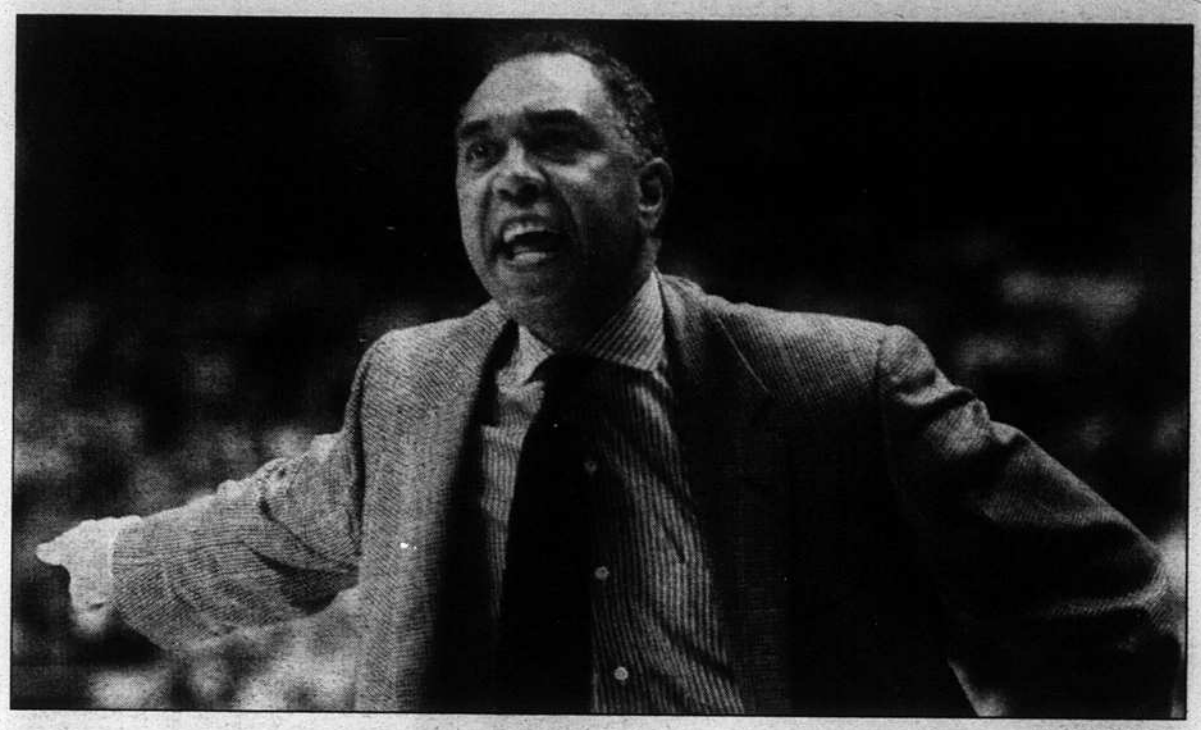
4. What is Puerto Rico's second-largest city?
a) SAN JUAN
b) AGUADILLA
c) PONCE
d) MAYAGUEZ

5. Which TV network aired the original "Star Trek"? a) ABC
b) CBS
c) NBC
d) ESPN

6. Match the Robert Ludlum book in this paragraph to the year it came out in the following paragraph. Score one point for each correct answer.
a) "The Osterman Weekend"
b) "The Bourne Identity"
c) "Road to Omaha"
d) "The Bourne Ultimatum"
e) "The Scarlatti Inheritance"

v) 1971
w) 1972
x) 1980
y) 1990
z) 1992

ANSWERS
1. Peru 2. 1950 3. Yugoslavia 4. Ponce 5. NBC 6. (a) "The Osterman Weekend" - (w) 1972; (b) "The Bourne Identity" - (x) 1980; (c) "Road to Omaha" - (z) 1992; (d) "The Bourne Ultimatum" - (y) 1990; (e) "The Scarlatti Inheritance" - (v) 1971



Associated Press

Kentucky head coach Tubby Smith directs his team during their game against Tennessee Feb. 14 in Knoxville, Tenn. Smith, who led Kentucky to a national championship in his first season as coach, has agreed to a four-year contract extension Wednesday that will keep him with the Wildcats through 2007.

Tubby stays with Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — All season long, Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said he was happy as boss of the Wildcats and had no intention of leaving anytime soon.

He backed up those words Wednesday, agreeing to a four-year contract extension that will keep him in the Bluegrass through the 2006-2007 season.

"We've agreed, it's a done deal and now we just have to get it on paper," athletics director Larry Ivy said following a meeting of the school's athletics association board of directors. "We looked at several of the top institutions in the country and I think, once our figures are released, you'll see that we're right there with those institutions.

"It's a figure that Tubby was very satisfied with and something that I feel is deserved for him for the job he's done."

Ivy declined to release exact numbers on the new deal until the contract is finalized and signed, which could come as early as Thursday. He said that he looked at the contracts of Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, Michigan State's Tom Izzo, Arizona's Lute Olson and Kansas' Roy Williams among others in determining the new numbers.

"You've got a range from $1.2 to $1.7 million there," Ivy said. "It basically is the same contract he has now with a change in the number of years and the dollars with a tweak or two here and there."

Smith, who currently makes $1.2 million per season, signed a five-year contract to succeed Rick Pitino prior to the 1997-98 season. After leading the Wildcats to their seventh national championship in his inaugural season, the school extended that contract another year.

Ivy said Smith's deal will not top the reported $2 million a year that will be paid to former Kentucky coach Rick Pitino, who signed with bitter rival Louisville last month.

"I don't think we'd go that high," he said.

Smith, who has a 110-33 record and has made three trips to the round of 16 in four years at Kentucky, was not available for comment. Ivy said he and Smith will hold a news conference to discuss the deal in detail once the contract is signed.

Ivy said recent rumors that Smith had been offered the South Carolina job for as much as $2 million a year did not concern him and had no impact on the negotiations.

"Tubby never mentioned South Carolina to me," Ivy said. "I gave (South Carolina athletic director) Mike McGee my permission to speak to him, and I don't know what their conversations were."

Briefs

SWV tops Full Force for championship

ST. THOMAS — SWV received a balanced performance to sweep Full Force in three sets to claim the advanced women's division championship of the St. Thomas-St. John Volleyball League.

Jenine Berry, a former college volleyball player, had 15 kills and 17 digs as SWV won 25-23, 25-20, 25-19 at the Charlotte Amalie High School gym.

Anna Maria Huggins had 13 service points, including two aces and Krystle Garci had 17 digs.

Jenny Matthias paced Full Force with 13 digs and eight service points. Janelle Sarauw had seven kills for the runners-up.

Run to Your Library race this Saturday

ST. CROIX — The V.I. Pace Runners will host the 19th annual Run To Your Library at 6 a.m. Saturday. The registration for the 3.1-mile race is at the Florence Williams Public Library in Christiansted. For more information, call V.I. Pace Runners at 777-0258 or Florence Williams Public Library 773-5715 or visit www.virginislandspacerunners.org.

Women's Coalition Tennis Classic set

ST. CROIX — The ninth annual Women's Coalition Tennis Classic is scheduled for April 26-29 at the Buccaneer Hotel Tennis Club. Entry deadline is April 23.

Crossword

by Eugene Sheffer

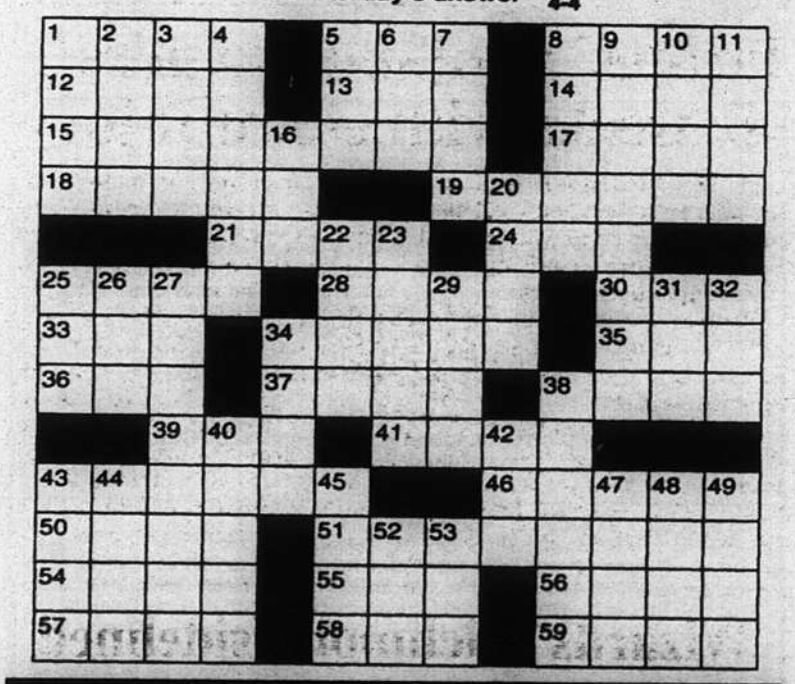
ACROSS
1 Soybean paste
5 Bikini half
8 Admitting a draft
12 First victim
13 Sargasso denizen
14 Bonkers
15 Data-storage device
17 Tourney situations
18 Cosmetician Lauder
19 Stylish
21 Cicatrix
24 Hill dweller
25 Pompom
28 Clamorous
30 Stock abbr.
33 — rule (usually)
34 Point-and-click gizmo
35 Food fish
36 Form of depilatory
37 Diminutive suffix
38 Pallet
39 Chaps
41 Huron's neighbor
43 Act your age
46 Baby bird?
50 Took a cab
51 Handheld pointer
54 Finished
55 Actress Thurman
56 Letterman rival
57 Lapidary's items
58 Possibly will
59 Sufficient, in verse

DOWN
1 Labyrinth
2 Sacred bird of Egypt
3 Calendar abbr.
4 Firstborn
5 "— Mir Bist du Schon"
6 Gun the engine
7 Baldwin brother
8 Composer Berg
9 Cursor control
10 Dogfight battlers
11 Optimistic
16 Fun 'n' games
20 Stow cargo
22 Oodles
23 Mail carrier's territory
25 "... — a puddy tat!"
26 End of a Springsteen title
27 Documen transmitter
29 — -friendly
31 Polynesiar staple
32 Peculiar
34 List of options
38 Land
40 Big-mouthed pitchers
42 Somewha (Suffix)
43 Piratic potable
44 Peregrinate
45 "Clue" professor
47 Ready for business
48 Setting for betting
49 Recognize
52 "— Little Teapot"
53 Actress Marcia — Harden

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-4



Cryptoquip

F Z M U S E L I H L V N Z A C D S U C R D C N Z A C V S L J P N L A P F P V I J P H S I D Z V M H L F R P V E P R L R N S P D ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK IT'S A LITTLE ODD THAT PEOPLE PARK ON DRIVEWAYS AND DRIVE ON PARKWAYS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals P

3 Mail carrier's territory
5 "... — a puddy tat!"
6 End of a Springsteen title
7 Documen transmitter
— -friendly Polynesiar staple
Peculiar
List of options
Land
Big-mouthed pitchers
Somewha
(Suffix)
Piratic
potable
Peregrinate
"Clue" professor
Ready for business
Setting for betting
Recognize
"— Little Teapot"
Actress Marcia — Harden

		10	11
		31	32
		48	49

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AND

DH Bichette seeks trade from Boston

BOSTON (AP) — Dante Bichette, upset about losing his job as full-time designated hitter late in spring training, has asked the Boston Red Sox to trade him.


Bichette

The Boston Herald reported Tuesday that Bichette asked general manager Dan Duquette for a trade.

Bichette's agent, Ron Shapiro, could not immediately be reached for comment. But he told The Boston Globe that Bichette's desire is to play for the Red Sox.

"But if he's not going to play for them, then there ought to be opportunities elsewhere," Shapiro was quoted as saying in Wednesday's editions. "I've expressed a desire that the club reach out and try to find other opportunities for him."

Duquette told Shapiro he would get back to him.

Bichette, 37, was Boston's regular DH last year after being traded from Cincinnati on Aug. 31 and expected to keep the job this year.

He figured to bat sixth in a powerful lineup that included Nomar Garciaparra, Manny Ramirez and Carl Everett. In the final days of spring training, manager Jimy Williams told him he would be the DH against lefties while lefty Scott Hatteberg did that job against righties.

But Ramirez, bothered by a hamstring injury that kept him from playing the field, was Boston's DH in Monday's 2-1 season-opening loss to Baltimore. The Red Sox will probably be without Garciaparra through the All-Star break while he recovers from wrist surgery performed Monday.

Bichette hit .289 with seven homers in 30 games with Boston last year. He's scheduled to earn $6.5 million this year and has a no-trade clause that he would be willing to waive.

"If Dante can play for another team, he will go," Shapiro told the Globe. "He is not a nonplayer. And it is not a question of a role player filling a role. His role is to use his bat. So it's likely that if another opportunity comes, he will take it."

Pirates' Benjamin to miss six weeks with elbow injury

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pirates infielder Mike Benjamin will miss at least six weeks with a right elbow injury, adding to Pittsburgh's injury woes.

Benjamin appeared in only two games during spring training, none since March 18.

He has a sprained ligament and has been told to stop throwing for six weeks, when he'll be examined again. If he needs surgery, he could be sidelined for much or all the year.

A 10-year veteran who spent parts of seven seasons with the Giants, Benjamin hit .270 with two homers and 19 RBIs in 93 games last season. A career .235 hitter, he signed a two-year contract extension late last season.

Three-fifths of the Pirates' starting rotation is hurt. Kris Benson, Francisco Cordova and Jason Schmidt are out until at least next month.

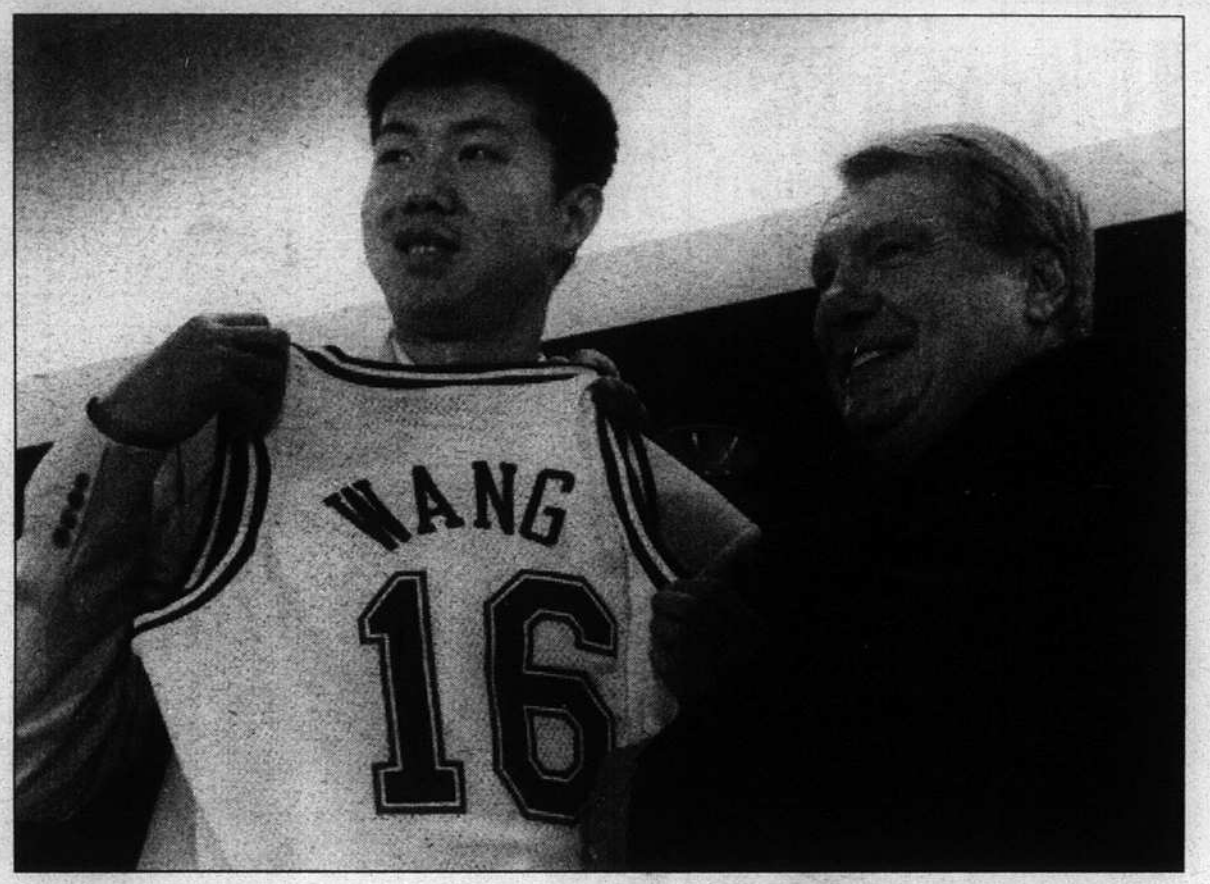
Wizards' Richmond sidelined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitch Richmond, who likely has played his final game for the Washington Wizards, was placed on the team's injured list Wednesday.

Richmond sprained his right knee in a game against New Jersey March 10 and has missed the last 10 games. He'll miss at least five more while on the injured list, and the Wizards have only nine games remaining.

The Wizards are expected to buy out the remaining year of Richmond's contract for $10 million this summer, a salary cap move that would make the six-time All-Star guard a free agent.

To replace Richmond on the roster, the Wizards activated forward Tyrone Nesby, who had been on the injured list since March 2 with a sprained right ankle and lower back strain.



Associated Press
New Dallas Mavericks player Wang Zhizhi, left, and Mavericks head coach Don Nelson, hold a jersey with Zhizhi's number at a news conference in Dallas, Wednesday.

Mavs sign Wang

China star inks two-year deal with Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Wang Zhizhi's next task is to watch NBA players slam each other around, something that doesn't seem to happen in China.

And, when he's not playing, feast on Texas steak, a dish he's already learned to enjoy.

The NBA's first Chinese player signed a two-year contract with the Dallas Mavericks Wednesday, and now will take his 7-foot-1, 255-pound frame to the bench to watch what he called the "cruel" style of American basketball.

"Mentally, I have to be ready because the NBA is a very physical game," he said.

A second-round draft pick in 1999, Wang will get very few minutes this year as the Mavericks, who clinched their first playoff berth in 11 years on Tuesday, try to get the best seeding possible for the postseason.

"I'm very excited," Wang, 23, said through an interpreter. "I also feel very calm because finally I can play in the NBA."

Wang's arrival in the United States was delayed by his commitment to the Chinese Army. He recently completed his season in China's professional league, leading his team to its sixth straight championship.

The Mavericks have been through this type of thing before with Dirk Nowitzki, a German, although Nowitzki spoke some English when he arrived.

Among the few phrases Wang has already picked up, is "American food is good, I like the Texas steak."

After a news conference at the team's training facility, Wang was to practice with the team for the first time. He could play as early as Thursday night at home against Atlanta.

"He's probably a bit nervous and scared, we need to make him feel at home," coach Don Nelson said. "We don't expect he's going to play a lot, but he needs experience to be comfortable. It is uncomfortable to be away from home and not have friends and family."

As part of his contract, Wang will return to China this summer to compete in the East Asian Games, the Asian Championship and the World University Games.

"He will miss training camp and the first month of next season. This is very important to them," Nelson said.

The team avoided all talk of political tension between the countries stemming from the emergency landing of a U.S. spy plane on Chinese soil.

"It would be my wish that some way we could be a positive influence on that," Nelson said.

Gators pole vaulters charged with burglary

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Two pole vaulters on Florida's track and field team were arrested Wednesday on charges they burglarized concession stands at the track and baseball stadiums.

University police said they were Michael Hissam, 23, a senior from Savannah, Ga., and Brian DaCunha, 20, a sophomore from Lake Worth.

They were arrested by a campus police officer who said he found them inside the concession stand at Percy Beard Track about 3 a.m. Wednesday, said Joe Sharkey, a spokesman for the police department.

They also are accused of burglarizing an open-air concession tent at McKethan Baseball Stadium, he said.

Both were charged with one felony count of burglary, one felony count of theft and stealing a fire extinguisher.

Expos edge Cubs

CHICAGO (AP) — Putting runners on base isn't the problem for the Chicago Cubs. It's getting them home.

Vladimir Guerrero's two-run single and Orlando Cabrera's RBI single in the first inning was all the Montreal Expos needed for the 3-2 victory Wednesday as the Cubs stranded 11 runners.

"Hitters drool in those situations, and we couldn't get the ball out of the infield," Cubs manager Don Baylor said. "We just couldn't get that one big hit to blow it open and score two or three runs."

Chicago had plenty of chances. The Cubs had the bases loaded in the third inning with one out. Of the 11 runners left on base, six were at third and three at second. They blew an opportunity in the ninth after Eric Young led off with a single, stole second and moved to third on Bill Mueller's sacrifice.

That brought up Sammy Sosa, who drew a walk. With slow-throwing Ugueth Urbina on the mound, Baylor said Sosa got the "go-on-your-own sign." Sosa said he got the steal sign.

"I didn't go on my own, no way," Sosa said.

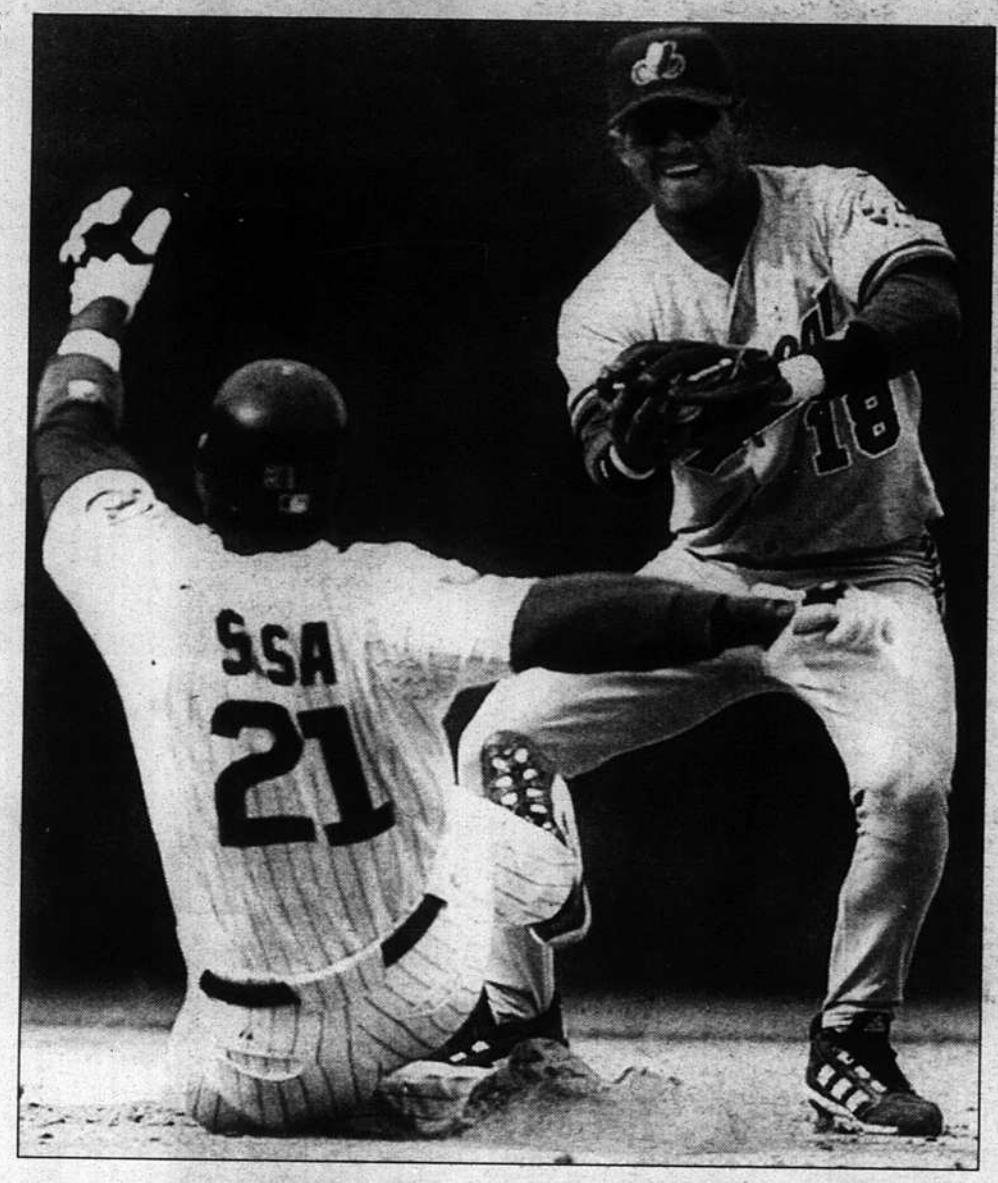
Regardless of what he saw, he went. Bad move.

Though Urbina was facing toward third base, he whirled around and threw to first, and Sosa got caught between the bases.

"I don't know what he was thinking, but the first-and-third move was on and it worked with perfect timing," Expos first baseman Lee Stevens said. "We tried to catch them and we did at the right time."

Said Sosa, "I was trying to do something, start something. I'll take the blame."

Britt Reames (1-0) gave up two unearned runs and five hits in six innings. He also struck out four and walked four. Urbina pitched the ninth for his second save.



Associated Press

Montreal Expos' Orlando Cabrera prepares to throw to first after tagging out Chicago Cubs Sammy Sosa on a double play in the seventh inning Wednesday in Chicago. The Expos defeated the Cubs 3-2.

Kerry Wood, on the opening-day roster for the first time in his career, struck out 10, but he also gave up all three runs and eight hits in seven innings. Ricky Gutierrez and Gary Matthews Jr. drove in Chicago's runs.

"It was ugly, but it got the job done," Reames said. "We'll take it any way we can get it."

Wood (0-1) got off to a rough start, giving up a leadoff single, walking the second batter and throwing a wild pitch. He struck out Fernando Tatis, but then gave up the two-run single to Guerrero.

By the time the first inning was over, the Expos had a 3-0 lead and Wood had given up four hits.

"I wish I could have the first inning back, but I can't," Wood said. "My control got better as the game went on, but I think I went out there with some pretty good stuff in the first inning. Unfortunately, they got three runs."

He settled down after the first, even showing flashes of the pitcher who was NL Rookie of the Year in 1998. He allowed only two walks — one intentional — a double and two singles the rest of the way.

Montreal twice put two men on, but Wood immediately induced inning-ending popouts both times.

"I thought he pitched very good after the first inning," Reames said. "Fortunately, we scored three runs in the first and it was all we needed."

Ruby Rutnik tourney swings into gear

AVIS STAFF

ST. JOHN — Five girls teams will travel from St. Croix to St. John for the fifth year to defend their first-place winning streak in the annual Ruby Rutnik Memorial Softball Tournament on St. Thomas.

The competition starts at 3 p.m. Friday with a brief ceremony at the Winston Wells Ballpark in Cruz Bay.

Girls teams from all three Virgin Islands will compete as well as men's modified slow pitch clubs from St. Thomas and St. John.

The games will continue all day Saturday and the championship is scheduled for Sunday.

The winning girls team will receive $500. Plus, organizers will use the sale of $100 innings to fund two $2,500 scholarships that will go to two college-bound girls from St. John.

MLB

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	1	0	1.000	—
New York	1	0	1.000	—
Tampa Bay	1	0	1.000	—
Toronto	1	1	.500	1/2
Boston	0	1	.000	1

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	1	0	1.000	—
Minnesota	1	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	0	1	.000	1
Detroit	0	1	.000	1
Kansas City	0	1	.000	1

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	1	1	.500	—
Seattle	1	1	.500	—
Texas	1	1	.500	—
Anaheim	0	1	.000	1/2

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Montreal	2	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	2	0	1.000	—
New York	1	0	1.000	1/2
Atlanta	1	1	.500	1
Florida	0	2	.000	2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	1	0	1.000	—
Cincinnati	1	1	.500	1/2
Pittsburgh	0	1	.000	1
St. Louis	0	1	.000	1
Chicago	0	2	.000	1 1/2
Milwaukee	0	2	.000	1 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	1	0	1.000	—
Colorado	1	0	1.000	—
San Francisco	1	0	1.000	—
Los Angeles	1	1	.500	1/2
San Diego	0	1	.000	1

Tuesday's Games

Minnesota 3, Detroit 2
Texas 3, Anaheim 2
Tampa Bay 8, Toronto 1
Oakland 5, Seattle 1
Houston 11, Milwaukee 3
N.Y. Mets 6, Atlanta 4, 10 innings
Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 2
Philadelphia 4, Florida 3
Arizona 3, Los Angeles 2

Wednesday's Games

Seattle 10, Oakland 2
Boston 3, Baltimore 0
Yankees 8, Kansas City 2
Cleveland 8, White Sox 4
Toronto 11, Tampa Bay 8
Anaheim at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Montreal 3, Chicago Cubs 2
Atlanta 3, Mets 2
Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 5
Philadelphia 7, Florida 3
Milwaukee at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Colorado, 9:05 p.m.
Arizona at Los Angeles, 10:10 p.m.
San Diego at San Fran., 10:15 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Torontoat Tampa Bay), 12:15 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 1:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Yankees, 1:05 p.m.
Boston at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Anaheim at Texas , 8:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 12:35 p.m.
Montreal at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
St. Louis at Colorado, 3:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 7:35 p.m.
Milwaukee at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Arizona at Los Angeles, 10:10 p.m.
San Diego at San Franciso, 10:15 p.m.

Friday's Games

Tampa Bay at Boston, 1:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Kansas City, 2:05 p.m.
Detroit at White Sox, 4:05 p.m.
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m.
Seattle at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Anaheim at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.
Cubs at Philadelphia, 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Montreal, 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta at Florida, 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 8:05 p.m.
San Diego at Colorado, 9:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona, 10:05 p.m.
San Francisco at L.A, 10:10 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Philadelphia	51	23	.689	—
x-New York	44	30	.595	7
x-Miami	43	30	.589	7 1/2
Orlando	40	34	.541	11
Boston	34	40	.459	17
New Jersey	26	51	.338	26 1/2
Washington	18	55	.247	32 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	47	27	.635	—
x-Charlotte	42	32	.568	5
Toronto	41	33	.554	6
Indiana	34	40	.459	13
Detroit	28	46	.378	19
Cleveland	26	47	.356	20 1/2
Atlanta	23	51	.311	24
Chicago	12	61	.164	34 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	52	22	.703	—
x-Utah	49	25	.662	3
x-Dallas	48	26	.649	4
Minnesota	43	30	.589	8 1/2
Houston	40	35	.533	12 1/2
Denver	36	39	.480	16 1/2
Vancouver	21	53	.284	31

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Sacramento	49	24	.671	—
x-L.A. Lakers	49	26	.653	1
Portland	47	27	.635	2 1/2
Phoenix	45	28	.616	4
Seattle	41	35	.539	9 1/2
L.A. Clippers	27	47	.365	22 1/2
Golden State	17	56	.233	32

x-clinched playoff spot

Tuesday's Games

Charlotte 103, New Jersey 88
New York 94, Orlando 82
Boston 82, Miami 77
Toronto 100, Philadelphia 85
Indiana 85, Phoenix 81
L.A. Lakers 96, Utah 88
Detroit 110, Chicago 83
San Antonio 107, Seattle 89

Wednesday's Games

Miami 86, Washington 84
Toronto 97, Cleveland 94
Philadelphia 90, Detroit 84
Orlando 108, Boston 101
Phoenix 103, Charlotte 94
Minnesota 83, Portland 79
L.A. Clippers at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Milwaukee at Golden St., 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Washington at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Seattle at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Utah, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 9 p.m.

Friday's Games

Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Milwaukee at Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Portland at Golden St., 10:30 p.m.

Islanders excited about World Series

ISAAC CAUSEY

Virgin Islanders are taking the Little League World Series more seriously than ever before.

The territory has its best chance of reaching the nationally televised tournament this year because the field has expanded from eight to 16 teams.

The Virgin Islands, a former participant in the Latin American Tournament, will compete in a scaled-down Caribbean Tournament with the winner going directly to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

"It gives everybody an additional chance," said Joe Samuel, the Virgin Islands District coordinator. "Now, we have three teams going against one. The Virgin Islands will not be playing some of the traditional better teams. This gives us a better chance of winning."

In the past, the Virgin Islands played in the Latin American Region and was grouped with larger countries such as Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela.

Mexico, which in the past competed against the Virgin Islands in the Latin American Tournament, will send a representative directly to the World Series. The Central American/South American region will be reserved for Venezuela, Colombia, Panama and Nicaragua, along with other Central and South American countries.

The Virgin Islands is grouped in the Caribbean zone with Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, Curacao, St. Maarten and Aruba. Samuel said the restructuring of the Little League World Series has been in the making for some time. He said top Little League officials made mention of the change at the 1998 Little League Congress.

The Little League organization has expanded to more than 2 1/2 million children with 700 leagues in more than 100 countries, according to Samuel.

The Virgin Islands has approximately 800 Little Leaguers — with both districts divided about equally in numbers — according to Samuel.

The Virgin Islands will still have a hard road to the August Tournament because of strong Little League traditions in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Cuba could even field a team in the future.

"This should be an exciting time in the sport," said Edric Brathwaite, a coach in the St. Croix Plaskett West Little League. "Every league should want to win and be that first team to reach the World Series. I think the West stands in a good position."

Never before have coaches, officials or parents discussed a Little League World Series so early in the season. During the St. Thomas Hendricks' West opening ceremony, speakers made mention of the Virgin Islands going the the World Series.

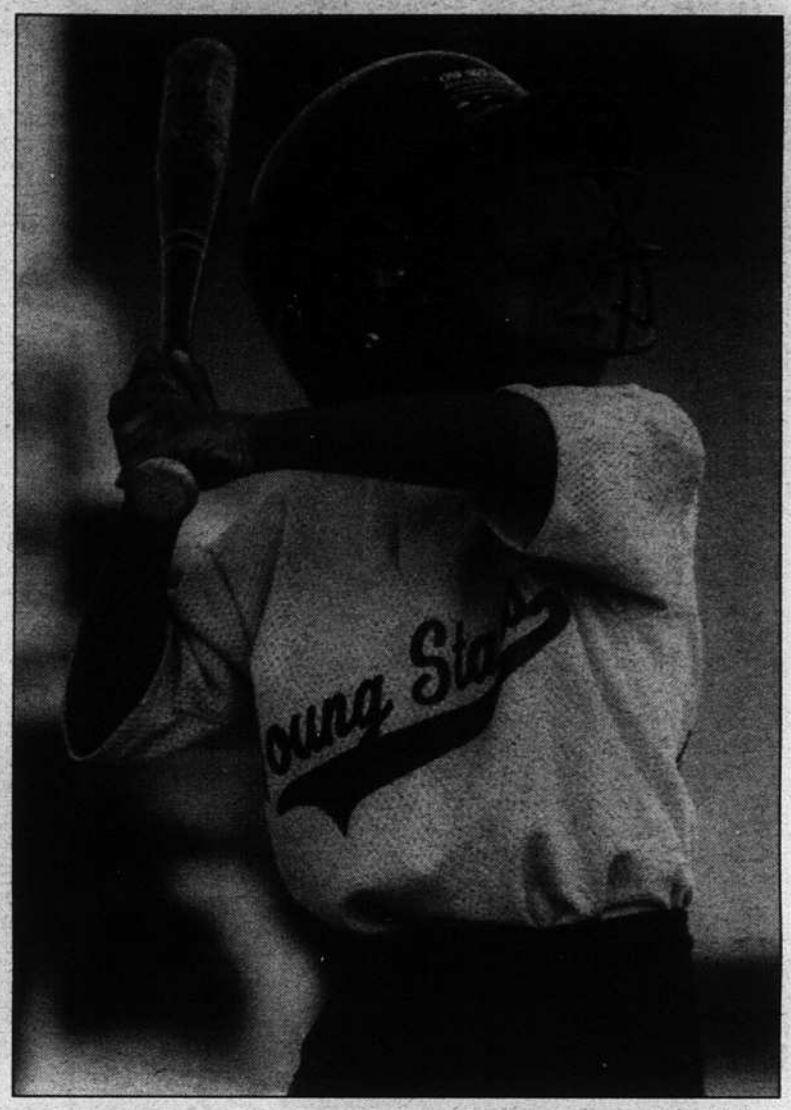
The Virgin Islands' best chance of winning an 11-12 Latin American Series came in 1992 when the St. Croix Plaskett East team finished second to the Dominican Republic.

In 1997, the St. Thomas East team beat Mexico in a preliminary round of the Latin American tournament. Mexico went on to win the Latin American Tournament and eventually became the Little League World Series champion.

The St. Thomas West had a top performance in 1995. The Hendricks West All Stars finished the preliminary round 5-0, but lost to the Dominican Republic in the semifinals. Later, officials charged that the Dominican Republic had competed with illegal players.

Each of the four Virgin Islands Charters will pick an All-Star Team at the end of the regular season. The St. Thomas East All Stars will play the St. Thomas West All-Stars for the St. Thomas championship. The St. Croix West All Stars will play the St. Croix East All-Stars for the St. Croix championship.

The St. Croix winner will take on the St. Thomas winner for a chance to represent the territory at the Caribbean Tournament.



Avis File Photo

A young Little Leaguer gets comfortable at the plate. Approximately 800 Virgin Islands youths compete in Little League.

Avis Sports

Youth Baseball

Standings

ST. THOMAS HENDRICKS WEST

As of 4/4/01

9-12 division

Marlins	10	0
Pirates	9	2
PALS	6	2
Twins	7	3
Indians	7	4
Rebels	6	6
Spurs	4	7
Archers	3	8
Slugggers	1	9
Diamondbacks	0	10

Weekly schedule

Thursday's game
Pals vs. Indians, 4;30 p.m.

Friday's game
Pirates vs. Sluggers, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday's games
Diamondbacks vs. Archers, 11 a.m.
Marlins vs. Rebels, 1 p.m.
Spurs vs. Pirates, 3 p.m.

Tuesday's games
Indians vs. Twins, 4:30 p.m.

ST. CROIX PLASKETT EAST

11-12 Division

Indians	6	0
Suns	3	4
Tigers	1	4
Brewers	0	2

9-10 Division

L'Il Indians	8	1
Suns	4	2
Stars	4	4
Lions	4	6
Mongoose Dem II	0	8

7-8 Division

Mets	6	1
Young Stars	3	4
Mongoose Dem	3	5
Suns	2	4

Leaders

ST. CROIX PLASKETT EAST

14-16 Division

1. Aquelino Ledesma, O'Cast	.636
Asim Shillingford, O'Cast	.636
3. Kevin McDougal, Tigers	.444
4. Martin Serrano, Expos	.400
5. Leon Lang III, O'Cast	.364
Darnel Phillips, O'Cast	.364
Jamel Shillingford, Tigers	.364
8. Leandro Reyes, Expos	.357
Dwayne Wesselhoft, Tigers	.357
10. Joel Torres, Expos	.300

11-12 Division

1. Akeem Graham, Indians	.684
2. Dwayne Williams, Suns	.500
3. Charles Bolling, Indians	.467
4. Warren Henry, Indians	.400
5. Clifford Joseph, Indians	.385
6. Amahlee Thompson, Suns	.385
7. Joel Marchena, Suns	.333
8. Dwayne Nesbitt, Suns	.333
9. Juan Cirilo, Suns	.278
10. Omari Eastman, Suns	.273

(9-10 Division)

1. Marcus Knight, L'Indians	.556
2. Michael Fleming, Suns	.529
Ikiedo Encarnacion, L'Indians	.526
Shakeel Newton, Indians	.526
5. Dodson James, Jr., Lions	.522
6. Leo King, L'Il Indians	.500
Malik Graham, L'Il Indians	.500
Waleem Felix, Suns	.500
9. Kahlil Simmonds, Lions	.455
10. Joshua Williams, Stars	.429

(7-8 Division)

1. Kaleem Fleming, Suns	.667
2. Joshua Torres, Mongoose Dem II	.636
3. Chaquille Joseph, Mets	.600
4. Clyde James, Suns	.571
5. Frank Wilson, Y Stars	.500
6. Melanesia Hendrickson, Mets	.400
Janeel Frontal, MD II	.400
8. Noel Chapparo, MD II	.500
Mark Knight, Mets	.333
10. Duryan Ebbesen, Mets	.333
11. Matthew Simaj, MD II	.306

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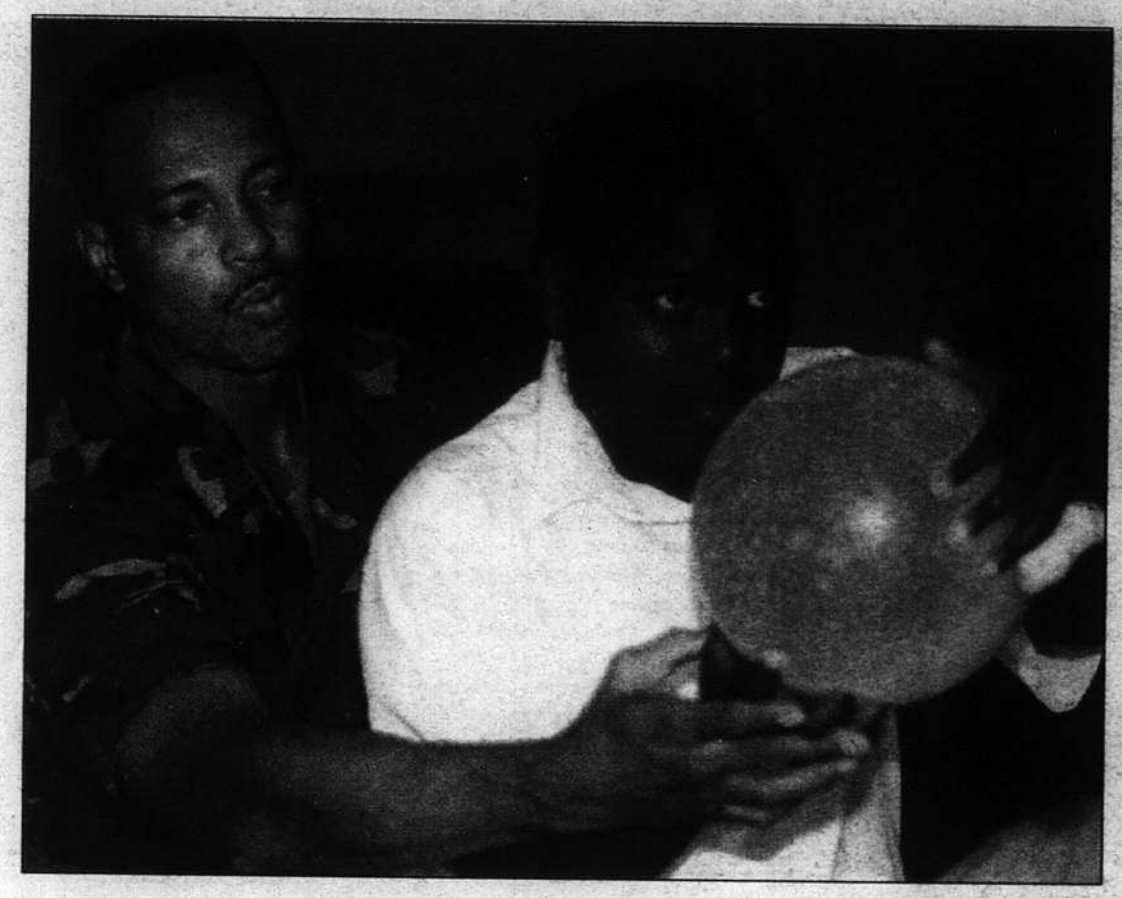
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SportsThursday

Today's weather



Ben Twingley

A helping hand

Assistant Boy Scout Master Augustin Webster gives Karswell George (11) a bowling lesson Wednesday at Tropical Ten Pins Inc. bowling alley.

Man Dem rules

AVIS STAFF

ST. CROIX — Man Dem, thrice on the verge of elimination from the St. Croix Men's Basketball League playoffs, completed an inspired run Wednesday night to come away champion once again.

Man Dem completed a four-game sweep of the upstart Hoyas thanks in part to an aging veteran who proved he has a lot of basketball left in him.

Series Most Valuable Player Keith Swanston scored 24 points, grabbed seven rebounds and dished out three assists as Man Dem came from behind to beat the Hoyas, 75-61, at the Arthur A. Richards gym in Frederiksted.

Man Dem has won seven straight playoff games after falling behind 0-2 in the semifinal series. With Swanston on the U.S. mainland, Man Dem lost the first two semifinal games to Guidance before winning three straight — while facing elimination.

After reaching the final, Man Dem trailed in every game but came back to overtake the Hoyas in the second half.

The same thing happened again on Wednesday. The Hoyas, which had a 35-31 advantage at intermission, led for most of the game until Man Dem came on strong in the later part of the second half.

Swanston, a past member of the Virgin Islands National Team, scored 16 points in the second half, and teammate Francis Romain had 11 of his 12 points in the second half. Man Dem veterans Raymond Armstrong and Dean Heywood had 12 and 11 points, respectively.

The Hoyas were making their first appearance in the championship. Kurt John led the way with 16 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots. Lenard Weeks added 16 points.

The Hoyas' Clifton James returned to the lineup for the first time since Game 1. The Hoyas played the series without defensive specialist Tyrone Woodly, who sprained his ankle in Game 1.

Boxer Brown spends time at local schools

ISAAC CAUSEY

ST. CROIX — Virgin Islands boxer Gilberto Brown, who will highlight Saturday's pro boxing card, has arrived on island and will spend today touring area schools.

Brown, a Virgin Islands Olympian living in Boston, will take on Puerto Rico's Danny Garcia in a 10-round cruiserweight bout on Saturday night at the Paul E. Joseph Stadium in Frederiksted.

Brown will make appearances today at the Alfredo Andrews Elementary School and will visit the Arthur A. Richards Junior High School.

Brown is 15-1-2 and is trying to position himself for a bout with Roy Jones Jr., considered by many as the best pound-per-pound boxer in the world. Brown has fought on national television and won the Massachusetts Golden Glove championship as an amateur.

Brown is one of three Virgin Islanders fighting on the card, dubbed Boxing In Paradise Homegrown.

Feliciano Cintron Jr. of St. Croix will take on Luis Villanueva of Puerto Rico in a 4-round 135-pound match and Crucian Antonio Nieves goes against Puerto Rican Josef Rosario in a four-rounder at 135 pounds.

The card will also feature two women's bouts.

Charles Lee wins Avis NCAA pool

AVIS STAFF

A Duke Blue Devil victory on Monday night made Charles "Dagger" Lee of St. Croix the winner of The Avis NCAA Tournament Pool.

Lee amassed 149 points and scored a perfect 32 points in each the semifinal and final rounds.

Lee, who is presently off-island on vacation, wins a two-night stay at the Divi Carina Bay Hotel and two three-month subscriptions to The Avis. Lee must give one of his subscriptions to a friend in the St. Thomas-St. John district.

"The Avis really enjoyed the many participants taking the time to play the March Madness Pool," said Rena Brodhurst, publisher of The Avis. "We hope Mr. Lee will enjoy his stay at The Divi and encourage others to play next year."

If Arizona had won on Monday night, Donna Cross would have emerged victorious. Cross and Lee each picked Duke and Arizona to play in the final. While Lee chose Duke to win, Cross picked Arizona to reign as champs.

Lee, like most of the other competitors, struggled in the first two rounds. Lee only picked 21 of 32 winners in the first round, but managed to pick three of the Final Four teams to come on strong in the final rounds.

