

Warner Takes On Favre In NFL Playoffs Page 36



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Victory hugs all around last night at the DP headquarters in Madame Estate. Party leader Commissioner Sarah Wescott-Williams (center) is surrounded by party members and prepares to get a hug from her husband Louie Wescott.

William Marlin biggest vote getter

DP wins close race, all time low turnout

PHILIPSBURG—The Democratic Party won yesterday's elections and two of St. Maarten's three seats in the new Parliament, but it was close and the voter turnout was 50 per cent, a record low.

The DP received a total of 4,425 votes, or 50.3 per cent, while the Alliance received 3,829 or 45.6 per cent. In the last elections of 1999 for the Island Council, the DP received 54 per cent of the votes and ended up with seven of the 11 seats.

National Alliance leader William Marlin was the biggest vote getter yesterday despite losing the election, with a total of 1,490 votes, compared to 1,367 votes for DP leader Sarah Wescott-Williams. Each received more than the other

in seven of the 14 voting districts.

Third biggest vote getter was National Alliance candidate number 3 Edgar Lynch with 526, followed by number 2 Vance James with 507.

Fifth was DP candidate number 4 Maria Buncamper-Molanus with

444, sixth DP number 10 Roy Marlin with 393, seventh DP number 3 Louis Laveist with 375, eighth DP number 2 Marcel Gumbs with 337, ninth DP number 7 Johan "Janchi" Leonard with 324, tenth DP number 11 Franklin Meyers

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Bittersweet, Marlin calls victory of DP

PHILIPSBURG—A bittersweet victory for the DP, the biggest vote-getter and number one on the National Alliance slate William Marlin called the results of the federal elections in St. Maarten.

"The Alliance has proven to be strong and it should be a bitter-sweet victory for the DP. The people have spoken, but they only won by a slight margin," Marlin stated after the last results came in.

Important now, however, is to focus on St. Maarten and to have its wish to leave the Antillean constellation executed. "Now the emphasis should be on what will happen to go on being divided. We have to form one united front," he said. In this sense he also mentioned Saba and St. Eustatius.



William Marlin

Marlin made clear that the Alliance "won't argue" with DP's appointing persons to ministerial posts. But, he added, "As long as we can present St. Maarten as one front." As such the task of Team DP is over, Marlin stated. "The

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Sarah: DP fought the good fight and won the battle

PHILIPSBURG—"We have fought a good fight, we have won the battle." With those words Democratic Party leader Sarah Wescott-Williams, surrounded by red and along with party supporters, revelled in the DP's victory in the 2002 Parliamentary Elections. The DP took two seats, leaving the National Alliance of the NPP and SPA with one seat.

Wescott-Williams thanked all of her fellow candidates, supporters and the DP youth wing. She told them they could take pride in knowing that the DP had won two seats against two other parties. Speaking from the balcony of the Government Administration Building, she reiterated that the team in St. Maarten would be under her leadership "just like the team in Curaçao will be under my leadership."

"When we celebrate this victory, we will be kicking off the campaign for 2003. And we will emerge

victorious from that too. Hopefully, the next time you take part in any such elections it will be to elect your first Prime Minister," she said.

"Thank you for being strong and having confidence in the DP. Many did not come out to vote, but those who did voted strong and made the difference," she added.

State Secretary Marcel Gumbs echoed the statements made by all DP candidates that the people had shown that they wanted the DP to take them into a new constitutional status. He said the party had a mandate to go out and achieve what it had already started out on. Gumbs stressed, however, that he expected the negotiations for the formation of the next Central Government to be a challenge.

"Looking at the results on the other islands, I can say it will not be an easy formation process. It's going to be an uphill struggle, but DP has the resources and the ex-

Continued on page 4.

FOL wins in Curaçao, final outcome unsure

WILLEMSTAD—The FOL party led by Anthony Godett won the elections in Curaçao, but the victory may be short-lived.

FOL received 18,983 votes, good for 5 seats. The PAR of outgoing Prime Minister Miguel Pourrier, now led by Etienne Ys, received 16,443 votes, good for 4 seats.

The PNP of Acting Prime Minister Suzy Camelia-Römer received 10,706 votes, good for 3 seats, while the PLKP of Senator Errol Cova received 9,695 votes, good for 2 seats.

The other seven parties did not

get enough votes for seat, including the MAN led by Kenneth Gijbersbertha, which fell just short with 4,174 votes and will be out of Parliament for the first time since it was founded by Don Martina.

The religious party ORDU, which obtained a seat in the Island Council in its first election in 1999, received 2,969, not enough for a seat in Parliament. The same thing goes for C-93 of Stanley Brown with 2,382, the Democratic Party led by Errol Hernandez 1,903, the P-100 273,

Continued on page 4.

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Today: Partly cloudy, occasionally cloudy, with a shower.

Winds: Mainly Easterly, 10 to 20 miles per hour, with higher gusts.

Sea conditions: Moderate to choppy, locally rough.

Waves: 4 to 6 ft, with occasional higher gusts.

Swells: 3 to 6 feet.

Waves: Easterly, 3 to 6 feet, in open waters up to 7 feet.

A small craft advisory is in effect for the Atlantic waters and open waters of the islands.

Barometric pressure: Above normal.

Barometric tendency: No significant change.

Forecast high: 29°C 84°F

Forecast low: 22°C 71°F

SYNOPSIS:

The Atlantic high pressure system continues to dominate the weather over the Eastern Caribbean, producing a fresh Easterly air flow. Satellite pictures yesterday showed patchy cloudiness moving Westward in this airflow. Seas are choppy along exposed coastal waters and open waters.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK: None.

SPECIAL FEATURES: None.

Outlook until Sunday midday: Partly cloudy and slightly breezy.

Rainfall probability: Less than 20 per cent.

Rainfall potential: No significant amount.

Sunrise: Saturday and Sunday, 6:47am.

Sunset: Saturday, 5:59pm; Sunday, 5:00pm.

Encouraging and yet some questions

If the result of yesterday's parliamentary elections reflected a democratically healthy and encouraging situation, the low voter participation did not. Arguments that many stayed away from the ballot box, because they fail to see any sense to vote in a national election since the island has opted to leave the Antillean constellation, are not convincing. The respective parties, unions and media have urged the electorate too insistently to come out and vote to make it acceptable that 50% stayed home for that reason. Seeing the trend of the most recent elections, one must fear that a growing number of people have lost their interest in the political process. For what reason is a question that deserves to be looked into. Democracy is not about a minority determining the future of a society.

The outcome of the exercise yesterday, on the other hand, was in itself promising. There was no violence, no intimidation and the opposition appeared strong enough to make it imperative for the ruling party to take its arguments seriously. This should benefit the public and promises an exciting year of political action in preparation of the 2003 Island Council elections.

The strong showing of the two female candidates on the DP slate confirms a rather profound development in St. Maarten's society. A development we applaud. The opposition should take notice. Mind you, not of our applause, but of the danger of not connecting with the emancipation of the local community.

For other reasons the ruling party should watch out for the same pitfall. For we suspect that the low turnout of voters is for a large part due to a lack of connection with our developing community.



SMART PLAY Winning Numbers CURAÇAO Robbie's Lottery

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ANIMAL AMBULANCE TEAM 542-0600

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ST. MAARTEN ZOO
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October-March 9 am - 5 pm.
Admission residents: Adults, \$3, kids \$1. Non-residents: \$5/\$2.

Cole Bay Community Center: meeting 1st, Tuesday of month at Sun Flower Kinder Garden School.

ROTARY meeting at Divi Little Bay Beach Resort every Wednesday at noon. Rotary Mid Isle meets every Tuesday 6-8pm. The Dail Surf & Turf Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 2nd level.

LIONS meeting at the Upper Princess Quarters Community Centre Lions Den in Sucker Garden every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8

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Frontstreet 7, Philipsburg, tel. 542-4917

Opening hours from March 1st:
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AIDS COORDINATOR Gloria Carter
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STAMARTIN ARMY UNIT
SALVATION ARMY UNIT, 59 Coké Bay, P.O. Box 826, tel. 545204, fax 547755. Sun 9:00am. Tue 7:00pm, Wed 6:30pm, Thu 7:00pm, Sat 4:00pm

ST. MAARTEN CHAPTER OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN holds

their general monthly meetings every third Monday at the Delta Hotel at 7:00 pm.

DIABETES INFORMATION CENTER, A.H. Illidge Road (behind Desktop/Niapa building) Free blood-glucose testing every Thursday from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

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CROSS (Center, Research, Organization, Rescue, Security) is on stand by 24 hours at 0596 709929.

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ROTARY meeting at Flamboyant Bay, Bona Baite every Thursday at 8 pm.

LIONS First and third Tuesday at Nardaille, Marigot at 7:30 pm.

KIWANIS: See St. Martin.

MUSEUM ST. MARTIN

Fencing the grand parking at Marina Royale - Marigot. Open from 9am-1pm/3pm-7pm. Tel. 29 22 84.

Agenda St. Maarten / St. Martin

St. Maarten fifth Caribbean hot spot among travel writers

PHILIPSBURG—A survey among 70 leading travel writers in the United States and Canada has revealed that St. Maarten comes in fifth as a Caribbean hot spot for the current winter season.

Commissioner responsible for Economic and Tourism Affairs, Theo Heyliger told the Government Information Service (GIS) this was a very positive development. He hopes it will translate into more visitors from the U.S. and Canada travelling to the island.

"This government is already pursuing various marketing and advertising campaigns that are financed by the emergency marketing funds provided by the Dutch Government. The campaigns also tar-

get the U.S. and Canadian markets, since it has come to our attention that travellers are looking at tourist destinations closer to home and the Caribbean is ideal in this respect," Heyliger explained.

The research placing St. Maarten in fifth place out of 30-plus Caribbean destinations was carried out by Edelman Public Relations based in Miami, Florida.

"Despite the challenges that we have faced and have been confronted with since we entered office in July 1999, this government has been able to keep the island near the top as one of the main destinations in the Caribbean."

"Besides being confronted with an empty financial chest left by the previous govern-

ment, the devastation left by Hurricane Lenny and a slowdown in the U.S. economy, resulting in a slowdown in our own economy, dealing with the aforementioned and moving forward with the execution of projects, programs and plans hasn't been an easy task. However, our determination and perseverance to move our nation forward have prevailed despite the challenges," Heyliger said.

He added that this demonstrated that the targeted promotion, public relations, marketing and advertising done over the past three years had kept the island in the top five. The 70 U.S. and Canadian travel writers in their publicity campaigns mainly focus on the Caribbean area. The region as a whole was ranked by them highest among destinations likely to attract visitors during the winter season.

Thirty per cent of the travel writers were of the opinion that travel was down due to the economic situation in America. Lower prices and special packages to the Caribbean were said to be the key in attracting visitors to the region.

"This government is working very diligently to promote our nation as an ideal tourist destination. We have faced many challenges during the past years. However, we will continue to work closely with our partners in the tourist sector."

"This cooperation is essential and necessary in order for our nation to grow economically. One of the steps taken is to convert close to one million cruise passengers who visited the island in 2001 into stay-over tourists. We need the cooperation of all stakeholders and organizations in order to make this a reality," Heyliger explained.

Close to 70 per cent of the travel writers believed one of the main challenges facing the Caribbean as a destination was the fact that many travellers were still scared to fly. Cost was another factor, as Caribbean destinations were perceived to be too expensive, while others pointed to the U.S. economy.



Two employees of the St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce and Industry—Esmena Richardson and Any Chan—laid a wreath at the site of the murder/suicide yesterday afternoon.

SUWA outraged at murder/suicide

PHILIPSBURG—The St. Maarten United Women Association (SUWA) expressed its outrage yesterday at the murder of Anneke Claudine Roach by her estranged boyfriend Cornelius Sprout.

SUWA President Sheryl Coram-Priest stated in a press release: "Yet another woman is taken from her child, her family, her friends. Yet another child had to witness the brutal murder of her mother by her father." She questioned, "How many more women have to die before the authorities recognize that there is a serious problem in our society?"

She added that parliamentarians must make this a priority, because violence against women has to be looked at as a serious crime and should be punished as such. Coram-Priest noted that a petition had been given to State Secretary Marcel Gumbs in January 2001 and that "he made all kinds of promises. Now, one year later, another woman is murdered by her lover and we have heard nothing of the petition, nor have any proposals been submitted to Parliament."

Coram-Priest pointed out that violence against women is a human rights violation

and it should be treated as such. She noted that violence against women has deep roots and that it cuts across all boundaries of culture, race class, religion, etc. and that it is on the increase.

According to Coram-Priest, society perceives it as acceptable and therefore sanctions it. "As a result, women live in constant fear. Every day girls and women are harassed, raped, battered and murdered. The culture of silence surrounding violence against women masks its presence and allows it to continue — a vicious cycle!" She said this cycle limits women's personal development and their ability to participate in public life.

UPB wins in Bonaire

BONAIRE—The UPB of Commissioner Ramonico Booi won the elections after a tight race in Bonaire, taking two of the island's three Parliament seats.

The UPB received 2,883 votes, while the DP-Bonaire of Jopie Abraham, which had two seats before, received 2,084.

Both Bonaire parties are now officially part of the

Broken down DCE plane leaves Sunday

AIRPORT—After being stranded at Princess Juliana International Airport for nine days due to a broken down engine, the plane of Dutch Caribbean Express (DCE) is scheduled to leave Sunday.

A team of five to six mechanics was flown in several days ago to start replacing the old engine with a new one that arrived early Thursday morning from Miami on Amerijet. The malfunctioning engine forced the MD-82 to return to St. Maarten shortly after departure on Friday a week ago.

Mechanics are currently attaching the new engine, which weighs approximately 6,000 pounds. For this a crane is used. "It is a long process to change all the lines," a source at the airport told The Daily Herald, partly explaining why it is taking so long. What also took some time was to find a new engine in the US.

After the engine had been installed and tested, the plane should be ready to leave Sunday, the source said. Even though DCE, formerly Air ALM, was missing one of its three MD-82s, the schedule miraculously wasn't affected. "The flight was not one day late," the source said.

The repaired plane will be flying back to Curaçao empty on Sunday with a crew that will come on an earlier DCE flight.



A Haitian national trapped in a pickup for more than an hour late last night after the driver lost control and the vehicle slammed into a big boulder that saved it from ending up in Simpson Bay Lagoon. Photo by John Halley.

Pickup runs off road, passenger trapped

SIMPSON BAY—A Haitian national was trapped in a pickup for more than an hour late last night after the driver lost control and the vehicle slammed into a big boulder that saved it from ending up in Simpson Bay Lagoon. Fire fighters had to use the jaws of life to free him.

The passenger, whose last name is Pierre, was taken to St. Maarten Medical Center with what appeared to be a broken left ankle and several deep cuts to his arms. The driver, Lucle Jean-Waldeman of Guadeloupe,

escaped without a scratch. The fire fighters had to use almost all the tools they had available to free the injured man, as both of his feet were trapped in a twisted fashion. The driver said he had had one rum-and-coke and they were taking Airport Boulevard to Sandy Ground, where he lives, when the lost control of the vehicle.

The brand new pickup had no licence plates and the driver told officers his licence and insurance papers were at home in Sandy Ground. The vehicle was a total loss.

Investigation continues Into murder and suicide

PHILIPSBURG—As detectives continued their investigations yesterday into Thursday's murder-suicide tragedy in town, police spokesman Geronimo Julliet said it was still not clear how many bullets had been fired by police officer Cornelis Sprott.

He said that contrary to statements previously given that Sprott had shot his estranged girlfriend Anneke Roach twice before turning the gun on himself, it now seems as though the victim was shot three times by Sprott, the father of her 8-year-old daughter.

A security guard who witnessed the shooting that took place on E.C. Richardson Street told police he had heard a shot and had come out from the Federal Receiver's Office to see what had happened. He saw Anneke running around a jeep in a bent over position, holding her stomach and crying. "He shot me."

He said he had then seen Sprott point the gun at Anneke and fire several more shots at her, after which she fell to the ground. "The police officer then walked back into the house and then I heard another shot go off," he said. The eyewitness said he had then seen a lady running away from the scene with a child who was screaming, "I want my mommy."

Meanwhile, this latest shooting incident has brought back memories of the death on July 9, 2001, of Curaçao Police officer Connie Burgzorg-West (29), who is shot several times in her chest by her detective husband Frits B. 35, who had more than 12 years in the

police force.

Again there were domestic problems and the wife moved out, taking her two children with her. Then, one day, following an argument the couple had, the husband shot her in the chest. However, unlike Sprott, he did not turn the gun on himself.

Also in the Curaçao case, senior officers were aware of the problems the couple had been experiencing, the wife having filed several complaints about abuse and having requested a transfer to another office.

After that shooting incident the president of the

police union asked for an urgent meeting with the police officers to help them deal with some of the social difficulties they experience. It was pointed out at the time that the fact that officers carry weapons gives a whole new dimension to their domestic problems.

Carnival Cruise Lines reservation call centers open 24 hours daily

PHILIPSBURG—Carnival Cruise Lines has announced that it will keep its reservation call centers in Miami and Colorado Springs open 24 hours a day seven days a week indefinitely, a decision with which Commissioner of Tourism and Economic Affairs Thejo Heyliger said he is pleased.

The decision was based on a record increase in reservation bookings for cruises—on January 14 individual guests made 28,001 bookings, according to a news release from the Government Information Service (GIS) on behalf of Commissioner Heyliger. "This high demand for cruises is a positive development for St. Maarten. I hope it translates into more cruise visits for this part of the Caribbean," said Heyliger.

He added, "I plan to follow up by looking into the possibilities of having more cruise vessels visit the island during the off-season between June and October. Due to the September 11 events in the U.S., cruise vessels have been transferred to the Caribbean because of security and safety issues. More ships in the

Caribbean translates into more voyages."

According to the Commissioner, with cruise bookings up, the opportunities that may be presented must be explored even during the off-season. "At the same time we will work with other parties in converting these cruise passengers into stay-over

tourists," Heyliger explained.

Dr. A.C. Wathey Cruise Facilities accommodated 875,384 cruise passengers up to December 11, 2001. Carnival Cruise Lines is a unit of Carnival Corporation, the largest and most popular cruise line in the world, with 16 ships.



DP's second biggest vote getter, Maria Buncamper-Molanus and her husband/campaign manager Claudius Buncamper.

DP's second biggest vote getter says wait and see

PHILIPSBURG—Maria Buncamper-Molanus, candidate number four on the Democratic Party's list, has adopted a wait-and-see attitude following the Central Government elections.

Buncamper-Molanus received 444 votes, 99 of which were received in district number 8, the St. Maarten Academy. Senator Louie Lavest received 375 votes and State Secretary Marcel Gumbs received 337 votes.

A very excited and emotional Buncamper-Molanus told The Daily Herald minutes after the results were in. "Right now I'm very happy that the Democratic Party once again, with Sarah at the head, has pulled

through another election and we have won two seats."

Although Buncamper-Molanus was very vocal prior to the elections about her desire to go to Parliament as a senator, she was very cautious following the results. She explained, "At this time both Sarah and Marcel are senators-elect. Sarah, of course, has already said she will decline the seat and so right now we will have Marcel and Louie Lavest who are actually going to Parliament. What will happen after that we just have to wait and see."

On behalf of herself and her family, she thanked all the persons who had placed their confidence in her.

FOL

Continued from page 1.

the PAN 117 and BBB-S 106.

Compared to the last Parliamentary elections of 1998, the FOL went up from two to five seats, the PAR and PNP stayed the same with respectively four and three seats, while the PLKP lost one of its three seats and the MAN both its two seats.

But while the FOL can certainly be considered the big winner, how the formation process in Curaçao will end remains a big question. The PNP and PAR have already indicated they do not want to work with FOL.

This would leave the PLKP as the only Curaçao coalition partner with Parliament seats. As such political observers are calling it a virtual tie between the FOL/PLKP with seven seats and the PAR/PNP, also with seven seats.

Some suggest a PAR/PNP/PLKP coalition is now likely,

although the PAR and PNP could get a majority in the 22-seat Parliament without the PLKP if they get support from at least five of the eight seats on the other islands, which is now already the case.

The FOL could also form a Central Government with PLKP and the other islands.

But it is generally considered "highly desirable" to have the same Curaçao parties in the federal as well as island level coalition, because political history has shown what kinds of problems can arise otherwise.

PAR and PNP together with the MAN currently have the majority in Curaçao's Island Council. For the FOL to take over at that level together with PLKP, it would need MAN to "jump ship" as well as the support of ORDU.

The voter turnout in Curaçao was at record low also, with 55.5 per cent.



Miguel de Weever, Head of the Economic Policy and Research Department, discussing the draft document entitled, "A new Approach Towards a Sustainable Development for St. Maarten," which details various policies the government will be pursuing. Among those attending the session at A.C. Wathey Legislative Hall Thursday were representatives of the St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce, the St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association (SHTA), business owners and representatives of the trade unions.

Sarah

Continued from page 1.

persive to get through," he said. He added that contact had already been made with the parties on the other islands and contact would be maintained with them.

Commissioner Roy Marlin thanked the 393 voters who had voted for him and the voters who had put their confidence in Team DP. "Despite all the setbacks during our governing period, the people have shown that the party has done a job that St. Maarten can feel proud of," he said.

He too said he expected tough negotiations with the parties willing to form the next government, but expected that every party in the Netherlands Antilles would respect St. Maarten's

wishes and comply with them.

Commissioner Michael Ferrier said he felt "absolutely fabulous" about the DP's victory. He said the campaign had also served as an experiment for him and Commissioner Franklin Meyers, who didn't put up one campaign poster. "We campaigned as a team and you see the results. People believe in this team. I thank everyone very, very much," he said.

DP campaign manager Erno Labega described the victory as a "very rewarding and hard fought." "We had to take on several leaders in one Alliance. The people still decided that Team DP is the best to prepare them to develop into a new country," he said.

Labega advised the general public to monitor the radio for hear updates on when and where Team DP will be holding its victory parade as well as its victory beach party. The party will most likely be held on Kim Sha beach.

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Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the 1st floor of the Airport
Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.
Coastguard NARA 113

SABA
Police Station
 The Bottom, tel. 163237
Emergency 112
Hot Line 108
Hospit
 The Bottom, tel.163288/163289
Clinic
 Windwardside, tel. 162228
Fire Department Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 162222
Landradio
 The Bottom, tel. 163211/135
WINAIR Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 162255
Taxi Service Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 160
Dental Clinic Building
 The Bottom, tel. 16311/16312/16313
Tourist Office
 Windwardside, tel. 162231

Harbour Office
 Fort Bay, tel. 163294
Saba Marine Park
 Fort Bay, tel. 163295
Nature & Hike Guide
 James Johnson
 The Bottom, tel. 163307
Service Club
 Saba Lions Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at Eugénie A. Johnson Center
Alcoholics Anonymous
 Windwardside, tel. 118229
Coastguard NARA 113

ANGULLA
EMERGENCY
Police 911
Hot Line 108
Ambulance 911
Police Station 497 2333
Police 497 2351
Dental clinic 497 2343
Radio Anguilla 497 2218
Tourism Department 497 2759
Crimstoppers 0800 777777
AIRLINES
 American Eagle 497 3501
 Winair 497 2748
 Lyden Air 497 2719
 Air Anguilla 497 2643
 Trans Anguilla 497 8900
COURIER SERVICE
 DHL 497 3400
 Federal Express 497 2719
 UPS 497 2239
SERVICE CLUBS

Rotary Club of Anguilla
 Breakfast meeting 9:00pm - 8:00 pm every Thursday.
Scorpianist International Day Care Centre
 4:30 pm 2nd Tuesday in each month. Tel: 497 3509
Lions Club
 The Valley Primary School 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 8:00 pm. Tel: 497 6259
National Council of Women
 Arts and Craft Centre 4:30 pm 1st Monday in month. Intra-island of Anguilla Meets every Friday at 3:15 pm, at the Albena Lake Hedge Comprehensive School

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Turnout percentage in Saba 81.1

Landslide victory for Ray and WIPM

SABA—The Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM) on Friday won the parliamentary elections in Saba with Ray Hassell the biggest vote-getter within his party and overall.

The turnout in Saba was 564 out of 678 eligible voters, or 81.1 per cent. Lt. Governor Antoine Solagnier told The Daily Herald last night.

He said WIPM had received a total of 380 votes, the Saba Labour Party (SLP) received 170 votes and 14 votes were invalid. SLP leader Ishmael Levenston was, at a far distance, the second biggest vote-getter on the island with 91 votes.

According to Lt. Governor Solagnier, the elections in

Saba were a very quiet affair and there were no problems at all. "Here and there I saw a cavalcade of two or three small cars."

Our correspondent in Saba said there were quite a few people, about 200, on the square in front of the Administration Building to listen to the reporting of the electoral results by Lt. Governor Solagnier.

At the end of his summing up of the results, WIPM supporters cheered and toured the island in a cavalcade honking their automobile horns.

According to Solagnier, WIPM party leader Ray Hassell received votes from 151 people in the district of

Windwardside and from 25 people in the district of The Bottom, making it a total of 176 for the current Senator.

His SLP opponent Ishmael Levenston won the most votes in the district of The Bottom with 60 votes (31 in Windwardside). He was followed by WIPM #4 candidate Lucia Woods with 52 votes, who placed second within her party with a total of 58 votes.

With a meager 7 votes (Windwardside 3 and The Bottom 4), current State Secretary Boyan, number 2 on the WIPM list, ended last within his party and will most likely lose his seat in Parliament.

Timeshare developers can secure deposits during cooling off period

PHILIPSBURG—The St. Maarten Timeshare Association (SMTA) is welcoming the news that timeshare developers will not be prevented from taking deposits during the cooling off period.

SMTA believes this will have a positive impact on the industry in St. Maarten and help the overall tourism outlook for the island. Efforts were being made to implement legislation for the Netherlands Antilles that dealt negatively with the timeshare industry. The European Commission prohibits developers from taking deposits during the cooling off period and this is said by SMTA to cause sales

to "the way down."

Since timeshare is a very small share of the pie in Curacao, SMTA was concerned that this legislation would be enacted, with little effect in Curacao, but with damaging results here.

A delegation led by SMTA Jim Rosen travelled to Curacao and lobbied for St. Maarten's interests with the judicial sector. According to press release from the association, State Secretary Marcel Gumbs lobbied his fellow Ministers and the parliamentarians to ensure that the interests of St. Maarten were considered.

The legislation was implemented at the beginning of this year and the negative aspect for the timeshare industry was not included in the

legislation.

"This is a major victory for our industry and for St. Maarten," the news release quoted Rosen as saying. "I wish to thank the individual resorts on St. Maarten, as well as Marcel Gumbs, for their support in this issue. This serves to illustrate that we need to participate in government on a federal level," Rosen added.

He noted that timeshare occupancies in St. Maarten had held up well in the aftermath of September 11, giving the island a core group of visitors. He also announced that SMTA is working on its own version of a cruise ship conversion program and is just waiting for final approval from several of the officials to be try the program.

Will wants minister post for WIPM Saba

SABA—The Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM) will be seeking the post of Minister of Interior Affairs, Commissioner Will Johnson said in an interview with the Saba Government Information Service (SGIS).

He pointed out that the constitutional issue had to be resolved once and for all, as all other issues were linked to it, such as economics and finances.

"All five Windward Islands Senators should get together to discuss the formation process. I strongly believe in the three islands' forming block. Two informants should also be appointed, one serving our islands and the other Curacao and Bonaire," according to Johnson.

Marlin

Three Senators who go to Curacao must represent our island in the best interest."

The Alliance, Team St. Maarten, is going to the drawing board next week, Marlin said—focus on what's important. He also remarked that there might be a clash of the agendas in Curacao. There will be a shift in leadership and that too might have an effect on the process of forming a new government, he noted. Asked how he felt to be the biggest vote-getter, he said: "I want to first thank all people who placed their trust in me. It is a great honour to get that confidence. That also places a big burden on my shoulders. People expect me to step up to the plate and I will do my 'best' deliver."

He added that he still la-

Continued on page 1.

mented the fact that the DP didn't wanted to join forces and form one slate for the federal elections. "The campaigning we shouldn't have had. Energy should have been put into focusing on what is really important: St. Maarten's separate status."

In closing, Marlon thanked his son, his wife—"my campaign manager who took care of my process of forming a I couldn't always be there"—and his two daughters. He made special mention of SPA's Deputy Leader and number three on the slate Edgar Lynch, who helped to reel in the largest voting district, Dutch Quarter, and candidate nine Hyacinth "Brother" Richardson, whom he called a young man with a great personality.



Acting Lt. Governor Carmen Suarez-Mars and her husband in the voting bureau.

Turnout 72.2 per cent

Stations vote Clyde out of Parliament

ST. EUSTATIUS—Julian Woodley's Democratic Party (DP) won the parliamentary elections in St. Eustatius on Friday with 419 votes. This means that current Senator Clyde van Putten, although with 259 votes still the biggest vote-getter on the island, will not return in the new Parliament.

His Progressive Labour Party (PLP) placed second with 346 votes, the St. Eustatius Alliance (SEA) led by Ingrid Houtman-Whitfield ended third with 139 votes and the St. Eustatius Action Movement (SAM) of former Minister of Constitutional Affairs Nora Sneek-Gibbs placed fourth and last with a total of 75 votes.

"The atmosphere is jubilant," Joshua Spanner, the #4 candidate on the DP slate, told The Daily Herald said last night. "Call me back later," he said. "Right now I am in a motorcade."

"Most likely Julian Woodley has won. He is the most popular and party leader," he added before actually taking off with his party members in the motorcade around the island.

According to our correspondent in St. Eustatius, a total of 1,005 votes were counted, of which 26 votes were invalid. As the number of eligible voters was 1392, the turnout was calculated at 72.2 per cent. Later yesterday night our St. Eustatius correspondent reported that DP leader Julian Woodley with 419 votes was indeed the biggest vote-getter for his party and his co-member in the Island Council Roy Hooker had placed second with 131 votes.

Current Commissioner and SEA party leader Ingrid Houtman-Whitfield received 77 votes and current State Secretary Maria Bass of the PLP party had 16 votes.

Nora Sneek-Gibbs, #1 on the SAM slate, ended with 27 votes.

"Thank you, thank you voters," Public Relations Officer Ebbe Schmidt of the winning DP party called out, telling this newspaper that the voting on her island had gone very well and that it had been quiet, peaceful and orderly in Oranjestad and surroundings during the balloting.



HAUL-OUT-SPECIAL

Bobby's Marina
 is celebrating the installation of its
new 50 metric ton travel lift

situated inside the Simpson Bay Lagoon. Come discuss with us your haul-out requirements.

Call "Boat Yard" VHF ch. 14
 or phone: 559 8214 / 557 7036

Results of the 2002 Parliamentary Elections

Districts		L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium	Sundici School	Genevieve de Weever School	Sr. Marie Laurence School	Community Centre Zorg & Rust	Milton Peters College	St. Peters Hillside School	St. Maarten Academy	Celebration Palace	Road Ridge Sports Complex	Leonard Connor School	Leonard Connor Dependence	Sr. Regina School	Huis van Bewaring	Total
N.D.P.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N.D.P.																
1. Priest, T.F.		2	5	3	1	3	7	4	8	2	1	2	3	1	0	42
D.P.																
D.P.																
1. Wescott - Williams, S.A.		118	84	89	123	168	123	102	121	92	58	125	95	69	3	1367
2. Gumbs, M.F.A.		20	38	21	52	23	25	13	39	11	15	27	18	17	18	337
3. Laveist, L.E.		24	11	12	38	26	42	20	17	24	8	89	55	9	0	375
4. Buncamper - Molanus M.J.		28	22	29	26	36	33	53	100	23	21	29	23	21	1	444
5. Brookson, H.H.		10	7	5	28	14	11	7	11	12	23	9	9	14	0	160
6. Richardson, G.P.K.		12	7	13	13	9	16	9	7	4	7	25	9	2	0	133
7. Leonard, J.E.		40	23	34	23	62	19	18	20	21	12	17	25	10	2	324
8. Brown, R.L.L.		8	7	6	12	10	7	6	14	11	32	13	7	7	0	140
9. Ferrier, M.J.		22	22	13	13	7	9	16	27	7	16	26	14	45	0	237
10. Marlin, R.R.		19	78	37	36	39	32	19	23	23	24	15	25	13	0	393
11. Meyers, F.A.		21	9	53	56	35	32	23	22	21	8	17	10	8	6	315
Total		322	308	312	420	429	349	286	399	249	224	392	290	215	30	4225
N.A.																
N.A.																
1. Marlin, W.V.		101	70	148	110	173	247	129	119	119	90	115	106	19	5	1490
2. James, V.W.		45	30	36	22	52	39	35	52	56	38	40	49	13	1	507
3. Lynch, E.H.		18	18	38	50	226	23	31	22	25	20	32	19	4	2	526
4. Deher, L.M.A.		14	18	19	15	16	10	7	6	6	10	7	9	5	0	142
5. Tuitt, R.S.		8	14	18	11	13	20	20	16	7	7	13	7	7	1	161
6. Samuel, R.E.		20	16	85	42	26	30	14	16	9	4	10	9	0	0	281
7. Priest, L.F.		12	37	11	11	18	19	10	8	14	4	2	3	1	2	150
8. Patrick, F.S.		3	0	3	12	5	3	0	2	3	5	24	9	0	0	69
9. Richardson, H.L.		21	17	16	16	26	28	97	18	21	9	19	14	1	0	304
10. Halley, A.M.		2	3	7	3	2	8	9	12	4	3	6	28	1	0	88
11. Arrindell, G.J.		6	4	8	3	11	9	17	10	7	11	15	7	3	1	111
Total		250	227	389	295	569	436	369	269	215	201	283	260	54	12	3829
Total eligible votes		1210	1236	1440	1468	1951	1558	1367	1332	987	939	1406	1308	671	62	16935
Total cast votes		599	562	724	752	1040	811	677	697	486	432	706	583	281	43	8393
Total valid votes		574	540	704	716	1001	792	659	676	466	426	677	553	270	42	8069
Total blank votes		9	7	4	28	11	6	6	13	8	4	10	7	2	0	115
Total invalid votes		16	15	16	8	28	13	12	8	12	2	19	23	9	1	182

- 1 District 1**
L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium, Long Wall Road - Philipsburg
- 2 District 2**
Ch.E.W. Voges Street #12 - Philipsburg
- 3 District 3**
Genevieve de Weever School, Hope Estate Road - Bov. Pr. Kwartier
- 4 District 4**
Sr. Marie Laurence School, Ellis Drive #1 - Middle Region
- 5 District 5**
Conference & Community Center, Zorg en Rust - Ben. Pr. Kwartier
- 6 District 6**
Milton Peters College, L.B. Scott Road - Reward
- 7 District 7**
St. Peters Hillside School, Grapefruit Road - St. Peters

- 8 District 8**
St. Maarten Academy, L.B. Scott Road - Cul-de-Sac
- 9 District 9**
Celebration Palace, Bush Road Cul-de-Sac
- 10 District 10**
Raoul Hillidge Sports Complex, Welgelegen Road - Cay Hill
- 11 District 11**
Leonard Connor School, Union Road - Cole Bay
- 12 District 12**
Leonard Connor Dependence, Windsor Road - Cole Bay
- 13 District 13**
Sr. Regina School, Simpson Bay Road #62 - Simpson Bay
- 14 District 14**
Huis van Bewaring, Mountain Dove Road #48 - Pointe Blanche

Results of the 2002 Parliamentary Elections - ST. EUSTATIUS

	District	Gertrude Judson Bicentennial Library on Fort Oranje Street
S.E.A.		
S.E.A.	1. Houtman - Whitfield, I.F.	77
	2. Brown, L.M.	09
	3. Schmidt, B.O.	09
	4. Houtman, C.J.	16
	5. Henriquez, E.J.	19
	6. Jack - Roosberg, C.L.B.	09
	Total	139
D.P.		
D.P.	1. Woodley, J.C.A.	187
	2. Hooker, R.J.M.	131
	3. Simmons, E.C.	41
	4. Spanner, P.W.	10
	5. Heyningen van, A.P.	03
	6. Berkel, R.A.	47
Total	149	
P.L.P.		
P.L.P.	1. Putten van, C.I.	259
	2. Bass, M.P.	16
	3. Brown, F.A.	18
	4. Hooker, D.W.H.	14
	5. Tearr, W.R.	13
	6. Spanner - Rahawarin, M.A.M.	09
	7. Courtar, L.A.	10
	8. Redan, M.R.	05
	9. Demming, E.M.	02
Total	346	
S.A.M.		
S.A.M.	1. Sneek - Gibbs, L.V.	27
	2. Pandt, D.E.	26
	3. Francis, M.A.U.	17
	4. Lopes, M.A.	04
	5. Timber - Glover C.G.E.	01
	Total	75
Total eligible voters		1392
Votes cast 1005, invalid votes 26, valid votes 979		

Results of the 2002 Parliamentary Elections - SABA

	District	The Bottom	Windward Side	Total
W.I.P.M.				
W.I.P.M.	1. Hassell, J.R.	25	151	176
	2. Smith, H.R.	03	04	07
	3. Blackman, X.S.G.	20	14	34
	4. Woods, L.J.	52	06	58
	5. Victoria, W.A.	14	12	26
	6. Hassell, R.E.V.	12	27	39
	7. Levenstone, D.K.	29	11	40
Total	155	225	380	
S.L.P.				
S.L.P.	1. Levenstone, I.M.A.	60	31	91
	2. Hassell, J.E.	02	04	06
	3. Nicholson - Linzey, S.A.	20	05	25
	4. Whitfield, P.W.	05	02	07
	5. Johnson, D.J.	02	10	12
	6. Johnson, M.A.	05	08	13
	7. DeRoche - Johnson, H.M.	15	01	16
Total	109	61	170	
Total eligible voters		344	334	678

Tourism officials return from promotions in Cancun

MARIGOT—A delegation of more than twenty persons has returned from Cancun, Mexico, where they represented St. Martin at the CHA Marketplace January 13-16.

According to Director of the Tourist Bureau Bernadette Davis, this visit was very crucial, but she was satisfied with the outcome and response received from tour operators and other incentive agents.

St. Martin's delegation also included first Deputy Mayor Jean-Luc Hamlet, who was invited to give buyers more confidence and assure them that the present administration had tourism high on its agenda in terms of sustainable development projects. "We need to give these buyers the assurance that we are serious about tourism and partnership in tourism," Davis said in a statement.

On the question of St. Martin's image being tainted



Bernadette Davis and Olivier Louis

by the Electricité de France (EDF) strike and other social unrest, Davis responded, "It would be a shame after all the hard work that has been done in all parts of the world for us to join the mentality of Martinique and Guadeloupe with their series of strikes."

She said she hoped St. Martin would not find itself in a similar situation Martinique, which American Eagle left because of similar problems. "If American Airlines stops

coming to St. Martin our tourism industry would certainly be heading downhill," she added.

Another of Davis' biggest concerns was to find funds to do proper marketing. She hoped to submit a project to the Regional Council, as requested by Council President Lucette Michaux-Chevry, seeking funds for tourism promotion and marketing.

Davis said they had used the opportunity to reassure buyers that these trends were just a phase, but every effort was being made to preserve stability on the island. She said the Cancun show had been very interesting, because it was only open to professionals and this year they had appointments every 20 minutes.

According to her St. Martin did itself proud and one of the highlights of its participation was a joint press conference of the offices of both the Dutch and French sides. She said they had sought to once again bring the point across that St. Martin was one country and both administrations were making efforts to develop the product and promote one destination.

Davis was extremely happy with the large number of hoteliers who formed part of the delegation. "This shows that we can all move the country forward with concerted efforts we can all make things happen," she said.

She said one of their aims at this show had been to meet more tour operators, especially those from the American West Coast, in an effort to attract more business to the country. The tourism officials said they had spent a lot of time meeting tour operators from Holland, Switzerland and London, but these contacts were handled by Olivier Louis, who heads St. Martin's tourist office in Paris.

DP Wins

Continued from page 1.

with 315 and eleventh National Alliance number 9 Hyacinth Richardson with 304.

The National Alliance, a joining of the St. Maarten Patriotic Alliance (SPA) and the National Progressive Party (NPP) for this parliamentary election, won 4 of the 14 districts: Milton Peters College and Hillside School, both in St. Peters, Dutch Quarter Community Center and Geneveuve de Weever School in Upper Prince's Quarter.

The DP won the other 10, including the prison, where State Secretary in charge of the Antilles prison system Marcel Gumbs, DP candidate number 2, was the highest vote getter with 18.

It was one of only two districts where someone else than one of the two party leaders won. The other was Dutch Quarter, where National Alliance number three Edgar Lynch was the biggest vote getter with 226.

The National Democratic Party was not a factor with a total of just 42 votes going to its sole candidate Theophilus Priest.

But the biggest story is perhaps the extremely low turnout, an average 50 per cent and in one district as low as 42 per cent. Candidates of both parties expressed concern and attributed it to earlier expressions that St. Maarten should not participate in these federal elections because it wants to step out of the Antilles.

Observers, however, point to the absence of the biggest

vote getter in the last election, Theo Heyliger, from the DP list.

Alliance leader William Marlin has indicated he will go to Parliament, but which of the DP candidates will occupy the party's two seats is not entirely clear. DP leader Sarah Westcott-Williams has indicated she will not go to Parliament and will remain Leader of Government at the island level.

Number 4 candidate Maria Buncamper-Molanus campaigned hard and did well with 444 votes, but numbers 2 and 3, Marcel Gumbs and Louie Laveist, would be next in line to occupy the two seats, unless one of them steps aside or gets an executive position in the new Central Government. Gumbs has already said he prefers Parliament, however.

Also notable is that National Alliance number 3 and deputy leader of the SPA Edgar Lynch has surpassed number 2, NPP leader Van James, as the third biggest vote-getter.

With the Island Council elections just a little over a year away, it will be interesting to follow the political developments in the months to come.

Parliamentary Elections 2002



Chairman of the Main Voting Bureau Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards, accompanied by the Director of his cabinet Ligia Stella and Police Chief Commissioner Derrick Holiday, personally inspected all 14 voting stations in the morning. Here they are district 14: the Pointe Blanche prison.



Above: National Alliance candidate #2 Vance James poses in a group picture with his family shortly after casting his vote at Celebration Palace.

At left: The National Democratic Party's leader and sole candidate Theophilus Priest talks to the media yesterday.



F.S. Patrick, #8 on the National Alliance list, stands with members of his family and a few supporters outside voting district 11—Leonard Connor School in Cole Bay.



DP candidate #8 Rupert "Major" Brown and DP supporters at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex.



Candidate #4 on the DP slate Maria Buncamper-Molanus (in red cap, left) at St. Peters Hillside School.



Candidate #9 Michael Ferrier and his "DP-mobile."



Commissioner Will Johnson (sitting) and Senator Ray Hassell of the WIPM party (Saba) checking voters' lists at one of Saba's poll stations.



Lt. Governor of Saba, Antoine Solagnier, casting his ballot.



DP candidate #7 Johan "Janchi" Leonard leading his motorcade through the various districts.

Parliamentary Elections 2002



Leader of government and DP Leader Commissioner Sarah Wescott-Williams and her family head to the polls together to cast their ballots in the 2002 parliamentary elections. The family voted at Leonard Connor School in Cole Bay.



Above: Candidate #11 on the National Alliance slate Greg Arrindell (3rd from left) surrounded by supporters at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex.



A rare sight in these elections: people waiting in line to vote at Milton Peters College.



At Right: William Marlin, #1 on the National Alliance slate, and his wife Gabrielle casting their votes at Milton Peters College.



Commissioner Theo Heyliger (left), National Alliance candidate #7 Lenny Priest (2nd from left) with supporters at Sundial School.



Voting at St. Peters Hillside School.



DP's Deputy Leader Marcel Gumbs taking his mother to vote at Sister Marie Laurence School.



John Padget visited schools in Curaçao to meet the youngsters making use of his initiative to donate computers.

Computer donors follow up at Curaçao's schools

WILLEMSTAD—Donating computers to schools sounds wonderful, but the donors want to be assured the students actually learn something. That is why entrepreneur John Padget made a follow-up visit to the schools, as announced at the handing over of the computers.

During this visit to the schools, the business partners of Kura Hulanda Hotel owner Jacob Gelt Dekker also looked for more possibilities to donate computers.

Director Jay Havisser of Jacob

Gelt Dekker institute, which supports the project, stated, "These donations are an expression of trust towards the youth on the island."

Through a pre-selection process, executed in cooperation with the government, Padget selected seven schools that needed computers most. The 100 PCs, made available by the ABN AMRO in Amsterdam, were distributed among these schools.

They signed a contract which required them to maintain the donated computers and put

them to good use. Padget visited St. Josef Technical School and was happy to see the way everyone was enthusiastic and animated about the computers.

He also went to three other schools later. The idea is to ship more computers this way. Commissioner David Dick, who used to work for ABN AMRO, will assist.

Havisser: "We want a guarantee that the computers will be put to good use. This is possible if the schools write clearly outlined policies and agree to maintain the computers."

The Institute for Cultural Studies makes a competition of the requests for computers. They do not only want to promote development in computer use; they also want the educational system to be more aware business-wise.

Saba man who threatened to ignite gas cylinder on trial

PHILIPSBURG/SABA— "It was bluff," M.P.J.R. from Saba told Judge Stephan van Lieshout in the Court of First Instance.

At the New Year celebrations, R. had scared a lot of people who were gathered near the Chinese restaurant by taking out a fireworks show, by wacking out a gas cylinder, putting a sheet over the valve and threatened to open it to set the "gas bomb" afire or have it explode.

At a given moment R., who reportedly had a serious drinking problem, could not hold on to the gas cylinder

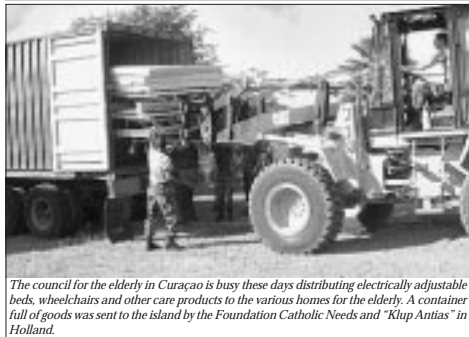
any longer and it fell to the ground. To everybody's relief R. was arrested and taken to St. Maarten the next day.

Lt. Governor Antoine Solagnier told the press later that he had been very upset about the incident and mentioned it again when he complained about the shortage of police staff on the island. Prosecutor Eric van Sloten, who demanded 18 months for R., said the suspect's girlfriend had told police R. had told her he wanted to kill himself because of his drinking problem.

Defense lawyer Boris den Hartog, a former engineer, said it was next to impossible that the gas cylinder would have caught fire, while it was highly unlikely that it would have exploded, because of Saba's strong prevailing wind.

"At no given moment had the suspect wanted an explosion. Therefore, he is not guilty of what he has been charged with," Den Hartog said pleading for acquittal for his client.

Judge Stephan van Lieshout will hand down a verdict on January 30.



The council for the elderly in Curaçao is busy these days distributing electrical adjustable beds, wheelchairs and other care products to the various homes for the elderly. A container full of goods was sent to the island by the Foundation Catholic Needs and "Klup Antias" in Holland.

Yes, we're on the web!

www.thedailyherald.com

RNG Adventure Nightclub to host after-election party

ILLIDGE ROAD—RNG Adventure Nightclub will host a tremendous after-election party for the 18- to 80-

plus, today, Saturday from 11:00pm until sunrise. Public Relations officer Raymond Janga told The Daily Herald Friday.

Featuring at the party will

be DJ Babyface Jones and The Zouk Master DJ X-Ray, with guest DJ Sunrise J.

"From midnight to 1:00am there will be US \$1 off on all drinks. Come on time and enjoy yourself, but when you drink, don't drive," Janga said.

THE SAFE HAVEN FOUNDATION IS LOOKING FOR A PART TIME SECRETARY

SAFE HAVEN is looking for a mature secretary who would like to join the small working team at SAFE HAVEN.

This person would be required to carry out the administration duties of the office. If you are considering to apply for this position you must take into consideration the confidentiality aspect and high security risks this position entails. Hours will be from 2:30pm-7:30pm. Five days per week.

If you have the following qualifications please apply by dropping off your application information at The Daily Herald with number 33 clearly stated on the envelope.

Must have own transportation
 Must be computer literate
 Must have secretarial skills
 Antillean preferred
 Spanish and French asset

Please include two references of past employment and a hand written letter informing us why you applied for this position.



Hello,
 My name is Coca,
 I'm a mixed Bosseron,
 about 18 months old,
 with a little heart full
 of love but no one to
 give it to.
 If you have some
 love to give me,
 I'll have tons for
 you in return.
 For more info,
 call the Animal
 Hospital, 544 4111.

Vexed at Carnival Development Foundation

Calypso Barbara to organise her own registration for Junior Calypso Show

PHILIPSBURG—"Calypso" Barbara Nisbeth, President of the Junior Calypso Foundation which she founded in 1978, is vexed with the St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation (SCDF).

After having organized the Junior Calypso Competition during all these years, she said SCDF had

now taken it away from her. "No matter what SCDF has done, I have not started registration as yet and will not start it until February 11," she emphasized.

According to Calypso Barbara, SCDF in a letter to the Junior Calypso Foundation dated December 3, 2001, stated that the Junior Carnival Calypso Competition

was, had always been and always would be the property of SCDF.

This, she said, was the reason that she was vexed with SCDF. "I created it at my house and when it went too big, I took it to Plaza. My son Rene Junior Wilson was four years old when he won the crown and defended it for seven years. Everybody knew him as KingKoto. This thing is in my heart and in my soul and nobody is going to take it away from me."

Saying this, she handed over the documents of the Junior Calypso Foundation and pointed to the article that states, among other things, that the foundation has the purpose to organize calypso contests in general and to do everything else to promote calypso as a form of art, and to support qualifying youngsters in the development and execution of their stage performances and to represent the Junior calypsonians in other committees organizing calypso contests.

This, she said, is proof that she has the law on her side and she is prepared to go to court to defend her rights.

When contacted about the matter, SCDF President Fabiana Arnell told The Daily Herald that what Barbara Nisbeth had not told the newspaper was that over the years SCDF had always paid her to organize the Junior Carnival Calypso Competition, to purchase the trophies, pay the band and for other expenses as well.

Arnell said she really did not understand why Nisbeth was angry with SCDF. "Nothing has changed and we have repeatedly told her that we are comfortable with the status quo."

The SCDF President stressed, however, that if Nisbeth persisted in her intention to hold her own registration for a Junior Calypso Show, that show would not be allowed to take part in the 2002 Junior Carnival Calypso Competition. "She will have to do her show prior to or after it," Arnell said.

Hospital lifts lien on Bonaire government

BONAIRE—The Mariadal foundation which operates Bonaire's San Francisco Hospital has lifted its lien placed on the income of the Island Government at the Island Receiver's office.

The foundation and the Island Government are

again discussing payment of the 1.3 million guilders owed to the hospital. The foundation explained that it cannot pay the salaries at the end of January.

The head of the Department of Finance made a payment schedule proposal which was rejected. The hospital made a counterproposal, which the Executive Council approved.

The first cheque was handed to the foundation and the lien lifted after government agreed to authorize the bank to make two more payments of 250,000 and 200,000 guilders by the end of the month.

Opposition member Robbie Beukenboom said government keeps imposing financial problems upon organizations and persons in the community.

"The problems with Fundashon Mariadal seem solved, but there are a lot of others anxiously awaiting their payments," he said.

According to the DP councillor, the financial troubles caused by coalition parties UPB and Paboso will give Bonaire a bad reputation. He also referred to drivers of school buses who have not been paid for the last two months and several teachers, amongst them those from Curaçao, who have not received their salaries for some months now.

Contract signed for high voltage network

WILLEMSTAD—The Curaçao power company Aqualetra has signed a US \$20 million contract for the enhancement of its high-voltage network.

The project will be financed through a loan from the German development bank "Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau" in Frankfurt and executed by Alstom. Alstom is a French energy company, but for this project is using its German branch GmbH.

The current 30 kilovolts available to Aqualetra is not enough to handle the Build Own & Operate power plant being constructed at the Isla oil refinery, to be operational in 2003.

The voltage will be increased to 86 kilovolt. The project should be completed by January 2003.



A wedding under the trees was the childhood dream of Gisela in Curaçao and it came true. The "Kabouterbos" woods, managed by the Nature Foundation Caribbean Marine Biology Institute Carmabi and often used for picnics, was chosen and decorated for the occasion as she tied the knot with Clayton Lanoy.

Cabinet presents resignation in connection with elections

WILLEMSTAD—In connection with the elections for the Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles, Prime Minister Miguel Pourier on Thursday presented his resignation and that of the ministers and state secretaries of his Cabinet to

Governor-General Jaime Saleh.

As is the custom, the Governor-General said he would consider the request and called upon the cabinet members to continue their duties in the meantime in the interest of the Netherlands Antilles and to continue working with him until a decision had been taken concerning the resignation request.

This means that the Central Government nos has a caretaker status and is not expected to take any major policy decisions which affect the future of the country, pending the forming of a new Cabinet.

Pourier will not return and has stepped down as leader of the PAR party. He dismissed speculations that he might be the successor of Saleh, saying he wants to fill in his own time and as governor you can't do that.

The prime minister looks back with satisfaction. He

wished his successor much luck, especially with the constitutional realities.

"You need all your tact to achieve that the Island Territories serve the general interest of the country," he said.

Pourier feels that during his two tenures with an interruption of 16 months, a foundation was laid for durable economic growth and the management of public finances.

He said the Antillean guilders had been close to devaluation when he took office and is now "solid as a rock." He hopes the next government does not spoil all what has been achieved.

Pourier admitted that he had not managed to do all he set out to, but said he had worked hard with a clean conscience and had considered serving his country a great honour.

Slight drop cruise tourism in Aruba

ARUBA—In 2001, 298 cruise ships visited Aruba, bringing a total of 487,289 passengers and 203,805 crew members to the island.

In 2000 there were 331 visits, bringing 490,005 passengers and 210,811 crew members.

Despite this drop of 0.5 per cent, the Cruise Tourism Authority is satisfied, considering the negative impact of the 9-11 tragedy and the following days.

For this year 308 visits have been scheduled so far, with some 535,000 passengers, based on an average occupation of 90 per cent.

A cruise tourist spends an average of 100 dollars in stores and for tours around the island. The total contribution from the sector to the economy is estimated at 85 million florins per year.

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AVP walks out of Parliament meeting

ARUBA—The Parliament of Aruba was the scene of a clash between the ruling party MEP and the opposition party AVP earlier this week.

One of the items on the agenda was a motion, submitted by the AVP, concerning people who had been employed by the former AVP/OLA government and had been dismissed by the incoming MEP administration.

The people involved constituted a considerable portion of the public at the meeting. In the course of the meeting they were unable to contain

their emotions and became very aggressive, until finally the President decided to have one person removed.

Thereupon the AVP faction abandoned the meeting.

Already during the first round, the public made its presence known. Loud expressions of disapproval were voiced when MEP faction members were maintaining that the dismissals were based on reasonable grounds and therefore need not be withdrawn. The AVP speakers received shouts of support and applause.

Usually the President of Parliament issues two warnings if the public is unruly. If there is shouting or applause for a third time, the hecklers are removed.

MEP faction leader Edwin Jacobs and AVP faction leader Mike Eman are both of the opinion that president Frido Croes had been extremely tolerant. In spite of all the unrest he allowed the meeting to continue and the public to remain.

He did warn time and again that the assembly needed to be conducted more quietly.



The MEP faction in Parliament visited Aruba's dump this week to inform themselves on the processing of garbage on the island. They heard that Minister in charge of Environmental Affairs Booshi Wever wants to put out the fire which constantly rages on the dump as soon as possible and make the garbage flow more manageable. The plan requires an investment of some 10 million florins.



The Analytic Diagnostic Centre, formerly the federal laboratory, has introduced a mobile blood unit in Curaçao. Clients who are unable to visit one of the seven blood centers on the island can have a blood sample taken at home.

Future Antillean Militia project financing approved

WILLEMSTAD—During his recent visit, Kingdom Defense Minister De Grave approved the project "Future Antillean Militia," submitted by the Central Government.

The project will give motivated Antillean youngsters new opportunities to get an education combined with military training, increasing their chances of employment.

Every year two batches of 75 conscripts will undergo the program. Half of the schooling is military-oriented, the other half vocational. The best will have the chance to become supervisor in the militia, or get a job in the Dutch army.

Holland will provide two million Antillean guilders per year during the next three years to finance the project.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The heirs of AMORIE AMANDA JAMES, born PETERS, c/o Mr. Melvin James, residing on Sint Maarten, hereby make known to the public, that, by deed of prescriptive rights, to be executed by J.G.M. Speetjens, civil law notary on Sint Maarten, or his substitute, they intend to acquire the ownership of the following immovable properties:

- Thirteen parcels of land, situated in the district of *Cole Bay* on the island of *Sint Maarten*, in the area known as *Solomon's Estate* and forming part of the lands of the late Abraham Peters, described further in Certificates of Admeasurement numbers: 172/2002, 173/2001, 174/2001, 175/2001, 176/2001, 177/2001, 178/2001, 179/2001, 180/2001, 181/2001, 182/2001, 183/2001 and 184/2001, each with an area of 1205 square meters.

Anyone having valid claims towards said property or having objections against said prescriptive rights, is hereby requested to lodge such claim or objection, in writing, before February 20th, 2002, with said civil law notary at the office of Speetjens and Associates, Front Street 5, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten. (tel. 599 5422339 - fax 599 5422439 - email: speetjens@speetjens.com)

Speetjens and associates

Curaçao dry dock bounces back in last six months

WILLEMSTAD—The Curaçao dry dock company (CDM) was able to recuperate in the last 6 months of 2001.

"Break even or maybe a minor loss," is what director Enrique Suarez estimates the year-figures will show.

Expectations for the coming year are high. The five cruise ships which visited the dock in 2001 were not bad for the company, but only affected the end results in a minor way.

The crews of about 1000, however, spent a substantial amount of money on the island during their stay, especially in the restaurant and hotel sector.

"For us it is prestige. We get a lot of attention with the maintenance of cruise-ships. That's why we want 4 or 5 per year," Suarez explained.

To really make money, the dock needs ships such as oil tankers and dredging vessels. Mainly thanks to low oil prices, it is receiving requests for larger ships.

"Competition is fierce. Most countries prefer to use

their own docks. So our geographical position is only relatively advantageous," stated Suarez.

The number of personnel will not change in the coming year. CDM employs about 350 full-time workers, but has an average of 700 to 800 men working with the help of contracted labour.

DCE considers cargo alliance with Westex

WILLEMSTAD—Dutch Caribbean Express (DCE) is negotiating with international partners on the possibility of becoming partners in a new cargo section to be named Dutch Caribbean Cargo (DCC).

With this in mind a delegation from the Canadian firm Western Express Airlines (Westex) visited Curaçao earlier this week.

Westex, established in 1994, specializes in the transportation of cargo. Its activities are currently concentrated in Western Canada and the Northwestern US. The company wants to expand its activities to the Caribbean.

Representatives of Westex are currently involved in negotiations with the government of Trinidad and Tobago and Costa Rica as well. But because Canadian Post recently signed a lease agreement for the Antillean Post NV, the Curaçao government was able to approach Westex.

Westex wants to turn Curaçao into a regional distribution center. The delegation attended meetings with the DCE management this week. According to president-director Mario Evertz, this meeting should be viewed

"A lot of people have left the island, which forces us to look for employees abroad," stated Suarez, who originates from Cuba.

The second year of the new millennium ended almost the same as the year 2000. Back then, the first half of the year also showed negative figures only to break even in the second half of the year.

as an orientation. "I only spoke for about 5 minutes. They informed us of their interest of turning Curaçao into a regional distribution center and wanted to know our willingness for cooperation," he said.

The intention is for both parties to meet again in the future to see if cooperation is possible. Westex is one of the parties DCE is negotiating with in connection with the establishment of its own cargo department, to be named Dutch Caribbean Cargo (DCC).

"We want to establish a separate NV, in which we will join with a foreign partner. We take care of the sales department while the international partner can handle the know-how, the logistic knowledge and the arrival of the cargo," Evertz said.

The company is also conducting talks with two other prospective businesses.

"We want to convert the island into a cargo hub. Up till now Air ALM has mostly concentrated on the transportation of passengers. With a foreign partner we could also actively participate in the cargo transport market. In this process Westex is a prospective partner," he said.

PUBLIC AUCTION

On Saturday, January 19, 2002, at 10:00 am the undersigned Bailiff/Marshal shall proceed to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following:

Merchandise of a Supermarket to be sold in bulk (wholesale style, by the case)

The auction will be held at Ospaz Supermarket, Airport Road in Simpson Bay. Merchandise may be examined 30 minutes before the auction at the aforementioned place. Auction will be "as is where is", cash or certified bank check only.

De Bailiff/Marshal, Karl R. Amdell.



The Elfin group

Volunteers help conservation work on the Cottle Church

NEVIS—Seven volunteers from the United States worked here for a week to help with the ongoing conservation of the Cottle Church near Newcastle.

The group, part of an Elderhostel program which sponsors service trips for people 55 years of age and older, arrived on Nevis last week to work each morning and do historic and nature studies in the afternoons. The volunteers have paid their own way to come to the island to work for a week.

They are helping local efforts to stabilize the structure, which had been damaged over the years. They helped masons, who are working on replacing stones, creating a new front stairs, and clearing bush from the area.

The Cottle Church, located in an isolated part of the island on the Round Hill Estate, is about a mile off the main road, near the airport and the village of Newcastle. Work on the church began in 1822 when planter Thomas Cottle wanted a place for his slaves and his own family to worship together. Cottle served on the Nevis council and for a time was its president.

Over the years the church has lost its integrity because of hurricanes, overgrowth and neglect. About 10 years ago, volunteers began working on stabilizing the building and formed a trust for that purpose. The trustees on the island are Clive Mitchell, Lyra Richards, Vince Hubbard and Roger Henderson. David Rollinson serves as project director.

All of the volunteers are retired employees of the U.S. company General Electric and are part of the corporation's service organization called "Elfins."

The volunteers come from all over the U.S. and range in age from 64 to 80. Elfins sponsors about 10 service projects through Elderhostel each year and chose Nevis for one of its 2002 world-wide projects, after working in St. Croix last year.

The volunteers include Doug and Jean Duffies of Ohio, Charles Botkin of Georgia, Pat and Ralph Matthews of Virginia, and Marie and Buzz Hope of Georgia.

The group was brought here by Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions (CVE), a non-project historic preservation group based in the United States to help with preservation efforts throughout the Caribbean.

CVE has executed many preservation projects in St. Kitts and Nevis over the years, including creating a

scale drawing of Fort Charles, doing a cemetery survey at Combermere Methodist Church, and archaeology work at Wingfield Plantation in St. Kitts. In February, the group will bring a group of young people to Nevis to help clear Upper Round Road.

The organization Elderhostel, based in Boston, is the second largest travel group in the United States. More than 250,000 senior citizens travel with the organization each year. Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions organizes Elderhostel's Caribbean service projects.

"While in Nevis, the trip was not "all work and no play." The group, which stayed at The Inn at Cades Bay, ate in many local restaurants and enjoyed many sites, such as the plantations, the museums and the Botanical Gardens.

KCN to hold dinner and awards ceremony

ANGUILLA—The 5th dinner and awards ceremony of Creative Communications Network (KCN) is to be held at House of Chandeliers on Saturday, January 26.

The event will include a guest speaker, remarks from the Director, Carlton Pickering, and awards to various individuals, businesses and a group. Two regional production houses, Liamuiga TV Productions of St. Kitts/Nevis and All Sports Promotions of Trinidad and Tobago, are among the awardees.

KCN has already announced the winners in the different categories. Appreciation awards will go to the House of Chandeliers, J.W. Proctors, Ivor Hodge and Colwayne Pickering. The Sponsor's Award goes to Tackle Box Sports Centre and recognition awards will go to Rosanna

Browne, host of XPressions youth programme and Osbert Wilde, Managing Director of Liamuiga TV Productions.

Corporate Awards are to go to Cable and Wireless, Caribbean Commercial Bank and to All Sports Promotions, which produces Caribbean Sports Digest. For their contributions and performances in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States sub-region in cultural presentations, the Community Award will go to All Ah Wee Drama Group and Susan Richardson for gospel music.

Top award for the evening is the Director's Award which goes to Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Dwight Venner for his exceptional contribution and leadership in monetary management in the Caribbean.

Camp Be Aware students to go to Isle of Wight

ANGUILLA—Sixteen participants in Camp Be Aware programmes are to travel to the Isle of Wight in June this year for an eight day stay as the guests of Anguilla's educational partners. They will be accompanied by four of the camp's teacher/counselors.

According to a release from Ingrid Fullington, one of the teachers at the camp, the students will learn through a widely varied itinerary about environments totally unlike any they have previously experienced and beyond their most ambitious expectations.

The children were chosen from sixth graders who have attended one of the camps in the past three years. The teachers involved in all the camps choose the students on their performance at the Camp and not their school performance. Criteria included involvement in camp events, initiative taken, performance, behaviour and the way problems were handled

if they arose.

Two students of each of the seven primary schools will be going to the Isle of Wight and Teacher Art says they will all be great ambassadors for Anguilla. The accompanying teachers are Art Egel of West End Primary School, Ingrid Fullington of East End School, Celestine John of Stoney Ground and Donna Marshall of Island Harbour Primary School.

A planning meeting was held recently with the chosen students and their parents and all were reportedly very enthused and excited about the proposed visit.

Plans have been made to raise funds to offset expenses like airfares, which will not be covered by the hosts in the Isle of Wight.

The first fund-raising effort will be a car wash on Saturday, January 26, and the organizers are hoping everyone will take the opportunity to support the young students in their once-in-a-life-time trip abroad.

Visiting children explore Anguilla

ANGUILLA—Children staying at Cap Juluca Resort over the holiday season had the opportunity to team up with local children to explore Anguilla and experience its culture.

The resort's Director of Human Resources Phyllis Fleming-Banks told The Daily Herald that as part of its children's programme activities they had invited students from Teacher Gloria Omololu Institute to "adopt" some of the young guests staying at the five star property.

The children engaged in a number of activities, including arts and crafts, field trips

and games, under the supervision of the school's Director Oluwakemi Linda Banks and teacher Joy Booth. They explored many parts of the island, went on a guided tour of Sandy Ground with Emile Gumbes and visited Dolphin Fountains. They also spent time at Devonish Studio, where they made some items in pottery. In addition they visited the Cap Juluca herb gardens and nature trail. Fleming-Banks said the highlight of the programme for the young visitors had been the opportunity to get out into the community and learn Anguillian and Caribbean folk songs and games.



Left to right: Dr. John Abiles, Gillian Skerritt, Dr. Rodd Neame, Dr. Larry Rawlings, Ealachandran Nair, Oaklyn Peets and Prime Minister Douglas.

Medical School in St. Kitts to expand

ST. KITTS—The expansion of the St. Kitts-based International University of the Health Sciences (IUHS) was the major point of discussion when officials of that medical school met with government officials on Wednesday.

IUHS Chairman Dr. John Abiles, Vice Chancellor Dr. Rodd Neame, Chairman of Universal Empire Inc. Ealachandran Nair, St. Kitts-born Principal Dr. Larry Rawlings and Administrator Gillian Skerritt held discussions with Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas and his Permanent Secretary Oaklyn Peets.

Dr. Abiles informed Prime Minister Douglas that the provision of temporary housing was a requirement in attracting new students to the medical school. He said St.

Kitts and Nevis presented a more advantageous location than the other Caribbean islands and the infrastructure of St. Kitts was "better than that of most of the other islands."

He said it was the policy of the IUHS to cooperate with local people and that temporary housing would only be required for first semester students.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Rodd Neame spoke of plans to either construct a new St. Kitts Campus or acquire a suitable property to house the medical school, which presently operates from Brannagh House at the corner of Wigley Avenue and Wilkin Street in Basseterre.

He indicated that the medical school, which has a North American Representative Office in Canada and a Eu-

ropean Representative Office in England, had already begun to locate more of its administration services, including the Finance Department, in St. Kitts.

IUHS also said it would arrange for CLICO Investment Limited of Trinidad and Tobago and the issue will be in multiples of US \$100,000 and made available to institutional investors of the Caricom region," said Prime Minister Douglas, who expressed thanks to the regional institutions and CLICO for "demonstrating confidence in the stability of the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis to come forward in this very positive in this venture."

He emphasised that the building, now under construction and expected to be delivered in February of next year, will meet the specific strategic thrust and requirements, thus allowing it to face the challenges ahead in this new dynamic changing world.

He said the Development Bank of St. Kitts and Nevis must be diligent, extra cautious and must carry out its tasks with greater responsibility.

"However, it is encouraging to note that the Bank is continuing to adopt a new proactive stance that has been introduced by a number of a range of products that have been traditionally associated with the commercial banking sector," said Prime Minister Douglas.

He said this allowed the Development Bank to effectively fulfill its mandate granted under the Development Bank of St. Kitts and Nevis Act to "finance agriculture, industry, commerce and activities in other productive sectors of the economy as well as its own

increased obligations."

Group and the lawyers of the respective institutions, the Chairman, Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Development Bank.

The three-floor building is being constructed by Jenkins Limited.

Witnessing the signing ceremony were Chairman of the Development Bank of St. Kitts and Nevis Joseph Edmeade; General Manager of the Bank Auckland Hector; Charles Wilkin Q.C. of Kelsick, Wilkin & Ferdinand, legal representative of the CLICO Group; and Marcella Liburd of Bryant & Liburd, representing the development bank.

Government guarantees loan for construction of Development Bank Headquarters

ST. KITTS—The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis signed documents guaranteeing a loan for the construction of the new headquarters of the Development Bank of St. Kitts and Nevis, on Wednesday.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Dr. Denzil Douglas, speaking briefly at the signing ceremony, hailed the Bank for making a significant contribution by fulfilling its St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party's new thrust in financing scholarships awarded to the young people of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Dr. Douglas said the construction of the building on the corner of Church and Central Streets was being financed through a US \$2.2 million senior secured nine per cent bond issue maturing in 2022 by the development bank.

The bond issue is being arranged by CLICO Investment Limited of Trinidad and Tobago and the issue will be in multiples of US \$100,000 and made available to institutional investors of the Caricom region," said Prime Minister Douglas, who expressed thanks to the regional institutions and CLICO for "demonstrating confidence in the stability of the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis to come forward in this very positive in this venture."

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Above: Prime Minister Douglas about to sign legal documents.

increased obligations."

He thanked the Principal of Alliance Agency of Trinidad and Tobago for bringing the parties to the financing table, the CLICO

Community Foundation to launch "Anguilla Cares" Campaign

ANGUILLA—The Anguilla Community Foundation is to launch a fundraising campaign called "Anguilla Cares" which will run from the end of January until Anguilla Day, May 30.

The aim is to raise US \$40,000 to be used for grants to organizations and communities for worthwhile projects. To reach its goal the Foundation will be appealing to individual, corporate and government sources.

There are three honorary chairpersons, Victor Banks, Emile Gumbs and Walter MacCalman. They will provide overall leadership for the Campaign and recognition and community support for the fund raising effort. In addition, they will be announcing the launching, reporting back to the community each month and assist the board members in contacting potential donors both business and individual.

The start of the campaign is scheduled for January 31

at an event at Johnno's Beach Bar at Sandy Ground. A wide cross section of the community is being invited to participate in this important inauguration and to hear about the work of the Foundation in Anguilla. A thermometer is to be erected near to the Post Office so the general public can watch the progress of the campaign and the funds being raised.

The Anguilla Community Foundation recognizes the many needs in the island and is ready to step into the role of grant maker with a defined process for distributing and tracking funds for charitable purposes. They have designed a standard process for grant making including a grant application, a system of reviewing grants and a grant report requirement. The Board of the Anguilla Community Foundation is hoping that donors will join them in order to share an organized and managed grant programme for the island.

Spend your weekend in good company!

Get The Daily Herald this weekend!



U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick (L) meets with Honduran President-elect Ricardo Maduro (C) in Washington, January 18, 2002. The meeting followed U.S. President George W. Bush's announcement earlier that the U.S. would explore a free trade agreement with Central American nations.

Four burnt bodies found on farm in eastern Guyana

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—The charred remains of four bodies were discovered Thursday at a cash crop farm about four miles aback of Crabwood Creek on the Corentyne Village in eastern Guyana.

The Stabroek News newspaper reported that one man has since been held in connection with the deaths and the police are in search of three other persons.

It reported the Police Public Relations Office as saying that a farmer had gone to his farmhouse Thursday only to find it completely burnt. Upon further investigation he discovered a skull under some charred galvanised sheets.

The farmer promptly in-

formed the police and the charred remains of the four were later found by Suresh Rajpaul, the father of Shailendra Rajpaul called 'Chiney Boy', a 15-year old who was among the four who perished in the fire.

The others who perished were: Kumar Nandkumar called 'Black Boy', 37; Awad Narine called 'Alvin', 55; and a man known only as 'Prabo'.

The elder Rajpaul farms a ten-acre plot in the area and was on a routine visit to his

farm. Three of the bodies were reportedly found on top of each other while 'Prabo' was found a short distance away in the burnt-out camp. The four had spent the Christmas holidays in the village and had returned to the camp just over one week ago.

A relative of the Rajpauls told Stabroek News that the family suspected that the four were killed before being burnt together with the camp.

Barbados police make second big drug bust in 72 hours

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados—Police Thursday made their second big drug haul in 72 hours when they seized 32 packages and one bale weighing 600 pounds with a street value of \$800,000 at the secluded Cummins Bay.

They also recovered a shotgun and five bullets and a getaway van that was found about 500 yards from the scene.

The drugs were found buried in sand beneath a 50ft cliff around 6:00am after an all night operation by drug squad personnel who used rope to hoist the drugs to the top of the cliff while armed Barbados Defence Force (BDF) soldiers guarded the perimeter.

The Daily Nation re-

ported that three men - two Barbadians, including one on bail from the High Court for drug trafficking, and a Vincentian - are assisting police with their investigations.

Acting police public relations officer Sergeant Barry Hunte appealed to the public, especially those living on the coastline, to be vigilant and report any suspicious lights, vehicles or sounds of boat to the police.

Last Monday, police seized 1,294 pounds in a hole below a cliff at North Point, St Lucy. After an 16-hour operation police recovered 35 bales worth \$1.3 million. One week earlier 34 bales of marijuana were seized at Congor Bay, St John.

New Criminal Code will address vandalism of Public Buildings

CASTRIES, St. Lucia—St. Lucia will be enacting a new Criminal Code shortly to address the problem of vandalism of public buildings, Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony announced earlier this week.

Anthony was speaking at the sod turning ceremony marking the construction of a new southern divisional

headquarters of the Royal St. Lucia Police Force in Vieux-Fort.

He said the legislation should be enacted by the end of March 2002.

According to Dr. Anthony, "Too often have we constructed buildings throughout the length and breadth of this country only to witness the destruction and the

waste of tax payers money; this new facility is not just for police officers but for the entire community. That is why I have asked the Attorney General to ensure that he includes in the new Criminal Code legislation that will fine heavily, those persons who deface and destroy public buildings of this country."

The National Insurance Property Development and Management Company (NIPRO) is funding the southern divisional police headquarters at a total cost of six million EC dollars. The two-storey facility is being constructed on 2.65 acres of land, and is the biggest commercial commitment that the government has entered into with NIPRO.

Dr. Anthony says the citizens of St. Lucia have reason to demand more from the Police Force, as the investment in the country's judicial structure over the last few years has been substantial.

When completed, the southern divisional headquarters will be the most modern police station in St. Lucia.

Alibux indicted by parliament on corruption, fraud charges

P A R A M A R I B O, Suriname—Parliament in Suriname indicted former minister of finance and natural resources Errol Alibux Thursday evening, for alleged corruption and fraud while in office in 1999. Parliament's decision now clears the way for the country's prosecution to start a trial against Alibux, who has denied all charges.

Some 40 legislators from six factions in Parliament voted for the motion while 11, including four from Alibux' DNP 2000 party, voted against.

"We must set an example for the people," Otmarr Rodgers, who leads the coalition's faction in parliament, said in his speech before the vote.

The indictment comes after a request from the Attorney General to strip Alibux of his immunity.


Alibux, who served under the administration led by former

president Jules Wijdenbosch from 1996 to 2000, told a special parliament committee in a written statement Thursday morning that the coalition is looking for scapegoat to cover up its own failure.

"I have done nothing wrong

and I shall walk free," Alibux said in his statement.

Alibux and two other men whose names were not mentioned are named as suspects for the over-billing of the state for the purchase of a building in 1999.



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Forty St. Vincent schools to be computerised by month's end

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent—Forty primary and secondary schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines will become computerised by the end of this month, the Government Information Service (GIS) announced yesterday.

GIS said that to facilitate this programme, some 763 computers together with 763 sets of furniture, 162 printers, 100 scanners and 27 modems at a cost of 930,000 US dollars were handed over to the Ministry of Education by Charge d'Affairs of the Republic of China On Taiwan Mr. Roger Lou.

"These equipment will be distributed to 28 schools throughout the country. Twelve schools were computerised last year bringing the total number of schools

that have become computerised to 40," GIS explained.

In remarks at the presentation ceremony, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves stressed that a certain level of responsibility and discipline must be attained and maintained by both students and teachers to ensure that the equipment is taken care of.

Minister of Education, Mike Browne who also addressed the ceremony said the programme to computerise all the learning institutions would have a profound impact on the students and the communities as well.

The equipment was handed over by Roger Lou, the Charge d'Affairs of the Republic of China On Taiwan who said that technology is a vital tool in the development

of any country. He also said that by introducing computers into the educational system it creates better opportunities not only for the individual but the country benefits as well.

Oil find could yield billions for Trinidad

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad—Trinidad and Tobago stands to benefit from between \$2.6 billion and \$3.5 billion from a major oil find here by a Australian company BHP Billiton, an official said.

BHP's vice-president and resident manager Nicholas De Verteuil said when the oil field comes on stream in 2004, BHP hopes to double current local oil production of 100,000 barrels per day over its life cycle which he estimates at 17 years.

"If it's \$20 (per barrel), the value of profit flow to the government is going to be around the order of \$2.6 billion. If it's \$30 (per barrel), my estimate is that it will jump to \$3.5 billion over the 17-year period," he said.

De Verteuil said minimum reserves are around 300 million barrels.

BHP plans to invest \$500 million over the next few years to develop the field off the north east coast of Trinidad known as Greater Angostura field.



Several vehicles were damaged yesterday when a runaway truck crashed into the car park of the St Joseph, Police Station in Trinidad wrecking several parked cars. The truck laden with dirt and small rocks smashed through the locked gates of the car park after apparently losing its brakes while coming down the steep Abercromby Street in St Joseph. The park housed several vehicles which had either been involved in accidents or were recovered stolen vehicles or were cars belonging to police officers.

Royal Navy, Royal Marines recruiting in St. Vincent

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent—Members of the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines are currently in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on a recruitment campaign. They are seeking young Vincentians interested in entering the service in the United Kingdom.

At a press briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wednesday, Lieutenant Commander Hussain of the Royal Navy said some 949 applications had been received.

He also disclosed that some 360 applicants have been accepted for the recruitment tests, which will be at the Kingstown Methodist Church Hall on February 4, 2002.

The successful applicants will be interviewed by careers advisor of the Royal Navy or Royal Marines.

There will also medical examinations and counseling on career opportunities in the Royal Navy.

The Royal Marines is the Royal Navy's fighting force. The applicants who passed the recruitment tests and wish to join the Royal Marines will be required to go through a set of physical test in May.

"Those who are accepted will join the Royal Navy or the Royal Marines later in September and will be required to purchase a return ticket to the United Kingdom. Salaries will start at EC \$40,000 per year and will increase. Other benefits include pension scheme, free health and dental care, subsidised food and accommodation," the Government Information Service explained.

Guyana and Suriname agree to draw up practical arrangements

P A R A M A R I B O, Suriname—Guyana and Suriname will draw up practical arrangements for cooperation in the disputed maritime area while work-

ing on solving the problems that led to a souring of relations in 2000.

After concluding talks here Friday, representatives said they had created a climate of trust and without tension.

"The most essential result of the talks is that we were able to create a climate of trust without any tensions which will give us the opportunity to work out the problems," Hans Lim A Po, the chief Suriname negotiator, told a press conference.

Lim A Po said the border commission would meet again in four months to discuss proposals from both sides.

"We cannot allow the two people to be held hostage by the past," Doodnadsingh Singh, Guyanese Attorney General and minister of Law and the country's leading negotiator said at the press conference. "We have found a solution to go forward."

The talks were led by

Suriname's and Guyana's ministers of foreign affairs, Marie Levens and Rudy Insanally respectively.

According to Singh, Suriname and Guyana will look for ways to cooperate in using the resources in the disputed area, including the crude oil reserves.

Lim A Po said this did not mean Suriname had left its standpoint that the area being claimed by Suriname (the New River Triangle) belongs to it. "Surely not. I believe both standpoints remain firm. But they are political standpoints and we have now adopted a more practical approach," Lim A Po said.

According to Lim A Po, the practical arrangements, the first of which may be signed as early as May or June, will be based on the views of both parties, cooperation and peaceful neighbourhoodness.

Caricom Secretary General honoured by US consortium

G E O R G E T O W N, Guyana—Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) has been honoured by a consortium of associations representing the Caribbean diaspora in North America.

Carrington, together with Secretary of State, United States of America, Colin Powell are this year's recipients of the National Collation on Caribbean Affairs (NCOCA) highest award, the Pinnacle Award.

Carrington has been recognised for his dedicated service in the cause of regional integration, and for his sterling representation of the Carib-

bean in International Affairs.

At a simple ceremony Wednesday, member of the advisory board of NCOCA, former Ambassador of Saint Lucia, Dr. Joseph Edmund, made the presentation on behalf of the association to Carrington at the Georgetown-based Caricom Secretariat.

In accepting the award, Carrington said he was doing so on behalf of all Caribbean nationals at home and abroad. He said he considered the award as a very important one, which underscored his contribution to public service and humanity.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

RE: Estate of David Ormond Christopher, deceased late of Oyster Pond, St. Martin (The "Estate")

Notice is hereby given that creditors and others having claims against the Estate, are hereby required to send them to the Executor,

Edo de Vink,

at 668 Meyers Rd., Cambridge, Ontario, Canada, N1R5S2, or tel. Kirsten Jenkins at (001) 604 641 4966

on or before April 2, 2002,

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US radical Olson gets life

LOS ANGELES—Radical fugitive turned Minnesota soccer mom Sara Jane Olson was sentenced during an emotionally wrenching court hearing on Friday to 20 years in a plot to plant bombs under police cars during the turbulent 1970s.

Olson, who spent nearly a quarter century on the run until her 1999 arrest and then remained confined for more than two years before her November guilty plea, sobbed through much of the hearing, which came just two days after prosecutors in Sacramento, California

Defrocked Boston priest convicted of fondling boy

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—Defrocked Roman Catholic priest John Geoghan, accused of molesting some 130 children, was convicted by a Massachusetts jury on Friday of fondling a 10-year-old boy as the two swam together more than a decade ago.

In the first criminal trial stemming from the allegations, the jury found Geoghan, 66, guilty of indecent assault and battery on a person younger than 14. He faces up to 10 years in prison, but sentencing guidelines, which are not binding on judges, suggest a term of one to three years.

Defense attorney Geoffrey Packard, who called no witnesses to the stand in Geoghan's defense, planned to appeal the verdict, which he said was influenced by the extensive publicity surrounding the case. "There's been an extraordinary amount of very negative publicity about Geoghan—I'm not going to speak about the church—and I find it difficult to believe that had no effect," Packard said.

The case has shaken the U.S. Catholic church and implicated Boston Cardinal Bernard Law and five bishops, who are accused of knowing about Geoghan's abuses and ignoring them.

The Boston diocese said it was grateful a verdict was reached and that it was working to prevent future cases. "On behalf of the Archdiocese of Boston, we again apologize to all victims of sexual abuse by clergy, and their families, and in particular those abused by John Geoghan," it said.

charged her with murder. After the sentencing Olson was flown to Sacramento to face those charges, following a tearful final meeting with her family members in the courtroom where one of her teenage daughters sang a sentimental Irish ballad to her as a farewell gesture.

"I accept responsibility for my own pain I caused, I am truly sorry," said the 55-year-old Olson, who after eluding police in the 1970s as Kathleen Ann Soliah resurfaced in the suburbs of St. Paul, Minnesota, where she married an emergency room physician and raised three daughters.

Olson, who prosecutors say was a supporter of the brutal Symbionese Liberation Army during the 1970s, ad-

dressed the court after Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler heard testimony on her behalf from her family and supporters. Leila Peterson, Olson's 15-year-old daughter, broke into sobs as she told Fidler that she would never abandon the woman she called the "best mother anyone would ever want."

Peterson, unable to complete her prepared speech, then collapsed in tears into her mother's arms as two sheriff's deputies stood watching and Olson's husband, Fred Peterson, sat in the courtroom's front row with his head in his hands.

Also making pleas on Olson's behalf were her elderly mother, Elsie Soliah, and members of the St. Paul

community that remembered her as an active member of Minnehaha United Methodist church, actor in local theater and volunteer for several charitable and civic causes.

Speaking for the prosecution were two Los Angeles police officers who were targeted by bombs placed under squad cars by the S.L.A. in 1975, who said their lives were spared by fractions of an inch when the bombs failed to explode.

Officer John Hall said he has vivid memories of a young girl sitting in a restaurant window near his car who would have died in the resulting blast had the S.L.A. bomb strapped to the undercarriage of his car detonated as it was intended.



Former fugitive radical Sara Jane Olson (R) is shown with her attorney Shawn Chapman during her sentencing hearing in Los Angeles on Friday.

National Academy of Sciences urges ban on human cloning

WASHINGTON—Experiments to make cloned human babies are too dangerous to try now and should be legally banned with "substantial penalties" to those who disobey, scientists who advise the U.S. government said on Friday. In a strongly worded report, a National Academy of Sciences panel said public and private sector efforts to clone a human baby must be stopped until it can be shown to be safe. Scientists usually rely on voluntary action by their fellows.

"The data was so clear," said Dr. Irving Weissman of the Stanford University School of Medicine in California, who chaired the panel. "And it was clear that there were people who were about to do it."

Many experiments have shown that animal cloning is

still experimental and dangerous, the Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy said in its report.

Many of the clones are unusually large. It also usually takes hundreds of efforts to get a single embryo to grow, and then only a very small percentage of those survive.

No one claims to have cloned a human, although one Massachusetts company, Advanced Cell Technology, said it made some hours-old human embryos using cloning technology.

Last year the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would ban all human cloning, but the Senate has put off action. "The president was ready to sign that legislation into law," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told a news confer-

ence on Friday.

The Food and Drug Administration, which claims authority over cloning, has also said it will not give permission for experiments to begin on cloning people.

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), which represents many of the companies that might undertake human cloning, welcomed the report. "The potential practice of human reproductive cloning is dangerous and fraught with ethical concerns," BIO's bioethics spokesman Michael Werner said in a statement. Other scientists, including those who cloned Dolly the sheep, have repeatedly said they disapproved of cloning human babies.



United States Central Command Gen. Tommy Franks briefs reporters at a Tampa, Florida press conference Friday on events in Afghanistan.

Tommy Franks:

World not large enough for bin Laden to hide

WASHINGTON—Despite speculation Osama bin Laden might have died or escaped Afghanistan, the U.S. general commanding the war there said on Friday the United States has no idea whether the world's most wanted man is dead or still on the run.

"Bin Laden could be alive or dead, or in Afghanistan or not," said Army Gen. Tommy Franks, head of the U.S. Central Command. "We really don't know where he is, whether he's in Afghanistan or whether he may have left."

But with U.S. troops pressing to mop up pockets of armed resistance and gather intelligence that could head off further al Qaeda attacks, Franks said bin Laden could run but he could not hide. "We know this: The world is not a large enough place for him to hide," Franks told reporters at a briefing in Tampa, Florida, that was broadcast to the Pentagon.

Despite heavy bombing of the mountain cave complexes in Afghanistan believed to have hidden bin Laden's al Qaeda network, and a \$25 million U.S. bounty on his head, the trail of the Saudi-born fugitive has gone cold.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview with the Lebanese-based Middle East Broadcasting Center that bin Laden, suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks

in New York and Washington that killed more than 3,000 people, might have died of kidney problems. Musharraf said that was one of several possible scenarios involving bin Laden, known to have been receiving treatment from a portable dialysis machine, with others including his death in a bombing attack or his escape from the region.

He told CNN in an interview that he favored the theory that bin Laden was dead.

Franks, who said U.S. troops have confiscated several filing cabinets of documentary evidence on al Qaeda activities, said he had seen no intelligence reports either confirming or denying that.

"With military operations winding down, Franks said troops had found "a great many" pieces of evidence of al Qaeda activities—diaries, computer hard drives, mobile computers—and were working quickly to analyze them, often right on the site where they were found. "We have learned an awful lot. We have learned an awful lot. We have not yet found any weapons of mass destruction," Franks said of the U.S. search for evidence that al Qaeda has developed biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.

"We have certainly found a desire on the part of al Qaeda to have weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Congolese fleeing volcano seek food, fear disease



A resident of Goma evacuates his belongings in front of an advancing and cooling lava flow in the main street in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, on Friday.

GOMA, Congo—A tide of refugees fleeing central Africa's most destructive volcanic eruption in 25 years struggled to stave off hunger and disease on Friday after watching homes and streets vanish in a furnace of molten rock.

"There's nothing to eat," said businessman Justin Mosala, 48, watching angrily as smoking lava from Nyiragongo volcano pushed deeper into the eastern Congolese town of Goma. "The government is saying nothing, the international community is saying nothing, we don't know what we're going to do. There's no markets, no shops, everything is gone."

Trudging through a blackened landscape shrouded in smoke and mist, more than 300,000 refugees clutching bedding and bundles of goods formed a river of human misery eastwards into Rwanda. Others fled into Bukavu on the southern tip of Lake Kivu.

"We have no hope," said medical student John Kambele, 25, standing some 20 metres (yards) from the two-day-old lava flow and surrounded by young men nodding agreement. "We've seen no reaction from the international community."

U.N. officials estimated 45 people had died in the eruption, which rumbled on late into Friday night as tremors from the 3,469-metre (11,380

foot) volcano shook the shores of the lake beside the Rwanda-Democratic Republic of Congo border.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan assured the Congolese and Rwandan governments that he would "put the assets of the United Nations to full use

of cholera would prove an even worse disaster.

"This is the most destructive eruption we have seen in the region (since 1977) because the town of Goma is practically razed to the ground," said Deudonne Wafula, a Rwandan volcanologist.

He was comparing the eruption to the peak's last major convulsion in 1977, when a sea of magma burst through fissures in Nyiragongo's flanks at 60 km (40 miles) an hour, killing scores in what experts said was the fastest lava flow on record.



Residents of Goma flee following the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano, 10 kms from the town center of Goma on Friday.

in assisting them in mitigating the consequences of this disaster."

He was sending Ross Mountain, assistant emergency relief coordinator, to the region to support U.N. country teams already in place. A U.N. disaster assessment team were en route to the affected area, complete with volcano experts.

Goma residents warned that diarrhoea and malaria would soon start stalking thousands of people sleeping rough, while any possible outbreak

in 1977, when a sea of magma burst through fissures in Nyiragongo's flanks at 60 km (40 miles) an hour, killing scores in what experts said was the fastest lava flow on record.

"It is one of the most active volcanoes in Africa and probably the most dangerous in terms of the amount of people living around it," said Adrian Jones, an expert on volcanoes at University College, London.

Giscard's presidential style ruffles EU feathers

BRUSSELS — Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French president who is heading a group planning the future of the European Union, has raised diplomatic eyebrows in Brussels with hefty financial and logistical demands.

EU diplomats said on Friday they were working behind the scenes to find a solution. "It's a big problem," one said. "Giscard wants a large salary for himself and his two deputies as well as a big private staff and resources."

Another diplomat said the former president, who ran France for most of the 1970s, was asking for a salary comparable to that of the president of the European Commission, around 20,000 euros (\$17,620) a month, tax free, plus expenses. "This is really Giscard's style," he said.

The man known in France as "VGE" also wants a luxury suite of rooms in Brussels, private offices and a hand-picked team of between 10 and 12 people to help him perform his task, which will

last just over a year, the diplomat said.

Giscard could not be reached for comment and his spokesperson declined to comment, saying she was not familiar with the matter. The Convention for the Future of Europe, made up of members of the EU and candidate country governments, the European Commission and national and European parliaments, should present recommendations for the future of what could be a 30-country bloc by the end of 2003.

Bush wants to keep U.S. military in Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush wants to keep the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia despite reported grumblings from the Saudis that the United States has overstayed its welcome.

"The president believes the current arrangements are working and working well," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said on Friday.

The Washington Post reported on Friday that Saudi Arabia's rulers are growing more uncomfortable with the U.S. military presence in their country and may soon ask that it end. It said senior Saudi rulers believe that the United States should pull out because its forces have become a political liability.

Fleischer said he was not aware of any contact between the United States and Saudi Arabia expressing a desire for the U.S. military to leave. "The relationship is just as strong as it always has been," said

Fleischer, who noted Bush spoke to Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah last week.

Secretary of State Colin Powell dismissed the Post report, saying, "There is nothing to that story that warrants my attention at the moment." The United States has insisted that all was well in the U.S.-Saudi relationship despite some signs of a strain in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. Osama bin Laden is of Saudi origin and has said attacks on U.S. targets are aimed at forcing the U.S. military out of Saudi Arabia, birthplace of Islam.

Last Nov. 9, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, was quoted by the New York Times as saying Bush's refusal to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat "makes a sane man go mad" and that his government was "angrily frustrated" that Washington had failed to bring a promised initiative to

forge a peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.

In addition, a former Saudi intelligence chief has said the crown prince sent a letter to Bush before Sept. 11, saying the world's biggest oil exporter would be forced to review its ties with the United States unless Washington took active steps to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Saudi Arabia depends on the United States for its defense, but has found itself walking a tightrope with increasing uneasiness among many Saudis over the presence of U.S. troops there. If asked to leave the United States would no longer have regular use of the Prince Sultan Air Base, where American forces have maintained a presence since the Persian Gulf War, more than a decade ago.

But there is some talk in Washington that U.S. forces should pull out anyway.



Security Policeman Airman 1st Class Chris Culross is shown standing guard at the Flightline Entry Control Point at Prince Sultan Air Base, Al Khajr, Saudi Arabia, on Sept. 4, 1996.

Just this week, Sen. Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, urged the U.S. military might need to end operations at Prince Sultan Air Base given the restrictions on U.S. military personnel there. Women are forced to wear an "abaya," a traditional item of dress similar to the Afghan burqa, when off base in Saudi Arabia.

A female U.S. Air Force

fighter pilot has filed a lawsuit to end this policy, which the Pentagon says is necessary to avoid offending Muslim sensitivities.

"We may need to move that base," Levin told reporters. He said the Saudis had forced U.S. personnel to operate at a base in a remote region and seemed to "want us out of sight."

Shirley Telhami, a Middle East analyst for the Brookings

Institution, said he believed the Saudis have concluded having U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia is no longer essential to the U.S. goal of containing Iraq and in fact had become a sore point domestically. "The Saudis aren't fearful that an American pullout from their own territory will then make them more vulnerable to Iraq or Iran," he added.



Pakistani Muslims pray during Friday prayers outside a mosque in Islamabad, on Friday.

Pakistan president Musharraf balances modernisation, Islam

ISLAMABAD—In his drive to crack down on Islamic extremists and co-opt moderates, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf warned religious leaders on Friday not to meddle in foreign policy and trust him to sort out Kashmir.

Musharraf, seeking to end a military stand-off with India over the disputed Himalayan region, told the group of hand-picked Islamic leaders that he would not abandon Kashmir's mainly Muslim people.

But his tone revealed frustration with Pakistan-based Islamic groups that have spawned extremist militant offspring fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, who are also blamed for bloody attacks in other parts of India. Muslim

Pakistan had to steer a middle course between Westernisation and radical Islam, he said.

The Pakistani leader urged religious leaders not to interfere in the dispute with India that has prompted the biggest military build-up along the border since a 1971 war. The soldier-turned-president said he would not abandon Kashmir's people, most of whom live under Indian rule, but wanted to isolate Islamic extremists advocating a "holy war" against Pakistan's giant neighbour.

"Let the government handle the foreign (policy) issues such as Kashmir," he said. "Trust me. We will take action in line with the interests of Pakistan and the as-

pirations of the people of Pakistan."

Musharraf said he was confident in the defensive and even offensive capabilities of his military and was satisfied that this ensured there would be no war with India, even though both armies continued to stand "eyeball to eyeball."

"I am fully satisfied that, God willing there will be no war," he said. "We don't want war, we want peace. But if war is imposed on us then we are fully ready to face it with full might and power. For us, the guarantee of peace rests on our own strong shoulders. The real guarantee is our own defence. While that is intact, no one can harm us."

There have been regular exchanges of fire between the two armies and on Thursday Pakistan's official APP news agency said an unmanned Indian spy drone was brought down after it violated Pakistani airspace over the central province of Punjab. India said the report was wrong and was aimed at increasing tension.

A new official Pakistani group set up to publicise the Kashmir issue, which is at the heart of friction with India, said third-party mediation on the dispute was needed.

"This option will work better than any other," committee chief Sardar Abdul Qayyum told a news conference in the southern city of Karachi. India regards Kashmir as a integral part of the country and has long rejected Pakistani calls for mediation.

Treaty on global child sex trade ban comes into force

GENEVA—An international treaty outlawing the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography came into force on Friday after Romania became the 10th country to ratify it, the United Nations said.

Mary Robinson, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Carol Bellamy, head of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), urged more countries to sign up to the legally binding document. The treaty commits states to prosecute adults involved in the commercial child sex trade and to cooperate in protecting minors smuggled across borders.

"Entry into force is a significant further step in the protection of children against particularly gross violations of their rights," Robinson said in a statement.

Last month, 134 countries, at a conference in Yokohama, Japan, pledged to do more to stamp out the multi-billion dollar industry which exploits millions of youths worldwide. "The momentum created through the Yokohama Conference must be maintained," Bellamy said.

"Children who are victims of child prostitution, exploitation, trafficking and sexual abuse deserve every protection we can offer," she added.

An estimated one million children, mainly girls, are lured into the sex trade every year, according to UNICEF. "Girls appear to be forced into the sex industry at increasingly younger ages partly as a result of the mistaken belief that younger girls are unlikely to be infected

with the HIV/AIDS virus," the agency said.

UNICEF said in a report last month there were 400,000 to 500,000 child prostitutes in India alone and estimated that one third of female prostitutes in Thailand were minors.

In the United States, one in five children who went online regularly were approached by strangers for sex and some 100,000 were the victims of sexual abuse every year, UNICEF said.

In Pakistan, based on reported cases only, a woman or child is raped on average every three hours. About 40 percent of reported rapes in South Africa from 1996 to 1998 involved girls 17 or younger. Sri Lanka's estimated 20,000 to 30,000 prostitutes are mostly boys, the report said.



Some of the first patients to be sent overseas by Britain's National Health Service (NHS) to have medical treatment stand outside La Louviere hospital in Lille in northern France, on Friday.

Routine operations for Britons...but in France

LILLE, France—Nine Britons got all they could hope for when they arrived at a French hospital on Friday—BBC TV, English language menus and, most importantly, the prospect of immediate treatment.

"Nice to meet you at the Polyclinique de La Louviere," said the head of the French hospital greeting the Britons in English.

The nine arrived for operations to be carried out abroad due to chronic lack of resources in Britain's public

health system. Britain's National Health Service (NHS) says a million people are on waiting lists for hospital beds and the government has decided to pay foreign hospitals to save them waiting what can be more than a year for an operation.

What was more unusual about Friday's arrivals was that they were people sent for routine operations like hip replacement and removal of eye cataracts. The private Louviere clinic in the northern French town of

Lille, just a couple of hours travel from England, went further than BBC TV too, with brochures in English, menus in English and nurses who spoke English.

It is starting a three-month trial which could open the way to far more British-funded business. "We were very careful to select the best establishments in France and Germany to treat our NHS patients," Peter Huntley, the British man coordinating the programme, told reporters.

News Analysis

How far will Israel go against Arafat?

JERUSALEM—How much further is Israel prepared to go in its campaign against Yasser Arafat?

The Jewish state has declared the Palestinian leader irrelevant, severed ties with him and confined him at his West Bank headquarters with tanks and other armoured vehicles close at hand. Political analysts expect Israel will strike even harder at Arafat's power base after Thursday's deadly banquet hall shooting rampage, but stop short of toppling him from power.

Although Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has made no secret of his desire to relegate Arafat to political oblivion, he seems less willing to risk U.S. wrath by harming, arresting or banishing the 72-year-old former guerrilla leader. A fear persists among some Israelis that whoever followed Arafat might be worse for Israel's interests.

"The United States is not ready to write Arafat off as a peace partner and Israel must accept those limits," said Mark Heller, an Israeli political and security analyst.

Despite that, Washington had harsh words for Arafat after a Palestinian opened fire on party-goers celebrating a bat mitzva, marking a Jewish girl's 12th birthday, in northern Israel. The assailant killed six people before he was shot dead.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Bri-

gades, attached to Arafat's Fatah faction, said it carried out the attack to avenge the killing of one of its leaders in a bomb blast it blamed on

litical tightrope. If he takes tougher action against militants defying his month-old ceasefire order, he risks a Palestinian civil war. But if

which has denied any intention of ousting Arafat—pointed the finger directly at the Palestinian leader.

Analysts said the gunman's links to Fatah, the largest faction of Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation—spelled danger for senior Fatah leaders, largely untouched so far.

In its first reprisals, Israel struck a Palestinian security compound in the West Bank, killing a policeman, and tightened the ring of tanks and other armour around Arafat's Ramallah headquarters, where he has been stranded since early December. Further retaliation was expected to take the form of broader air strikes, raids into Palestinian areas and stepped-up use of Israel's internationally condemned policy of tracking down and killing militants on its most-wanted list, analysts said.

Israel Radio reported that several cabinet ministers supported a proposal to completely isolate Arafat in Ramallah by preventing foreign dignitaries from visiting him there.

Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdainah accused Israel of a "dangerous escalation" and called for U.S. help to defuse the situation. Palestinian analysts said that even if Israel has no intention of targeting Arafat directly, its military blockade and strikes on security targets cripple the Palestinian Authority's ability to govern.



Veronica Flores holds up the missing person poster made for her baby girl.

Mother in sit-in over stolen baby

MEXICO CITY—Veronica Flores has been sitting in a drab Mexico City public hospital room for three weeks, refusing to leave until police find her infant daughter, stolen from her arms when she was 2 days old.

Desperate to keep media and police attention on her case, Flores has vowed to remain at La Villa General Hospital in northern Mexico City until her firstborn child, who vanished on Dec. 27 in the arms of a woman dressed as a doctor, is returned.

"If I leave, they are going to forget about my baby," said Flores, still dazed and in shock. "It's not easy being here. It's emotionally damaging hearing other babies crying all the time."

Dressed in a light-blue nightgown and slippers, with a diaper bag sitting hopefully on the stand beside her hospital bed, Flores pumps milk from her swollen breasts every day and freezes the milk for when she recovers her lost infant.

The extreme measure of Flores' hospital sit-in seems valid to many Mexicans, who know police solve few crimes. The Justice Ministry estimates that of 1.4 million crimes reported in 2000, only 10 percent resulted in convictions and sentencing.

Flores, 29, who quit her job as an educational psychologist to have her baby, married Oscar Alonso, 30, a computer technician, last year. "This baby was totally planned, totally loved," she said.

She gave birth by

Caesarean section on Christmas Day to her first child, a little girl with a full head of black hair. Two days later she was resting in a hospital bed with her daughter, Aixel Camila, when a woman in a doctor's uniform approached her wearing a surgeon's mask and a stethoscope.

The doctor greeted Flores by name, asked how she was recovering from her C-section, and offered to examine the baby after Flores said she had been fussy overnight. The supposed doctor took the baby, walked into the next room and around the corner, and disappeared.

"I think she was stolen to be sold," said Flores, who waited for a ransom call that never came.

She said police had grilled her former boyfriends, her husband's ex-girlfriends, their families and hospital staff. Bernardo Batiz, the top prosecutor for Mexico City, told reporters this week that investigators were chasing some clues, but had made no concrete advances in the case.

Flores' sit-in initially went over badly with the hospital, and nurses stopped changing her sheets and feeding her. After she complained on a local television show that they were neglecting her, they resumed service.

Alejandro Vargas, director of the 220-bed hospital, which provides free health care to low-income people, said he and the city government had decided to let her stay.



An Israeli soldier throws a tear gas canister during clashes near Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's office in the West Bank City of Ramallah, on Friday.

Israel. It was part of a fresh spiral of tit-for-tat violence that has derailed U.S. efforts to end nearly 16 months of bloodshed.

Analysts said Arafat would now face stepped-up international pressure to crack down on militant groups behind recent attacks even as Sharon is given a freer hand to retaliate against him.

Arafat, the longtime embodiment of Palestinian aspirations to statehood, again finds himself walking a po-

he fails to act decisively, he could see erosion of international backing for the Palestinian cause and invite more Israeli strikes against symbols of his power.

"Whatever action Arafat takes, he will have serious problems," Palestinian political analyst Ali Jarbawi said.

Palestinian officials condemned Thursday's attack but accused Sharon of provoking violence to sabotage peace efforts. But Israel—

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Dell raises revenue and earnings outlook

NEW YORK—No. 1 personal computer maker Dell Computer Corp. on Friday raised its revenue and earnings forecasts for the fiscal fourth quarter after gaining market share amid increased consumer demand.

Austin, Texas-based Dell expects sales of \$8 billion in the quarter ending Feb. 1, up from its previous projection of \$7.6 billion. It raised its earnings per share forecast to 17 cents from 16 cents.

Analysts' consensus earnings estimate was 16 cents a share on revenue of \$7.6 billion, according to Thomson Financial/First Call. "Dell's announcements are specific to them and it should come as a surprise to no one that they are rapidly gaining market share. And even with the significant discounting going on they are able to raise their sales forecast," said Tim Chriskey, a senior partner with Chriskey Capital Partners.

Market research groups IDC and Gartner Dataquest Thursday indicated Dell had been having a strong quarter when they reported it increased U.S. and worldwide market share in the fourth-quarter while competitors fell. Wall Street analysts have said in recent weeks they expected Dell to have benefited as consumers bought more computers than expected during the holiday season, which is typically the strongest time of year for PC makers.

Dell's improved outlook comes during a week in which competitor Compaq Computer Corp., another big player in the consumer PC market, announced better than expected revenue and earnings. Compaq's gains, however, came from its high-end computer business as its PC division turned in another quarter of losses.

Dell took over from Compaq as the No. 1 PC maker in 2001, during a period of weak demand for personal computers from both corporations and consumers and as Dell mounted an aggressive price war and marketing campaign. Compaq now plans to merge with Hewlett-Packard Co. Dell's advantage comes from its direct-sales business model. The company builds and ships computers to customer specifications, selling over the phone and through its Web site. This enables it to minimize the inventory typically associated with retail sales and to squeeze profits out of machines sold at very low prices.



Ana Noemi, a homeless woman brought up in an upper-middle class neighbourhood in Buenos Aires, reads an old newspaper at the spot where she's been living for the past year, in a tent in front of the Retiro train station, on Friday. With the country's middle class shrinking fast under the pressure of the deep recession, Argentina's government forecasted the economy to continue shrinking by two percent in 2002, after a year-long political and financial crisis.

Courts step up probe, IMF warns Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentine courts on Friday stepped up their probe into the exodus of bank deposits that helped set off Argentina's current crisis, while foreign banks, Moody's and the IMF sounded new alarms about the state of the battered banking system.

As the Central Bank continued to prop up the peso in the foreign exchange market, the International Monetary Fund said heavier intervention would be "questionable" and warned the government not to expect fresh aid to support the banking system. Moody's rating agency said on Friday banks were facing insolvency after months' scrutiny and delinquency.

Meanwhile, tension in Buenos Aires and other big cities was palpable. Police numbers were bolstered at government buildings as protests welled, threatening a return of the violence that toppled the government and left 27 dead last month.

In the latest daily demonstrations against the government's freezing of most bank savings, hundreds of small businessmen staged a demonstration in front of the Central Bank building in Buenos Aires.

On Thursday, the authorities raided the local offices of banks, including London-based HSBC Holdings. New York-based Citigroup's local

unit and Banco Frances, owned by Spain's Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria. The raids were part of an investigation into the wave of funds sent abroad late last year that led to unpopular government curbs on cash withdrawals.

"Those bringing the complaint say possible crimes include misappropriation of funds (and) fraud within the public administration," Norberto Oyabide, one of the judges heading the probe, said Friday.

With an estimated four out of every five Argentines opposing limits on cash withdrawals, analysts warned that banking restrictions were infuriating foreign-owned banks and threatening to cripple the sector.

Spain's biggest bank, Santander Central Hispano, which sources have said could leave Argentina in new restrictions are not revised, said it was "pessimistic" about the situation and called for a "credible" government plan. The Wall Street Journal Friday reported that FleetBoston Financial Corp. was considering leaving the country after a government decree that would force banks to convert dollar-denominated loans into devalued pesos. FleetBoston later said it was not planning strategic changes in Argentina.

Global tourism outlook seen good despite attacks

HANOVER, Germany—The outlook for the global tourist industry remains positive despite fears the September 11 attacks on U.S. targets would decimate the sector, the head of the World Tourism Organisation said on Friday.

"There are signs everywhere of an improvement and there is therefore no need to revise down our long-term outlook," Francesco Frangilli, secretary-general of the 139-member intergovernmental organisation, told Reuters in an interview.

The tourism industry can expect up to one million job losses worldwide, but this was still a massive improvement on the nine million job losses originally forecast by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), he said. In the aftermath of the suicide hijack attacks on the United States, nervous travellers cancelled bookings and airlines fired thousands of employees.

Frangilli said his organisation would stick to its long-term projections that the number of international tourist arrivals will top one billion by 2010, rising to over 1.5 billion trips abroad by 2020. "The tourism sector performed worse than expected in 2001. There was stagnation at 700 million travellers, maybe small growth," Frangilli said. In 2000, the tourism sector expanded by 7.4 percent to 699 million

travellers, generating \$476 billion, excluding airfares.

The World Tourism Organisation's crisis management group found that three areas were particularly badly hit—flights to and from the United States, intercontinental journeys and travel to Islamic and Arab lands. In December, the tourism sector saw turnover down by between 12 and 15 percent compared to the same month the previous year.

"In 2002 we are convinced there will be an upturn, in the second half perhaps. It is not certain yet, but we think it is possible that the sector will come back to previous levels. Many job losses will be temporary until the sector recovers," he said.

The ILO had been too pessimistic with its initial calculation after September 11. He cited the example of Egypt, where job losses in the sector of up to 40 percent

had been forecast but failed to materialise.

Frangilli was in the north German city of Hanover to launch a tourism trade fair which is aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable tourism and kicks off the UN's International Year of Eco-Tourism. Eco-tourism could see above-average growth levels in coming years and would provide a great opportunity for developing countries.

Globalisation meant every region in the world was affected by tourism and this brought jobs and foreign currency to poor areas, he said, even though tourism was not without its downside. "It is true that tourism can have negative effects, such as in sensitive areas like the tropical rain forests, or the abuse of children in sex tourism. We have to fight this and we are doing this," he said.

McDonald's likely to report flat results

CHICAGO—Fast-food giant McDonald's Corp. plans next week to shut the door on what Chief Executive Jack Greenberg has called "the most challenging year" in the company's history, while Wall Street seeks concrete signs of a turnaround going into 2002.

The world's largest hamburger maker is expected to post flat earnings for the fourth quarter and a decline for the year when it issues its results

on Thursday, Jan. 24. McDonald's earnings have been lower for four consecutive quarters amid sales pressure caused by outbreaks of mad cow disease, a fatal animal disorder, in Europe and Japan, as well as strong U.S. dollar and weak global economies.

Analysts expect to see signs of improvement at the Oak Brook, Illinois-based company, which is restructuring its U.S. operations in an effort to jump-start sales and has been pushing red meat alternatives in troubled hamburger markets overseas.

"I actually think that things are doubling to getting better," said Stouf Christopher, a Crowsell Weedon restaurant analyst. "We're going to start seeing more clean numbers going forward."

McDonald's said last month it expects to earn 31 cents a share in the quarter ended Dec. 31, excluding one-time items, the same as a year earlier. Including pretax charges of \$235 million to \$245 million, primarily associated with U.S. restructuring, quarterly results are pegged at 21 to 22 cents a year.

Full-year earnings are expected to be \$1.36 a share, with analysts' forecasts ranging from \$1.34 to \$1.39 a share, according to Thomson Financial/First Call. McDonald's earned \$1.46 a share in 2000.

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Stock Market Report							
Key Stock Movements January 17 2001							
NEW YORK	DAY'S CHANGE	HIGH	LOW				
	9,771.85	-78.19	11,337.92	8,235.81	(Jan 21)		
					(Sep 21)		
LONDON	5,126.8	-11.6	6,334.5	4,433.7	(Jan 30)		
					(Sep 21)		
TOKYO	10,293.32	+165.14	14,529.41	9,504.41	(Jan 01)		
					(Sep 10)		
FRANKFURT	5,122.23	-11.17	6,795.14	3,787.23	(Jan 31)		
					(Sep 21)		
London Currency Fixing January 17 Rates 2001							
Following are the middle exchange rates for leading currencies against the dollar:							
	CURRENT	HIGH	LOW				
Euro	0.8337	0.8857	0.8797				
Japanese Yen	132.55	133.03	132.43				
British Pound	1.4356	1.439	1.4323				
Dutch Guilder	2.4926	2.5045	2.4881				
French Franc	7.1195	7.5549	4.4661				
German Mark	2.214	2.228	2.2082				
Italian Lira	2192.1	2200.54	2184.15				
Brazilian Real	2.372	2.379	2.362				
Canadian Dollar	1.6124	1.6154	1.6101				
Hong Kong Dollar	7.9986	7.9989	7.9985				
Mexican Peso	9.129	9.149	9.07				

India's temptation

By Jim Hoagland

NEW DELHI—U.S. troops and bases on foreign soil were once anathema to India's nationalistic government. But in the dawn of the 21st century, India's leaders encourage the United States to be in no hurry to give up the strategic foothold in Central Asia established by America's military campaign in Afghanistan.

"I don't think America can give up the Central Asia presence now," says Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh to my wondering ears. "You will be criticized. The presence troubles Russia and China. But you won't be able to give it up" any time soon. He then adds casually that U.S. forces should also stay in Pakistan to help stabilize a nation that India has

long treated as a mortal enemy.

"Yankee go home slowly" also surfaces as a theme in a later conversation with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The United States and India "are natural allies," says India's leader. "We would like to develop relations on a long-term basis... There has been close cooperation during this crisis" on defense and security that should be extended.

America's war on global terrorism has scrambled old patterns of diplomacy and politics and created potential reversals of alliances on a large scale. While Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and other Muslim nations have been forced into hard choices, Vajpayee's secular coalition has been quick to take ad-

vantage of these changes. India is emerging as the biggest strategic winner in the aftermath of the September 11 terror attacks on the United States.

The U.S. Afghan campaign destroyed one of India's enemies—the Taliban—and has seriously hobbled another—Pakistan. Rival China "feels somewhat isolated" at the moment because, in Singh's words, "the changes since September 11 have not been to China's advantage." And the war has helped India escape from the international pariah status that Washington hung on New Delhi more than three years ago for testing nuclear weapons.

Fortune was thus smiled on India, and the debonair Singh smiles back with the

satisfaction of a man who knows that he has a good thing going and does not want to see it end yet. He is more than willing to give the United States more time to squeeze Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf and to stir Beijing's fears of encirclement by setting up long-term bases in Uzbekistan and elsewhere in Central Asia.

In a lengthy conversation on Thursday with members of the Aspen Strategy Group, an informal body of U.S. foreign policy analysts, Singh also put limits on India's embrace of a more significant U.S. role in his region. He specifically warned against well-meaning U.S. offers to help Pakistan control access to its nuclear warheads, since this could inadvertently give Islamabad greater confidence in its ability to deploy nukes.

Singh and other senior Indian officials indicated they had detected no assembly of Pakistani nuclear components in the mobilization of both armies that followed a December 13 terror attack on the Indian Parliament. On January 1, the two nations routinely exchanged lists of their nuclear facilities as they now do every year.

The foreign minister also urged Washington not to overreach in Afghanistan. "It is not Finland," Singh said in a remark he repeated force-



fully later in the day to Secretary of State Colin Powell, who arrived on his second visit here in three months. "Don't try to convert it to Finland. There are limits to what you can do." There is no viable long-term security role in Afghanistan for American forces, he told the Aspen members. "It is best for the U.S. to maintain... a not too-visible presence" and leave quickly to allow Afghans to develop their own national security force.

India would not interfere in Afghanistan, Singh said. And neither should any other neigh-

bor. "Pakistan for the last 20 years played a role to keep India out of Afghanistan. That phase is over."

Singh, who resembles Anthony Eden wearing a Nehru jacket and a deep tan, is enjoying India's escape from the international doghouse to which it was consigned after surprise nuclear tests in 1998. Those tests triggered Pakistani atomic blasts and sanctions for both nations.

India's temptation will be to let ride the bet that has performed so handsomely in this opening phase of the war on terror—to believe that New Delhi needs to do nothing to help decrease the tensions with Pakistan that have prevailed since December 13. The better way for India to manage its sudden success is for India to take small but meaningful steps of military de-escalation, now, rather than go for one more spin of the wheel.

Penpals wanted

Dear Sir/Madam,
Pleasant good day to you. I'm 29 years old. I'd love to make friends from your beautiful island and to learn more about your country. My name is Grace Ennis. I'd be very grateful for having my name published in your papers. Thank you.

Grace Ennis
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Attacks are on the rise against Venezuelan media

By Andres Oppenheimer

When I wrote two years ago about my fears that Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez would become increasingly authoritarian, my friend Miguel Henrique Otero — the publisher of Venezuela's daily El Nacional — told me I was being unfair.

Chávez makes lots of fiery speeches attacking the media, but he's harmless, Henrique Otero told me

at the time, with what I sensed over the telephone was a benevolent smile. Neither Chávez nor any of his ministers had ever called the newspaper to be published, he said.

This week, after a mob of Chávez supporters including public employees attacked El Nacional January 7 and the newspaper asked the Organization of American States' Human Rights Commission for

protection against government harassment, Henrique Otero chuckled when I reminded him of that conversation.

A lot of things have changed in Venezuela over the past two years, he said.

"Like most Venezuelans, I became disenchanted with Chávez when I realized that he doesn't have a constructive agenda," said Henrique Otero, whose center-left newspaper was generally supportive of Chávez during his election campaign and first months in office. "All he has are destructive skills."

What does that mean? I asked.

"At the beginning, we supported him because he was calling for the destruction of the corrupt institutions we had in Venezuela. But after he did that, he didn't come up with any constructive program. He's stuck in a destructive mode."

Over the past year, Chávez has insulted virtually every sector of Venezuela's society, as well as the United States, his oil-rich country's biggest client. He has called Venezuela's business class an "oligarchy," and has lashed out against the country's organized labor movement, triggering a December 10 national strike by business and labor groups that paralyzed the country.

Now, Chávez's popularity has plummeted to a record low of between 18 percent to 30 percent, depending on which poll you want to believe. And, following the traditional recipe of populist leaders in times of trouble, he is blaming the messengers of



bad news, stepping up his attacks on the press.

In a January 6 speech, a day before the attack on El Nacional, Chávez took on that newspaper. Much as he had done before with El Universal, whose courageous publisher Andres Mata he once described as "an enemy of the people," Chávez vowed to "give the stick" to the media that oppose his "Bolivarian revolution."

A day later, a mob of nearly 200 pro-Chávez militants surrounded El Nacional, threw rocks at its building, and started a "vigil" in front of the newspaper that in effect kept its employees locked inside.

Days later, El Nacional identified about 25 of the demonstrators. They all belonged to the government party, several were council members and legislative aides, and most were em-

ployees of Caracas' Libertador neighborhood mayor Freddy Bernal. Bernal told the press later that he could not control what his workers did after they left work at 4:30 p.m.

"In the past, it was only verbal threats. Now, Chávez's speeches are followed by attacks from para-governmental squadrons," Henrique Otero told me. "They wanted to keep the paper from coming out that day."

Despite El Nacional's complaint to the OAS Human Rights Commis-

sion, Chávez pressed on, and a few days later said he was the victim of "media terrorism." Again, the pro-Chávez mobs demonstrated in front of El Nacional and El Universal, shouting threats to its reporters.

OAS and Inter-American Press Association officials are now demanding a government investigation into the January 7 attack. Granted, unlike in Cuba, independent media are allowed in Venezuela, and many of them are openly critical of Chávez. But Chávez's intimidation of journalists is increasing, they say.

"If a government silences the best-informed reporters, the fact that others can talk isn't much of a big deal," says Santiago Canton, the OAS special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

As far as Henrique Otero is concerned, he fears Chávez will become increasingly authoritarian as his support base is shrinking by the day, and as growing numbers of moderates — possibly including Interior Minister Luis Miqullena — have left or are about to leave his government.

Not all the news is bad for the El Nacional publisher. Sales have soared 30 percent since Chávez started attacking the newspaper. "Chávez has become our best marketing agent," Henrique Otero says.

Requirement to be a Parliamentarian

Dear Editor,

Please permit me space in your well read newspaper to express my opinion on a system that is so "One Sided."

In order for a person, or any individual to be employed, he or she has to meet a certain level of education. For example: to be a policeman, office clerk, lawyer, postman etc., you must have a MAVO, HAVO or VWO level diploma. Thereafter, higher forms of education are required to hold or be placed in certain positions.

What I am trying to explain to our voters and tax paying people is the following: to become a Member of Parliament, one should have a higher level of education, but this is not stipulated in our system. Therefore, any elected representative can

become Member of Parliament. If one does not have the level of education and capability, one cannot make the right decision. There should be a criterion for a Minister or Parliamentarian in accordance with his or her portfolio.

As it now looks, our educational system is a complete mockery. Teachers must be educated to stand in front of the children in the classroom. In today's world where technology has taken over, it is time that our parliamentary system be changed to encourage more of our professionals to take part. When that happens, then we would not have a crisis like we have presently in parliament.

Name withheld upon author's request

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Fire! Lord help, St. Martin is on fire!

Smoke, blazing fire, a scalding inferno engulfs a sleepy, indifferent, hurt, wounded, oppressed, plundered, bewildered and pillaged people. A people known as St. Martiners. Fire rages, smoke billows relentlessly, as sleepy onlookers watch the destruction and devastation of a once serene, tranquil and extremely friendly island.

"Fire! Fire! Fire!" the bystanders yell frantically, desperately searching for hope at the end of a seemingly unending, winding, pitch black tunnel, now red with vicious, flickering, fiery flames. Fire fighters, paid to protect their welfare stand behind some umbrellas, others unwilling to out the hot embers of oppression, injustice, prejudice, jealousy and her cousin viz, racism, nepotism, classism and the other destructive "isms" slowly, now rapidly suffocating a dejected, tired, frustrated, aggravated and angry people.

"Where is the protection you promised us?" Where are you now we need you most? You promised us security, you promised us care, you promised that we'd have enough to take care of our families! Now, we look, it's all up in thick, grey, blinding smoke. Smoke so thick, that we've forgotten what we had, who we are, that we even had home, or dreams to live for!

"Where am you now that our children must go hungry? Where are you now that we are financially, physically empty? Where am you now that our famished, starving, neglected children have turned to drugs, theft, burglary, armed robbery, prostitution and every other dale criminal activity imaginable?"

Bystanders stand by, looking on, complaining, shouting, screaming for mercy. Others in a desperate attempt to salvage their loss, grasp the thin air now thick with the intoxicating fume and lash out at anyone or anything that gets in their way. Hoping, that somehow, they'd escape the hell on earth that they are experiencing.

The preceding is a sad commentary, but a true horror story, one that Hollywood movies am made of. But are you one of the shiftless onlookers or are you an opportunistic fire-fighter who

doesn't care less if your neighbour is engulfed in flames? Examine yourself, choose to make a difference. Choose to rewrite this morbid and sordid tale so that instead of a horror show, we could attend an awards banquet.

The choice is yours, life or death! The script is all up to you. What you do today, determines what movie genre we will live and experience.

As renowned preacher, author and entrepreneur T.D. Jakeo aptly stated in his book "The Great Investment: Faith, Family and Finance." "You must work together in order to win. And as a team you can successfully tackle any problem and weather any storm. But the first thing you must overcome is the limitations of each team member. Each family member has certain assets and liabilities. This includes you, too. You're not perfect and your role is not to act like a handyman and try to fix everyone. The secret to creating a strong team is blending each member's unique talents so that the liabilities are minimized."

"Learn to compensate for each other's inability. We are better together than we are apart. Championship sports teams don't come in first place because they have the best players. They win because they know how to work together. A star quarterback isn't worth much, if there is nobody to catch his passes. Likewise in basketball, where even the most dominant center needs a point guard to keep the ball. The best players are the ones who know their teammates' strengths and weaknesses and work with them so that the entire team shines."

"Make allowances for realities. Some people will never change. Learn to accept this. You could waste years complaining, causing rifts in your relationships and driving yourself crazy, or you could adjust your expectations and be a lot happier."

Now, if you are a bystander who is seeking help in all the wrong places, or depending upon corrupt, tired, power-hungry or spiteful fire-fighters who have proven that they care nothing about you, know from whence your help comes.

Remember the sobering and encouraging words of Isaiah, the wise prophet of old ("St. Martiners), the Lord who created you says, "Do not be afraid - I will save you. I have called you by name - you are mine. When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you. For I am the Lord your God, the holy Cod of Israel, who saves you. (Isaiah 43:1-3) And because I love you and give you honour, do not be afraid - I am with you! (Isaiah 43:5)

Moreover, Isaiah reals God's word to us that "I am the only God. Besides me there is no other God; there never was and there never will be. I alone am the Lord, the only one who can save you. I predicted what would happen, and then I came to your aid. No foreign God has ever done this; I am your witness. I am God and always will be. No one can escape from my power; no one can change what I do (Isaiah 10:13)

"But the Lord says, do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already - you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there. Even the wild animals will honour me; jackals and ostriches will praise me when I make rivers flow in the desert to give water to my chosen people. They are the people I made for myself and they will sing my praises!" (Isaiah 43:8-21)

Isaiah continues, "Those who will rebuild you are coming soon, and those who destroyed you will leave. Look around and see what is happening! Your people are assembling - they are coming home! As surely as I am the living God, you will be proud of your people, as proud as a bride is of her jewels (Isaiah 49, 17-18).

"Your country was ruined and desolate - but now it will be too small for those who are coming to live there."

And those who left you in ruins will be far removed from you. Your people who were born in exile will one day say to you, - "This land is too small - we need more room to live in! Then you will say to yourself, 'who

bore all these children for me? I lost my children and could have no more. I was exiled and driven away - who brought these children up? I was left all alone - where did these children come from?" (Isaiah 49:19)

"No one who waits for my help will be disappointed (Is 49:23) I will fight against whoever fights you, and I will rescue your children. I will make your oppressors kill each other, and they will be drunk with murder and rage. Then all mankind will know that I am the Lord, the one who saves you and sets you free. They will know that I am (your) powerful God (Isaiah 49:25 & 26). "I alone am the Lord your God. No other God may share my glory; I will not let idols share my praise. The things I have predicted have now come true. Now I will tell you of new things even before they begin to happen. (Isaiah 42:8) God says for a long time I kept silent; I did not answer my people.

But now the time to act has come: I cry out like a woman in labour. I will destroy the hills and mountains and dry up the grass and trees. I will turn the river valleys into deserts and dry up the pools of water.

"I will lead my blind people by roads they have never travelled. I will turn, their darkness into light and make rough country smooth before them. These am my promises and I will keep them without fail. All who trust in idols, who call images their gods will be humiliated and disgraced.

"The Lord says, "Listen you deaf people! Look closely, you that are blind! Is anyone more blind... and deaf than my people?.. You have seen so much but what has it meant to you? You have ears to hear with, but what have you really heard?"

"The Lord is a God who is eager to save, so he exalted his laws and his teachings, and he wanted his people to honour them. But no his

people have been plundered; they are locked up in dungeons and hidden away in prisons. They were robbed and plundered, but no one to come to their rescue.

"Will any of you listen to this? From now on will you listen with care? Who gave (you) up to looters? It was the Lord himself against whom we sinned! We would not live as he wanted us to live or obey the teachings he gave us. So he made us feel the force of his anger and suffer... violence... Like fire his anger burned throughout (St. Martin) but we never knew what was happening; we learned nothing at all from it."

Yes my dear people, building beautiful edifices, schools, church buildings, hotels...without building our own temples; people, children results in shallow, vain and empty living. This only results in a life, which disintegrates into ashes created by the blazing fire on sweet St. Martin.

Solidarity is needed

My original plan was to write an article a day during the last week leading up to the election, but I began to feel it would be better to wait until election day. That way my comments on the campaign efforts by candidates contesting would be more accurate and complete.

First of all I feel that the importance of this election was not made crystal clear to the voters. More emphasis on what the candidates were going to do specifically to realise the people's wish of obtaining a Separate Status was never conveyed to the voter. All one heard was, "We are going to get you Status Apart." Nobody however, bothered to tell me how, I mean, come on, give us some insight on how you are going to go about achieving this Separate Status.

Another thing that bothers me, and bothers me much, is how all the people of St. Maarten could be fairly represented should one political party gain complete control of representing St. Maarten in Parliament.

There are three political parties. That means (three) different ways of thinking on how Government should operate. You don't have to be a genius to figure out that one political party could never fully sat-

isfy all the people of St. Maarten's needs. This particular fact is why the idea of a National Alliance is so very appealing to serious-minded voters.

At a time like this, solidarity between all the people of St. Maarten is most important. Because the object is to become one country, one people, we desperately need our leaders to start consolidating their talents, create a "think tank," combine their ideas and get us out of Curaçao. Since this is what the people want (and I do hope that this is what St. Maarten people truly want) all the combined efforts of the various leaders here are very necessary.

I'm of the opinion that with regard to what I've just said, the Democratic Party made a mistake by not throwing in with the others, making this election a truly historical episode. It seemed as if they completely missed the whole point of this election. Sorry guys, but I'm afraid I call it like I see it!

Let's face it, the much overplayed mud-slinging directed towards other candidates was childish, unprofessional and did absolutely nothing to install the sense of unification so badly needed by the people to successfully undergo the change of Status Apart.

Burying the hatchet on past transgressions is now needed for a government to be formed that will ultimately meet the challenges of a Separate Status. This would have been the best time to start.

St. Maarteners, should this experiment fail, just remember that we don't have anywhere to go. Unlike other people who have countries to go back to, rather than suffer the pains of defeat here, we St. Maarteners will be stuck right here. We can't wave another flag.

Just keep that in mind whenever your voice is needed to determine the future of your country.

Allan A. Richardson

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Herald



Sarah, a six-month-old poodle, enjoys a head massage at a new Bangkok massage parlour for dogs on Friday.

It's a dog's life at Thai massage parlour

BANGKOK—Traditional Thai massage is renowned for its healing effects on the human body, and now Bangkok residents can buy the same luxury for their canine companions.

Thai entrepreneur Thait Kittikanokun has opened "Doggie Bag", a new salon and spa for dogs, which he hopes will kick off a fad for pampering pooches.

"I found out from many years of having dogs, they also love being massaged," said the 44-year-old dog lover. "Apart from physical massage I'm giving them voice massage

also, kind of talking to them, soothing voice. The main thing is don't use a high pitched voice but a normal one, so the dogs can relax."

Thait says a massage can help a dog relax after the stresses of the Thai capital's hectic streets.

Appointments can be made by phone and dog owners can choose between different products, from regular washing and grooming to massage and aromatherapy. The price depends on the size and hair-length of each dog, but is around 500 baht (\$11.41) a session.

BVN (Dutch/Flemish) TV Channel 46 St. Maarten Cable TV

Local times

Saturday January 19

Local times	Program
1:00pm + 7:00pm	NOS 6 uur Journaal
1:15pm + 7:15pm	Tik tak
1:25pm + 7:25pm	Het klokhuis
1:40pm + 7:40pm	Het regiojournaal
2:10pm + 8:10pm	VRT Journaal
2:45pm + 8:45pm	Dieren in nesten
3:05pm + 9:05pm	Studio NL
3:35pm + 9:35pm	NOS 8 uur Journaal
4:00pm + 10:00pm	Weerbericht
4:05pm + 10:05pm	De steel
4:45pm + 10:45pm	Knevel op zaterdag
5:10pm + 11:10pm	Zaal Hollandia
5:50pm + 11:50pm	Nova
6:15pm + 12:15pm	Studio Sport

Sunday January 20

Local times	Program
9:30am	De zevende dag
11:00am	Buitenboef
1:00pm + 7:00pm	NOS 6 uur Journaal
1:05pm + 7:05pm	Tik tak
1:10pm + 7:10pm	Toples
1:25pm + 7:25pm	Het klokhuis
1:40pm + 7:40pm	Willem Wever
2:05pm + 8:05pm	VRT Journaal
2:30pm + 8:30pm	Afrif 9
3:00pm + 9:00pm	Andere ogen
3:30pm + 9:30pm	NOS 8 uur Journaal
3:40pm + 9:40pm	Weerbericht
3:45pm + 9:45pm	De 9 dagen van de gier
4:35pm + 10:35pm	Met het mes op tafel
5:00pm + 11:00pm	Het lagehuis
5:50pm + 11:50pm	Studio Sport

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Phil Collins concert to help budding stars

GENEVA—British singer and songwriter Phil Collins will perform in Geneva on Saturday to raise funds for a charity foundation he and his Swiss wife Orianne set up to help aspiring entertainers and athletes.

Collins, who lives in a village in the wine-growing region of western Switzerland, also said he would release a new album by the end of the summer. It would be "as far more experimental" than for the first time he used a computer for composing and mixing.

But the former Genesis drummer and lead singer conceded that deafness in his left ear, following a viral infection more than a year ago, was a handicap.

Collins and his third wife, who runs a public relations company, set up the Little Dreams Foundation to provide professional support and financing for youths aged four to 16 hoping to make a breakthrough in music, cinema, or sport. "A lot of people don't come from wealthy families. Therefore that talent ends up being unheard," Collins said in an interview with World Radio Geneva.

"The idea is funding them so they can go to music college if they want to be a musician or get equipment if they want to be an athlete," he added.

At the "Unplugged" concert, the foundation's first event, Collins will perform with Melody Perret, a 16-year-old Swiss girl. She is among the first to be sponsored by the foundation which will soon have eight to 10 proteges, a spokeswoman said.

Former Swiss skier Erika Hess, French actor Christophe Lambert, French tennis players Henri Leconte and Arnaud Boetsch, Swiss Olympic cyclist Pascal Richard and British round-



British singer and songwriter Phil Collins and his wife Orianne.

world balloonist Brian Jones are among the foundation's "godfathers".

"Orianne is the driving force behind the foundation, she puts a lot into it," a source close to the board told Reuters. "We're going to do

more events in Europe." Last April, at age 50, Collins became a father for the fourth time when Orianne, who is more than 20 years younger, gave birth to their son Nicholas. The pair married in July 1999.



Universal has abruptly halted the untitled comedy that was to star Jim Carrey and Nicole Kidman and begin production in March.

Universal calls off Carrey/Kidman comedy

NEW YORK—Universal has abruptly halted the untitled comedy that was to star Jim Carrey and Nicole Kidman and begin production in March.

Carrey was to play a widower who begins dating, only to find himself haunted by his deceased wife (Kidman). Universal had expected to release writer/director Gary Ross' film as its big Christmas offering.

No specific reason was given for shelving the film, though it appears that a deciding factor was Kidman's

busy schedule. She's shooting the Lars von Trier film "Dogville", followed immediately by the Robert Benton-directed "The Human Stain" with Anthony Hopkins.

The Universal project came together with much fanfare, as both actors sparked to Ross' script, and it is considered very possible that they will come back together in the fall to make the picture happen. For now, Carrey is pursuing other projects for the spring.



Ty Burrell (left) as Wilkinson and Jeremy Piven (on stretcher) as Wolcott in Columbia's *Black Hawk Down*.

Somalian group calls for "Black Hawk Down" boycott

MINNEAPOLIS—Somali-American community leaders called for a boycott of "Black Hawk Down," charging the new movie depicts their African homeland's people as savages and could create a backlash against refugees who fled to the United States.

Omar Jamal, executive director of the Somali Justice Advocacy Center in St. Paul, said about a dozen people from the center saw a preview of the movie this week and were shocked. Minnesota is home to at least 25,000 Somalis, believed to be the biggest concentration in the nation.

"We don't know what Americans will think of us Somalis after they watch this movie," Jamal said.

"The Somali people are depicted as very savage beasts without any human element," he said. "It's just people shooting each other." The movie, which opened Friday, portrays a 1993 firefight that left 18 American soldiers dead. They were part of a mission aimed at restoring peace and averting famine in the country in the wake of the ouster of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991.

Jamal said the movie left out that thousands of Somalis were killed in the conflict. The Advocacy Center planned to distribute fliers at theaters explaining the history of the conflict.

With the focus back on Somalia as a possible hideout for al-Qaida members, the movie compounds the possible repercussions for local Somalis, who have worked since Sept. 11 to show their support in the war against terrorism, Jamal

said.

He cited the death of a Somali man punched at a Minneapolis bus stop in October, which triggered accusations in the Somali and Muslim communities of a hate crime. No one has

been charged.

"The community is shocked and really afraid of the consequences of this movie," Jamal said. "It's a big psychological setback of our efforts."

J.Lo E!'s Rank sexiest woman in entertainment

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Lopez is an actress, a singer, a dancer, a J.Lo and, as of Wednesday's episode of E!'s Rank, the Sexiest Woman in Entertainment.

The way-multihyphenate took the top slot as the network's original series counted down the 25 Sexiest Women in Entertainment. She joins George Clooney, named the Sexiest Man in Entertainment by Rank last fall, as a reigning model-of-—to-put it plainly—hotness.

Lopez, who came this close to being named E!'s Entertainer of the Year in 2001 (she ran second to Nicole Kidman),

needs no introduction to beautiful-people watchers. She's an alumna of People magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People in the World" roundup. She's been found to have the sexiest legs of all female stars (by Hanes Hosiery in 2000). And she's been declared the owner and operator of the world's best female celeb body (by *Celebrity Bodies* magazine, of course).

So failed is the Angel Eyes star's form that, in 1999, a British tab claimed Lopez took a \$1 billion insurance policy out on her bod (La Lopez laughed off the report).



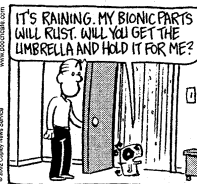
A group of sled dogs bask in sunshine with sunglasses in a scene from the new family comedy film "Snow Dogs" starring Cuba Gooding, Jr., as a dentist from Miami who inherits a team of mischievous sled dogs. The film opened in the United States on Friday.



By Linda C. Black

POOCH CAFE

by Paul Gilligan



Today's Birthday (Jan. 19). Anything around your place that needs fixing up, tossing out or painting? Need a new bathroom? A hot tub? Why pay big bucks to have somebody else do it? You can learn to hammer nails. How hard could it be? Get a book.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - Suddenly everything looks possible again. You'll run into technical problems for the next few weeks, but that won't stop you. Go ahead with romantic plans, too. Love is on your side.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - Do you have any closets that need cleaning? Any debts that should be repaid? How about chores you promised to do someday? The calendar may say it's Saturday, but it's really Someday.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - Your team has the enthusiasm to succeed, but does it have the discipline? Does your team know the rules? That's where you come in. If you keep them from getting too rambunctious, they'll thank you later.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - Don't follow orders if they don't make any sense. The one who's making the most noise isn't necessarily right. Stick to your own principles, even if it means you're in the minority. You're stronger than you think.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - Your luck is changing for the better. You'll forget all about recent financial constraints. You'll be having so much fun, for free, that you won't even think about finances. The best things in life are still quite affordable, and you're surrounded by them.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - If you do anything that involves other people's money, beware. It won't take much to upset these people. Make sure you give back the right change. Explain all transactions carefully to minimize stress - both theirs and yours.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22) - Today is an 8 - Don't let a misunderstanding shatter your tranquility. Don't let another person's anxiety get you flustered. Be a calming influence. Reassure them that love will find a way.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 5 - There'll be one breakdown after another today. As soon as you get one thing fixed, something else demands attention. Don't fight it. Plan to spend the weekend getting your place in order.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - By now, you've learned to be more patient and to review what you've learned. Because of that, you'll be able to move right along. Others find you increasingly fascinating and will have lots of questions. You're becoming an expert.

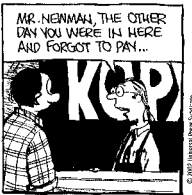
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 6 - Looks like a good weekend to do housework. Better throw out some stuff to make more room for yourself. You might even create enough space to set up a home office.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - Mars, symbolizing energy, has just gone into Aries. That's a very hot combination. It'll stir up your imagination and your lust for knowledge.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - Take it easy. Read the funnies. Go shopping for something you've wanted. Mercury's just gone retrograde, so for you, the next couple of weeks are about catching up. Read all those old magazines.

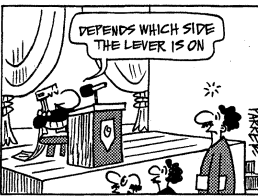
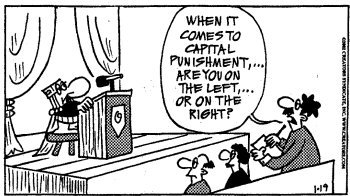
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SEND LETTERS TO P.O. BOX 624

Dear Queenie,

I met a great guy at work and he asked me out on a date. He took me to a great restaurant and we had a delicious meal, but after he finished eating he asked me if I minded if he smoked. I don't smoke and I told him, yes, I minded, because I was still eating and the smell of tobacco smoke would bother me while I was eating.

He already had his cigarettes in his hand when he asked me and he was starting to light up when he asked me. He gave me this veed look and put his cigarettes away. He was very nice to me after that, took me home early, and I haven't heard from him again.

Queenie, was I wrong? — Non-smoker

Dear Non-smoker,

No, you weren't wrong. He was wrong for (obviously) taking it for granted that you would say you didn't mind. I'd say this "great" guy wasn't so great after all. It was selfish and inconsiderate of him to want to smoke while you were still eating and to get vexed at your reasonable request.

Furthermore, if you don't smoke, you might want to think twice about getting involved with a man who does. It is a very difficult addition to overcome, and the secondhand side effects of his habit could be very bad for your health.

Only notices of fundraising events, non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices column.

EVENTS

Sunday, January 20

FIRST RUN OF THE YEAR:

CARIB MALTA FUN RUN

organised by St. Maarten Road Runners. 10k and 5k runs, 5k walk, 3k run for kids. Prizes, trophies, free refreshments, breakfast for all participants. Pre-registration at Tri Sport, Saturday, January 19, 10.00am to 5.00pm; no registration the morning of the race. Start/finish: Kim Sha Beach
Start time: 6:45am
Entry fee: US \$5; free for children and members (membership \$20 per year).

For more information call Rose, tel. 544-3134 or 556-7815.

Sunday, January 20

SERVICE OF INTROSPECTION:

"GOD: IS HE IN THE HOME OR NOT?"

organised by Philipsburg Seventh Day Adventist Church. Presentations by the church's women's and men's ministries and Sea Haven. Place: Philipsburg Seventh Day Adventist Church, Zagersgat Road. Time: 7:15pm
Families are especially encouraged to attend.

Saturday, February 2

SILENT AUCTION

organised by Learning Unlimited School. Dinner, live entertainment, fashion show, door prize.
Place: Columbus Restaurant, Maho Center
Price: US \$35

Tickets available at Learning Unlimited School next to the Medical Center, Caribbean Greens on Front Street, Bombay Brasserie in Grand Case and Mamma Mia's Restaurant in Maho. For more information, call tel. 542-3545, or Mary Gold, tel. 544-2716.

Sunday, February 3

DHIL TRIPLE FUN

MINI-TRIATHLONS

organised by Friendly Island Triathlon Association. 200m swim, 5k cycle, 2k run; ideal for beginners. Individual entries only. Registration at Tri Sport, Saturday, February 2, 10.00am to 5.00pm.
Place: Mullet Bay

For more information or to volunteer for the event, call Tri Sport, tel. 545-4384, or www.stmaartenriathlon.org.

Saturday, February 9

150TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE

organised by Oranje School. Postponed from December 15, 2001.

Place: Senior Citizens Recreational Center, Hope Estate.

Price: NAJ, 20 or US \$10

Tickets from December 15 still valid.

Saturday, February 9

ANNUAL BAKE SALE

organised by Cake Crafting Friends of St. Maarten Foundation. Cakes, tarts, cookies, plants and gift baskets on sale.

Place: Next to Impression Boutique, Cannegieter Street.

Start time: 10:30am

NOTICES

Study Financing Announcement

The Study Financing Unit of the Insular Department of Education reminds all persons who have applied for study financing for the school year 2002-2003 to have their files completed no later than 11:00am on 1/31. Failure to do so will result in the application not being handled.

Senior Citizens Homes

The Sint Maarten Red Cross and the Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation are currently accepting applications for the 23 units at the Red Cross Senior Home at Beveldeers. Interested persons can call the offices of the Sint Maarten Red Cross, tel. 545-2304 or 545-5024, or the Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation, tel. 543-1062.

Restorers Of The Breach Meeting

All members of Restorers of the Breach Youth Ministry are asked to attend a very important meeting at St. Peters Hillside Christian School, Saturday, January 19, 12:00 noon. Please be on time and bring writing materials.

Women Aglow Meeting

The St. Maarten Aglow Fellowship invites members and all interested women to its first 2002 monthly meeting at Philipsburg Jubilee Library, Saturday, January 19, 9:00-11:00am.

First Aid Courses

The Netherlands Red Cross announces that it is currently accepting registrations for the First Aid Course to begin Monday, January 21. For more information, call the office, tel. 545-5263 or 545-5263, or visit Red Cross Headquarters, #34 Airport Boulevard, Simpson Bay, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

Junior District Basketball Meeting

Junior District Basketball teams and any person interested in taking part in the upcoming basketball tournament are informed of a very important meeting at L. B. Scott Sports Auditorium, Monday, January 21, 8:00pm sharp. Registration of teams with coaches can be completed. For more information, call James Busby, tel. 556-8289.

Dutch Side Carnival 2002 Registration

St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation announces that the offices at Carnival Village is open for registration for all 2002 Carnival activities, every Saturday, 11:00am to 2:00pm. Final registration date for booth-holders is Saturday, February 2. If you have not registered by this date, your booth will be given to persons on the waiting list. For further information, call Fabiana Arnell, tel. 542-2026 or 551-1905, or Michael Granger, 522-3133.

Learning Unlimited Enrollment

US accredited Learning Unlimited Preparatory School in Cay Hill is currently enrolling students ages 3-18 for the second semester. Parents may call the office, tel. 542-3545, to arrange for an appointment to tour the school.

Jack 'N Jill Learning Center Registration

The Jack 'N Jill Learning Center at Laughing Bird Road #1, Pointe Blanche (Old location Jack and Jill Playschool), is currently accepting children for the Pre-Kindergarten/Day care and After School Program. The center is open from 7:00am to 5:30pm. For more information call tel. 552-9988 or 551-0609.

No Limits Pre-School Registration

No Limits Pre-School in St. Peters is now registering students for the 2002 school year. For more information call tel. 548-5082.

Little League Registration

St. Maarten Little League invites all members and prospective members ages 5-18 to come to the Little League Ball Park on the Pondfill and register in preparation for the distribution of uniforms. Registration Monday-Friday, 3:00-5:30pm, Saturday, 9:00am to 2:00pm.

I Can Foundation Needs Volunteers

I Can Foundation Halfway Home for children is looking for volunteers in the areas of field workers, in-house help and weekend/vacation families. If you are good with children ages 0-18 and would like to help, call Cassandra Gibbs or Bernadette Bosman Stephens, Madrid Road #55, Dutch Quarter, tel. fax 547-7013, for more information.

Trainers Softball Practice

Members who signed up to play with Trainers Softball Team are invited to practice at John Cooper/José Lake Sr. Ball Park Thursdays, 6:00pm, and Saturdays, 7:00am.

No Limits Swim School Registration

No Limits Swim School is now registering students for the year 2002. Saturday, 7:00-8:00am; 8:00-9:00am; 9:00-10:00am; 3:00-4:00pm; 4:00-5:00pm; Sunday, 7:00-8:00am; 8:00-9:00am; 9:00-10:00am. For more

information, call tel. 556-8288.

Carib Swim Team Swimming Lessons

Carib Swim Team announces the restart of swimming lessons and training programs at the Cole Bay pool. For registration and schedules, call the office or tel. 556-8003.

Attention Moms

Here is an opportunity for you to become part of a ministry called Moms in Touch International, "a group of mothers who meet for one hour each week to pray for their children and the schools they attend. We know our children fact much pressure at school and to 'stand in the gap' through prayer is the best gift we can give to them. If you are interested in being part of this praying support group, call Lorna Harrington, tel. 557-3015, after 6:00pm.

Inspirational Seminars

Free inspirational seminars with Peter Smits, courtesy of Maho Beach Resort and Goodlife Spa, in the Rainbow Room at Maho Sky Tower every Monday. Enter through the main lobby. Free parking in the parking garage.

Afternoon Classes

The Holy Child Foundation, St. Peters Road #90, offers afternoon classes in English and Dutch. For more information, call Dorothy, tel. 552-7330.

Law Clinic Consultations

The Women's Desk reminds the public that law clinic offers free advice on personal legal issues every first and third Monday of the month. For additional information call tel. 542-7940 or 542-7941. The Law Clinic is open for the entire public at the Government Administration Building, Clem Labega Square, every Saturday, 9:00am to 12:00 noon. Personal Legal matters will be dealt with in a confidential manner.

Baby Clinic Hours

The White and Yellow Cross Foundation announces that starting Monday, August 6, the new Baby Clinic hours will be: Back Street: Monday-Thursdays, 8:30am to 3:30pm; Friday, 8:30am to 12:00 noon.

Southward: Wednesdays, 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Cole Bay: Tuesdays and Fridays, 2:00-4:00pm.

Dutch Quarter and Middle Region Baby Clinics will combine and meet in the Dutch Quarter Community Center, Zorg en Rust Drive, opposite Martin Luther King School: Thursdays, 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Dabetes Foundation

Information Evenings

The Diabetes Foundation of St. Maarten has moved its offices to the White and Yellow Cross Building on Back Street, Philipsburg. The Foundation holds its Information Evenings at the information center and offices of the foundation, Thursdays, 5:30-7:00pm. Glucose testing, checking of blood pressure and educational material on all facets of diabetes are available.

Those who want to exercise with DEX members and volunteers can do so at Raoul Fildes Sports Complex every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:00-6:00pm.

Red Cross Assistance

The Netherlands Red Cross St. Maarten Chapter informs all organisations and schools requesting Red Cross assistance during activities that a letter of request must be submitted to the Red Cross office no later than one week prior to the date of the activity. This is necessary for us to be able to mobilise volunteers to attend the activities. Requests can be delivered to the office located at #34 Airport Boulevard, Simpson Bay, or faxed to 545-2333.

British Consulate Announcement

Please be advised that passport applications and birth registration forms for British citizens, as well as visa application forms for the United Kingdom, can be obtained at the Parliament Building, Back Street, Philipsburg, St. Maarten.

WITU Office

Persons wishing to contact the office of the Windward Islands Teachers Union at Van Gogh Street #36, Madame Estate, are asked to call or fax tel. 542-2694.

Ebenzer Learning Center Enrollment

The Ebenezer Learning Center located at Ebenezer Road #92, Ebenezer Estate, offers after school activities, and homework guidance for 150 children. For more information, call tel. 548-4588 or 559-1539.

Positively Active After School

Positively Active After School is now accepting children who need after school care and homework assistance. For more information, call tel. 542-4386.



Tiger Woods.

Woods looks forward to US Tour return at Pebble Beach

NEW YORK—Tiger Woods starts his second U.S. Tour event of the year at Pebble Beach at the end of this month and is relishing the prospect of playing in the highly popular pro-am format.

The world number one clinched the individual title at Pebble Beach in dramatic fashion in 2000, coming back from seven shots off the lead on the final day with just seven holes to play as he closed with a brilliant 64.

Genevieve de Weever meets Oranje in school baseball final

PHILIPSBURG—Oranje School will play Genevieve de Weever in the little league final of the Angela Arndell Memorial Knock Out today.

Oranje School reached the championship game after a narrow 1-0 victory over St. Peters Hillside, while Genevieve de Weever qualified despite a 4-3 loss to Sister Magda School due to their superior record. Sister Magda did however secure third place overall with the win.

The game between Oranje School and St. Peters Hillside was kept close all the way by a brilliant pitching duel between Valan Roberts and George Thomas. Both pitchers threw a complete game, Roberts prevailing in the end with 12 strike outs and a shutout, while Thomas struck out 11. Oranje School's Gadizon Lundi scored the only run of the game.

In the only other playoff game St. Dominic Primary beat Martin Luther King School 4-2.

Last year he ended up joint-13th in the event but tied for first place in the pro-am competition partnered by his former Stanford University team mate Jerry Chang.

"We always have a great time at Pebble Beach and we're looking forward to defending our title," Woods said on his official website. He and Chang finished second in the pro-am event in 1999 and 2000.

This year's Pebble Beach Pro-Am takes place from January 31-February 3, with the field playing one round each on Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill and Poppy Hills before returning to Pebble Beach for the last day. Defending champion is Davis Love III, who finished eight strokes ahead of Woods last year.

Woods has only played in two professional tournaments so far this year, closing with an impressive 65 to finish joint-10th in the season-opening Mercedes Championships

in Hawaii and then struggling with his putter on the way to a share of sixth spot in last week's New Zealand Open. He has opted to miss this week's Bob Hope Classic at La Quinta, California as well as next week's Phoenix Open in Scottsdale, Arizona.

His main focus, though, has always been on the four golfing majors and he always ensures he does not commit to too many tournaments during the year. Last season, Woods played in only 19 events on the U.S. Tour, but still finished on top of the final order of merit for the fourth time in five years.

He earned \$5,687,777 in prize money, over \$1 million more than second-placed Phil Mickelson. "As I've said before, my goal every year is to improve and I think I accomplished that in 2001," Woods said. "I know I can get better and will continue to work hard to become the best player I can be."

Tyson's second wife files for divorce

ROCKVILLE, Maryland—Mike Tyson's second wife has filed for divorce, accusing the former heavyweight boxing champion of adultery.

Monica Tyson sees an unspecified "reasonable sum," according to divorce papers filed Thursday in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

Mike Tyson countered Thursday by suing for divorce in Las Vegas, claiming incompatibility, spokeswoman Scott Miranda said. There was a divorce case

filed under the same name Michael Tyson in Las Vegas, and it was ordered sealed.

"This is a private situation," the boxer said Friday in a statement. "It will not be a distraction. I'm 100 percent focused on knocking out Lennox Lewis."

A press conference was called for Tuesday to announce details of a Tyson-Lewis fight, expected to be in April.

Monica Tyson also wants legal custody of their two children—Rayna, 5, and

NBA Roundup

Francis triple-double floors Celtics, Raptors stop Nets

BOSTON—Steve Francis had the fourth triple-double of his career and Mookie Norris hit a critical 3-point with 27 seconds left as the Houston Rockets beat the Boston Celtics 104-101 Friday night.

The Celtics led only twice, 20-19 and 42-41, but closed to within 97-95 with four consecutive points. Antoine Walker then made one of two free throws, cutting the lead to one with 42 seconds to go.

Then Norris, who had just seven points, hit his basket from the left corner for a 100-96 lead. The Celtics made it 102-101 on Walker's 3-pointer with 5.4 seconds remaining before Francis hit two free throws with 4.9 seconds to go. Paul Pierce then dribbled up court but his desperation 3-point shot went off the rim at the buzzer.

Francis, who missed Houston's previous game with migraine headaches, had 26 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists. Cuttino Mobley had 21 points and Eddie Griffin added 19 for the Rockets. The Celtics were led by Pierce with 38 and Walker with 25.

The loss broke Boston's three-game winning streak, while Houston won for just the fourth time in 19 road games.

In Toronto, Vince Carter and the Toronto Raptors showed the New Jersey Nets they're one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference, too. Carter scored 23 points, including six straight late in the fourth quarter, as Toronto ended New Jersey's six-game winning streak with an 89-77 victory.

"I looked at it as a chance for us to play one of the better teams in the league," Carter said. "It was a big win."

Antonio Davis added 17 points, Dell Curry had 15 and Keon Clark had 13 rebounds and 10 points for the Raptors, who have won three straight and five of six.

Jason Kidd had 19 points and eight assists for the Nets, who were trying for their longest winning streak in 18 years. New Jersey leads the Eastern Conference with a 26-12

record with a 3-pointer.

Toronto's Alvin Williams made a jumper, and Carter, guarded by Kerry Kittles, made a layup, a tip-in and a long jumper to give Toronto a 10-point lead with 2:12 remaining. Carter then passed to Jerome Williams, who converted a three-point play with 1:42 left.

"That's why they pay Vince



The Houston Rockets Kelvin Cato (R rear) fouls the Boston Celtics Antoine Walker (C) as Walker drives to the basket in front of the Rockets Terrence Morris (R) during third quarter NBA action in Boston, on Friday.

record, but they were held to a season low in points.

"We had a bad game," Kidd said. "We didn't act like we had won six in a row. It looked like we had lost six in a row."

The Raptors led by as many as 12 in the third quarter, but Kidd, who scored 10 points in the fourth, converted a three-point play to narrow the deficit to three with 8:36 remaining. Curry's 3-pointer gave Toronto a seven-point lead with 6:32 left, but Kidd fol-

lowed with a 3-pointer. "You're supposed to hit six straight at the end of the game."

Kidd missed a jumper with a minute left for the Nets, who shot 40 percent from the field. Jerome Williams added 10 points and 10 rebounds, and Alvin Williams had 10 points and seven assists for the Raptors.

Other NBA results:
Pacers - Pistons 99 - 96
Bucks - Magic 115 - 110



Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and his wife, Dr. Monica Tyson.

Amir, 4—and, according to the filing, the fighter has agreed to that. "The defendant committed adultery during the marriage, and

such adultery has neither been forgiven nor condoned by the plaintiff," her filing said.

SARWAN

Continued from page 36

the muscles to recover fully on recommendation from the physio and the doctors." Sarwan, 21, joins Brian Lara, Reon King and Colin Stuart on the injured list. On the recent tour to Sri Lanka, Sarwan finished second in the averages on 53.00, although he is yet to score a test century.

In the light of a spate of recent injuries, the West Indies Board held a two-day symposium earlier this week on the health and fitness of its representative teams.



All-Star third baseman Scott Rolen is seen against the Atlanta Braves in Philadelphia, September 19, 2001.

Parcells turns down Bucs

TAMPA, Florida—Bill Parcells told the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Friday that he will not accept the team's coaching job, CNN.com and ESPN reported.

"I just want to stay retired," Parcells told CNN.com from his home in New Jersey.

"I hope that convinces everybody that I'm not coming back. Because I'm not. This is it. I'm staying retired. The demands of the job and what it would take for me to succeed were just too much."



Parcells

The Bucs did not have any immediate comment on the report. Tampa Bay fired Tony Dungy on Monday night, then formally began talks with Parcells the following day.

Also Friday, the NFL warned Parcells and the Buccaneers that they could be punished for attempting to hire coaches and officials under contract to other teams. The warning came in a letter from Jeff Pash, the NFL's counsel, to Tampa Bay general manager Rich McKay after reports that

Parcells was assembling a staff that includes people still under contract to other NFL teams.

For the second straight year Parcells is a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. A year ago, after failing to get in, he suggested that one reason was that the voters thought he might return to coaching.

The ballot was released later than usual this year because Hall of Fame officials were concerned that Parcells might take the Tampa Bay job.

Phillies re-sign Rolen, Wood stays with Cubs

PHILADELPHIA—The Philadelphia Phillies on Friday signed All-Star third baseman Scott Rolen to the largest one-year deal ever for a position player eligible for arbitration. Rolen, 26, signed for \$8.6 million for the 2002 season, eclipsing the \$8.25 million contract outfielder Bernie Williams signed with the New York Yankees in 1998.

Elsewhere, Kerry Wood re-signed with the Chicago



Kerry Wood

right-hander Robert Person and first baseman Travis Lee, reaching agreements on one-year contracts with both players.

Person, who had a base salary of \$2.975 million last year, agreed to a \$6.25 million contract plus incentives. Lee agreed to a deal worth \$3 million after making \$800,000 in 2001.

Wood, the 1998 National League Rookie of the Year who returned from reconstructive elbow surgery, agreed to terms on a one-year contract with the Cubs.

Wood went 12-6 with a 3.36 ERA in 28 games in 2001, just two years after sitting out an entire season recovering from surgery. He was Chicago's last unsigned arbitration-eligible player.

The Devil Rays agreed to terms with Wilson, a right-handed starter, on a one-year contract, averting arbitration. Financial terms were not disclosed. Wilson, 28, went 8-9 with a 4.88 ERA in 37 games last year for the Devil Rays.

Cubs and Tampa Bay Devil Rays agreed to terms with righthander Paul Wilson.

The 6-foot-4, 225-pound Rolen hit 298 with 25 home runs and 107 RBI last season. He also won his third Gold Glove Award.

The \$8.6 million contract also includes bonuses, making it the largest annual salary in Phillies' history. Rolen, the 1997 National League Rookie of the Year, made \$5.5 million in 2001.

The Phillies also averted arbitration with

NFL ROUNDUP

Continued from page 36

Card win over San Francisco last week (22-19, 269 yards, two touchdowns).

The Rams won the Super Bowl under Warner's direction two years ago and Favre led the Packers to the title in 1996 and to a Super Bowl loss the next season.

Key Factor

The match-up between the two QBs looks to be a determining factor in the game, in which the Rams are a solid 10-point favorite.

Warner was a training camp cut by the Packers in 1994 but he persevered and starred in the Arena Football League before finally joining the Rams in 1998. Favre has been among the top pivots in the NFL for years.

St. Louis guard Adam Timmerman played on the back-to-back Packer Super Bowl teams, so he knows both men quite well. "Brett has more of a take charge attitude in the huddle, encouraging the players," Timmerman said. "Kurt just walks in, calls the play and expects the players to do their jobs."

"Brett could throw it right through the wall and Kurt could throw it over the wall," he added.

The heading match-up is the

most intriguing aspect of the game, with Warner expected as always to make use of receivers Torry Holt and Isaac Bruce. But the Rams also have Marshall Faulk, who won the NFL's MVP award in the season between Warner's two victories, as the Rams piled up a league high 503 points this season. The Packers ranked second in the NFC with 52 sacks and will have to put the heat on Warner all day to be successful.

Green Bay's offense is also explosive, with Favre's favorite being target receivers Antonio Freeman and Corey Bradford. RB Ahman Green also provides the Packers with a strong running game, so it figures to be a high-scoring affair.

Fearsome Defense

The Bears (13-3) are headed to the playoffs for the first time since 1994 on Saturday afternoon and they will meet Donovan McNabb and the Philadelphia Eagles (11-5) at Soldier Field. It will be up to McNabb, who grew up in Chicago, to find a way to get some points allowed as the team that allowed the fewest points (203) in the league this season.

Pro Bowl middle linebacker

Brian Urlacher leads a fearsome Chicago defense, but the Eagles allowed only five more points than the Bears did. However, the Bears' awesome defensive tackle duo of Ted Washington and Keith Traylor weigh a combined 634 pounds and are extremely difficult to handle, as is safety Mike Brown.

Philadelphia's defense features four Pro Bowlers and the Eagles wound up 7-1 on the road, so this figures to be a tight defensive battle.

Chicago QB Jim Miller will be under pressure to try and at least match McNabb, but the Bears' offense was a woe-ful 26th in the NFL. McNabb was sharp in Philadelphia's 31-9 dismantling of Tampa Bay in last week's Wild Card game.

Bitter Rivals

In the AFC Divisional Playoff game, the defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens (10-6) head to Pittsburgh to meet the 13-3 Steelers in the early game on Sunday while the Oakland Raiders (10-6) make the cross-country trip to face the New England Patriots (11-5) on Saturday night.

The Steelers and Ravens are bitter rivals, winning one apiece of the regular season



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre (L) celebrates with cornerback Mike McKenzie (R) in this December 30 filly photo.

match-ups. Steelers' Pro Bowl running back Jerome Bettis has missed the past five games with hip and groin injuries, but QB Kordell Stewart has picked up the slack and was especially effective against Baltimore in the regular season.

Ravens QB Elvis Grbac needs to elevate his game in the hostile road environment. But with a 5.0 record in the post-season, the Ravens have a habit of finding ways to win

in the playoffs. Baltimore dominated Miami 20-3 last week.

The Patriots will have sentiment on their side when they play possibly the final game at Foxboro Stadium against the Raiders, along with a weather advantage thanks to the frigid New England night air. Patriots coach Bill Belichick's decision to stick with QB Tom Brady over Drew Bledsoe has resulted in New England winning 11 of its past 14 games.

Belichick is also known as a tremendous defensive coach and he will be challenged to stop Raider coach Jon Gruden's offense, considered one of the best in the NFL. The Raiders amassed 502 total yards in a 38-24 win over the New York Jets last week.

Gannon was 23-of-29 for 294 yards, with Jerry Rice the focal point with nine catches for 183 yards, including a 21-yard touchdown.

No need for panic, claim Australians

MELBOURNE — Australia's cricketers say there is no need to panic despite losing their first three matches of the triangular limited-overs series with New Zealand and South Africa.

Australia's current one-day losing streak is their worst since the summer of 1997-98 and has left them in danger of not making the best-of-three match finals series between the top two sides. Australia have not missed out on a place in the finals of their own one-day tournament for five years.

But in the 23-year history of the annual one-day tournament, no team has lost their first three matches and gone on to reach the playoffs. Australia will probably have to win their last five matches, starting with Sunday's game against South Africa in Brisbane, to buck that trend.

But captain Steve Waugh remains confident. "There's no reason why we can't come back from here," he said. "We've been in a position to win three games but we've lost three so obviously we're not playing good cricket."

Australian vice-captain Adam Gilchrist, who missed Thursday's loss to New Zealand in Sydney to spend time with his family, said he was also

confident his team could turn their fortunes around.

Own History

Australia pulled off one of the great comebacks in cricket history when they won the 1999 World Cup after losing two of their first three pool matches.

"This team, whether in test or one-day cricket, has created its own history a number of times in recent years so it's an opportunity to do it again," Gilchrist said. "It's a terrific challenge and we can lift ourselves up for it. If we keep believing in ourselves we can do that."

Gilchrist said it was notable in Australia's first three matches how the opposition had raised their game to a new level and Australia would have to do the same if they wanted to start winning. "What stands out is how fired up the opposition are to beat us in this tournament," Gilchrist said. "South Africa have got a lot to make up for, feeling they probably lost something in the World Cup and New Zealand are always keen to beat us."

"Perhaps that has caught us off guard a bit. When teams lift to beat the champions, you have to be aware of it," he admitted.



World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Chairman Dick Pound talks to the media during a news conference in Montreal, on Friday.

Watchdog sees some Olympians ousted from Games for doping

MONTREAL—A number of athletes could be expelled even before the Winter Olympic Games begin in Salt Lake City next month after two dozen tested positive for high levels of banned performance enhancing drugs, the World Anti-Doping Agency said on Friday.

Richard Pound, chairman of the Montreal-based independent anti-doping watchdog agency created less than two years ago, said the elevated test results, commonly known as "lab positives," had not yet been verified. Nevertheless, he expects a number of athletes to be ousted just ahead of the Games, which begin on Feb. 8.

"We do not want anybody who has been the subject of a positive test to be taking part in the Olympics in Salt Lake and thereby spoiling the competition for the honest ath-

letes," Pound told reporters. Pound said one of those with a high test result was a non-Canadian National Hockey League player. Salt Lake City is the second Winter Games in which professional hockey players are allowed to compete.

Pound declined to identify any other sports or countries implicated in the positive tests but he noted that curling and figure skating had tested clean so far.

The names of athletes with elevated levels of prohibited substances will not be released until the final test results are in, but that certainly will happen before the games begin, Pound said. "I should think we would be in a position in some formal sense to do that the day before the Games open," he said.

The substances found include steroids, which enhance

strength and endurance and which speed up healing from injuries. Tests also turned up plasma expanders, which can be used to dilute the concentration of banned substances in an athlete's blood, and various agents used to mask drugs.

Out of competition, the agency is not testing for certain banned products found in common cold remedies.

Despite the 24 high test results, Pound said he expects the vast majority of athletes at the Games will be drug free. "The number of even laboratory positive results is less than 1 percent of the total tests that have been done," Pound said. "So 99 percent of the kids out there are competing fairly and it's our job to protect them against the 1 percent that might be inclined to cheat."

Trescothick doubtful for opening one-dayer against India

CALCUTTA, India—England opener Marcus Trescothick may miss the opening one-day international against India on Saturday after suffering a bout of influenza.

"Trescothick is under the weather a little bit. He would be doubtful for tomorrow's game," England captain Nasser Hussain told reporters on Friday.

Hussain said he would include only two of his three frontline pace bowlers—Darren Gough, Andy Caddick and Matthew Hoggard—for the first of six one-day internationals. Hoggard bowled impressively in the 1-0 test series loss to India last year after Gough and Caddick had opted out of the tour.

"I will be surprised if all three pacemen play," he said. "We'll just pick the best two for the match tomorrow after seeing the pitch and match conditions."

Hussain said India were a dangerous side with Sachin Tendulkar, captain Sourav Ganguly and the explosive Virender Sehwag in the team. But he felt confident England could put them under pressure.

"They have some very talented players and that is always a danger. But the key is to keep talent down is pressure," he said. "Pressure plays funny things with the mind. If I can put pressure on the opposition, we will do well."

Ferguson wary as Cole returns to Old Trafford

MANCHESTER, England—Alex Ferguson is hoping Andy Cole does not continue an unwelcome tradition when the Blackburn Rovers striker returns to Old Trafford for the first time today.

"We've always had ex-players score against us time and time again," Ferguson told MUTV. "Mark Hughes has scored against us, Keith Gillespie, Norman Whiteside and Peter Daventop too."

Cole's seven-year United career ended three weeks ago when he joined Rovers for 8 million pounds (\$11.48

million), and the England striker has scored two goals in his first three games for his new club.

"It's not a great issue as long as we win the game but I hope our fans give Andy Cole a nice welcome," Ferguson added. "We had seven great years out of Andy and when you see the goals he scored we got great service from him. I just hope he doesn't know too much about us."

Blackburn manager Graeme Souness now has five former Manchester United players in his squad. As well as Cole, Rovers have

Hughes, Henning Berg, John Curtis and Keith Gillespie, and Ferguson believes Souness has bought well in the transfer market and should be capable of keeping Blackburn in the premier league.

"Graeme has been all around," he added. "He started at Rangers in 1986 then went to Liverpool where he was a bit disappointing. Since he's been to Fenerbahce, Benfica and Southampton. He's had six teams and that's all experience. He's done well."



Blackburn Rovers' Andy Cole attempts a shot at goal after getting past Sheffield Wednesday's Derek Geary, right, during a Worthington Cup semifinal match at Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield, England, January 8. Player at left is unidentified.



Venus Williams makes backhand return during her third round match against Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

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dian-born compatriot to 5-2.

Error-Prone

Williams, suffering from tendonitis and with her left knee taped, recovered from a set down to keep on track for her first Australian singles crown.

"After the first set I settled in, started playing well," she said. But Slovakia's Hantuchova outplayed the error-prone American in that first set, racing to a 4-0 lead after breaking the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion's service twice.

The hot favourite to win in Melbourne, Williams showed signs of discomfort from the tendonitis which flared before her second round match. "I talked with my mom and my dad and Serena about the injury. I took yesterday off. I didn't want to, but they made me."

Williams plays Magdalena Maleeva in the fourth round after the Bulgarian 13th seed beat American Lisa Raymond 7-5 6-1.

Hings raced to victory in just 46 minutes as she outran and outplayed her German opponent on the Rod Laver centre court. "They (her critics) almost counted me out but I'm still in the game. I'm still here," Hings said. "I'm gaining confidence each match. You could see it today. I was more aggressive. I took more chances."

Her opponent in the fourth round is Amanda Coetzer after South African, twice a semifinalist



Tim Henman reacts after defeating compatriot Greg Rusedski.

here, beat 17th seed Barbara Schett 6-3 6-3.

Adopted Australian
Four times champion Monica Seles also made it through, battling past Italian Francesca Schiavone 6-4 6-4.

In the men's field, adopted Australian Taylor Dent's run came to an end as he lost to Adrian Panatta 6-3 6-6 3-6 6-3. American Dent is the son of former Australian player Phil Dent.

Czech Jiri Novak booked his fourth round by beating Spain's Francisco Clavet 6-3 6-4 6-1 but Yevgeny Kafelnikov's conqueror Alex Kim fell to a fellow qualifier, Chilean Fernando Gonzalez, 6-2 6-2 6-3.

The man who beat Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic also fell to Dominik Hrbatý of Slovakia 6-3 16-7 (6-8) 7-5.

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Real Madrid tell Arsenal they don't need Vieira

LONDON COLNEY. England—Real Madrid have contacted Arsenal to deny suggestions they are trying to sign Patrick Vieira, the English team's manager Arsene Wenger said on Friday.

"We received a letter from a Real Madrid official yesterday (Thursday)," Wengertold reporters at the premier league club's training ground. "The letter says that they do not need Patrick and that (the story) was an invention. They are upset about it and do not need the destabilisation either."

"If they wanted to do something they certainly wouldn't do it at this stage of the season, or in the way that's been suggested," he noted. "I was asked if I was interested in (Real Madrid's Zinedine) Zidane, I would say, 'yes, of course'. But that does not mean I have met him and tried to sign him."

Spanish newspapers reported earlier this week that Vieira, the 25-year-old France midfielder, had been in Madrid on Monday to hold transfer talks with Real. The Spanish giants have said that Vieira, as well as AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko, are on sporting director Jorge Valdano's list of potential targets.

Sources close to Arsenal also said that Real had denied contacting any of Vieira's agents in the same letter. Wenger would not reveal who had

signed the letter, but accepted that Vieira, Arsenal's vice-captain, had been in Madrid on Monday.

"The players had two days off," Wenger said. "They do not usually go to Rostovsk, they go to Madrid in the middle of winter. What's wrong with that? I have had a chat with Patrick about it, but he was amazed. He couldn't believe it...but he's used to it (the speculation) by now, and so am I."

"As a player at Arsenal, you

must know where your priorities lie. We are challenging for the premier league, the Champions League and the FA Cup. Patrick knows his priorities," said the Frenchman. "Between him and me, somewhere and then the papers reporting it, (the media) act like we have sold him already."

"I have been denying these sort of stories for three years but the players are still here...maybe that will not be the case one day," he added.

Veron tempted by Lazio return

ROME—Manchester United midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron has admitted he would be tempted by a return to Lazio, who he helped to win the Italian Serie A title in 2000. "I respect the executives in Manchester but I can't deny that if an agreement with Lazio could be found, I would be happy. I would return to Italy only to play for Lazio," Veron told Friday's Corriere Dello Sport.

Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti, who sold Veron to United in the off-season, has not excluded the possibility of bringing the Argentine back to his ailing Roman side and the player confirmed contact has been made with his repre-

sentatives.

"I know that Cragnotti had a long telephone call with Gustavo Mascardi, my agent, who has spoken to me about if there's a chance of taking me back. I heard from him first at Christmas," Veron said. "I would be happy to return to Rome because I have a special rapport with the Lazio fans and with my old team mates."

"Leaving Lazio, I never considered going to Manchester for a year and then going back. I'm curious to see what happens in the next few months. In England I am fine but I would never close the door on Lazio," he said.

Diego Forlan poised to join Manchester United

MANCHESTER, England—Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan is set to complete a 6.9 million-pound (\$9.1 million) move to Manchester United over the weekend after holding talks with the English champions on Friday.

Forlan, who rejected the chance to join Middlesbrough, said he had agreed a four-and-a-half year contract with United because the English premier league side had offered better terms.

"We talked to the Middlesbrough people last week and they were there for me, but Manchester United offered more to my club (Independiente) and the move was right for me," the striker told reporters at Manchester airport. "United is a big club and I know all about them after watching them on television in the league and the Champions League. They have a squad of



Forlan

big players." "I was nervous things would not happen right, but now I'm here in Manchester and that is good. I have a medical to do and I hope to be playing in the first team very soon, but first I have to sign a contract," he noted.

United are expected to finalise the transfer with cash-

strapped Argentine club Independiente over the weekend on the 22-year-old completes a medical at Old Trafford on Saturday. Forlan met United manager Alex Ferguson at Old Trafford on Friday night.

"People in Argentina had asked me where I wanted to go and I always said Manchester," Forlan added. "It is important to me—something I would like to do, and now I just want to sign the contract."

Ferguson had been seen to sign a striker part of the Champions League registration deadline of January 31 and had previously made a bid for West Ham's Paulo Di Canio.

Manchester United sold Andy Cole to Blackburn Rovers for around eight million pounds on December 29 and Dwight Yorke also expected to leave the club in the near future.

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The Daily Herald



Switzerland's Martina Hingis makes a forehand return during her third round win over Germany's Barbara Rittner.

Henman, Venus and Hingis into Open's last sixteen

MELBOURNE—Tim Henman downed Greg Rusedski 6-4 6-3 1-6 6-3 in the "Battle of Britain" on Friday to book his place in the last 16 of the Australian Open.

Henman, at number six the highest remaining men's seed, was joined in round four by Venus Williams who overcame a worrying knee injury and a tenacious Daniela Hantuchova to advance 3-6 6-0 6-4. Women's third seed and three times champion Martina Hingis had things much more her own way, though, losing just one game as she coasted past Germany's

Barbara Rittner 6-1 6-0.

Swedish doubles specialist Jonas Bjorkman knocked out men's 12th seed Guillermo Canas 6-3 6-2 6-4 and now faces Henman for a place in the quarter-finals.

Henman was delighted with his performance in a thrilling night match with Rusedski—this is the third consecutive year he has reached the fourth round but he has never gone further.

"It was not the easiest match to play and I thought I played really, really well," Henman said. "It was a difficult match for lots of reasons...you know two

guys from the same country, but I think I dealt with that really well. We both gave it our best and fortunately it went my way. I felt it was pretty good quality tennis."

The match was a first between two Britons at the Australian Open since the sport turned professional in 1968 and was full of passion and drama. Henman displayed his superior fitness and touch to combat Rusedski's raw power and extended his winning record against his Cana-

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NFL Playoffs

Warner-Favre match-up key to Rams playoff

ST LOUIS—The St. Louis Rams are hoping that Kurt Warner saves his talking for Sunday's NFC Divisional Playoff game against the Green Bay Packers—literally.

The two-time NFL Most Valuable Player suffered a throat contusion in St. Louis' regular season finale on January 6 and has also been bothered by the flu bug this

week. As a result he has been saving his voice so he will be ready to call the plays when the Rams host the Packers with the winner ticketed for the NFC championship game against either the Chicago Bears or the Philadelphia Eagles the following weekend.

Warner's voice, not to mention his vaunted passing arm, will have to be in

good shape by game time for the Rams (14-2) to take advantage of the home field advantage they have throughout the NFC playoffs. They meet a Green Bay (12-4) team that has its own star QB in Brett Favre, a three-time NFL MVP, whose vocal chords and arm are both working just fine, judging by his performance in Green Bay's 25-15 Wild

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The St. Louis Rams' Kurt Warner, a two-time NFL Most Valuable Player.

Injured Sarwan ruled out of Pakistan series

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan has been ruled out of the upcoming series against Pakistan with a troublesome strained back muscle.

Sarwan, who sustained the injury in the middle of last year, will miss the two tests and three one-dayers scheduled for Sharjah starting at the end of January. His replacement will be Sherwin Campbell, a former West Indies vice-captain.

Manager Ricky Skerrit said: "It is not that the injury is not responding, but it is responding slowly, so it has been decided to allow

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