



Henin, Clijsters Set Up All Belgian Final Page 44

VOL 13 NO. 16

Friday June 6, 2003

U.S. 50 CENTS/NAF. 1.--/EC\$ 1.-



The officers of the St. Maarten police force each step forward to view the body of Jose Mario Gerardus while it was on display at the Roman Catholic Church on Front Street. Each officer came down the aisle, stood at attention and saluted Gerardus. After the memorial service a procession followed, through various streets in Dutch St. Maarten to Princess Juliana International Airport, from where Gerardus' body was flown to Curaçao to be buried on Saturday.

### IN BRIEF

#### Philipsburg POLICY ON CONCESSIONS

Within one month the local Telecommunications Commission headed by Ralph Richardson will be presenting to the Executive Council for its approval a Telecommunications Policy for St. Maarten, which will limit the number of telecommunications concessions that can be issued in St. Maarten. Page 4.

#### Philipsburg KLM WEEKLY FLIGHT STAYS

For now the Royal Dutch Airline KLM will maintain its weekly flight. This might change later this year, around September, depending on the start-up of Bonair/Exel and St. Maarten's marketing in Holland, said KLM Manager Lars de Brabander on Thursday. Page 5.

#### Philipsburg MERX FIRM ON ILLEGALS

Chief Prosecutor Cor Merx has said he will be contacting the governments of the Dominican Republic and Dominica to request that they initiate legal action in their countries against the human smugglers illegally entering St. Maarten in large numbers. Page 3.

#### Philipsburg WELCOME THE LOVE BOAT

The MV Pacific, used in 1980s television series The Love Boat, began calling on St. Maarten yesterday. The Spanish vessel, with a capacity of 750 passengers and 300 crew members, will come to the island every Thursday until June 2005. Page 3.

## SVB gets full-time Marshal to clamp down on defaulters

PHILIPSBURG—The swearing-in of Gromyko Wilson as a full-time Marshal for the Social Insurance Bank SVB has prompted officials of the insurance service provider to issue a stern warning that SVB will clamp down on businesses in the Windward Islands that fail to pay their bills.

Wilson, who previously worked as a freelance photojournalist, took the oath as a full-time SVB Marshal on Thursday. He will undergo one month rigorous training in Curaçao this month and on his return will fulfill a promise by the

SVB that all defaulting businesses will be dealt with. He leaves for Curaçao on Sunday.

Head of SVB's Levy and Collection Department in Curaçao Sandra Smith noted that the insurance service provider was now in a position to "follow the procedure according to the law to collect outstanding monies from businesses that fail to pay."

As a Marshal, Wilson is respon-

**Continued on page 3**

## Cabinet wants to keep all EU options open

WILLEMSTAD—The Council of Ministers of the Netherlands Antilles has decided to "keep open all options" concerning the future relation with the European Union (EU).

The decision is slightly different then Holland's proposal to indicate an interest to become an ultra-peripheral territory (UPT) in an amendment to the European Convention.

The letter to the Dutch Government, via Plenipotentiary Minister Carel de Haseth in The Hague, urges a different, more general text, which makes it possible for all Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) to not just maintain their current status or become a UPT, but also to choose a different status later on.

The letter emphasizes that a changed status can only be realized in consultation and agreement with the Antillean Government. At this point the outgoing YS Cabinet does not wish to indicate a preference, as this would require "a careful evaluation based on objective information and close

consultations with those involved, particularly Parliament and the governments of the individual islands."

In this regard, the Antillean Government points out that the governing accord of the incoming CDA/VVD/D-66 Dutch Cabinet stating that it will strive toward getting the UPT status for the Antilles does not coincide with the suggested procedure, and that any initiative hereto should come from Willemstad.

The position is that no decision needs to be taken by June 20, opening the door to further discussions, based on the investigation into the pros and cons of the UPT status being conducted by the Dutch Council of State on the one hand and the Central Banks of Holland and the Netherlands together with consultancy KPMG on the other.

"Considering the large consequences the new European Convention also can have for the Netherlands Antilles, among others in constitutional, economic and fi-

**Continued on page 7**

## Former US senator to meet with Sarah on ECC concession

PHILIPSBURG—Former United States Virgin Island (USVI) Senator Holland L. Redfield II, Chairman of the United States Virgin Island Bush Leadership Team, and Innovative Communication Corporation (ICC) Public Relations Director Thomas J. Dunn are in St. Maarten to discuss the granting of international concessions to the local branch of their company, East Caribbean Cellular (ECC).

Redfield, presently Vice President Corporate Affairs of ICC which owns St. Maarten Cable TV and East Caribbean Cellular, and Dunn met with ECC Managing Director Jerry Sardine at Chesterfields for lunch before their scheduled meeting with leader of Government Sarah Wescott-Williams.

Redfield told The Daily Herald yesterday that he was joining with Sardine in reinforcing ICC's ef-

orts to support the goals and objectives of the telecommunications company.

Redfield said, "We are optimistic that Commissioner Wescott-Williams will be sensitive to the

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# Referendum

The Council of Ministers has sent The Dutch Government a reply concerning its proposal to include an amendment in the new European Charter, which would make it possible for the Netherlands Antilles to become an Ultra-Peripheral Territory (UTP) of the European Union (EU). The answer is basically that the Antilles does not want to make any decision at this point and wants all options kept open, not just that of the current OCT status or a UTP, but other possibilities as well.

That position is understandable, because there is an awful lot at stake and not enough time to prepare a responsible decision. On the other hand, including the possibility as Holland suggested, would not entail any final decision anyway. Asking for a more general approach in which all (other) options are left open as well, may not contribute to effective decision-making. After all, the EU members have to come up with something that is agreeable to all and having not even some indication in which direction the current OCTs are thinking can't be helpful in that regard.

One can only hope that the position taken by the outgoing Ys Cabinet will not lead to a situation where the amendment is withdrawn altogether and the opportunity to indicate at least a willingness to consider effectively joining the EU in the future is lost.

As pointed out before, the matter is most crucial for St. Maarten, as it shares the island with a Northern side which has a relationship with France comparable to the UPT being suggested. The French side is trying to get out from under the regional government in Guadeloupe, but there is no indication whatsoever of any broad movement in favour of a more "loose" relationship with Paris. To the contrary, more direct ties are being sought.

St. Maarten too is trying to get out from under the Antillean Government in Curaçao. If it were to achieve a UPT status not as the Antilles, but on its own, this would almost certainly facilitate a possible merging of the two sides of the island in the future, all under the EU flag.

In any case, the choice is a fundamental one. For this reason, a final decision, certainly for St. Maarten, should only be taken by the population, in a referendum.

## WEATHER

**Today:** Partly cloudy, occasionally cloudy, with locally a few showers.

**Winds:** Easterly, 10 to 20 miles per hour.

**Sea conditions:** Moderate to choppy.

**Wind force:** 3 to 5, occasionally 6.

**Waves:** 2 to 4 feet.

**Swells:** Easterly, 2 to 5 feet.

**Barometric pressure:** Above normal.

**Barometric tendency:** Falling slightly.

**Forecast high:** 31°C 88°F

**Forecast low:** 23°C 73°F

## SYNOPSIS:

The Atlantic ridge of high pressure continues to dominate the weather across the Northeastern Caribbean, producing a moderate air flow. Satellite pictures yesterday showed an area of cloudiness over Puerto Rico and adjacent area, is associated with an upper level low which was moving in a general Easterly direction, causing cloudiness and shower activity to increase over our local area and the Northeastern Caribbean. Hence we can expect scattered showers, locally moderate to heavy.

## HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK: None.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Names of possible tropical storms/hurricanes of the Atlantic hurricane season (may through November 30): Bill, Claudette, Erika, Fabian, Grace, Henri, Isabel, Juan, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor and Wanda. The first named storm of the season was Ana, in April.

**Outlook until Saturday midday:** Occasional scattered showers.

**Rainfall probability:** 30 per cent.

**Rainfall potential:** 1 to 5 mm, locally 10 mm or higher.

**Sunrise:** 5:36am; **Sunset:** 6:45pm.

SMART PLAY	SXM DAILY NUMBERS	CURAÇAO
6150	76848	5440
0624	66623	8997
0105	79268	7664

## CRUISE SHIPS IN PORT TODAY

Vessel	Place	Arrival	Departure	Agency
Adventure Of The Seas	Port	8:00	17:30	S.E.L. Maduro & Sons

## ST. MAARTEN

**POLICE STATION**  
Philipsburg Tel: 542-2222  
**HOT LINE 108**  
**EMERGENCY 111**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
542-6901 or 520  
**HOSPITAL**  
Medical Center: City Hill  
24-hour Emergency Service  
Tel: 543-1111  
**AMBULANCE**  
Philipsburg Tel: 542-2111  
Red Cross Building: 545-5083  
**MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**  
For medical emergencies the doctors on call can be reached outside clinic hours. Patients of Dr. Bouman, Dr. Boyer, Dr. Bus, Dr. Hernandez, Dr. Kruit, Dr. Mercier, Dr. Schellens and Dr. Spencer, please call tel. 577010. Patients of Dr. Dalemia, Dr. Pooleen, Dr. Herkes, Dr. van Ooch and Dr. Tjaden, please call tel. 577007. Patients of Dr. van der Waag, please call 570444. Patients of Dr. Abjadji, Dr. Demnaoui and Dr. Gumbs should contact their own doctor.  
**ANIMAL AMBULANCE TEAM 542-**

## TELEPHONE INFO

Tel: 542-2211  
E. Caribbean Cellular: 542-4100  
Westair: 112, 123  
**ST. MAARTEN TOURIST OFFICE**  
W.G. Buncamper road, Vinyard Building, tel. 542-2257, fax: 542-2734  
**ST MAARTEN ZOO**  
Madame Estate: tel. 543-2030  
Open daily 10 am - 6 pm  
October-March 9 am - 5 pm  
Admission residents: Adults: \$5, kids \$3. Non-residents: \$10/15.  
**Cole Bay Community Council:** meeting 1st Thursday of month at SunFlower Kinko's Club, Union Rd. Cole Bay at 7:30pm  
**SERVICE CLERKS**  
**ROTARY** meeting at Divi Little Bay Beach Resort, every Wednesday at noon. Rotary-Medico-meets every Tuesday, 6pm. The Dial Surf & First Restaurants.  
**LIIONS** meeting at the Upper Princess Quarter Community Centre Lions Den in Sucker Garden every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8 pm.  
**ST MAARTEN LEO CLUB** meeting at

Jubilee Library 1st, 3rd Friday every month at 6:30 pm.  
**KIWIANS** meets at Wild Building on Thursday each month at 7:30pm. **Kiwians Key Club** of the St. Maarten Academy every Friday at 1:30 pm.  
**KIWIANS SOULIAGA 1st & 3rd Monday 7:00pm Holland Cellular.**  
**WEIFOL** meeting at the WEIFOL Building every last Thursday of the month 8 pm.  
**ST MAARTEN MUSEUM**  
Fronstreef 7, Philipsburg, tel: 542-4917  
Opening hours from March 1st:  
Monday: Friday, 10 am. to 4 pm.  
Saturday, 10 am. - 12 noon  
Sundays: closed.  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the P.R.C. Fellowship Hall (Philipsburg) at 8 pm. Tuesday, Thursday, 6pm. Red Cross, Airport Road. Saturday and Sunday at Muller Bay beach next to restaurant at 8:30am. Tel: 571221 (ext) 544-3203 (evening)  
**AIDS COORDINATOR SHANTIEN** every Tuesday 542979 Health Department, email: [health@sintramarten.net](mailto:health@sintramarten.net)  
**NATURE FOUNDATION ST. MAARTEN** Great Bay Marina, Office Van 43 POB 83, Philipsburg, Tel: 542-0287. Fax: 542-0288. Email: [naturesem@megacost.com](mailto:naturesem@megacost.com)  
**PHILIPSBURG JUBILEE LIBRARY**

Ch.E.W.vogel: 12, Tel: 542-2070.  
Open: M: 4:30, Tu: 9:12-3:04, We:Fr: 9:12-3:43, Th: 14:30, Sa: 9:1  
**WOMEN'S DESK**, Fronstreef 141 (opposite Tel-Cel), Monday - Friday 9am-5pm. Tel: 542-7940. Fax: 542-7941.  
E-mail: [womensdesk@sintramarten.net](mailto:womensdesk@sintramarten.net)  
**SAFE HOME** providing shelter and support to victims of family violence. POB 628, Tel: 333.  
**CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT**, E. Rijksweg 116. Tel: 542-1005&542-1008. Fax: 542-1001.  
**FRENCH HONORARY CONSUL**, POB 803, Philipsburg, Tel: (0590) 879969. Fax: (0590) 879625. E-mail: [Stantissila.GRAVE@windward.fr](mailto:Stantissila.GRAVE@windward.fr)  
**LEGAL AND CENTER** Law Clinic, open every Tuesday 9:00am - 12:00 noon. Free advice on personal legal issues. Administration Building, tel: 542207  
**Coastguard NA&A (24hrs) 113**  
**THE ST. MAARTEN RED CROSS (24hrs)**, 404 Airport Road Simpson Bay, Tel: 54-26263/3204, Fax: 54-26233.  
Email: [redcross@sintramarten.net](mailto:redcross@sintramarten.net)  
**SALVATION ARMY** Unit 161, Cole Bay POB 6545, tel: 544-4604/4641/4645/47933. 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. Ridge Road (behind Delphos) every Thursday. Free blood-glucose testing every Tuesday

from 9:30 - 7:00 pm  
USO St. Maarten St. Martin (USA military), contact Janet Lambert 5577816 or 0590 50 29446.  
**34LCUB** ST. MAARTEN/ST. MARTIN meets 1st Tuesday of the month. For location call: 542432 (Jantzen).  
**ST. MARTIN**  
**POLICE MUNICIPAL**  
Tel: (0590) 590 87.50/4  
**GENDARMERIE**  
Tel: (0590) 590 87.50/10  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Tel: (0590) 590 87.50/8  
**AMBULANCE**  
Office tel: (0590) 590 87.74, 14  
Home tel: (0590) 590 87.72/0  
**HOSPITAL**, tel: (0590) 590 87.87  
**DISPENSARY**, Margot, 8 a.m. - 3 pm, tel: (0590) 590 87.50/93  
**SERVICE CLUBS**  
**DISPENSARY** Orléans  
Office tel: (0590) 590 87.37, 21  
8 a.m. - 3 pm, tel: (0590) 590 87.37, 21  
**C.R.O.S.S.** Center, Research, Organization, Rescue, Security) is on stand by 24 hours at 0596 70292.  
**ROTARY** meeting at Flamboyant Hotel, 11:00 a.m. every Tuesday at 8:00 pm.  
**LIIONS** First and third Tuesday at Nardalla, Margot at 7:30 p.m.  
**MUSEUM ST. MARTIN**  
Facing the grand parking at Marina Royale - Margot. Open from 9am-1pm / 3pm - 7 pm, (0590) 590 87.22/54.

## Interim guidelines in place for OPCs

PHILIPSBURG—Interim guidelines are now in place to regulate the activities of OPCs, persons selling time-share for resorts, in Philipsburg. The guidelines are effective immediately and will remain in place until amendments are made to the Public Vending Ordinance.

In general, OPCs are not allowed to operate on public roads. They must operate from booths which should not bear signs stating "Tourist Information Booth." All OPCs must be in uniform and with a badge identifying the

resort that employs them. Only two persons are allowed in a booth.

The list of eight rules states that no "runners," with or without flyers, or freelance OPCs are allowed to operate on Front Street.

The Voluntary Corps of St. Maarten VKS will carry out control exercises to ensure the rules are being followed.

An evaluation will be made of the rules after 30 days. If not amended, they will remain in effect until the ordinance is amended and approved by the Island Council.



Rommel Charles presents a plaque in honour of the MV Pacific's first trip here to Ship Captain Isaac aboard the vessel.

## "Love Boat" calls at St. Maarten

PHILIPSBURG—MV Pacific, used in the 1980s television series "Love Boat," began calling on St. Maarten yesterday. The Spanish vessel, with a capacity for 750 passengers and 300 crew members, will come to the island every Thursday until June 2005.

Officials of the St. Maarten Ports Authority (SMPA), St. Maarten Harbour Holding Company, the ship's agent S.E.L. Maduro and Sons (WI) Inc, the Customs De-

partment and other guests were invited aboard the ship for a plaque exchange and lunch.

SMPA Managing Director Rommel Charles presented a plaque on behalf of the island to Captain Isaac and welcomed him, his passengers and crew to the Friendly Island. The captain in turn gave Charles a plaque to commemorate the ship's first call.

The seven-day cruise originating in Santo Domingo made calls on San Juan, St. Thomas/St. Johns, St. Maarten, Antigua and Guadeloupe.

Mallorca Sea Shipping Managing Director Xavier Bannasar said that when headquarters in Madrid decided to use the ship in the Caribbean, St. Maarten had been seen as a must-call port of destination.

People in Spain are very aware of this island. "The marketing and publicity is good," Bannasar said. His connection with the island is from seeing photos of Air France preparing for touchdown at Princess Juliana International Airport and wondering if it was real. Later he discovered it was and he is happy to have a chance to visit the island.

MV Pacific was registered as Pacific Princess at the time it was used as the Love Boat. The television series is credited to the catapulting and growth of cruise tourism.

## Merx firm about illegal migrants

PHILIPSBURG—Chief Prosecutor Cor Merx says he will be contacting the governments of the Dominican Republic and Dominica to request that they initiate legal action in their countries against the human smugglers illegally entering St. Maarten in large numbers.

Since the latest catch of some 25 illegals there has been a stir within the uniformed groups over the lack of pressure to hold suspects and the space that is applied to different groups because of it.

Three men are presently detained as being the transporters of the 25 illegals and the boat they used has been confiscated. They have since been informed that they will have to foot the bill for 37 illegals who were deported by the Island Territory on Wednesday morning.

"The captain and his two assistants are still detained and will be made to foot the bill for the two charter flights of some 37 total illegals, or face dire consequences," said Merx.

There is also talk about auctioning the confiscated boats to replace the monies spent to charter the two Winair flights on Wednesday.

The 37 consisted of a group caught just one day before by the Coast Guard along with its latest catch of 25.

Authorities are now very concerned over the fact that these illegals are from Haiti and the Dominican Republic, but travel from Dominica to St. Maarten.

They are concerned that with St. Maarten being between Haiti/the Dominican Republic and Dominica, these illegals may have received in Dominica for some time before leaving for St. Maarten.

Merx said he would forward a letter to the relevant governments in an effort to

initiate prosecution. He noted that because at least one of the islands falls under the Commonwealth, legal action in this case is possible through its laws.

With no space in the police and prison cells to detain the illegals, Coast Guard officers were left to stand guard on the dock of the Simpson Bay police station on Wednesday morning from 1:00am to 8:00am, with police taking over from 8:00am until 10:00am.

Merx said, "We have a problem, but we managed to organize that within three hours 37 people were deported."

On the issue of measures to deal with the overcropping in the future, Merx said that once illegals entered the island they would be sent back to where they had come from.

He noted that there had been such a situation only twice in the 2½ years he has been here.



Sharon Cooper is crowned Girlfriend of the Year for referring the most women to the third annual Girlfriend Getaway being held in St. Maarten at present. The crowning was a part of the welcome reception hosted by the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau at Bamboo Bernie's last night. Eighty-plus women are a part of the getaway and are staying at Maho Beach Resort.



Wilson (at right) taking oath as Marshal for the SVB Thursday.

## SVB

sible for serving various documentation, including summonses, to employers who fail to pay their bills, placing liens on businesses and conducting auctions, among other duties. "Being a Marshal is a heavy responsibility," Smith noted. "Em-

ployers beware. We will now be more active on employers who don't want to comply."

Initially, Wilson will be assisted by Curaçao-based marshals in "clearing off" backlog work. In the past Marshals would come from

Curaçao once every two months to work for the SVB.

Asked how he felt about his new occupation, Wilson responded, "I am very happy. I have a lot of work pending."

Continued from page 1

# Phone concessions policy to be submitted shortly

PHILIPSBURG—Within one month the local Telecommunications Commission headed by Ralph Richardson will be presenting a Telecommunications Policy for St. Maarten to the Executive Council for its approval. The policy will limit the number of telecommunications concessions that can be issued in St. Maarten.

Telecommunications Commissioner Franklin Meyers, who formed the commission two years ago, said yesterday, "We are presently putting a policy in place whereby a fixed number of concessions (telecommunications business licences) will be issued for St. Maarten."

The policy, he said, "will specify how many licences for Internet, how many for cellular and other areas of telecommunications."

Meyers said the Commission has been awaiting the "Telecommunications Market Study" for St. Maarten, which it now has and is using to establish the telecommunications policy.

Once the policy is in place, the number of concessions that St. Maarten is allowed will be released and after

the specified number is reached, no more licences will be granted.

Meyers told The Daily Herald yesterday, "It is not important what I alone think about the telecommunications market in St. Maarten. This is why I formed a commission to access the actual situation."

He said, "As an elected representative of the people of St. Maarten it is my obligation to ensure that the island has adequate telecommunications infrastructure, as is evident with the move to install the Fiber Cable for international telephone service operator Smitcom."

He also mentioned the need to ensure that the local market is not saturated so

that investors don't lose the money they put into the market.

Meyers said, "The Telecommunications Commission had in the past given the Executive Council advice on the market, which was why a letter was sent to the Telecommunications Bureau requesting that they put a hold on granting concessions for St. Maarten until a market study was done to determine its capacity."

He noted that with the new policy in place, situations such as the one in which Cellular One was granted an international concession when the Island had specifically requested a hold on all concessions would not recur.

## Executive Council given fiber cable presentation

PHILIPSBURG—Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards and representatives of the Executive Council were given a presentation yesterday on the Fiber Cable that will be pulled into St. Maarten by international telephone service provider Smitcom.

Present for the occasion were NSW/Corning, the construction company, represented by Executive Vice President Ignacio Ospino, KPMG represented by Jos Raaden, Smitcoms Managing Director Curtis Haynes, Telecommunications Commissioner Franklin Meyers and Commissioner Michael Ferrier.

Meyers said the presentation had gone well. He also said, "Smitcoms is presently in discussions with three banks on the financing of the project, which is scheduled to begin shortly."

NSW also made a presentation, during which the representatives showed a video of the work they had recently completed in the Caribbean with a 9,000 kilometer cable. Haynes said, "The meeting was also important as it was an opportunity to introduce NSW to the shareholders and give them an outline of NSW's organization structure."

KPMG submitted and outlined specifics of a revised feasibility study and discussed the financing aspect of the project.

Haynes said, "I was very pleased with the outcome of the meeting. One of the important aspects of the meet-

ings we have been having has been to establish confidence in the project, which I believe we were successful in doing."

The project, worth some US \$14 million, is scheduled to be completed in February 2004. The contractual agreement for the pulling of the cable into the island has already been signed between the Island Territory of St. Maarten and International Carrier Smitcoms.

It is believed that the project will secure opportunities for E-Commerce, the availability of a maximum of bandwidth and declaration of an E-Zone, with its 16 pairs and 125,000 64 kilobytes, once it is in use.

## Governor Goedgedrag travels to Trinidad

WILLEMSTAD—Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag leaves for Trinidad and Tobago today for a three-day visit.

He will pay a courtesy visit to President Maxwell Richards and meet with Education Minister Hasel Manning, representatives of the diplomatic corps, international organisations and the business sector.

A visit to the Asa Wright Nature Centre is scheduled as well. On the invitation of the "Junior Achievement" organization in Trinidad and Tobago he will also be the featured speaker at the 33rd "Future Unlimited Banquet" in the Hilton Trinidad Conference Centre.



At center is former United States Virgin Island (USVI) Senator Holland L. Redfield II, Chairman of United States Virgin Island Bush Leadership Team and present ICC Vice President Corporate Affairs, with ICC Public Relations Director Thomas J. Dunn and East Caribbean Cellular Director Jerry Sardine.

## ECC

Continued from page 1

issue of granting an international concession to ECC."

Sardine, while sharing the optimism expressed by Redfield, said, "We have gone through the proper legal channels seeking legal advice and have gone through the necessary procedures with the Telecommunications Bureau, ensuring that we comply with the laws of the land."

ECC has come under criticism recently of being a foreign-based company with little local interest. However, Redfield does not share those opinions.

He said, "I don't consider our company foreign. I would say we are a regional company, but our commitment to St. Maarten to date has been unprecedented. ... We hire locally and always place emphasis on elevating our local staff to top management positions, while always ensuring that we put back into the community."

ECC applied for an international concession, which has not yet been granted, some 2½ years ago.

Apparently due to the St. Maarten Government's request to put a hold on telecommunications licences until a comprehensive study on the local telecommunication market had been made, no licence could be granted.

However, Cellular One, which submitted its request for a similar concession after ECC, was granted a concession by the Council of Ministers in Curacao, much to the surprise and dismay of the St. Maarten Government.

Now it is the intention of ICC to go to Curacao, hopefully with the support of the

local Government, to meet with the Telecommunications Bureau and the Minister of Telecommunications on the issue of granting ICC its international concession.

Telecommunications Commissioner Franklin Meyers had said that the study was important to prevent the market from being divided among too many entities, thus hindering companies from earning back their investments.

However, Sardine at that time, he was convinced that the market was not too small for the competition that would be generated through the granting of a concession to ECC.

Sardine said, "If we are talk-

ing about liberalization of the market we must take into account the positive spinoffs of competition. We can go further looking at UTS and Smitcoms with their securing of strategic partners to broaden their base."

Redfield said, "With competition the ones that benefit the most from competition are the consumers and St. Maarten. ... Open free market, and the movement throughout the world is open market, and the key to St. Maarten's economic advancement is in telecommunications because we are in the right era with telecommunications."



MPC students enjoying their own products in the kitchen of Sundial School.

## Students pay orientation visit to Sundial School

PHILIPSBURG—Pizzas, johnny cakes, chicken and French fries. Students of Milton Peters College (MPC) prepared these and other dishes at Sundial School on Thursday.

Some 35 MPC 2nd form students visited the kitchen of Sundial School as part of their orientation package. The students will have to decide which subject they will be pursuing the next school year and hospitality is one of these sub-

jects. Others are technical and economics, teachers Alma Tip (French and English) and Robert Rawlins (physics) told The Daily Herald.

Sundial teachers Robbie Roest and Bart Peut instructed the 35 MPC students on how to prepare, cook and serve the various dishes and how to behave in a professional kitchen. "Very challenging," said Roest.

Peut said the visit was the last of a week-long orienta-

tion programme that comprised a total of about 75 seconds and form students of MPC, St. Maarten Academy and the second classes of Sundial School.

"Our aim is to promote the kitchen and other professional facilities here for students so that about 30 per cent of them will participate in the hospitality sector. We will then be able to form two classes," said Peut.

### DELI IN SIMPSON BAY

has a vacancy. Persons interested have to be between 20 - 35 years of age. Antilleans preferred

CALL 5562545 between 9 am - 2 pm



One of the nurses being grilled by instructors during Thursday's exam

## Eleven nurses graduate today

PHILIPSBURG—Eleven nurses of St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC) and the White and Yellow Cross Foundation are expected to graduate this evening as Registered Nurses (RN).

The graduation follows 2½ years of rigorous training at both SMMC and the White and Yellow Cross Foundation. The nurses, who are currently operating as Licensed Practical Nurses

(LPNs), sat exams at SMMC on Thursday and were immediately graded.

Nurse Instructor Ramona Illidge, who conducted the practical part of the exams, said the medical center was "very proud" of this accomplishment. Illidge conducted the exercise along with Antonio Pantophlet, who coordinated the theoretical aspect of the exam. The exercise was coordinated by the Nursing Training School IFE in Curaçao.

What does this mean for the hospital? "We will now have certified, qualified nurses to give quality care for our patients. And it's a proud accomplishment."

This is the first time the entire project was carried out in St. Maarten. Five years ago several LPNs underwent similar training to become RNs, but this was done in close collaboration with Curaçao.

"It was a strenuous package for the educators and students," said Illidge of the course. "Because we wanted quality for the nurses we had to ensure that everything that they did was to the best of their ability. Our students are shining today."



Frans Richardson of Sunset Theatres (centre) presents a cheque to Milton Peters College students Ivana Ibarra and Jenise Diaz.

## Sunset helps talent show participants

SIMPSON BAY—Sunset Theatres presented four students of Milton Peters College (MPC) with a cheque for an undisclosed amount to help with their participation in the college's talent show. The presentation was made yesterday at the Simpson Bay Community Centre.

The show is on Saturday, starting time 7:00pm, at the MPC grounds. Featuring various performances by students, the show is aimed at raising funds to aid with the security of the school which has experienced several security-related problems re-

cently. The quartet of Ivana Ibarra, Jenise Diaz, Lakijsha Bloeciman and Naomi are giving a dance performance with mixed music. Seeking a sponsor, they invited Frans Richardson of Sunset Theatres to one of their practice sessions so he could see what the group planned to do.

Richardson was impressed with the talent and energy of the young ladies and decided to help with the preparation. He added that the theatre would continue to support the young people of the island.

## KLM maintains weekly flight, BonairExel to start later

PHILIPSBURG—For now the Royal Dutch Airline KLM will maintain its weekly flight. This might change later this year, around September, depending on the start-up of BonairExel and St. Maarten's marketing in Holland, said KLM Manager Lars de Brabander on Thursday.

Things are status quo, with KLM executing the weekly flight Amsterdam-St. Maarten-Curaçao-Amsterdam on Thursday, explained De Brabander. "In the past we have had two and even three flights to St. Maarten per week, but that turned out to be too much and proved to be an over-capacity."

The reasons for not putting in more flights have always had to do with the fact that there is no strong marketing of St. Maarten in Holland, St. Maarten traditionally not being a potential destination for Dutch tourism, the manager said. "We have always said one flight is no flight. We have been looking very critically at this flight, but we decided to maintain it on the request of the local authorities, the Lt. Governor and the Tourism Commissioner."

Whether the number of flights will increase depends on the success of BonairExel, said De Brabander. Airex, with which BonairExel has a lease agreement, already has two ATR aircraft stationed at Flamingo Airport. The start-up of operations, however, has been stalled because the airline needs so-called aviation operating certificates, which the federal Civil Aviation Department in Curaçao still has to issue.

BonairExel should start by the middle of this month with

flights between Bonaire and Curaçao. Once it is up and running, two more planes, Embraerjets, will be deployed for the route Bonaire-St. Maarten. The Embraer 145s, which have a capacity of 50 passengers, will fly regularly, at least once a day, between Bonaire and St. Maarten to accommodate passengers who are flying in and from Amsterdam.

Through BonairExel, KLM will be able to promote St. Maarten better, said De Brabander, who dismissed the argument that KLM should maintain its weekly flight. "You have to look at this in broader perspective. You shouldn't only look at that one big blue bird landing at the airport. You should look at 14 smaller blue birds landing each week, promoting St. Maarten more effectively."

De Brabander didn't want to speculate on a date that BonairExel would start executing flights to St. Maarten. But, he added, "in September

we should be ready." He also couldn't say anything on what would happen to the weekly flight with the Boeing 747, only that the weekly flight would be part of the total discussions on how often and with what type of aircraft KLM would service St. Maarten.

A lot also depends on marketing, said the manager. The St. Maarten delegation and KLM Director Van Wijk had agreed during talks in Holland earlier this year that the island territory would initiate a joint marketing plan. KLM is also discussing forms of cooperation with Winair.

Asked whether KLM is considering executing direct flights by making use of the Airbus 340, like Air France, De Brabander said KLM would also be acquiring this type of aircraft that has the possibility of flying directly to Europe. No decision has been taken, however, whether these new aircraft will be deployed in the Caribbean.

## MPC exam students' meeting on June 10

PHILIPSBURG—All exam students of Milton Peters College (MPC) are being asked to attend an important meeting on the school's premises on Tuesday, June 10, at 11:30am.

School officials are holding the meeting to obtain input from the approximately 200 graduating students of the HVO/WVO, MAVO and BVO sections on upcoming graduation exercise on Thursday, July 3. BVO head Alvin Rombley said Thursday.

He explained that exam results were expected to be out by Friday, June 13. "We are planning the graduation ceremony and we need their input," said Rombley of the meeting.

He said a venue had not yet been decided for the graduation exercise and explained that this and other details would be determined following Tuesday's meeting.

**AGENDA**

**ST. EUSTATIUS**  
 Police Station 42333  
 Emergency 111  
 Hot Line 108  
**Fire Department** 120  
 Hospital 182211/182371  
**Landradio** 182210  
**Post Office** 182207  
**St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum** 182288  
**Winair Office** 182362  
**Lions Club** meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "De" next to the Airport  
**Drug Prevention Foundation** meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.  
**Coastguard NA&A** 113

**SABA**

**Police Station**  
 The Bottom, tel. 4163237  
 Emergency 111/112  
**Hospital**  
 The Bottom, tel. 4163288/4163289  
**Fire Department Airport**  
 Flat Point, tel. 4162210  
**SATEL**  
 The Bottom, tel. 4163211  
 4163212/416313  
**Tourist Office**  
 Windwardside, tel. 4162231  
**Harbour Office**  
 The Bottom, tel. 4162294  
**Saba Marine Park**  
 Fort Bay, tel. 4163295  
**Nature & Hike Guide**  
 James Johnson  
 The Bottom, tel. 4163307  
**Service Club**  
 Saba Lions Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 8:00 p.m., at Eugénus A. Johnson Center.  
**Coastguard NA&A** 113  
**Airline Services**  
 General meeting every Monday, 6 p.m., Eugénus A. Johnson Center.

**ANGUILLA**

**EMERGENCY**  
 Police 911  
 Fire 911  
**Ambulance 911**  
 Police Station 497 2333  
 Hospital 497 2551  
 Dental clinic 497 2343  
**Radio Anguilla** 497 2218  
**Tourism Department** 497 27777  
**Hotelinippers** 8800 777559  
**AIRLINES**  
 American Eagle 497 3501  
 Winair 497 2748  
 TWA 497 5000  
 Tyden Air 497 2719  
 Air Anguilla 497 2643  
 Trans Anguilla 497 9690  
**COASTER SERVICE**  
 DHL 497 3400  
 Federal Express 497 2719  
 DHL 497 2229  
**SERVICE CLUBS**  
**Rotary Club of Anguilla**  
 Roy's Restaurant 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Every Thursday  
**Soroptimist International Day Care Centre**  
 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday in each month Tel: 497 3509  
**Lions Club**  
 The Valley Primary School  
 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 8.00 p.m. Tel: 497 6259  
**National Council of Women**  
 Andrews Craft Centre  
 4:30 p.m. 1st Monday in month.  
**Interact Club of Anguilla**  
 Meets every Friday at 3.15 p.m. at the Queen's Lake Lodge Comprehensive School  
**Alcoholic Anonymous** meetings every Sunday at 8:30 am and Monday at 5:00 pm on Shoal Bay picnic area.

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From left: Caryl Monte, Commissioner Lisa Hassell, Leader of Government Will Johnson, Head of the Constitutional Advisory Body Xavier Blackman and Lt. Governor Antoine Solagnier. Photo by Dave Levenstone.

**Motion on Ultra-Peripheral Status in Island Council**

**SABA**—The WIPM-led Government will present a motion in the Island Council before the end of June regarding Saba's position on Ultra-Peripheral Status. Commissioner Will Johnson said Thursday.  
 Commissioner Johnson told the Saba Government Information Service (SGIS) Saba didn't reject Ultra-Peripheral Status, which would bring Saba closer to the European Union (EU) system, and he wanted to see the door remain open for the islands with

regard to the new status.  
 "We have been following developments very closely. We support the status, even though we would lose some autonomy. But what we are looking at is the equalization of benefits in education, health care and social benefits for our people," Johnson said.  
 He added, "The Kingdom Charter will diminish over time and we cannot let this opportunity go. It is similar to the Crown Dependency concept."

Johnson said he would be heading a delegation to Holland in July to meet with the new Dutch Government. Ultra-Peripheral Status will be one of the topics of discussion, Johnson said.  
 Representative of the Netherlands Antilles in Brussels Caryl Monte briefed Saba's Executive Council on the Ultra-Peripheral Status in the conference room of Janchoe Yrausquin Airport on Wednesday.

**Main voting bureau Saba confirms count**

**SABA**—Lt. Governor Antoine Solagnier, in his capacity as head of the main voting bureau, said the original voting count had proven to be 100 per cent accurate.  
 "There were no changes for parties or individuals," he said. Confirmed for the parties were 100 votes (15.87 per cent) for the Saba Labour Party (SLP), 298 (47.3 per cent) votes for the Windward

Islands People's Movement (WIPM), and 232 (36.83 per cent) for the new Saba Limited Democratic Party (SLDP).  
 Highest individual vote-getters for a seat on the Island Council were Will Johnson (WIPM) and Steve Hassell (SLDP), both with 87 votes; Lucia Woods (SLDP) with 79; Lisa Hassell (WIPM) 74; and Rolando Wilson (WIPM) with 46.

With 630 of a possible 707 votes cast, the voter turnout was just over 89 per cent.  
 Solagnier said all administrative aspects of the voting process had gone well and election day had been exciting, but peaceful. He thanked the members of the voting bureau and the attendants at the polling stations for helping to make the day a success.

**UNESCO approves school computer project**

**SABA**—The computer project Sacred Heart School submitted to UNESCO has been officially approved to the tune of US\$26,000, UNESCO representative for Saba Franklin Wilson said this Wednesday.  
 Wilson officially informed Commissioner of Education Lisa Hassell that he had received word from UNESCO about the approval of the

project.  
 The computer project is said to be the most expensive of all school projects in its kind in the Netherlands Antilles.  
 Wilson and Jonathan Johnson of Sacred Heart School will monitor the project, which includes the purchase of 20 computers before the end of this year.  
 Hassell said she was pleased with UNESCO's approval,

which helps Saba in its endeavours to provide quality Information Technology courses in the schools.  
 This is the second time UNESCO has assisted a Saba school with purchasing computers. Two years ago UNESCO approved a similar project for Saba Comprehensive School.

**Statia Adventist Church celebrates anniversary**

**ST. EUSTATIUS**—The St. Eustatius Seventh Day Adventist Church (SDA) celebrated its 42nd anniversary the past week.  
 Since its dedication on May 28, 1961, the SDA Community has come far by faith, programme coordinator E. Bennett said. Bennett hosted the programme together with church communications Director Godfrey Blake. It entitled "a walk down memory lane" with members involved in the church as far back as 1961.

around the old church building and then took down the old stone church walls to make the church much wider and longer.  
 Various members of the church came out to assist with the construction every Sunday. Daniel said that with much prayer and labour, the ring beam had finally been made. "But there wasn't enough money to put the roof on, so it was decided that by buying the material little by little, the roof could be completed."

One of these members, Gittens, who was clerk in 1961, presented a reading and Jossier Daniel went into the history of all the work that had been done.  
 Renovation of the "old" SDA Church started in 1954 and was concluded in 1961, he said. Brethren Felix, Douglass, Heemstad and Goddard of Aruba worked on the construction of the hospital, the doctor's residence and put a wing on the south side of the church. They built right

Hesaid Brother Douglas had gone to St. Kitts to purchase the material to complete the roof on credit. "Naturally the church membership was not pleased with this, as it caused the church to be in debt. So pledges were made and the church was able to get out of debt," Daniel said.  
 Daniel placed the plaque for the dedication of the new Church on May 28, 1961.  
 Pastor Lennon Robley spoke words of encouragement to those present at the ceremony.



Benjamin and Erna Hassell

**Son of Saba Captain Hassell celebrates 60-year marriage**

**ST. EUSTATIUS/SABA**—Benjamin and Erna Hassell will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary at Victoria's Tea Room in Webster, Texas, on June 21.  
 Ben is the son of Captain Ben Hassell of Saba. He was born and raised in Barbados and joined the Canadian merchant marine during World War II and became a ham (amateur) radio operator. Owner of the tea room Wanda Symmonds received this information from her daughter Nyna Burright, who lives in Statia.

then they have been active in their church and business organizations, while enjoying sailing, painting and hamming.  
 Erna was born in Lansing, Michigan, graduated from Michigan State College with an art degree and began teaching. She and a friend went on a short cruise aboard the ship Ben was on and the rest is history, said Symmonds. They married on June 20, 1943, settled in Lansing after the war and began raising their family.  
 Coming to celebrate with them will be their daughters and families: Erna Carolyn Hassell, Patricia Lynn with her husband Tom Ehman, grandchildren Jonathan Ehman and Susan Ehman, and other relatives and friends.

Symmonds said Benjamin and Erna Hassell had recently moved from Okemos, Michigan, where they resided for 45 years. Ben ran a decorating business and Erna was an art teacher for the local middle school until retirement. Since

# Rotary donates tub to medical center

PHILIPSBURG—The Rotary Club of St. Maarten donated a stainless steel tub that can be used to treat badly burnt patients to St. Maarten Medical Center on Thursday.

Describing the donation as a "life-saving piece of equipment," Supervisor of the

half of the medical center.

The tub, which was manufactured in Holland, was a "500 pound burden for SMMC," when it first arrived on the island "because the rim of the tub made it too wide to fit into the ward rooms for extended treatment of patients and it

severe burns, but the Rotary, FKG and SMMC all agree that this is one piece of equipment they hope will be used for a long, long time," said the release.

## Johnson proposes two informateurs

SABA—Commissioner Will Johnson proposed to appoint two informateurs to start the process of forming a new Central Government, during his meeting with Governor Frits Goedgedrag on Tuesday.

Commissioner Johnson said in an interview with the Saba Government Information Service (SGIS) that he and Senator Ray Hassell had proposed that St. Maarten Senator Marcel Gumbs represent the Dutch Windward Islands in the formation process. The other informateur should be from the Leeward Islands.

Johnson added that the issue of ultra-peripheral status in the European Union would have to be included in the Governing Accord.

Some 20 points that were presented to the Etienne Ys Government had been added to the Governing Accord, while Saba did not support this coalition government that currently has caretaker status. Johnson pointed out that these points needed to be discussed and reviewed within the Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM) before being included in a new governing accord.

Johnson said he was awaiting the finalization process of forming a Government at the Island level in Curaçao and the appointment of two informateurs before pursuing a party position on various issues.



The tipped over trailer with the lumber spilling out of it.

# Tractor trailer flips over, blocking traffic

MARIGOT—Early morning commuters were faced with a setback of several hours Thursday morning when a tractor trailer carrying a load of lumber, hit the edge of a roundabout and flipped over. Traffic backed up for kilometres in both directions leading to the Agrément roundabout as a result of the incident.

The truck was coming from the Galisbay port and heading in the direction of

Marigot when the accident occurred and authorities suggested that the trailer might have been overloaded and unsafe, because both sides were open.

No one was hurt, but the front of a bus parked on the side of the road was damaged when some of the lumber from the trailer fell on it. Gendarmes were called to control the flow of traffic, while workers tried to separate the trailer in an effort to

unblock part of the road. Some eyewitnesses pointed out that there was a Municipal Ordinance in place that barred heavy equipment from travelling through the streets of the City during certain hours when children were entering and leaving schools.

Workers spent the day clearing the road of the lumber after they had managed to separate the trailer.



Nurse Marguerite Priest (left) accepts the tub from Jim Rosen.

Surgical Ward Marguerite Priest said the equipment would be used for emergency and short-term care of badly burned patients.

"(It will be) much safer and easier, because of its ability to be properly sterilized. Its size allows it to provide for complete fluid immersion for treatment of extensive burns," said Priest, who accepted the donation on be-

lacked wheels to allow it to be moved about the hospital facility with a patient inside," a press release stated.

Through the efforts of Rotary Club President Jim Rosen, the size of the rim was adjusted and heavy-duty wheels were welded to the bottom of the tub, eliminating the initial problems.

"Today the hospital is ready in case someone receives

## Cabinet

Continued from page 1

financial matters, the council considers it necessary that the Antillean Government is involved closely and in a more structural manner with the inter-governmental conference which will start shortly in concerning the further realization.

"In connection with the preceding, the Council wished to come to clear procedural agreements with the Dutch Government, ensuring a worthwhile participation of the Netherlands Antilles in the decision-making process."

The Central Government also points out that the OCT arrangement will not be affected by the new treaty, so that this status will stay intact. The current OCT arrangement expires in 2011.

The ministerial committee dealing with the issue and consisting of Prime Minister Etienne Ys, Finance Minister Ersilia de Lannooy,

Constitutional Affairs Minister Russell Voges and Economic Affairs Minister Errol Cova, met on Thursday with the government departments involved, such as the Foreign Relations Bureau, Customs, Legal Affairs, Development Cooperation and Economic Affairs.

Afterward they were in Parliament for a presentation in the Central Committee.



Shortly before returning to Curaçao on Thursday, Governors Olindo Koolman of Aruba (left) and Frits Goedgedrag of the Netherlands Antilles (center) visited the new radar and air traffic control (ATC) tower on the Maho ridge. Airport director Eugene Holiday (right) and Chief Project Office Derek Hilman (not in photo) showed the delegation, which also included Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards (2nd from left) and Commissioner Michael Ferrier (2nd from right), around the building. The governors showed genuine interest and asked many questions. The equipment for the radar/ATC is currently being installed and the project should be operational by the middle of next year.



Governors of Aruba Olindo Koolman (center, front) and Frits Goedgedrag of the Netherlands Antilles (right) visited Isle de Sol Yacht Club Thursday morning. On top of the roof of the marina building, Manager Jeff Boyd (left) gave the governors, Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards (2nd from right) and the rest of the delegation an explanation of the project. Also at hand was Commissioner Michael Ferrier (2nd from left). Koolman and Goedgedrag left St. Maarten late Thursday morning after a four-day stay in the Windward Islands.



Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards (center) says goodbye to his guest Governor of Aruba Olindo Koolman (left) at the steps of DCA late Thursday morning, while Governor of the Netherlands Antilles Frits Goedgedrag looks on. The governors visited all three Windward Islands this week.

## Two local schools reach "My Caribbean" semifinals

PHILIPSBURG—Several students of St. Dominic Primary School and the Methodist Agogic Centre (MAC) have reached the semifinals of the "My Caribbean" essay contest sponsored by Condé Nast Traveller in cooperation with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

MAC students are Tamara Reid, Joseph, Kevin James and Shevonne Richardson. Angeliqe Seantleberry is St. Dominic's entrant.

The essays reaching the semifinals have been forwarded to Barbados for further judging by a CTO selection committee. The committee will select one finalist from each country who will represent his/her country at CTC-26.

The semifinalists, accompanied by chaperones, will attend the CTO conference in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, October 15-17. At this forum the editors

of Condé Nast Traveller will choose the first place winner and two runners-up.

The St. Maarten Tourist Bureau congratulated the students who had reached the semifinals and encouraged the otherschools that participated to continue supporting the island and its tourism industry. Other schools included Sister Borgia School, Lionel Conner School and MAC Reverend John A. Gumbs Campus.





File photo of the ninth annual Food Festival.

## Food festival starts Sunday

MARIGOT—The Tradition and Culture Association of St. Martin will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its food festival at the Marigot market this Sunday, June 8. Activities will begin at 11:00am and continue into the early evening.

The food festival is the brainchild of Jeanine Mingau, president of the association, who has worked tirelessly over the years to keep the festival alive. Mingau said it had not been

easy putting the event together over the years and this year was no exception, but she would like to most of all to thank those who had contributed in one way or the other, especially with generous donations.

This year the festival will feature traditional dishes from around the Caribbean with newcomers Aruba and Suriname. Other countries represented will be Dominica, Guadeloupe, the Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana, St. Kitts and host country French St. Martin. Participants from the host country will include the Butterfinger Association, Paradise View restaurant and the Cultural Women Association of St. Louis.

The day's activities will also include cultural and folklore performances by local groups from both the Dutch and French sides of the island. According to Mingau there will be something for everyone, because the program is varied to include a wide range of Caribbean culture and tradition.

There will also be a domino tournament and a competition for the best local traditional toy. Performers will

include the Nyabinghi Drummers, Soualiga Brass Band, La Flam, Grain d'Or, Gun Slingsers Steel Band, Tanny and the Boys and Explosive Girls, along with a fashion show displaying local traditional dresses.

Participants are free to choose the type of dishes they wish to display to represent their respective countries, but Mingau told The Daily Herald, "They have promised to bring out the best and feature some of the forgotten traditional dishes and products." Traditional drinks will also be on sale.

### Aruba's Arikok National Park "excellent tourist attraction"

ARUBA—"Parke Arikok offers everything an eco-tourist may desire."

That's the opinion of Belgian journalist Peter van Tjijesen, who works for the prestigious paper De Standaard. Van Tjijesen, accompanied by his wife, was recently guest of the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA).

During the four-hour visit to the national park of Aruba, they admired the beauty, serene peace and variety of green tints. The park was very green after the rainfall of a few weeks ago.

With this visit, ATA wants to show that Aruba has more than just beaches and sea. Also the nature, culture and history of the island form an attraction for the interested traveller.

During their visit to the park, they admired the Indian rock-drawings in Cunucu Arikok. They also took a tour on the Rooi Tambu and after that stopped at the sand dunes of Dos Playa, Fuente and Boca Prins. The last place they visited were the caves of Guadirikiri.

Van Tjijesen was very impressed with Parke Arikok and said it offered enough variety to keep eco-tourists busy during a week-long vacation. Every day they can be busy with a different aspect.



Trees were planted in Curaçao in the presence of Commissioners Anthony Leonard and Charles Cooper on Thursday, World Environment Day. This year's theme was drinking water and the ceremony was held at the water and electricity plant Aquallectra, which is also celebrating 75 years of existence. More than 1.1 billion people in the world have no clean drinking water, while 2.4 billion have no sanitary facilities. Local Friends of the Earth president Yvette Ravenau said there was little reason to celebrate, as in the last 10 years the island's drinking water supply had been contaminated twice and up to now no satisfactory explanation had been given.



*Curacao has a new heroine in 14-year-old Shurmalia Martina, who stole the hearts of those who attended the premiere of the film "Zulaika, Kobra ta Duru," in which she plays the leading role, a sort of "Jean d'Arc" of Curacao. The public in Teatro Luna Blou gave the actress, selected from 87 youngsters, a standing ovation when she was called to the stage.*

# Rules for fireworks sharpened in Aruba

ARUBA—The fireworks committee of Aruba has further sharpened the regulations for the import, storage and sale of fireworks.

The reason for this is the number of accidents every year caused by fireworks. During the last turn of the year, 36 people had to be treated in the hospital due to injuries that had to do with setting off fireworks.

The fireworks committee consists of representatives of the fire department, the police corps, Public Works, the National Health Administration and Customs. If the regulations and controls were already sharpened last year, this year they will be even more.

There is a list of fireworks that are not allowed to be sold to private individuals. These are display fireworks, which are only for big shows, the so-called night shells, the aerial shells (four inches or more), "raspa bill," and silver, cherry and sky bombs.

There are also restrictions for the big fireworks shows. The night or aerial shells should not be bigger than 10

inches. The import of fireworks for shows may not include fireworks for private individuals.

The generally heavier show fireworks should be stored at Wela or at a different place that is designated by government. Furthermore, the Minister of Justice decided that this year, importers of fireworks have to prove that they have an adequate place for storing and distributing their fireworks.

They are also not allowed

to distribute the fireworks to their customers until one day before selling to the public is allowed. With this, the minister hopes to achieve that fireworks will not be set off before Christmas, as in other years.

The places where fireworks are being sold have to meet strict regulations. Only containers, concrete spaces or other fireproof locations are allowed to be used for selling fireworks.

## National Alliance beach bash Sunday

PHILIPSBURG—To say thank you to the voters for their support during the recent Island Council elections, the National Alliance is hosting a beach bash at Great Bay beach this Sunday.

The event starts at 1:00pm with the Nuff Respek Band. "Because it is a way of showing our appreciation to the people of St. Maarten, everything, drinks and food, will be free," the party stated in a release on Thursday.

In addition to barbecues and a wide variety of food, persons will have the opportunity to meet with the National Alliance candidates and its Councilmen-elect. During the beach bash people can also join the new party, formerly the St. Maarten Patriotic Alliance (SPA).

## Abraham: Ultra-peripheral status confusing, unclear

BONAIRE—Bonaire's Island Council members and social partners met with Aruban representative in Brussels Caryl Monte on the ultra-peripheral status issue.

Opposition leader Jopi Abraham considered the meeting with Monte very important to learn about the advantages and disadvantages of an ultra-peripheral territory of the European Union (EU).

He thinks government is very late in giving enough information to the legislature and the population about the possible changes.

Abraham believes this case is especially a matter that regards the Dutch Government, but since it affects the islands, also the Plenipotentiary Minister of the Netherlands Antilles in The Hague.

But it seems that also from this person the information directed to the Antilles was not much. In Curacao, which was already informed by

Monte, they were of the same opinion, but again, according to Abraham, Bonaire seems to hang behind.

He observed that Bonaire was adequately represented in the cabinet of the plenipotentiary minister by two full time paid employees, but that this had not led to timely information that the Antilles House should have informed government of the plans earlier.

"After all, there is currently a new constitution that will be dealt with on June 20. It is

new to the European Union that a structure is being created, which we call the ultra-periphery territory of the EU. This means that the current status of the Overseas Countries and Territories (OTCs) is going to change.

"From the discussion it appears that the Antilles will lose its autonomous status and that the Kingdom Charter will be disregarded. Then the new status looks very much like a Dutch province," Abraham concluded.

## Eco-mill to guide tourists

WILLEMSTAD—"The tourists request this information," said initiative taker Paul Hoetjes of the Ministry of Health at the unveiling of the first eco-mill in Curaçao.

Lions Dive Hotel is the first hotel with this type of information panel giving tourists tips on how to become more environmentally aware and on sustainable vacationing on the island.

"But the eco-mill is more than only information for tourists. We depend on tourism. If we lose that we'll be in big trouble. But there is also the danger of losing our attraction. And if we squander our nature, it's impossible to get it back," according to Hoetjes during his lecture, in which he addressed the environment under as well as above the water.

The 3-sided prism gives

tips on, for example, energy and water usage and what you can or can't take home, as well as the fragility of corals.

The second side mentions the regulations to which hotels with eco-mill should adhere.

On the third side the hotels can place their own information and the tourist is encouraged to partake in activities with those organizations boasting the Natural Antilles logo, depicting a cactus and iguana.

The Nature and Environment department of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Development and the Dutch tour organization ANWB set up the project Natural Antilles, while the Unique Curaçao foundation is executing it.

The "green hotel" at Bapor Kibira is the first to comply with the demands for certification with the logo. Hotel manager Jan van Beurden: "The island is still not over-developed and that gives the possibility of further durable growth."

Curaçao hotel associa-

tion director Don Werdekker supports the project that will first be undertaken at seven hotels. "We are pleased with the visitors' information and with the 10 commandments for the hotels."

Besides Lions Dive, Chogogo, Papagayo, Avila Beach, Habitat and the apartment complexes Flamingo Park and Alablanca will also participate.

"But it's not about one or seven hotels," adds Curaçao Unique director Theo van der Giessen. "Everybody should get involved, or it's not going to work."

The signs are still in Dutch because the initiative was mainly from the Dutch ANWB. The project is aiming for international recognition and will thus also be translated into English and Spanish.

"This will take some time, just like durability calls for time. We stand at the start of making the island durable," the introduction in the project's handouts states.



Bonaire's Lt. Governor Richard Hart recently presented the Royal decoration of "Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau" to the Polish pastor of Kralendijk, Daniel Szpila. The Roman Catholic priest could not be present when the others received their distinctions on Queen's Birthday, April 30. Szpila is being transferred to Aruba.

## Fisherman dies at sea

WILLEMSTAD—A Curaçao fisherman died at sea Tuesday. Oostpunt on Wednesday.

What caused the death of 58-year-old Humphrey Erasmo Osepo is unclear. At first sight the corpse showed no signs of violence.

The man, who lived in Kolonia, Banda'bu, probably had an accident or became ill on board the boat "Phedrea" in which he was found.

The rescue organization Citro was informed at 6:00pm of a boat in trouble near Oostpunt (the eastern tip of the island), with an injured man aboard.

A helicopter was sent out and detected the boat being lashed back and forth into the rocks by the swells. They found the victim already dead, his head stuck at the pump in the water.

It is not excluded that Osepo became ill or injured while trying to solve an engine problem. The corpse was taken by boat to Caracasbaai, where very emotional relatives and friends were waiting.

## Police arrest 13 persons

ANGUILLA—The Royal Anguilla Police Force report that during the last two weeks of May they made 13 arrests. One of these was for possession of cannabis, another for driving under the influence of alcohol, one for causing criminal damage, two for theft and one for obstruction. Three others were arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage, suspicion of possession of a firearm and three for wrongdoing.

There were 22 criminal offences during the period, including theft, burglary, possession of a firearm and wrongdoing, while 105 persons were accused of minor offences.

There were 14 traffic violations. Nine persons are to be prosecuted for unsafe driving, three were fined with a fixed penalty and two others were warned. Eight accidents occurred, bringing the total for May to 39.

## Contractor lifts lien World Trade Center

WILLEMSTAD—Contractor Toni's Construction has agreed to lift the lien imposed on the World Trade Center (WTC) in connection with the building project next to the center.

Negotiations did not help parties arrive at a solution to the dispute, in which the construction company claimed to still have a 900,000-guilder payment due from Venezuelan WTC owner Vittorio de Stefano. The contractor placed a lien, which meant no one could set foot on the property and all construction activities ceased.

DeStefano went to court to have the lien lifted, but parties reached agreement in front of the judge. WTC will now pay the construction company's owner Antonio Borda de Agua 750,000 guilders.

De Stefano had already terminated the agreement with Toni's Construction.



Ernie France (left) and Anthony Nisbett inspect the new vehicle ramp at Pinney's Industrial Site.

## TDC's vehicle display attracting attention

NEVIS—A vehicle display ramp at TDC's Automotive Division at Pinney's Industrial Estate is attracting more attention than the company bargained for. It is the first

raised car display ramp in Nevis and motorists driving along Island Main Road and persons coming to do business at Pinney's Industrial Site are stopping to take a

look at the two SUVs on display.

Director of TDC in Nevis Ernie France explained to GIS: "It is what we refer to as a ramp and essentially what it does is giving us an additional four feet raised area off the ground where we can display a vehicle. It assists us in our merchandising, making the vehicle more visible so that the features and any other aspects of the vehicle can be seen very clearly."

Manager Automotive Division Anthony Nisbett confirmed it was the first time such a display had been mounted in Nevis. "It enables potential buyers to see every aspect of the vehicle," he explained. "Normally you get a front and side view, but you are now able to see underneath the vehicle and to see its construction."

TDC is the agent of five vehicle manufacturers: Toyota, which is the flagship brand; Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Chrysler and Mercedes Benz. The Automotive Division is currently located at Pinney's Industrial Site.

## PM Douglas reports increased revenues

ST. KITTS—Despite the "very serious economic blows to the economy" by external forces, including international terrorism, the global economic slowdown and fluctuating oil prices, St. Kitts and Nevis is reporting increased revenues of nearly EC \$4 million for the first

and the level of expenditure that we have achieved in the first quarter is below that which we had targeted by some EC \$9 million or 12.4 per cent. The overall deficit was nearly 50 per cent below the deficit projected for the first quarter of this year," he said.

"pace at which we move to the goal that we have set for ourselves over this fiscal year and the other fiscal year as we attempt to achieve fiscal balance in the economy."

He noted that there had been a number of responses to the challenges created by external factors and that the



Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas

quarter of this year.

"Recurrent Revenue exceeded the target of EC \$50.2 million by some EC \$3.8 million or 7.5 per cent. In other words, we have achieved revenue by 7.5 per cent in excess of what we had in fact planned for the first quarter of this year," St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas told a press conference on Wednesday.

Dr. Douglas, who is also Minister of Finance, reported that Recurrent Expenditure was below the targeted expenditure of EC \$73.2 million by some EC \$9 million or 12.4 per cent.

"In other words, we also attacked our expenditure

He emphasised there was still much to be done to maintain the policy that his Government had put in place and to build on the success and progress that had been achieved to date.

He said the challenge, however, was to continue to make "a significant dent in the level of public indebtedness" and "reducing the debt service payments that have been exerting some upward pressure on our public expenditure."

He said St. Kitts and Nevis had already begun to feel the impact of the Marriott Hotel on the tourism sector. The hotel, he said, had been generating additional revenues and accelerating the

countries of the Eastern Caribbean Union had agreed to implement fiscal stabilisation programmes aimed mainly at achieving fiscal balance over a period of time and reducing the level of indebtedness of the countries in the Currency Union.

"St. Kitts and Nevis took the lead in devising and implementing a stabilisation programme with technical assistance from the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre. Cartac, drawing expertise from the World Bank and the IMF in particular to assist us in the implementation of our own stabilisation programme," he said.

## Business sees need for helicopter, says Croes

ARUBA—The private sector of Aruba considers a police helicopter of great importance.

This is mentioned in a press release of the Ministry of Justice. The meeting on this subject with the representatives of banks, insurance companies and some other businesses was fruitful, said the ministry.

The Justice Department hopes to receive a written confirmation of the interest in the joint venture no later than mid-June, including a commitment for financial participation. The minister is aiming for August 1 as the ultimate date to issue a public contract. Before that date, a protocol should be signed with the participants.

Minister Rudy Croes says he needs the help of trade

and industry for the 2003 and 2004 budget years. From 2005 on, government itself would be able to free up enough funds on the budget for this purpose.

The minister turned to the local business sector after the Coast Guard, his Antillean and Dutch Justice counterparts during the tripartite deliberations and the Dutch Defense Minister turned down his request.

Croes thinks that with the use of a helicopter, the borders can be completely sealed for illegal immigrants as well as drugs and that he would be able to realize an adequate guarding of the coast against possible terrorist attacks on American sites, like the refinery, the US military's Forward Operating Location, hotels, cruise ships and so on.

# Cable TV of Nevis offers new channels

NEVIS—Cable TV of Nevis has announced that it will offer nine new channels to its customers. Tier subscribers will now be able to enjoy Ch. 48, Discovery Health Channel; Ch. 53, City TV Toronto; Ch. 49, The Game Show Channel; Ch. 54, Fox Sports World; Ch. 50, Fox News; Ch. 55, BBC America; Ch. 51, TV Land; Ch. 56, Comedy Central; Ch. 52, Fox Movie Channel.

The new channels will be added during June and will be shown free of charge to all existing Tier subscribers through June 30.

The company also announced that for only the second time in more than 15 years, it will be implementing a rate increase on July 1. Tier service rates will increase by only EC \$10 to EC \$80 per month. However, rates for Basic Services will not be affected and will remain at EC \$50 per month.

The company has also revised its charges for premium movie services, with more discounts offered to subscribers who take multiple premium services.

Based on the new premium package pricing structure, Cable TV of Nevis will absorb half of the rate increase of premium channel subscribers who will therefore see their monthly charge for services increase by only EC \$5.

Company President Lee Bertman said, "Our custom-

ers always ask for more channels and we are happy to be able to provide them with the programming they want. While we know that no one likes a rate increase, we feel that holding the rates at the same price over the last five years was quite remarkable and that our current increases are modest considering the many improvements we have made and will continue to make."

In addition to these new channels, the company will soon be announcing its plans to offer high-speed Internet services and other customer

service enhancements, such as on-line bill-paying.

Bertman continued: "Our company and our staff are committed to bring the best available services to our customers and to always challenge our ability to improve upon those services."

Cable TV of Nevis invites all its customers to visit its Website at [www.neviscabletv.com](http://www.neviscabletv.com) to view a listing of the new channel line-up and service prices, or to call its offices at 469-5988, for more information.

## C&W announces new strategic direction

ANGUILLA—Chief Executive of Cable and Wireless (C&W) Francesco Caio says the company will aim to create a group of profitable national telecommunication companies with strong positions in their primary markets.

The announcement was made in London on June 4 and Caio said the companies would be closely bound by a common strategy, shared marketing, technical and regulatory skills and a culture of performance and customer orientation.

As a key part of the way forward for the group, Caio said C&W should look to

build on and add to its position in national telecommunication companies. "We have core skills as a group in this area that we want to maximize," he said. "Over time, we will look to invest selectively to expand our footprint."

General Manager of C&W in Anguilla Sutcliffe Hodge said, "This new focus shows us as an important business, operating in a vibrant economy, which will continue to serve the needs of our local customers."

He also said the decision no longer to make a distinction between "global" and "regional" parts of the busi-

ness was a positive step, as it would provide greater focus for development in the operations across the Caribbean and in other countries where the company does business.

The group has also announced plans to close its US-based operations. However, service will be continued for customers who need traffic terminated in the US. Hodge says the company is committed to continuing to deliver good service to its customers and that will remain the focus going forward.

*Aruban Minister of Culture Ramon Lee plans to introduce legislation to protect the island's marine environment. "Our very beautiful blue sea will get the status it deserves, with all the maintenance, protection and benefits of a marine park." Speaking at a ceremony to commemorate World Environment Day he also said Arikok National Park would soon be an independent foundation.*



## Cable TV of Nevis launches on-line payment service

NEVIS—Cable TV of Nevis is proud to announce the official launch of its new Website at [www.neviscabletv.com](http://www.neviscabletv.com).

In a press release it stated: "Cable TV is committed to improve customer service by meeting the demands that customers face in their fast paced lifestyle. We recognize that people are busier today more than ever before and are looking for ways to save time. People are becoming more dependent on automated services and are accustomed to using the Internet to assist with their time management."

"Customers will also be able to check their account status and history, request service upgrades, request disconnection and reconnection dates; review the channel line-up and check out the latest products and services offered by Cable TV. In addition, there is a direct link to the TV Guide listing for Nevis," it said.

In connection with the on-line payment option, customers will now have the option of paying for their Cable TV service with their credit cards directly at the Cable TV offices.

In addition to this new service enhancement, Cable TV also announced that it would now be mailing out monthly invoices to subscribers. Beginning on June 1, all subscribers will receive their monthly statement in the mail with all their pertinent account information.

Cable TV encourages all subscribers who have not submitted their preferred mailing address and/or e-mail address, or those who wish to begin to utilize the company's on-line service enhancements, to contact its office in Charlestown either in person or by telephone at 469-5988, fax at 469-5468 or via [its@neviscabletv.com](mailto:its@neviscabletv.com). Website [www.neviscabletv.com](http://www.neviscabletv.com).

## PUBLIC SALE

On **Tuesday June 17th, 2003** a public sale will be held at the Golden Dragon Restaurant, Frontstreet 4, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of **Ferdinand J.L.M. Steeman, civil law notary on Sint Maarten**, or his substitute, of the following immovable property, situated on the Island of Sint Maarten:

*a parcel of land, having an area of 367 square meters, situated in the district of Cul de Sac, at Ebenezer, known as lot 262 of the subdivision of St. Maarten Housing N.V., described in Certificate of Admeasurement number 192/1993, with thereon standing dwelling house, locally known as Abraham Heyliger Road 1*

The public sale will be held ex art. 3: 268 of the Civil Code of the Netherlands Antilles:

Producing of an irrevocable bank guarantee from a bank established in the Netherlands Antilles, to the amount of the bid and the estimated expenses of the auction, may be demanded from the highest bidder(s) at the auction.

For information about the property, the conditions of the sale and further details, contact the office of aforementioned civil law notary, The Diamond Plaza, Suite 7, Frontstreet 1, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, tel. 542-9926.

# Six die in shoot-out with police and army

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—Six men, including notorious wanted man Romel Reman, were shot dead early yesterday morning in Friendship after a shoot-out with a police/army contingent which had surrounded an old bond they were hiding in.

A release from the Police Public Relations Office yesterday said that between 5 am and 5.30 am, "the joint forces conducted a cordon and search operation on a house at 163 Friendship Middle Walk, where the police were met by rapid gunfire coming from a bond in the said yard."

The release said the police "returned fire, which resulted in multiple deaths...two of the six have since been positively identified [as] Romel Sylvester Reman, for whom a wanted bulletin was issued for a series of robberies and murder, and Akcem Hack aka 'Chip Teeth.' Reman was 21 years old and originally from Berbice.

Sources told Starbrook News that a third man "appears to be a Brazilian national." Up to press time, three of the other four were identified only as "Brazilian Buck", "Wild Buck", and "Froggie" or "Crapaud". According to the police, the dead men had in their possession, two assault rifles - an AK-47 and one M70, one Mosberg 12-gauge shotgun with a screw-on rack to store ammunition, 310 rounds of 7.62x39 ammunition, 25 12-gauge cartridges, 11 maga-

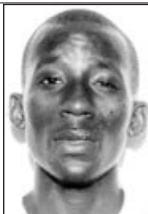
zines for the rifles, one pair Bushnell night vision goggles, a cellular phone, a pair of handcuffs, a GDF camouflage shirt, two pairs of sneakers, one pair of slippers, two wigs, a tub in which the ammunition was stored, a quantity of clothing, a Holy Bible and a syringe with needle.

Army sources told Starbrook News that at about 4.45 am, the joint forces threw up inner and outer cordons behind Friendship, between Pond Dam and Middle Walk after a tip off that criminals were occupying the bond at nights. The bond turned out to be a broken down wooden shack in the last yard south of Friendship Middle Walk.

"The outer and inner cordons were in position when a Rasta man emerged from the bond. He was arrested, but during his arrest, he managed to make some noise, which alerted the others," one source told this newspaper.

Sources said after the alarm was raised, the men in the shack attempted to escape by breaking out of the back of the bond, but encountered members of the joint forces. "While they were breaking out, they started shooting and the inner cordon returned fire killing six men...there is no evidence to suggest that any of them escaped," a senior Guyana Defence Force (GDF) source said.

A release from the army yesterday said that during the operation, "bandits opened



Romel Reman

fire on the inner cordon as they tried to escape from the rear of the building. In response, the ranks returned fire injuring the criminals who were at that time using the building as a rest house.

A search later revealed one AK-47 and one M70 assault rifles with retractable butts, 11 magazines with matching rounds, one Pump-Action Shotgun, 25 live cartridges, one pair handcuffs, one pair binoculars and one pistol holster." The army said the shot men were taken to the Georgetown Public Hospital where they were pronounced dead on arrival.

# 'No Kraal cover-up' - probe will leave no stone unturned

KINGSTON, Jamaica—Sir John Stevens, Commissioner of the British Metropolitan Police, yesterday urged investigators in the controversial fatal shooting of four people in Kraal, Clarendon, to leave no stone unturned and to report fairly on the findings.

The top cop, who was speaking at a press briefing at the British High Commission in Kingston yesterday, said his function was to "search for the truth and support the JCF (Jamaica Constabulary Force) in its investigation."

He said that "being thorough and transparent is vital if the police are to build and sustain the trust and confidence of the many communities they serve."

The Scotland Yard boss said that in his more than 40 years as a detective, the approach was to "go where the evidence takes you and leave no



Sir John Stevens (left), Britain's Metropolitan Police Chief, answering questions at a press conference held at the British High Commission in Kingston yesterday. At right is Police Commissioner Francis Forbes.

now-defunct Crime Management Unit (CMU).

"We are leading the investigations but it is also important that there is no going to be any cover-up or protection of anything, especially given the sensitivity of the situation," the Minister said Tuesday. He was speaking after a graduation dinner at the Hilton Kingston Hotel in New Kingston for 448 constables, the largest group ever in the JCF's 150-year history.

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"We are leading the investigations but it is also important that there is no going to be any cover-up or protection of anything, especially given the sensitivity of the situation," the Minister said Tuesday. He was speaking after a graduation dinner at the Hilton Kingston Hotel in New Kingston for 448 constables, the largest group ever in the JCF's 150-year history.

# Chamber head: Trini way of life in danger

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad—Trinidad and Tobago's economic foundations may be strong but the social structures are so desperately in need of change that the Trini way of life is in danger, Chamber of Commerce president David O'Brien has said.

Society is segregating and there are fears for the safety of children, he said yesterday. O'Brien was speaking at the annual general meeting of the Trinidad and Tobago Publishers and Broadcasters Association (TTPBA) at the Kapok

Hotel, St Clair.

At the meeting Trinidad Express newspaper general manager Mary Joanna Marsden was appointed president of the TTPBA. She replaced outgoing president Brandon Khan.

Dominic Beaumont is vice-president; Richard Henderson, treasurer; with executive members Geoffrey Wharton-Lake, CCN-TV6 general manager Shida Bolal and Kiran Maharaj. The new executive will serve a two-year term.

# House for Sale by owner

The house is located in Dawn Beach Estate on 2190m<sup>2</sup> fenced yard. It consists of a master bedroom plus bathroom, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, dining room, open American kitchen, living plus loft, pool, hurricane protection, generator, alarm system, 24/7 security. Asking: U.S. \$ 395,000.- Tel.: 5223601.



# Haiti police chief offers to resign

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—Haiti's embattled acting police chief has offered to resign less than three months after his appointment by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Jean-Claude Jean Baptiste wrote in a letter broadcast on local television stations Wednesday that "it seems the time has come for me to serve the nation elsewhere."

Aristide must accept Jean-Baptiste's resignation for it to become effective, but he has not made a decision. Culture and Communications Minister Lilas Desquiron said.

Aristide appointed Jean-Baptiste March 25 to comply with an Organization of American States resolution to revamp the 4,000-member police force, accused of criminal activity, human

rights abuses and repression of political dissent. However, his appointment met with a salvo of criticism and was never brought before the Senate to be confirmed. A longtime Aristide partisan, Jean-Baptiste was accused of involvement in the 1991 killing of politician Sylvio Claude on the eve the army ousted Aristide in a bloody coup. He was never charged and denied the accusation.

In an interview with the independent Radio Vision 2000 last week, OAS Haiti special mission head David Lee urged the government to replace Jean-Baptiste before the OAS General Assembly meeting in Santiago, Chile, June 8-10.

The government and opposition have been at loggerheads over the holding of new elections since

Aristide's governing party swept disputed legislative elections in May 2000.

To persuade opposition parties and civil society groups to participate in an electoral council, the government has pledged to implement OAS resolutions that would guarantee secure and credible elections.

But the opposition has refused to designate its two members until Aristide resigns, while five civil society groups accuse the government of not living up to its pledge and refuse to allow theirs to be sworn in.



Haitian police stand by as supporters of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Haitian Police Chief Jean-Claude Jean-Baptiste demonstrate in front of the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS) Special Mission to Haiti, headed by Canadian David Lee in Port-au-Prince on Wednesday, June 4, 2003.

## Mitchell: recycling, sorting waste a must

ST. VINCENT—Prime Minister Keith Mitchell says the participation of the private sector in educating the public about recycling and sorting waste is crucial, now that that the OECS Solid and Ship-Generated Waste Management Project is coming to an end.

Delivering the Feature Address at the Opening Ceremony of the OECS Solid Waste Management Symposium and Exhibition on Wednesday in St. George's, Prime Minister Mitchell said in order for the governments of the sub-region to maintain and build upon the extensive progress made since implementation of the Project began in 1995, the

private sector must be involved to a much greater extent than is now the case.

"We need to remind ourselves that the participating governments borrowed heavily for this US \$50 million project. The landfills have been constructed with loan funds from multiple financing institutions. We have all implemented some cost recovery measures, but these are limiting. Moreover, as we look ahead to the future, we have an enormous task ahead of us with respect to educating our people about waste management in their homes and in their businesses, as well as institutions," he said.

## St. Lucia's minister to head U.N. assembly

UNITED NATIONS—The U.N. General Assembly meets on Friday to elect St. Lucia's foreign minister, Julian Hunte, as president of its 58th session, opening in September, diplomats said on Thursday.

Hunte will replace Jan Kavan of the Czech Republic, who has presided over the current 57th session since September 2002.

St. Lucia is a Caribbean island whose economy depends heavily on tourism and

banana exports.

The 191-nation assembly agreed earlier this year to elect its president and principal committee heads three months in advance to give them extra time to organize the coming session.

Hunte serves in the government of Prime Minister Kenny Anthony, a member of the St. Lucia Labour Party. Anthony was sworn in to a second five-year term in December 2001.

# Top New York Times editors resign in plagiarist scandal

NEW YORK—The top two New York Times editors resigned on Thursday amid an unrelenting scandal sparked by a reporter who plagiarized and fabricated dozens of stories at the nation's most influential newspaper.

Executive Editor Howell Raines and Managing Editor Gerald Boyd emerged from a morning meeting and told stunned staff in the newsroom they were quitting, Times reporters said.

The plagiarist scandal sparked by former reporter

archerical, distant and based on making stars out of selected reporters.

"I think it's time that this era came to an end. People are shaken up, but we are optimistic," said reporter Deborah Sontag, who said she has had trouble getting sources to cooperate since the Blair scandal broke.

As they spoke to staff, Raines looked pained, while Boyd was teary-eyed and lost his train of thought, reporters said.

Blair, 27, faked dozens of

those convictions, gave him one chance too many. When I look into my heart for the truth of that, the answer is yes."

Blair, now hawking a book, told CNN he was sorry and wished, "the rolling of heads had stopped with mine."

Staffers spoke with reporters outside the newspaper's office of their general dissatisfaction and their hopes that Blair's departure would end the cynicism and bring the Times a new executive editor with a willingness to listen to them.

Joseph Lelyveld will return as interim executive editor. Lelyveld, 66, under whose reign the paper won 12 Pulitzer Prizes, retired two years ago when Raines was promoted.

Raines, 60, joined the Times in 1978. He won a Pulitzer in 1992 for feature writing. Boyd, 52, named managing editor in 2001, also won a Pulitzer. He was the paper's most senior ever black editor and seen as a possible contender for the top job.

Lelyveld will hold the job for "a limited time," Times spokeswoman Catherine Mathis said. "We have begun the search today for a successor). We will search inside and outside the Times. Clearly we would like to move as quickly as we can.

Among names mentioned in media circles were Bill Keller, a Times columnist who was managing editor under Lelyveld and passed over in 2001; Dean Baquet, managing editor of the Los Angeles Times and former New York Times national editor; Martin Barron, editor of The Boston Globe, also owned by Times Co., and Paul Steiger, managing editor of The Wall Street Journal.

Blair, 27, faked dozens of those convictions, gave him one chance too many. When I look into my heart for the truth of that, the answer is yes."



The New York Times building in New York is shown in this photograph taken on Thursday.

## Ridge concerned about terror alert scheme credibility

WASHINGTON—U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Thursday he is concerned about the terror threat advisory system and hopes intelligence will become more detailed so the system can better target specific industries or regions of the country.

After raising the terror alert to its second-highest level three times over the past four months because of fears of potential terror attacks, Ridge said the system needs refining.

"We worry about the credibility of the system," he told a small group of reporters. "We want to continue to refine it because we realize it has caused some anxiety."

Ridge said the system, based on information from various intelligence agencies, relies heavily on the intelligence that is fairly generic. But as the intelligence needed to detect potential terror attacks becomes more detailed, Ridge expects to have more specific information that will give the government flexibility in predicting the target of a potential terror attack.

"Hopefully in time we can be much more specific with the alerts so we don't have to ask communities and states to enhance their security with the accompanying expense when we really don't think they have to," he said.

Ridge said the government was working with states and the private sector to better refine the warning system.

The five-level color-coded alert scheme was created last year to help Americans better prepare for future attacks. It has generally remained in the middle at "elevated" or "yellow" but was raised to "high" or "orange" four times—three of which took place in the last four months.

## UN expected to exempt US from suits by new court

UNITED NATIONS—With major powers wary of doing battle with Washington again, the U.N. Security Council is expected this month to renew its exemption of U.S. peacekeepers from prosecution by the new war crimes tribunal.

The United States would like to see a vote by Monday, diplomats said, but may delay it depending on reactions from other members. While the resolution is expected to be adopted, Germany and possibly even France may abstain, the envoys said.

The council a year ago approved 15-0 a resolution shielding Americans and personnel from other nations that had not ratified statutes of the International Criminal Court from prosecution while serving in U.N.-backed peacekeeping ventures. The resolution, which expires on July 1, came after the Bush administration threatened to close down U.N. peacekeeping missions, starting with Bosnia.

Several nations in the council and elsewhere, including Germany, Jordan, Canada and Mexico, are contemplating a public debate to warn the United States of the alleged illegality of the resolution and not to take renewals for granted, the envoys said. But there may not be time before a vote.

"The council is in too fragile a state to put it through another meat grinder," one key ambassador said, referring to a bruising fight over the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. "But such renewals should not be auto-

matic."

As the first permanent global criminal court, the ICC was set up to try individuals for the world's most heinous atrocities—genocide, war crimes and systematic human rights abuses—in a belated effort to fulfill the promise of the Nuremberg trials 57 years ago that prosecuted Nazi leaders.

Among its chief advocates are European Union nations, especially Germany, which has a seat on the council this year. But the United States fears its soldiers could be the target of politically motivated prosecutions while the court's supporters argue that perpetrators of major crimes can only be pursued when national governments are unwilling or unable to do so.

The court, whose treaty has been ratified by 90 nations, came into being more than a year ago, despite fierce opposition by the United States and is expected to function later this year in The Hague, Netherlands. Its prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, will be sworn in next week.



Raines



Boyd

Jayson Blair gripped the Times in recent weeks but was a catalyst for a look at ethics and standards in the media.

The departures came despite earlier comments by Publisher and The New York Times Co. chairman Arthur Sulzberger Jr. that he stood by his team and would not accept their resignations. "Given the events of the last month, however, Howell and Gerald concluded that it was best for The Times that they step down," said Sulzberger, whose family has controlled the Times for 107 years.

Since his 2001 appointment by Sulzberger, Raines helped press Times staff to eight Pulitzer Prizes. But the latest controversy exposed sagging morale and brewing dissatisfaction with his management style, which many saw as hi-

stories during nearly four years at the Times and resigned in May. Then, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Rick Bragg quit amid charges of dishonest reporting.

An unprecedented mea culpa published on May 11 said Blair pretended to travel when he was home, made up colorful details about places he had not been and lifted vast chunks of work. Raines and Boyd were blamed for overlooking warnings, like Metropolitan Editor Jonathan Landman's e-mail: "We have to stop Jayson from writing for the Times. Right now."

They were accused of promoting the black reporter to help diversify the newsroom. At a recent staff meeting Raines said: "You have right to ask if I, as a white man from Alabama, with

## CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

a new private school, opens its doors to all qualifying 6th through 12th grade students of St. Maarten/St. Martin.



The school will follow the curriculum of the Ministry of Education, province of Ontario, Canada. Graduates of our program will receive Ontario secondary school diplomas, providing them with a competitive edge for placement in colleges and universities throughout Canada and the world.

Please contact us at:  
Phone: 599-545-3871  
Fax: 599-545-3872

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U.S. President George W. Bush rubs the head of staff sergeant Michael Brown after addressing U.S. troops who were deployed in the Operation Enduring Freedom during war on Iraq at the U.S. Army Central Command (USCENTCOM) headquarters in Doha, Qatar, on Thursday.

## American president tours Baghdad at 31,000 feet

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE—U.S. President George W. Bush took a quick tour of Baghdad on Thursday—from an altitude of 31,000 feet (9,500 meters). With four F-18 fighter jets as his escort, Bush surveyed the American-controlled capital from the safety of a window seat on Air Force One, which flew by at a ground speed of 467 miles per hour (751.5 kph). It was a lot to soak up in a matter of seconds.

Seated on a bench next to Secretary of State Colin Powell, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and Chief of Staff Andrew Card, Bush pointed out key sites, including the "leadership target" hit on the first night of the war. The target was President Saddam Hussein, whose whereabouts remain unknown.

"He showed a real familiarity with the sights of Baghdad, the topography of Baghdad," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said of the president, who received daily briefings during the war on troop movements and military targets.

It was a picture-perfect clear day for the air tour. Air Force One pivoted slightly toward the city, making it easier for Bush and others on the plane to take in the sights. Bush was able to make out Saddam Airport, Saddam City and other landmarks, Fleischer said.

Bush was in Iraqi air space for a total of 66 minutes. F-18s from the USS Nimitz stood guard off each wing.

Fleischer said the planes were there for security reasons, but did not elaborate.

Fleischer said Bush had not considered making a stop in Iraq during his weeklong trip, which included stops in neighboring Jordan, as well as Egypt and Qatar. "It's not the purpose of this trip. We're going home," Fleischer said before Air Force One passed over Baghdad.

Besides security concerns, a presidential visit might have stoked controversy over post-

war living conditions and what so far has been a futile U.S. hunt for alleged weapons of mass destruction.

By cutting across Iraq, Bush was able to make his return flight nonstop. When told of the short-cut, Bush said, "That sounds great," according to Fleischer. "It was as simple as that. And the decision was made therefore to fly over Iraq. He was very happy to, one, get home quicker. And two, of course, he was very interested in seeing Iraq."

## US believes Chemical Ali may be alive

WASHINGTON—The cousin of toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein known as "Chemical Ali," who U.S. and British officials had thought was killed an April 5 bombing raid, may still be alive, U.S. defense officials said on Thursday.

U.S. forces bombed the home of Ali Hassan al-Majid in the southern city of Basra during the war to oust Saddam, and British and American officials expressed confidence at the time that Majid had been killed. But U.S. Central Command and officials at the Pentagon said his status now was considered uncertain.

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he did not know whether Majid is dead or alive. "They attacked locations where they believed him to be. There was some

speculation afterward that they thought that he had been killed. Now there's some speculation that he may be alive," Rumsfeld told reporters after meeting with lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Majid is listed as No. 5 on Central Command's list of top-55 wanted Iraqis from Saddam's government, and is designated as the "king of spades" in the deck of cards given U.S. soldiers to familiarize them with Iraqi fugitives.

Majid earned his moniker for ordering a chemical weapon attack against 5,000 Kurds in the Iraqi village of Halabja in 1988 to end decades of insurrection. At the

## Shi'ites, Kurds question Iraq administration plans

NAJAF. Iraq—Two Iraqi Shi'ite and Kurdish leaders on Thursday questioned U.S.-British plans to set up an interim administration in Baghdad, but said their factions had not yet decided whether to join it.

Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, leader of the Iran-backed Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), said after consultations with Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani in the holy city of Najaf that SCIRI had yet to decide whether to accept a position in an appointed council.

"It is premature. The issue is still under discussion," he said. "But the Iraqis must form their own (interim) government. We do not need more than one month to form the government."

The top U.S. administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, is due to meet seven Iraqi political groups today to discuss controversial plans to set up an interim Iraqi administration. SCIRI and Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) are among those groups, most of which say they oppose Bremer's plan to appoint a 25- to 30-member interim political council, rather than have such a body elected by a national conference proposed earlier.

Barzani said that while he

disagreed with the new plan, he would keep talking to the U.S.-led administration to find a compromise. "Even if it was appointed, it should come after consultations between the (U.S.-British) coalition forces and the political groups. Tomorrow we will seek more

Barzani's first trip to Najaf since 1967.

SCIRI spokesman Hamid al-Bayati said many Iraqis were "upset" with Bremer and his ideas. "He has gone back on everything the Americans agreed with the opposition," he said.



Iraqi Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim (L) greets Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani in the holy city of Najaf on Thursday.

clarifications," he said.

"We do not have any intention to clash with the coalition. We have a difference of opinion with each other, but we are continuing the dialogue," Barzani said.

He also met Grand Ayatollah Ali Mohammed al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shi'ite cleric, and another formerly London-based cleric, Mohammed Bahr al-Uloom. It was

Bayati, who was at Barzani's talks with Sistani, told Reuters that Sistani had "emphasized the importance of having a constitution written by Iraqis who are elected, not appointed."

"This meeting supports our view that we should have an Iraqi government and elections," the SCIRI spokesman said. "The Shi'ites of Iraq would like to see a democratic government with respect for Islam, the religion of the Iraqi people."

Sistani, who stayed in Najaf during Saddam's rule, wields much influence over Shi'ites who make up about 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people. He rarely appears in public and does not advocate an active political role for Shi'ite clerics.

"I listened to Ayatollah Sistani's advice," Barzani told reporters. "He emphasized Kurdish-Arab brotherly relations and national unity. He also emphasized that the constitution should guarantee the rights of all Iraqi citizens."

Kurds and Shi'ites suffered at the hands of Saddam's Sunni Muslim-dominated government, whose 24-year rule was ended by U.S.-led forces in Iraq. Iraqi troops crushed Kurdish and Shi'ite revolts after the 1991 War.

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## UN members calls on US to let inspectors into Iraq

UNITED NATIONS—Security Council members, including Britain, tried to convince the United States on Thursday to allow U.N. arms inspectors back into Iraq, but Bush administration officials shrugged off the appeal.

The failure of the United States and its close ally Britain to find unconventional weapons after 11 weeks of searching has developed into a political issue in both countries with the Bush administration defending intelligence used to justify the war. Prime Minister Tony Blair has had to do the same as parliamentarians press for an inquiry.

At issue is a global credibility problem, with accusations that the United States fabricated evidence and Britain went along with it, unless a neutral body verifies any dis-



Blix

covery of weapons.

In his last address to the 15-nation body before resigning at the end of June, Hans Blix, the chief U.N. weapons inspector said Saddam Hussein's government might have destroyed or concealed weapons and now the truth could come out. "There remain long lists of items unaccounted for but it is not justified to jump to the conclusion that some-

thing exists just because it is unaccounted for," Blix said.

But he, as well as most council members said whatever U.S.-led teams found in Iraq should be verified by international experts.

"I believe we all have to do everything possible and we have to do it together," Blix told reporters. "However I think that anybody that functions under an occupation by a few foreign states cannot have the same credibility internationally as inspectors."

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said there were no plans to let the U.N. inspectors back into Iraq.

"What we've said all along is that since March 17 or 18, the coalition has taken on responsibility for inspections and the search for the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq," he said. "But for the time being, we have undertaken this mission of searching for WMD and I would expect that situation to continue for the foreseeable future."

While council members believed the U.N. weapons inspection team should remain in business even after the Iraqi arms situation is resolved both Syria and Pakistan spoke against it, diplomats said.

British Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstock appealed for patience and said he believed the U.N. commission would be a great help in "completing the overall business of accounting for Iraq's weapons." A British official said London was doing its best to convince the United States on inspections.

Asked why all council members except Washington wanted to discuss the future of U.N. inspections, Greenstock said, "Even the closest ally cannot answer for the United States."



A frame from RTR television footage shows Russian investigators inspecting the site of a suicide bomber attack outside Mozdok in North Ossetia, on Thursday.

## Woman suicide bomber kills 18 near Chechnya

MOSCOW—A woman suicide bomber ambushed a bus carrying Russian air force pilots near rebel Chechnya on Thursday, blowing it up and killing herself and at least 17 others, government officials said.

The attack was the third in three weeks by women suicide guerrillas fighting for Chechen independence and came on the eve of a Russian parliament vote on a partial amnesty for rebel fighters designed to improve prospects for a Kremlin peace plan.

The attack occurred in Russia's North Ossetia region, bordering Muslim Chechnya, after the bus carrying the pilots and a group of civilians attached to the air force stopped near a railway crossing on the outskirts of Mozdok. "A terrorist-suicide

woman blew it up," defence ministry spokesman Nikolai Deryabin said.

"At the present moment we have 18 people killed, including the suicide woman, and nine wounded. The condition of two of those in hospital is very serious," emergencies ministry official Vladimir Ivanov, reached by telephone, told Reuters from Mozdok.

Officials said the woman tried to board the bus, which stopped to take on workers, and then detonated the bomb when she was unable to do so. In Moscov, Russia's prosecutor general told President Vladimir Putin, who vowed to crush the Chechen rebellion when he took office in 2000, that 16 people had been killed. About 12 others were wounded.

Efforts would be launched

to find out where and how suicide fighters—a relatively new phenomenon in Chechnya—were being trained, Vladimir Ustinov said in a televised encounter with Putin. "We will locate their training centres and trace their sources," he said.

Eight servicemen were among the dead, including four air force officers, officials said.

Putin, who will seek re-election early next year, has been pushing a peace plan for Chechnya following a Kremlin-organised referendum in March that locked the region into Russia. North Ossetia is the springboard for Russian military operations in Chechnya and has escaped relatively unscathed from violence since the conflict erupted in 1994.

## Belgium detains Iraqi man over toxic letters

BRUSSELS—Belgian police said on Thursday they had detained an Iraqi man after letters containing a nerve gas ingredient were sent to the prime minister's office, the U.S. and British embassies and a court trying al Qaeda suspects.

Police detained the 45-year-old suspect late on Wednesday in the western Belgian town of Deinze, head of police investigation, Glenn Audenaert, said.

Twenty people including postal workers and police officers had to go briefly to hospital after being exposed to the chemicals in the 10 letters sent earlier in the week. Among them were five officers at the Brussels police headquarters who were leafing through documents taken from the suspect's

home. "They suffered the same symptoms as the three officers who went to the British embassy to get the letter," Audenaert told a news conference. Three ministries, the Saudi Arabian embassy, an airport and a port authority were the other targets.

The brownish-yellow powder in the letters contained phenarsazine chloride, an arsenic derivative used in nerve gas. "It can be lethal when it is burned," Audenaert said.

The letters contained no more than a spoonful of powder—not life-threatening but enough to cause irritation to the eyes, skin and breathing, the federal prosecutor's spokeswoman said.

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Uday Hussein (C) poses alongside his uncle General Hussein Kamel (L) and his father Saddam (2nd L) in this undated file photo of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's family. The family members are daughters Raghda (3rd L) and Rana (3rd R), Qusy (R) and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (sitting with his wife Sajida). Britain said it would have to consider any claim for political asylum from Saddam Hussein's daughters Raghda and Rana but would almost certainly turn it down. The woman (2nd R) is unidentified.

## Iraqis agog at home video of Saddam Hussein's family

BAGHDAD—He would not be top of the guest list for most children's parties. But a grainy home movie of Saddam Hussein presiding over his daughter's birthday celebrations is the hottest item at Baghdad's video shops.

The shaky video, shot more than a decade ago when his youngest daughter Hala was

still a child, shows Saddam in military fatigues, smiling stiffly as his elder wife Sajida and a crowd of children sing and dance beside a towering cake.

For Iraqis, it is an unprecedented glimpse of the domestic life of the man who brutalised the country for decades. Nobody knows how the footage was found—ven-

dors suspect it was looted from the home of somebody in Saddam's inner circle.

When the footage went on sale on Thursday, Iraqis crowded round televisions in Baghdad's run-down videoshops to stare at black-and-white pictures of the Saddam family at play. Traffic stopped in the street. Men shouted and shook their fists. The videos sold out in less than an hour.

During Saddam's rule, media coverage of his family was rigidly controlled. The few family occasions Iraqis were shown on state television were carefully stage-managed.

The video shows Saddam and several young children standing beside Hala's birthday cake, a vast edifice which includes a candy lattice with a live bird trapped inside. His notorious sons Qusay and Uday lurk in the background, grinning.

The bearded Uday, dressed in a long patchwork suede and leather jacket, steps up to light the birthday candles. Hala, her hair braided, leans forward to blow them out, responding to a shout of "Attack!"

Saddam pats the young girl on the head, then grabs a knife and helps Hala cut the cake as the family cheers. He leans over and kisses his daughter twice on the forehead.

In another scene a smiling Saddam bounces a young boy on his knee. The child wails and bursts into tears.

## Kirchner takes risky ax to Argentine institutions

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Just 10 days into the job, Argentine President Nestor Kirchner has headed the military and the police and swung his ax at the Supreme Court—a furious pace of change aimed at showing of his boss.

But the cull is making enemies fast for the former Patagonian governor who took power last month with only 22 percent support, and could potentially backfire and weaken rather than strengthen him, analysts say.

Center-left Peronist Kirchner late on Wednesday asked Congress to impeach "one or some" of the Supreme Court judges loyal to his archival, former President Carlos Menem. In the last week, he had jettisoned the top armed forces brass and sacked 80 percent of top Federal Police officials.

"What we are seeing is one move after another showing he stands for change, that Kirchner won't accept the vicious circles of the 1980s and 1990s," said political

analyst Roberto Bacman.

"But it is very risky. It is creating institutional instability in Argentina. It will either work very well or fail very badly," he added.

Kirchner took office on May 25 promising to make Argentina "a normal and serious country" and to bring a fresh breeze from his native icy south to rid Latin America's No. 3 economy of cronyism and corruption. With a grueling task ahead after Argentina's worst economic crisis left 60 percent of the population in poverty and under the gun to secure a new International Monetary Fund aid deal, power struggles are the last thing he needs.

In his first televised address since becoming president after Menem pulled out of the election to avoid a drubbing, Kirchner accused some Supreme Court judges, though without saying who, of taking the nation "hostage" for their own ends. "It is a clear signal to Congress there will be no deals," said

Justice Minister Gustavo Beliz.

The head of the court—which is now ruling on key issues to close the Argentine crisis—on Thursday sneered at Kirchner's attack. "No one knows what (he meant) by extortion by the court," Supreme Court President Julio Nazareno told reporters, saying Kirchner's diatribe "doesn't oblige me to do anything."

Nazareno was appointed during Menem's 1989-1999 rule. Taking on the court is a gamble, although the bench has proven highly unpopular among the public for recent rulings seen as corrupt and often deliberately aimed at stymieing the government.

"It is definitely a danger. He's creating a great many enemies," said political analyst James Neilson. "He will simply be accused of doing what Menem did, changing the court and packing it with his own people."

## Violence and scepticism dull Mideast peace hopes

JERUSALEM—The aftermath of a U.S.-led Middle East summit faded on Thursday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat saying Israel had offered nothing "tangible" and hardliners on both sides vowing to oppose a road map to peace.

Just a day after the summit, Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinians in the West Bank, a sign the 32 months of violence Washington had hoped to end was unlikely to abate.

In a village near the West Bank city of Tulkarim, soldiers entered a home to arrest three armed Palestinians ignoring calls to surrender, opened fire, and killed two, the military sources said. Residents confirmed two Palestinians were shot dead.

Israeli security sources said the Palestinians were members of the Islamic militant Hamas group planning a suicide attack against Israel.

Arafat, who was excluded from Wednesday's landmark talks in Jordan but apparently played a behind-the-scenes role, dismissed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's summit pledge to uproot some settler outposts in the West Bank as meaningless.

"Unfortunately, he has not yet offered anything tangible," the Palestinian leader told reporters at his battered West Bank headquarters in Ramallah. "What's the significance of removing a caravan from one location and then saying 'I have removed a settlement'?"

Brought together by U.S. President George W.

Bush, Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas committed themselves to following a peace "road map". Bush, cementing his new role as chief mediator in the conflict, won an Israeli promise to start dismantling some recently built settler enclaves and a Palestinian call to end the armed struggle for an independent state.

But Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other factions behind attacks on Israelis rejected Abbas's call to lay down their arms and Israelis questioned Abbas's ability to make good on his promise.

World leaders lauded the summiteers, though many Arabs voiced scepticism. "I don't think anyone in any quarter is getting carried away with the idea of instant optimism," a spokesman for British Prime Minister Tony Blair said.

Chanting "We are all martyrs-in-waiting", fighters belonging to an armed offshoot of Arafat's Fatah faction trained with assault rifles and mortar launchers in the southern Gaza Strip. "The road map leads to hell," a masked spokesman said, threatening a "painful response" against Israel in coming days.

The Palestinians questioned Sharon's commitment to a two-state solution and to dismantling Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. Palestinians want the territories for their own state.



Indonesian soldiers check the id card of a motorcyclist in Tanjung Minjaj's village in the restive Aceh Province, on Thursday.

## Indonesian army shoot two Germans in Aceh, one dead

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—Indonesia's army said on Thursday it had shot dead a German man and wounded a German woman believed to be his wife in rebellious Aceh province when the pair did not identify themselves to a night patrol.

The Germans are the first foreigners to be caught up in a big government offensive to crush separatist rebels in Aceh, now into its third week, that has killed more than 100 Indonesians.

Lieutenant-Colonel Achmad Yani Basuki, a military spokesman in Aceh, said the shooting occurred at the village of Lhong Gayo near Aceh's western coast. The military identified the dead man as Luther Hendrik Albert, 54, and the wounded woman as Elizabeth Margert, 49. A military source told Reuters they were husband and wife.

Both were travelling on tourist visas, Basuki said.

He said a villager alerted troops to suspicious activity behind his house on Wednesday evening. He said nine troops dispatched to the area saw light from a torch.

"Our men, who got close, repeatedly asked that person to identify himself. There was no answer," Basuki said, adding the torch was then turned off.

He said troops fired three warning shots, with no response. "Shots were then fired at the place. After the firing, we checked the location and found that Hendrik was dead," he said.

Basuki said the wounded woman and the man's body were flown by army plane to Banda Aceh.

The German embassy said it was in close contact with the Indonesian government and was sending two offi-

cial to Aceh to provide assistance to the injured woman "and to gather additional information about the circumstances of the shooting," which took place about 170 km (105 miles) south of the provincial capital, Banda Aceh. The embassy did not identify the victims or indicate their relationship.

Basuki said the military would conduct a full investigation.

The Germans had been in Aceh since May 16 and had visited a number of cities, chief security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said. "I request everything be investigated completely, objectively, honestly, and as soon as possible because this is an issue we did not wish and it might create misperceptions from the world toward what we have been doing in Aceh," he added.

## Dutch court clears 12 in al Qaeda trial

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands—A Dutch court acquitted 12 men on Thursday accused of plotting a "holy war" against the West and helping to recruit al Qaeda and Taliban fighters in the Netherlands.

The Rotterdam district court said there was no evidence to convict the men on charges of belonging to an unspecified criminal group that provided support to al Qaeda and the Taliban in their fight against U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan.

The prosecution's case was hit during the three-and-a-half week trial when judges ruled evidence provided by the Dutch secret service inadmissible. The court issued a rebuke to prosecutors, accusing them of mistakes and carelessness.

"The verdict is disappointing. We thought we had a good criminal case. We are studying the ruling," Rotterdam public prosecutor's office said, after announcing it planned to appeal within weeks.

The four Algerians, a Frenchman, a Moroccan, a Libyan, an Iraqi, an Egyptian, a Turk, a Mauritanian and a Dutch citizen were arrested last year in raids across the Netherlands after their phones were tapped. Police seized videos and books from their homes. The men—who faced sentences of up to three years in jail—were jubilant after the verdict, smiling and waving at friends in the packed public gallery. One of the men shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest).

## US suspects government role in Suu Kyi ambush

WASHINGTON—The United States said on Thursday it suspected "government-affiliated thugs" of staging an ambush against Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The U.S. State Department called on the Myanmar government to provide a full account of the incident last Friday, in which diplomats believe Suu Kyi may have been injured.

Soon after the incident in the north of the country the authorities took Suu Kyi into

what they called "protective custody". She has not had access to visitors since.

State Department spokesman Philip Reeker said in a statement that officials of the U.S. embassy in Yangon had gone to the scene of the incident to investigate.

"Their findings indicate that there was a premeditated ambush on Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade. Circumstances and reports from individuals in the region indicate that the attack was conducted by government-affiliated

thugs," he said.

"We call on the ruling State Peace and Development Council (military rulers) in Burma to provide a full accounting of the dead, injured, and missing," he added. Washington uses the old name Burma as a sign of displeasure with the government. Reeker again called for the release of Suu Kyi and other members of her National League for Democracy, saying it was "outrageous and unacceptable" to detain them in isolation.



Pro-democracy opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is mobbed by supporters after being freed from 19 months in house arrest in Yangon in this May 6, 2002 file photo.

# Dying for water, world marks environment day

BEIRUT—Seeking to ease a water crisis threatening a third of humanity, the United Nations marked world environment day on Thursday with calls for governments to double aid to poor countries and for ordinary people to fix leaky taps.

Under the slogan "Water—under the sun is dying for it!" projects ranged from draining mosquito-infested pools in Kenya to a tasting in Brussels of tap water from around Europe.

"Water-related diseases kill a child every eight seconds," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a message on the anniversary of a landmark environmental conference in Stockholm on June 5, 1972. "One person in six lives without regular access to safe drinking water. Over twice that number—2.4 billion—lack access to adequate sanitation."

Bangladesh launched a tree-planting drive meant to turn the nation into a "garden of

green" by 2015. In Egypt, politicians and celebrities helped sweep the streets and planted 600 trees in one of Cairo's oldest and poorest neighborhoods.

The United Nations says the world must do far more to meet goals of halving the proportion of people who lack safe drinking water and sanitation by the year 2015, part of an overall drive to halve global poverty. "If we are to meet the commitments the world will have to spend up to \$180 billion annually, more than double what is being spent today," said Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme.

He told a news conference in Beirut, hosting the annual event, that big investments were needed in everything from sewage treatment to irrigation.

And the United Nations says ordinary citizens can do their bit with simple measures like plugging leaks at home, collecting rainwater, turning off the tap when brushing their teeth or taking a short shower instead of a bath.

In China, the world's most populous country, the government said it planned to invest more than \$30 billion over the next few years to fight water pollution and help relieve



World Wildlife Fund (WWF) demonstrators perform in front of Brazilian National Congress, in Brasilia, on Thursday. The act is part of celebrations of World Environment Day and the International Year of Freshwater.

shortages. But environmentalists reiterated concern over China's Three Gorges Dam—the world's largest hydroelectric project—which China began filling on Sunday. The WWF environmental group said 1,700 dams planned around the world, like the Three Gorges, would suck rivers dry.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri said the budget of the U.S.-led war in Iraq exceeded the cash needed to alleviate the plight of people suffering from water short-

ages. In Moscow, parliamentarians wrangled about delays in the country's planned ratification of the U.N.'s Kyoto protocol meant to rein in emissions of gases blamed for global warming. Under a complex weightings system, Kyoto's fate hangs on Russia.

Some accused President Vladimir Putin of dragging his feet but others said issues like a crumbling nuclear industry were more urgent than the long-term threat of climate change that may cause more

severe storms, floods and droughts.

"When your house is on fire, you don't worry about washing the dishes," Robert Nigmatulin, chairman of the ecological council of the lower house of parliament, told Reuters.

In Rome, Jacques Diouf, director-general of the U.N.'s Food and Agricultural Organisation, said better water management would lead to "fewer disasters like the current food crisis in southern Africa."

## World AIDS fund faces cash crunch

GENEVA—An international fund meant to lead the fight against AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis urgently needs \$700 million to continue its work, its chief said on Thursday.

This is the gap between calls on its resources, likely to total about a further \$1 billion before the end of the year, and the \$300 million it has left to spend.

The Geneva-based fund, launched with the support of the Group of Eight most powerful countries along with the United Nations, aims to finance the fight against AIDS on all fronts from prevention

to the providing of anti-retroviral drugs. But its work could come to a halt unless donors, mainly governments in rich countries, whose initial offers of help totalled some \$1.8 billion for 2002 and 2003, find more cash.

On Thursday, the fund's board agreed that it would not approve any plans whose costs could not be immediately covered. Its latest call for proposals brought in about \$2 billion of new requests by an end-May deadline, of which around half could end up being approved by the fund, executive director Richard Feacham said.

### VACANCY • VACANCY • VACANCY • VACANCY

A Bar and Restaurant on the Dutch side of Sint Maarten is looking for the following positions for its management team.

#### Restaurant Manager:

- Responsibilities:**
- Must be end responsible
  - Hosting and representation
  - Personnel and organization
  - Marketing and promotions
  - Purchasing and administration
- Requirements:**
- Five years experience in the Food Service industry
  - Between the ages of 25 and 40
  - Energetic and innovative
  - Computer literate
  - Antillean or Antillean resident with work permit preferred

#### Kitchen Chef:

- Responsibilities:**
- In charge of the kitchen
  - Creation of the menu
  - Food presentation
  - Food costs
  - Managing kitchen personnel
  - Kitchen inventory control and administration
- Requirements:**
- Five years experience as a Chef
  - Between the ages of 25 and 40
  - Energetic and innovative
  - Antillean or Antillean resident with work permit preferred

#### Head Barkeeper:

- Responsibilities:**
- In charge of the bar
  - Managing bar personnel
  - Creating the bar menu
  - Bar costs
  - Cashier
  - Bar inventory control and administration
- Requirements:**
- Three years experience as a bar-keeper
  - Between the ages of 22 and 40
  - Energetic and innovative
  - Computer literate
  - Antillean or Antillean resident with work permit preferred

Please send your application under number 41 to: The Daily Herald, Bushroad 22, St. Maarten



### The American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine is seeking an Executive Secretary to the Dean of Medical Sciences

The American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine in Cupecoy, Sint Maarten, is seeking a full-time executive secretary for the position of secretary to the Dean.

#### DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:

- Clerical duties related to the Dean's Office, including correspondence for the Dean and Faculty.
- Setting the Dean's appointment calendar.
- Preparation of reports, examinations and coordination of schedules for academic personnel.
- Maintenance of academic files.
- Responsibility for A.U.C. switchboard.
- Transcription.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Good interpersonal relation skills.
- At least three (3) years office management experience.
- Experience in Excel, Word, Access programs and Power Point presentations.
- Demonstrated leadership abilities, ability to function without supervision and to work well with others.

#### APPLICATION DETAILS:

Interested and qualified persons should submit a cover letter, resume and two (2) letters of recommendation (including contact information) electronically to: gthurman@aucmed.edu or via fax to (011) 599 545-2262.



# Wary of missing rally, stock buyers ignore scandals

NEW YORK—A year ago, word of a government probe or accounting irregularity in the shell-shocked post-Enron world was enough to send stocks careening and investors running for cover.

In the past week, investors weathered a barrage of ugly news, probes and indictments involving big names like International Business Machines Corp., Schering-Plough Corp., Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. and Xerox Corp.

The market shrugged. On

Wednesday, the blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average closed above 9,000 for the first time since Aug. 22, 2002.

Why the investors' mood since the Iraq war came to a swift end and a swelling appetite for risk, given the market's bullish run in recent months. Afraid of missing the rally after a long drought and spurred by optimism about a U.S. economic recovery, institutional investors are willing to look beyond individual distress stories and buy a piece

of the market while it is going up, analysts said. The Fed's determination to keep interest rates low and President Bush's tax-cut plan haven't hurt, either.

"The individual stories now have less significance than the 'bigger picture' story, which is that investors have few alternatives for cash," said Joe Battipaglia, chief investment officer for brokerage and research firm Ryan, Beck & Co. "They've played the bond market as best they can play it, they've played real estate as best they can play it, and all of a sudden, stocks look like the attractive asset class." Since hitting their 2003 lows on March 11, the Dow has risen 20 percent, the broad Standard & Poor's 500 has advanced 24 percent, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite has soared 30 percent.

"We're seeing the first sustained bull market since the bear market ended and it's

beginning to feed on itself," said Russ Koesterich, U.S. equity strategist at State Street Corp. "This risk-seeking atmosphere we're in is superseding all of the other potential issues."

The stock market has been happy to write off the recent rash of corporate woes as isolated events that are too small to affect momentum or simplify an outgrowth of past problems.

Take IBM, which disclosed on Monday that U.S. regulators are investigating how it booked revenue in 2000 and 2001. Investors decided this wasn't a scandal like the ones that drove energy trader Enron or telecom company WorldCom into bankruptcy, the analysts said.

"There is comfort that IBM is a real company with real revenue and real growth," said George Rodriguez, senior vice president at Guzman & Co. "This is not a WorldCom or

Enron."

Martha Stewart, who parlayed her sense of style into a home entertainment empire, followed with bad news of her own later this week, when she and her former stockbroker were indicted on federal securities fraud charges. But investors dismissed the swirl of headlines over Stewart's day in court as more of a media frenzy rather than a disaster for the market.

On Thursday, six former Xerox executives agreed to pay \$22 million to settle charges of manipulating earnings in an attempt to boost the company's stock price.

Last Friday, the market barely batted an eye when

drug maker Schering-Plough Corp. warned of a criminal indictment stemming from a government probe of its sales and marketing practices that widened to include accusations of obstructing justice by destroying documents. Since last Thursday's close, the Dow and the S&P 500 have risen about 4 percent, and the Nasdaq has gained 4.5 percent.

"What's driving the market is the accommodative Fed, which will probably lower interest rates again, and the tax cuts," said Michael Kayes, chief investment officer at Eastover Capital Management.

## Former Xerox executives pay \$22 million to settle probe

WASHINGTON—Six former executives of Xerox Corp., including two chief executives, agreed to pay a total of \$22 million to settle charges that they manipulated earnings in order to boost the company's share price, federal regulators said on Thursday.

In a civil suit filed in New York, the Securities and Exchange Commission accused the six of participating in a scheme from 1997 to 2000 that misled investors about Xerox's earnings to polish the company's reputation on Wall Street and boost its stock price.

The steepest penalties will be paid by the two former CEOs, Paul Allaire and Richard Thoman, who will pay \$8.6 million and \$6.9 million, respectively, and former Chief Financial Officer Barry Romeril, who will pay \$5.2 million.

Xerox, the office equipment maker best known for its copiers, last year paid \$10 million to the SEC to settle charges that it had manipulated its financial results. Under the settlement, Xerox also restated its results for 1997 through 2000 and adjusted its 2001 results. The company did not admit or deny guilt. Under the settlement, Allaire also agreed to a five-year ban from serving as an officer or a director of a public company.

Lucent Technologies Inc. and discount travel Website Priceline.com Inc. said Allaire will step down from its board of directors as a result. Allaire, who has been a Lucent director since the telecommunications equipment maker was spun off from AT&T in 1996, was chairman of Lucent's audit and finance committee.

The SEC said that Allaire would also have to step down as a director at European drug maker GlaxoSmithKline.



New York Stock Exchange Chairman Richard Grasso (C) speaks at a press conference in New York, where he announced the NYSE's 10-step plan to overhaul its corporate governance, on Thursday. Co-chairs of the NYSE's Special Committee on Governance Leon E. Panetta (L) and H. Carl McCall (R) also attended.

## New York Stock Exchange sets corporate governance reforms

NEW YORK—The New York Stock Exchange, under pressure to improve the way it runs its business, on Thursday announced a 10-step plan to overhaul its corporate governance.

The NYSE—which has proposed tough rules for its listed companies but has been slow to fall into line itself—said it would disclose executives' compensation, including that of Chairman Richard Grasso, in its annual report; bar directors of Wall Street firms from its

compensation committee; and prohibit exchange executives from serving on other public company boards.

NYSE officials announced the changes at the exchange's lower Manhattan headquarters. The NYSE recently came under attack for Grasso's high pay package—reported to be \$10 million per year—and the aborted nomination of Citigroup Inc. Chief Executive Sanford Weill to its board.

Earlier this year, the Securities and Exchange Commission asked U.S. stock markets to review their own governance standards.

"It's our responsibility to bring governance of this institution into the 21st century," said Leon Panetta, co-chair with Carl McCall of the special committee charged with reviewing the NYSE's corporate governance. "We took steps the board can take immediately."

## Saudi scraps \$15 billion Exxon-led gas agreement

DUBAI—Saudi Arabia told Exxon-Mobil on Thursday that it had closed talks on a \$15-billion gas project, the biggest Saudi energy opening in nearly 30 years, oil company and Saudi sources said.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi sent notice in a letter to Exxon and fellow consortium members ending negotiations to develop gas in the South Ghawar field, the best Saudi upstream opportunity since oil nationalisation in the 1970s.

The failure of the opening deals a heavy blow to Saudi economic reforms, launched in 1998 by Crown Prince Abdullah, the kingdom's de facto ruler. Western executives believe Naimi wants to split up the projects, keeping gas field development in the hands of state-owned Saudi Aramco and tendering out contracts for gas-powered electricity, petrochemical and desalination plants.

In the United States, a person familiar with the negotiations said that all the members of the Exxon consortium had received a cancellation notice from Riyadh. A Saudi industry source cancellation was effective June 15.

Exxon declined to confirm the deal was dead but company spokesman Tom Cirigliano said: "We can

confirm that we have received correspondence from the oil minister and we are currently evaluating it."

Other potential investors in what was known as core venture one were Royal Dutch/Shell and ConocoPhillips. All declined comment.

The companies had wanted access to more gas than the Saudis were offering, and the two sides also disagreed over the rate of return for the downstream industrial projects. For some, this unprecedented deal was doomed virtually since the ink dried on preparatory agreements sealed two years ago between Riyadh and the world's leading oil majors.

"This is not terribly surprising, keeping Saudi Arabia's mistake was not to design its initiative in a logical way from the beginning," said Robert Mabro, President of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. "And the companies appeared to be willing to do things, such as water desalination, which were not in their core business. It was surprising they did not display sufficient political sense and finesse."

The Saudi industry source could not comment on whether Riyadh was prepared to re-open the contest for its gas reserves—the world's fourth biggest.

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# Open letter to the EU-Convention work group

*Unified St. Martin included in the ultra periphery European Union (EU) Zone*

and French St. Martin within the EU Zone.

**Dear Mrs. Maij-Weggen,**

The National Democratic Party (NDP) is of the opinion that it's very crucial that all St. Martiners and all who have come to our beautiful land to seek a better future for themselves and family and have integrated by becoming St. Martiners realize that together we are the master key to a prosperous and harmonious future for one and all, guided by the principle of "One people - one nation - one destiny."

Adhering to the advice of the Kingdom Council of State concerning the advantages and disadvantages of becoming an Ultra Peripheral European Union (EU) Territory, the National Democratic Party (NDP) holds the following position and sees the unique possibility for both Dutch and French St. Martin to establish a unified indigenous government structure within the EU Zone, comprising of a dual change of status in the form of a unified St. Martin constitutional assembly with an annual budget of 500 million Euros, while receiving special annual budgetary aid from the European Union in the amount of 400 million Euros yearly for the period 2005-2025, to facilitate the unification process of Dutch

and French St. Martin within the EU Zone. Security clauses should be developed that can offer possibilities for protection of the markets of the Ultra-Peripheral territories, when the development of their economies is threatened by imports of certain merchandise that currently falls under partiality rates or collaboration agreements with third countries.

This is one of the recommendations to the European committee of the Economic and Social Council of the European Union, which should apply to the overseas territories of France (Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guyana and Reunion), for the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands.

The National Democratic Party (NDP) would like to see a unified St. Martin included in this agreement, which also includes protection of the current commercial relations St. Martin has with the United States of America.

In a letter dated August 20, 2000, to the leader of the National Democratic Party (NDP), former State Secretary for Interior and Kingdom Relation GJs de Vries, in reference to the NDP, July 1, 2000, Emancipation Day resolution for a Unified St. Martin, stated, "I read with interest your letter of July 1, 2000, informing me of the

National Democratic Party's resolution to initiate a process of nation building of a unified St. Martin."

Gijs de Vries further states in his response letter to the NDP leader, "It is the interests of democracy on St. Martin for the public and political organizations to freely discuss and express their wishes regarding the future constitutional structure of the island. In my opinion, it is an excellent idea for them to be offered a range

of options as your party has done." He further stated "the Kingdom acknowledges and respects the French republic's sovereignty over the French part of St. Martin. Any constitutional restructuring of the French part of St. Martin is entirely a matter for the French authorities. I assume that you have informed the French government of your views."

Finally concerning a draft constitution for the enlarged EU, in which 10 candidate

member states will be added to the 15 member states, the National Democratic Party (NDP - in the long-term interest of the people of St. Martin (North and South), and considering the June 20, 2003, deadline is appealing to the members of EU Convention work group to consider to the above men-

tioned proposal of a unified St. Martin making use of the article 299, sub. 2 of the European Treaty to become an Ultra-Peripheral European territory by 2005.

**Theophilus F. Priest  
Leader National Democratic Party**

*"The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want"*

(Psalm 23)

January 26th, 1912 - May 30th, 2003

*After having lived a long, rewarding and fulfilling life, guided by the principles of the Highest Order, our loving father, grand-father and great-grand-father*

**Xavier  
Vanburing  
James** a.k.a. "Vanny" or  
"Van Buren

*quietly and peacefully entered into the Kingdom of the Almighty on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003.*

Xavier Vanburing James was married to the late Hedina Adeline James-Macchow, a.k.a. "Edna" or "Ms. Edna."

*He left to mourn his children:*

- Mrs. Felicia Thomas-James
- Drs. Leopold James
- Mr. Edwin James
- Mr. Leighton James
- Ms. Jacqueline James
- Ir. Ralph James
- Mr. Alfred James and
- Mr. Rodman James

*His Stepchildren:*

- Mr. Ishmael Bergland,
- Ms. Bernice Bergland,
- Mr. Eddy Nozille,
- Ms. Rosie Conner and
- Ms. Cheryl Connor

*Daughters-in-law:*

- Mrs. Jeanette James-Soeterbroek, Mrs. Lydia James-Schmidt, Mrs. Fattha James-Mallouki and Mrs. Violet James-Berke, Ms. Carol Simpson, Ms. Natalia De La Rosa
- Mr. Carl Thomas
- Ms. Delvina Macchow

*His Brothers-in-law:*

- Mr. Pierre Macchow,
- Mr. Etienne Macchow,
- Mr. Justin Macchow

*Grandchildren:*

- Earlston (and family), Tokimo, Robert-Jan (and family), Petra (and family) Stephan (and fiancée) Aretha (and family), Charles, Gino, Ricardo, Malcolm (and fiancée) Melvin, Rayette, Rodman-Hubert, Rodney and Gregory

*8 Great-grandchildren.*

His many nephews, nieces, and godchildren.

His caretakers Ms. Monica Graham & Ms. Nathaly David and previous caretakers.

His Fraters and Sorrors of the Rosicrucian Order AMORC, His close friends, Frater Antoine and wife, Frater Walters, Sorror Jagershoek, Frater Hodje and Ms. Cathlyn Cannegieter.

His many other friends and relatives, too numerous to mention.

Xavier Vanburing James was related to the families: James, Clarke, Macchow, Cannegieter, Bergland, Brown, Bells, Hazel, Jacob, Kruthoff, Laveist, Marlin, Nisbet, Thomas, Richardson, Halman, Salomon, Arnell, Alais, Jovias, Labega and the Pennyteathers from St. Kitts.

The funeral of the late Xavier Vanburing James will take place on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003, leaving the funeral home at 1:45 p.m. for the Methodist Church in Cole Bay, where a funeral service will be held for the deceased. After the funeral service the deceased will be interred at the Gay Bay cemetery.

*May his soul rest in eternal Peace*

*It is with great sadness that we announce the death of*

**Mr. John  
Craelius**

**Straal** known to

*everyone as "Straal" who passed away suddenly at his home on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003.*

*Left to mourn are:*

- His Wife:** Juana Straal - Almarante
- His Sisters:** Cynthia Smith - Richardson and Sam in SXM  
Jacqueline Pique and fam in Holland  
Elaine Pique and fam in Holland

**Brothers:** Edwin Richardson and fam in SXM  
Hugo Straal and fam in Holland  
Leo Straal and fam in Holland  
James Richardson & family in SXM  
Josiah Richardson & family in SXM  
Philip Richardson & family in SXM  
Junior Lake & family in SXM

**Uncles:**

Thaanna Noemi Paredes  
Raul Paredes

**Foster children:** Oscar Antonio Paredes  
Digna Marti Paredes

**Foster grand children:** Geisly, Gellen, Jana Lisbeth all in the Dom. Rep.

**Sisters-in-law:** Norma Richardson & fam in SXM  
Colaza in Dom. Rep.  
Nelis in Dom. Rep.  
Fabio in Dom. Rep.

**Brothers-in-law:** Joanna Smith and fam in SXM  
Papi in Dom. Rep.  
Ramon in Dom. Rep.

**Nephews:** Hendrik Richardson and family in SXM  
Elis Richardson in SXM  
Mario Thomas and fam in Holland  
Oswin Richardson and fam in Holland  
Fransil Richardson and family in SXM  
Robert Richardson and family in SXM  
Aldrin Richardson and fam in Holland  
Onell Richardson and fam in SXM  
Charles Thomas and fam in SXM  
Audrick Richardson and fam in Curaçao  
Leroy Schut and family in SXM  
Joshua Schut and family in Holland  
Roberto Straal and family in Holland

**Nieces:** Miriam Straal and fam in Holland  
Linda Straal and fam in Holland  
Angela Thomas  
Liesla Richardson in Holland  
Simone Schut & fam in Holland

**Special Nephew:** Ervin Richardson

**Special Cousins:** Jeannette Wathey and fam, Gloria Naar and Lesje Richardson  
Dr. Lloyd Richardson & fam  
John Richardson & fam  
Many cousins in Curaçao and St. Maarten too numerous to mention.

**Close friends:** Mr. Roy Marlin, Danny Woodley, Mr. Edward Jacobus, Mr. Chester York and Mr. Julio Marlin

He was related to the Richardson, Straal, Pique, Hanson, Lake, York, Bossman, Wathey, Schut, Thomas, Courtney, Naar and Arrindel families

**Funeral will be on Monday June 9th, 2003 at the Emerald Funeral Home. Viewing from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Service at 3:00 p.m. Interment will take place at the Cul-de-Sac Cemetery.**

## TOT added to cable TV bill

In the Tuesday edition of this newspaper an article was published stating that St. Maarten Cable Television has added TOT to its bill. According to this article, the TOT was absorbed by St. Maarten Cable Television for years. Now, among others, the placing of cables underground is being used as an excuse for the TOT being added.

I will not go into the quality of the service, because that is not the main issue here. What St. Maarten Cable Television wants to do is illegal. The TOT is not supposed to be imposed on the customer, since it is not a sales tax. All businesses received an announcement from the Inspectorate of Taxes St.

Maarten, dated February 4, 2003, stating this. So how is it possible that St. Maarten Cable Television could get away with this? Is it the Inspectorate's intention to do anything at all concerning this matter? If so, when are they going to?

I'm not planning to pay this TOT and I have the right to do so. As a matter of fact, I hope that everybody will do the same. That the amount of the TOT is just a little less than one dollar does not matter. It is the principle. We cannot keep bending over to make it easier for everybody who wants to climb on our back to do so. It is time to stand up for our rights!!

**Name withheld on request**

# Election wrap up

The election is now over and the results are in. Many politicians say that the people have spoken, but have the people really spoken? As you know, the Democratic Party has obtained the most seats (six) in this election, but they have only garnered 44.6 per cent of the total votes cast, which is a clear minority.

In fact, a close look at the numbers shows that the five opposition members together have more voter representation than the six government members. I could go on with a complex number analysis, but that might bore you.

Now don't go calling me a sore loser, because this article was not written to prove that the ruling party should not be in Government. Based on our system, they have obtained a mandate to govern for another four years. The question is; should the system be looked at, since it is not a truly demo-

cratic system as far as I am concerned.

Let's leave St. Maarten for a while. Even in Holland we have to ask if this is the best democratic system that we can come up with. For the past two years, Holland has been without a functioning government, while politicians try to find a way to come to a governing accord. Not to forget Curaçao, where the party with the most seats in the last Federal Election was left out of the coalition after it failed to form a coalition.

So you see, although we go out there and vote every two years, we really don't have a final say as to who will be our representatives based on total votes cast. What I mean is that a person can obtain 500 votes, but because he/she is in a party that does not obtain enough votes for a seat, he/she is not elected. Meanwhile, a person with 150 votes in a party that ob-

tained multiple seats is elected. To me, this scenario is not what the voters mandated.

What has also become clear is the need for campaign reform here on St. Maarten. It is evident that the population does not appreciate the massive campaign that was run this election. This is clear from the many complaints that were voiced in the media. Now it is up to the elected officials to come up with a form of campaign financing that will make our elections free and fair.

Another thing that needs to be curtailed is the custom of having party supporters stand outside of the polling stations, trying to convince voters to vote for their respective parties or candidates. This is not allowed in many former British colonies, as the possibility for violence is too great.

Luckily, we have not experienced any violence as yet,

but the trend towards violence that we see in society will eventually spill over to elections. In fact, in many of the neighbouring islands, all campaign material has to be removed the night before elections. This so that persons can make clear choices without the influence of campaign material. I support this, as the clutter we see for elections will be all gone the day of elections.

It is best that we forbid this practice now, in an effort to allow persons to go out and vote in peace. The law is already in place, it just has to be interpreted more stringently and enforced. The reason I brought this up is because on Election Day, I noticed that a silent minority did not appreciate the crowd at the polling stations. Let's not wait for this to get out of hand, before we do

something about it.

For me this election was a learning experience, one that I treasure greatly. And for all those that are wondering what my political aspirations are for the future, for now I intend to participate once again in the next elections. Can't let my 93 voters down and just give up.

Kendall

## 1,500 pound gorilla

WASHINGTON—Note to those who have blamed, blasted or bewailed President Bush's disengagement from foreign policy and the Middle East: I think he got your message.

Or should that be "our" message? I confess to pointing up (OK, carping endlessly) in recent columns that the president has tolerated a badly divided national security system that works only when he intervenes and pulls together his disputatous 800-pound gorillas. He has done this too infrequently, said me.

Bash critics may now understand more clearly the dangers of getting what you pray for. The quarreling gorillas noticed the 1,500-pounder in their midst this week as Bush turned a long trip abroad into a tour de force by reshaping his foreign policy to make it more intensely personal and openly presidential.

To be fair, recent events and long-term trends count for more than the blasts of the critics in this growing centralization of foreign policy at the White House under Bush and his national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice. While careful not to upstage Secretary of State Colin Powell, Rice stepped out of Powell's shadow on his trip and set insiders buzzing about the meaning of her new official visibility.

"Everybody knows something important has happened, but it is hard to define beyond one very obvious fact—you now have a national security adviser who is operational on foreign policy," said a senior official. "She has more responsibility to speak on behalf of and even cut deals for the president than anyone in that job since Henry Kissinger."

Bush, once ridiculed for lack of interest in and knowledge of foreign affairs, "now has the bit between his teeth," says one confidant. Victory in Iraq has thrust



Jim Hoagland

Bush center stage in the Middle East, and the wounding prewar diplomatic clashes with other nations have underlined the need for more and better personal communication with other world leaders—starting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We agreed to expand our communication channels, including through our presidential administrations and other agencies," Putin said after meeting with Bush last weekend in St. Petersburg. This was immediately understood in Russia as a polite way of saying that the non-functional Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and to some extent the State Department, would be bypassed in favor of regular meetings between Kremlin and White House foreign affairs staffers.

"We never expected to be in the position we found ourselves in with Russia on Iraq," admits one administration official. "We never communicated to each other the real boundaries we didn't want crossed. That shouldn't happen again."

Others say Moscow is only one of a growing number of foreign capitals where "only a few people know what is really going on in today's flood of instantaneous and complex information. It is important that those who do know have more direct contact."

Jerusalem is another case in point. Ariel Sharon has made his chief of staff, Dov Weissglass, Israel's point

man on relations with Washington. That makes the Weissglass-Rice link the key connection in Israeli-U.S. relations. That hidden bureaucratic development was suggested when Rice was identified as U.S. "co-coordinator" for the peace process as she issued a curious joint statement with Powell discussing Israel's approach to the "road map" to peace.

Powell and Rice also combined on a joint coda for Bush's Middle East trip, appearing together at a news conference in Aqaba on Wednesday. Powell primarily handled the Arab side of the ledger while Rice dealt with Israel—a division of labor that may persist in the diplomacy to come, as well as in public relations.

In any event, this is an era in which foreign ministers count for less and national security advisers count for more. Powell can get less done in part because his interlocutors are weak within their own systems. (The obvious exception is France's Dominique de Villepin, who is a spiritual offspring of President Jacques Chirac and thus powerful.)

Rice's ascendancy does not bode well for the power struggle a la Kissinger-Rogers or Brzezinski-Vance. This is more the filling of a policy and vacuum by a bright, disciplined NSC adviser with ideas and ambitions of her own. And Powell may even be happy to see others take on the Middle East tinderbox, which tops the list of problems on which he has not recorded resounding personal success.

Neither George W. Bush nor his critics could have imagined before 9/11 that his presidency would revolve so completely around foreign policy. That prospect now seems to energize the president as much as it horrifies those who once wept instead over his disengagement. Now both he and they will have to live with the results he achieves.

## Hospitalized Vandross to release new album

NEW YORK—The album Luther Vandross considers the best of his career hits stores Tuesday—with no videos, television interviews or concerts to trumpet its arrival. With the 52-year-old singer yet to regain full consciousness after an April 16 stroke, there is virtually none of the normal promotional hoopla surrounding the release of "Dance With My Father".

Which raises an uncomfortable question—how do you promote the work of an incapacitated artist?

Record companies don't have such problems when the artist is dead. Last year, an Aaliyah disc released after her

plane crashed sold more than a million copies. Selena's English-language debut, released after she was slain by her former fan club president, debuted at No. 1. And the estate of Tupac Shakur puts out albums so often, some doubt that he's really dead.

But it is rare—perhaps unprecedented—for an album to be released when an artist is still alive, yet very ill. "It is safe to say that it is an unusual circumstance," said Billboard's Geoff Mayfield, who couldn't recall another such situation.

Vandross' label, J Records, has no plans to make videos without Vandross. "We're just

in effect releasing the music; the rest will take care of itself," said label founder Clive Davis, a legendary music mogul. "I think the music will tell its own story."

Davis could have delayed the disc's release, but he said that was never an option. "I think (Vandross) was very much at a creative peak. He felt that it was the best album he had ever recorded," he said. "Everyone knows that he wanted his music to be out."

But which music? Also on Tuesday, Vandross' former label is releasing "The Essential Luther Vandross," featuring classic hits like "Here and Now" and "A House Is Not a Home."

The label denied that the project was rushed out the stroke. Rather, greatest hits packages are usually timed to coincide with an artist's new project, said Tom Cording, a spokesman for Legacy Records, a division of Sony Music.

"Dance With My Father," is the R&B crooner's first disc since he released his self-titled comeback disc in 2001. That album, which sold over one million copies, re-established Vandross as a platinum-selling artist. Except for his 1998 disc, "I Know," all of Vandross' albums over his 20-year-plus career have sold at least one million copies.

Some of "Dance With My Father" marks a departure for Vandross, whose elegant, seductive ballads cater to an older audience. Rappers Busta Rhymes and Foxy Brown appear on the new disc, as does Beyonce Knowles.



Musician Carlos Santana (L) and wife Deborah pose with South African Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu at a news conference in Beverly Hills on Thursday.

## Santana pledges funds to fight AIDS in South Africa

LOS ANGELES—Rock guitarist Carlos Santana on Thursday pledged the proceeds of his summer tour—estimated at up to \$3 million—to battling AIDS as South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu predicted the disease may prove more devastating to his country than the scourge of apartheid.

"Join us in spreading a spiritual virus—a masterpiece of joy on this planet," said Santana, joined by his wife, Deborah Santana and Tutu, in announcing the gesture, which is expected to raise an estimated \$2.5 to \$3 million.

Proceeds of the 2003 U.S. Shaman Tour, consisting of 23 concert shows, will go to the Artists for A New South Africa, a group formed in the late 1980s to support the economic sanctions aimed

at toppling South Africa's then white-ruled apartheid regime.

Representatives of the group, including actress Alfre Woodard and Samuel L. Jackson, as well as the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Tutu, joined Santana in announcing the pledge on Thursday. "We had a scourge and it was apartheid. We defeated it," said Tutu at the conference in Beverly Hills.

"But now we have another scourge. It is a disease, HIV/AIDS, which in fact may succeed where apartheid failed. If we don't fight HIV, it might decimate our people," he said.

Artists for A New South Africa (ANSA) has lately turned its focus to supporting organizations fighting AIDS on the front lines in

South Africa as the disease has reached pandemic proportions in the region. Currently, there are over 42 million people living with either HIV or AIDS worldwide, including 29 million in sub-Saharan Africa.

"There are parts of the region where the only booming business is the undertaking business," said LaTanya Richardson Jackson, a member of ANSA's board of directors.

According to the group, South Africa is home to more individuals living with either HIV or AIDS, over 5 million people, than any other country. Each day, 1,600 South Africans become infected and 600 more lose their lives from AIDS-related illnesses.



Actor Adam Sandler, who stepped out of his comedic mold to star in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Punch-Drunk Love" last year, may be making another departure.

## Adam Sandler weighed as Tom Cruise co-star

LOS ANGELES—Adam Sandler, who stepped out of his usual comedic mold to star in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Punch-Drunk Love" last year, appears to be eyeing another left turn in his choice of characters.

On Wednesday night, Sandler was scheduled to meet with filmmaker

Michael Mann to discuss the possibility of starring opposite Tom Cruise in the director's "Collateral" for DreamWorks.

If he joins the project, Sandler would play Max, the meek cab driver who picks up a passenger (Cruise) who takes him hostage.

## Men throw underpants at Jagger's Munich concert

MUNICH, Germany—Mick Jagger, staring 60 in the face, lamented the lack of women's lingerie thrown on stage at a Rolling Stones concert in Germany—but said a few pairs of men's underpants were hurled from the crowd.

Jagger, 59, said on Thursday there seemed to be fewer women in the crowd at the start of the European leg of

the Rolling Stones' "40 Licks" tour in Munich's Olympia Hall on Wednesday.

"It was all men," Jagger said at a news conference, noting a lamentable absence of the lingerie that is normally thrown at the band from the audience. However, he said he did see a few pairs of large men's underpants on the stage.

"I don't know what that says," Jagger said, laughing. "They left all the girls at home or whatever, I don't know. Usually we get a few bits of underwear on the stage. Last night there were a few Y-fronts."

A sell-out crowd of 12,000 cheered the rock band's two-hour show in Munich on Wednesday night.

"I think it's a great place for us, big crowd, people turn up," Jagger said. "That's where you want to start. You don't want start in place that's slightly marginal, a small place where you are not sure of your audience."

## CBS plans miniseries about the Reagans

LOS ANGELES—CBS is planning a two-part miniseries about the family life of former President Reagan and wife Nancy.

It will chronicle Reagan's relationship with Nancy, his second wife, and his rise in politics as governor of California and later as president. The story is based on Carl Sferrazza Anthony's 1991 book "First Ladies: The Saga of the Presidents' Wives and Their Power, 1961-1990."

"The Reagans" miniseries is being produced by Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, whose previous credits include the acclaimed TV biopics "Life With Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows,"

"The Three Stooges" and the recent "Lucy".

Judy Davis, who won an Emmy for playing Garland, is negotiating to co-star as

Nancy Reagan, the trade newspaper Variety reported Thursday. CBS and the producers have not announced any other casting.

Reagan, 92, has remained in seclusion in recent years after announcing in 1994 he had the memory-destroying Alzheimer's disease. The former first lady, 81, has been his chief caregiver.

Production is set to start over the summer and could be broadcast as early as November.



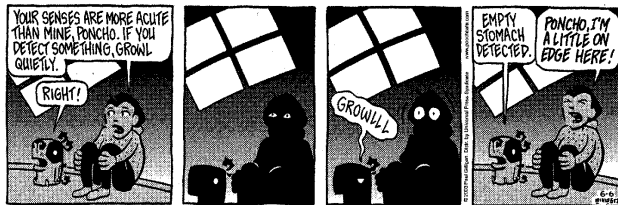
Mick Jagger, lead vocalist of the Rolling Stones, performs during a concert in Munich, Germany on Wednesday.

### Channel 15 (local) St. Maarten Cable TV

Local time	Programme
Friday, June 6	
8:00am	Replay AVS News
6:30am	SPA/Info to Know
7:00pm	GIS Bulletin
7:30pm	AVS News
8:00pm	Sharing the Vision
9:00pm	Crime and the Law
9:30pm	Western Union Football
10:00pm	St. Maarten Lottery
10:35pm	AVS News

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

Local times	Programme
Friday, June 6	
10:00am	NOS Journaal
10:05am	Tik tak
10:10am	Scenestraat
10:25am	Kip
10:30am	Madelief
10:55am	Grote boze wolf show
11:15am	Het Klokkeis
11:30am	Piet Piraat
11:35am	Voor alle fans: Saskia & Serge
12:00pm + 6:00pm	NOS Journaal
12:20pm + 6:20pm	Twes vandaag
12:40pm + 6:40pm	Lingo
1:05pm + 7:05pm	VRT Journaal
1:55pm + 7:55pm	1000 zonnen en gamalen
2:05pm + 8:05pm	Studio NL
2:30pm + 8:30pm	NOS Journaal
2:55pm + 8:55pm	Weerbericht
3:00pm + 9:00pm	Raymann is laat
3:40pm + 9:40pm	1 jaar gratis
4:25pm + 10:25pm	Taxi
4:50pm + 10:50pm	Sync
5:00pm + 11:00pm	Nova/Den Haag Vandaag
5:45pm + 11:45pm	NOS Sportjournaal



# HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black

**Today's Birthday (June 6).** You're more of a generalist than a detail freak. It won't hurt to develop a few habits for perfection. This year, learn to check all your work before handing it in. It could mean big bucks in your pocket.

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 a 7 - Put an innovation on hold for a little while longer. Changes over which you have little or no control require your full attention first.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** - Today is a 7 - Help a friend work through a difficult situation by assisting with a big decision. It'll be easy for you, and you'll look like a hero.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** - Today is a 7 - Book learning is good, but it's not the whole picture. You have to get out and into the action in order to tell what really works. Then, make corrections.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** - Today is a 7 - You've always had a pretty good memory, but you'll even amaze yourself for the next few days. Pass along something you learn to a friend who really needs it.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - Today is a 7 - Be supportive rather than pushy. That's the best way to manage authority, or manage the workers if you are the authority.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - Today is a 7 - The people in the know respect you and what you've been doing. You don't say much, don't brag, don't shout, but around you things happen.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - Today is a 7 - Do a difficult job just for the sheer joy of making sure it gets done right. That's what's required, so try repeatedly until you're successful.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - Today is a 7 - If you hold out just a little longer, a major adversary will fall. You and your team will have a clear field from tonight through most of the weekend. Charge!

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - Today is a 6 - When you get to the highest point, take a good look around. Remember what you see so that you can work through the maze tomorrow.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - Today is a 7 - A difficult time is coming for many, but you have an advantage. Your experience plus stability and a little inspiration equals success.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - Today is a 6 - Leave the relative security of the familiar and consider taking a risk. Security is only an illusion, remember? Besides, you'll get farther if you can let go.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** - Today is a 7 - For the next couple of days, anything could happen. New information comes to light, possibly causing a change in plans. It's best to be flexible with your weekend schedule.



## SEND LETTERS TO P.O. BOX 328

## Dear Queenie,

I've heard that using Clorox bleach on your skin in small amounts can help you get rid of germs and other harmful things to the skin because it kills bacteria.

I've tried it on my arms, legs and face and it seems to be working. I've also noticed that my skin is getting a bit lighter. I have not experienced any side effects but my friends are saying that it's dangerous.

Queenie, what do you think?—Bleach user

## Dear Bleach user,

Bleach is a dangerous substance, if not used properly. In this part of the world it is often used by persons who want to commit suicide, which should tell you something about how dangerous it can be.

Yes, it can be used safely and effectively in killing bacteria. If you follow the instructions on the label carefully. You should also pay particular attention to the DANGER warnings on the label!

However, bleach is not intended to be used on one's body, and can seriously damage your skin, your eyes and other parts. There are many effective anti-bacterial soaps and lotions on the market that ARE intended for use on the skin. I suggest you use one of them and confine your use of bleach to the laundry, where it belongs.

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

## Events

## Change of venue, Saturday, June 7

**FUND-RAISING BARBEQUE**  
organised by St. Maarten Volleyball Association has been moved from L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium to the parking lot of Caribbean Fans in Cole Bay, next to Harley Davidson. All tickets for the event will be honoured.

## Saturday, June 7

**SECOND ANNUAL WALK-A-THON**  
organised by St. Imelda Kindergarten PTA.  
Route: St. Imelda Kindergarten on Back Street, Link One, A.J.C. Browner Road, Bush Road, Zagergat Road, Illidge Road, Arch Road, Scott Garden Road, Back Street.  
Time: 5:00-8:00am. Price: NAF. 18 or US \$10, includes one T-shirt, lunch tea, journey cake and salt fish.

## Saturday, June 7

**SPECTACULAR USED BOOK SALE**  
organised by Philipburg Jubilee Library. Take as many books as you like for only US \$10. Single copies, hard-covers NAF. 1, paperbacks 50 cents, magazines 25 cents. Place: Philipburg Jubilee Library. Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm.

## Saturday, June 7

**FUND-RAISING FLEA MARKET**  
organised by After School Activities (ASA) programme. Used books, secondhand clothing, household items, plants, etc. plus food and drinks on site. Games for children. Place: Upper Prince's Quarter Community Centre, next to Yuppig's gas station. Time: 10:30am to 3:00pm.

## Saturday, June 7

**FUND-RAISING BARBEQUE**  
organised by Junior District Basketball Committee, during the all-star game and 3-point shoot-out competition. Place: L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium. Time: 11:00am to 4:00pm. Price: NAF. 10 or US \$6

## Saturday, June 7

**FUND-RAISING FOOD EXTRAVAGANZA**  
organised by WMT Angels Softball Club in aid of its trip to St. Croix. Stewed oxtail, beef, chicken or red snapper; curried goat meat; red beans

and pigtail; with peas and rice, coloured rice, macaroni salad, plaitain, lettuce and tomato. Place: Raoul Illidge Sports Complex, Cay Hill. Price: NAF. 10 or US \$6. Time: 11:00am to 4:00pm.

## Saturday, June 7

**FUND-RAISING BARBEQUE**  
organised by the Sean Williams Foundation, supported by the Jamaica Social and Heritage Foundation and the St. Maarten Football Association to raise funds for the late Sean Williams' medical bills at St. Maarten Medical Center. Place: University parking lot. Price: US \$6. Time: 11:00am to 4:00pm. Donations of items toward the preparation of the barbecue will also be welcome.

## Saturday, June 7

**BOOK PARTY FOR 1963 - A LANDMARK YEAR IN ST. MARTIN**  
by Daniella Jeffry, organised by House of Nefesh Publishers. Guest dance performance. Place: Philipburg Jubilee Library. Time: 8:00pm

## Saturday, June 7

**MARCH FOR JESUS**  
organised by Catholic Charismatic Group of St. Martin of Tours Parish Church to seek God's protection from hurricanes and other natural disasters. Route: Start: Hodge Wharf, Front Street, Emmaplein, past Philipburg Jubilee Library, E. Canille Richardson Street, back to Captain Hodge Wharf. Caption Time: 7:30pm.

## Sunday, June 8

**STORY TELLING AFTERNOON**  
organised by SIFMA. Activities include story telling by Papa Umgo and James Franklin Wilson, and a puppet show. Registration: At a day care, or call SIFMA, tel. 543-7295 or 543-7299. Place: Upper Prince's Quarter Community Centre, Sucker Garden, next to Yuppig's gas station. Time: 3:00-5:00pm.

## Sunday, June 8

**IN COMPANY OF WOMEN**  
presented by St. Maarten Council on the Arts. A production of song, poetry, music and dance by St. Maarten women, by Clara Reyes. Place: Philipburg Community and Cultural Center, Back Street. Time: 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Admission: US \$10

## Sunday, June 8

**ANNUAL FUND-RAISING DINNER**  
organised by St. Maarten St. Martin Veterans Football Club. Music by DJ, food and drinks on sale. Place: Alouade place, French Quarter, across from GESS gas station. Time: 11:00am.

## Notices

## Volunteers Needed For Children's Hotline

I Can Foundation is establishing a crisis center offering a hotline service to the youth of St. Maarten. The "Positive Connection Hotline" is looking for volunteers 18 years and older who would like to work with children who are experiencing social issues, to train as telephone counselors through an intensive telephone-counseling course. For more information, call 547-7013.

## Hurricane Mobility Passes

The application process for hurricane mobility passes commences on Monday, May 12. Applications forms are now available at the Fire Department/Disaster Management Office (HVD), Back Street #56. Requirements for application forms can also be made by e-mail to paulm@sintmaarten.net. All applications must be in by Friday, June 13. For further information, call tel. 542-1215 or 542-1217.

## Pony League Uniforms

St. Martin Pony Baseball/Softball League informs all parents and guardians of children playing in the Pony League that uniforms have arrived and will be given to your child when the league receives the Uniform Code of Conduct Act with your signature of approval. Children without the approved Uniform Code of Conduct Act will not receive uniforms.

## New Life Crusade

The Seventh Day Adventist Church, Billy Folly, Cole Bay, invites the community to the final week of the New Life Crusade with Evangelist M. Joseph, now to Friday, June 6, 7:15pm nightly except Thursday.

## King's Daughters Anniversary

The King's Daughters of New Testament Baptist Church, Philipburg (next to Kentucky Fry Chicken), invite all ladies to their 98th Anniversary, Friday-Sunday, June 6-8, 7:30pm except Sunday 11:00am and 6:30pm. Guest speakers: Pastor Kathleen Richardson of Anguilla (Friday) and Dr. Paula Morgan of Trinidad (Sunday).

## SAT, ACT Testing

The International School on Oyster Pond Road will offer college testing on the following dates: SAT, Saturday, June 7; ACT, Saturday, June 14. For further information, call tel. 543-7965.

## VKS Target Practice

The acting commander of the Voluntary Corps of St. Maarten VKS announces that there will be a target practice session at the shooting range at Emilio Wilson's Estate on L.B. Scott Road, Cule-de-Sar, Saturday, June 7, 9:00am to 1:00pm. The general public is requested to exercise caution when passing through this area. The VKS apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

## Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship Meeting

The Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship International St. Maarten invites the general public to its breakfast meeting at Port de Plaisance, Saturday, June 7, 8:30am. Guest speaker: Earlston Thomas of Aruba. Tickets US \$10 to the cost of the meal, available to members of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship and at Family Bookstore in Philipburg. Dress code: Business-casual. For reservations, call 559-6081.

## Cay Hill Teams Practice

The manager and coaches of the Cay Hill Teams Baseball team inform all players that practice will resume for the upcoming baseball competition at John Cooper/Joey Lake Sr. Ballpark, Saturday, June 7, 7:30am.

## Soup Kitchen

The Cole Bay Seventy Day Adventist Church soup kitchen provides a free hot meal at the church, behind Peking Supermarket on Welfare Road, every week to persons in our community who are in need, on Sundays, 12:00am to 2:30pm.

## Sunday School Classes

The St. Peters Community Council announces that Sunday School classes are now being given by Teacher Gloreen at Rapert Maynard Youth Community Center on Saturday, 3:00pm. Age groups 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-16.

## MPC Exam Students Meeting

All exam students of Milton Peters College HVO/VWO, MAVO and BVO are requested by the chairman of Milton Peters College to attend a meeting in the staff room, Tuesday, June 10, 11:30am.

## MAC Parents Workshop

The Methodist Agogic Center Bowlia F. Maillard Campus PTA is organising a workshop on How to Prevent Parent Burnout, at the Community and Cultural Center, Saturday, June 7, 7:00pm sharp. Please make every effort to attend.

## Information Evening For Expectant Mothers

Pre-Natal and Post-Natal Care for Mother and Baby. Medical professionals will answer your questions concerning pregnancy, childbirth and after-care. St. Maarten Medical Center Patis, Wednesday, June 11, 7:30-9:30pm. All expectant mothers, parents and interested persons are welcome.

## Crafters Cottage Industry Courses

St. Maarten Crafters Cottage Industry Foundation classes starting in June in doll making, basket weaving, shoe making and repairs. For more information, call Kathy, tel. 556-9667.

## International School Accepting Applications

The International School on Oyster Pond Road is currently accepting applications for the new school year that will begin in August. Programmes are available for students in grades 6-12. Summer tutoring and testing can also be arranged. For information, call tel. 543-7965.

## Star-Light Educational Center Registration

Star-Light Educational Center Archimedes Road #6, Cole Bay, informs the general public that the registration period for the 2003-2004 school year and for the afternoon programme commencing September 1 will be from Monday, June 9, through Wednesday, June 25. For more information, call or visit the office on Archimedes Road, tel. 544-3573.

## Port De Plaisance Tennis School

Tennis lessons for children ages 4-18 at Port de Plaisance, now through Sunday, June 29. Price: US \$10 per lesson. For more information, call Miriam, tel. 556-9728.

## Folk Music Rally

If you play an instrument or sing or both and are interested in performing blues, folk, country and rock, call Vic, tel. 559-5148, or Barbara, tel. 556-357. Strictly for amateurs, so support the best reason for music: FUN.

## Shandy's Playschool Registration

Shandy's Playschool and Day Care, Messaple Road #9A, Marigot Hill St. Peters, is now registering children ages 4-4 years for the upcoming school year 2003-2004. For more information, call tel. 548-4403.

## Bob The Builder Nursery/Pre-School Registration

Bob The Builder Nursery and Pre-School is registering children 0-4 years. There is a transportation service for pick-up and drop-off. We accept children for after school care. For more information, call tel. 559-2215 or pass #1 at 730pm, Bush Road (above KFC, white house at the back of Godfather's studio).

## Bedrock Preschool Registration

Bedrock Preschool is now registering toddlers and preschoolers for the upcoming school year. For more information, call Bedrock Preschool in Simpson Bay, tel. 545-3084.

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Calling the Worker.

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## Middle Region Vipers take a bite out of the No Limits

PHILIPSBURG—The Middle Region Vipers took a bite out of the St. Peters No Limits in 12- to 15-year-old division basketball at L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium yesterday.

The Vipers won the game 47-14.

The first possession foretold the way the game was going to go. The taller Vipers won the tipoff. They advanced the ball down court. They fired from the outside. The ball hit the rim and bounced into the middle of the key.

A No Limits guard grabbed the loose ball. His teammates headed down court for the transition.

The No Limits player took careful aim and fired. He scored two points. Unfortunately the Vipers got the points.

The No Limits struggled the rest of the game. The lack of a tall player cost them the rebounds and the game. The Vipers were not shooting well. However, after two or three attempts each possession, the ball would finally fall into the net.

The Vipers had a balanced attack. Steven Constantine was the top scorer for the Vipers. He netted eight points. Shawn Sharplis and Harry Baudin each had seven points. Omar Beauptery was the rebounder. He had 10 boards and four points.

Mark Ramirez led the scoring for the No Limits. He had five points. Antonio "Mouse" Joseph was good for four.

The Junior District basketball leagues will hold their All-Star games this weekend.

3:30pm.  
The 12 to 15 division All-Star game will be played beginning at noon Sunday. The 15 to 19 All-Stars compete at 2:00pm.

The slam dunk competition



The No Limits appeared able to drive to the basket, but did not sink many shots as they faced the Middle Region Vipers at L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium yesterday.

An Anguilla selection will tip off against St. Martin at 11:00am Saturday. There will be a 3-point shoot-out at 2:00pm, followed by the half court shoot competition. Anguilla will tip off against the St. Martin Kingdom Games qualification team at

will be held at 4:00pm and the finals of the 3-point event will be at 4:30.

The weekend of basketball will close with the St. Maarten Kingdom Games team facing St. Martin beginning at 5:00pm.

## Street Ballers win again, dominate 12-15 division

PHILIPSBURG—The Ebenezer Street Ballers continue to distance themselves from the pack in the 12 to 15 year old division of the Junior District basketball competition. The Street Ballers defeated the Cay Hill Celtics 32-26 at the L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium yesterday.

The Street Ballers reverted to their two-three zone with an occasion full court press. The victory gives the Street Ballers first place with an 8-2 record.

The Middle Region Vipers are second at 6-2 and the Celtics drop to third at 6-3. Earlier this week the Street Ballers defeated the Union Farm Small Soldiers 54-19.

Gaetano Klinker was the top shooter for the Street Ballers. He scored 13 points including a 3-

pointer and had two rebounds. He was assisted by Jovanni van Heyningen. He was good for 10 points, five rebounds and was credited with three assists.

The Celtics Ricky "Ice" Thomas was the lead scorer for his team. He netted seven points and had two rebounds.

Regular Junior District games will resume with the 15 to 19 year old division Monday after the All-Star break this weekend.

The Madame Estate Underdogs will start the new week of by facing the Belvedere Project Boys at 2:00pm. South Central is scheduled to face the Dutch Quarter Top Shattaz at 3:30pm and the Cole Bay Razorbacks will tip off against the No Limits at 5:00pm.



President of the St. Maarten Bodybuilding Association Cecil Lake (L) discusses plans for the Mark Vlaun Bodybuilding and Fitness Show to be held August 9 with Christine Williams and Louis Halley the vice president of the local bodybuilding association.

## More women to be included in bodybuilding and fitness show

PHILIPSBURG—More women will have the opportunity to compete in the annual Mark Vlaun Bodybuilding and Fitness Show this year.

The competition, hosted by the St. Maarten Bodybuilding and Fitness Association, for the first time will feature female body shaping or as it is sometimes called a fitness competition. In the past, the night of muscle flexing was just a bodybuilding show.

"The show has been expanded so more athletes can be attracted into the sport," said Christine Williams. A former bodybuilder from St. Maarten herself, Williams now lives in Texas and helps organize shows on the international level.

Williams has served as president of the St. Maarten association, she has served on the board of the Netherlands Antilles Bodybuilding federation and as President of the Caribbean bodybuilding organization too.

She was on St. Maarten this week to help the local bodybuilders prepare for their competition. The Mark Vlaun show will be held at the Great Bay Hotel August 9.

In the United States and Europe body shaping competitions have been included in almost all the major shows. The new competition is a cross between bodybuilding and a beauty pageant.

St. Maarten's top body shaping contestant is Allison Williams. Allison just returned from a professional show in New York City. She

placed 10th out of 32 competitors.

"Fitness stresses tone and symmetry and displays it so the woman still feels feminine," said Allison. "It is not about bulging muscles on women. It is about looking healthy."

In fact Williams confesses a woman with too much muscle actually loses points on stage in a fitness contest.

Unlike the men who will flex their muscles wearing nothing but a small brief and oil, the women will appear on stage in heels, make up and jewelry. It will be seen in a one-piece swimsuit, a bikini and an evening gown.

The Mark Vlaun show is the first competition in the Caribbean to feature the new sport. Later this year the Netherlands Antilles will include body shaping in their show too.

"The Netherlands Antilles Championship is scheduled to be hosted in St. Eustatius," said the newly elected St. Maarten bodybuilding association president Cecil Lake.

A former bodybuilder himself, Lake explained that the St. Maarten champions would go on to compete in the Netherlands Antilles show. The Netherlands Antilles champions would then earn a spot to compete internationally.

The athletes would be eligible for the Central America and Caribbean competition. The CAC bodybuilding and fitness competition will be held in the Bahamas at the end of

September.

"Figure shaping is still a hard sport," said Allison. "It takes discipline. You must be dedicated. You follow a strict diet and a strict exercise regime."

However the rewards can be many according to Allison. Registration forms for the local show will be distributed to the gyms on the island early next week.



The Ebenezer Street Ballers, making another lay-up here, made short work of dispatching the Cay Hill Celtics at the L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium yesterday.



The annual school water polo competition comes to a close today. The Dr. Maarten Luther King Jr. School squeezed past the Seventh Day Adventists yesterday.

## Dr. Maarten Luther King Jr. School squeezes past Seventh Day Adventists

PHILIPSBURG—The Dr. Maarten Luther King Jr. School squeezed past the Seventh Day Adventists in the school water polo competition at the Raoul Illidge Sports Complex yesterday.

Egbert Florenzant scored five goals to boost the King school to a 10-7 victory. Chris George was the top scorer for the Seventh Day team. He netted three.

In other games in the Methodist Agogic Center blasted their way past the Leonard Connor School 16-1 and Sister Borgia shut out St. Dominic 12-0.

Clarence Thomas was the top scorer for Sister Borgia

School. He scored six times. He was assisted by Romez Bradshaw who hit for five.

There are fourteen schools participating in the competition. The swim instructors at the sports complex who run the school swim program use the water polo competition as a fun end to the school program.

The schools are divided into two pools. In pool A are Ruby Labega, Genevieve de Weever, Oranje School, Leonard Connor, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Methodist Agogic Center, and the Seventh Day School.

In pool B are Sister Magda School, Sister Regina

School, Sister Marie Laurence School, Sister Borgia School, St. Joseph, St. Dominic and Hillside Christian School.

The competition will continue today with four games this morning beginning at 8:30am. Later this afternoon, the top teams from each pool will advance to the finals.

Going into the final day of play the Genevieve de Weever School and the defending champions, Ruby Labega, lead in pool A at 2-0. Hillside Christian School and the Sister Magda School are in the lead in pool B. They are both also 2-0.

# Wind ball cricket tournament opens

ST. KITTS—The three St. Kitts teams playing as home teams in the West Indies Wind Ball Cricket championship had mixed fortunes on the opening day of the competition yesterday.

Mountain Movers had an exciting victory by two wickets while the female teams Carib Buckleys and Police lost to Antigua Teachers Credit Union and Barbados Ladies respectively.

This prestigious event is being hosted in St. Kitts for the second time in its 13-year running. The first time was 10 years ago, in 1993.

This year 24 teams in three divisions (open, masters and females) are trying to take the lion's share of the \$20,000 at stake.

The opening encounters saw two St. Kitts teams playing at two venues. At Warner Park Teacher Credit Union of Antigua made 94 in the allotment of overs. Georgette Lawrence led with 29 while Monique Hector contributed 21. Yvette Sommersaull

proved difficult for the Antiguans as she took five wickets for 18 runs.

Buckleys in reply lost some early wickets and never settled. The middle order collapsed and that was it. Buckleys then limped to 77 for eight in 15 overs. Arlene Williams carried the weight with 46 not out. Dahlia Caleb had figures of 15 runs and three wickets.

At the Cable and Wireless grounds Police fell some 29 runs short of Barbados' total of 114 for two. Pamella Lavine made a well-played knock of 63. Michelle Ellis was the next highest scorer with 27. In Police's chase Allison Rouse waged a one-man war and made 31, while Kaye Hanley made 20.

Mountain Movers, on the other hand, had chase, but kept other wickets intact when their challenge of 132 was surpassed with hindsight ease.

Earlier L. Blackman slammed 52 and Abdul Ali 26 to build the platform.

The Rogers brothers took the main task of finishing off the opposition. Kallie Rogers scored 41 and Gary Rogers 20 in pressing for victory.

Captain Kevin Bradshaw told The Daily Herald he was very pleased to get the first win under their belts. "This can only serve as a confidence booster," he said, "and on Friday we will play our two games to the best of our abilities."

In other games (male division) West Coast Stars defeated Antigua Lottery Bullets by seven wickets and Hutton Stars defeated Conals by 39 runs. Lion Hill defeated United Stars by six wickets and Rossi All Stars defeated United Stars by 62 runs.

In the female division T&T Ladies defeated Determinators of Grenada by 63 runs, Teachers (Antigua) defeated Dessert United of Trinidad by eight wickets and West Coast Stars defeated Antigua Lottery Bullets by 19 runs.

## ALLIANCE CUP

Continued from page 44

ers in the second match. First kick off is scheduled for 7:30pm.

Last night after the speeches were made and the band finished playing the Attackers took to the field against Gosier football club from Guadeloupe. The team plays in their country's premier league and boast more than their share of national team players.

The Attackers started the game in typical fashion taking the kick off and passing it back to the secondary. Before the ball even reached

an Attacker the streaking Guadeloupe forwards were all over him. The Attackers favour the long pass to a charging forward. In contrast Guadeloupe was ready for the assault. They played their defenders at mid-field. Their last man had nerves of steel and would not leave the midfield line. Time and again the Attackers were caught offside.

On offense the fast Gosier team used quick short passes to spread out the Attackers defense and create scoring opportunities. The team marched down the field time and time again.

In the sixth minute Guadeloupe scored their first goal. They netted a second in the ninth minute and a third came in the 24th minute. Guadeloupe went



Alliance Cup

on to win the game 5-0.

Saturday evening, the team from Haiti will face St. Maarten in the early game at 7:30pm. Jamaica will go up against Guadeloupe in the late match.

The Caribbean Alliance Cup will conclude with the finals Sunday evening.



Sailors will be out in force this weekend. The St. Martin Lady's Laser Championship begins today. The 16th Open Caribbean Championships with 40 of the regions top sailors participating starts Saturday.

## Lady's Laser championship sails today at Club Orient

ORIENT BAY—The St. Martin Lady's Laser championship begin from Club Orient at 9:30am today.

Already on island and set to sail is Ann Neuberger of St. Croix. She won the regatta last year. This year St. Maarten's Stance Goedhart and Janneke Brouwer are expected to be contenders in the competition. Both St. Maarten sailors just completed racing in the Club Orient St. Maarten Laser championship. Brouwer won the ladies division. Goedhart fin-

ished second.

The ladies event marks the beginning of the 16th Open Caribbean Championships, which will be sailed on Orient Bay Saturday and Sunday. Forty of the region's top Laser sailors are scheduled to compete in two days of sailing.

Already sailors from the United States, Argentina, Bermuda, the Dominican Republic, Antigua, Puerto Rico, Tortola, St. John and St. Barths have arrived.

The annual event is spon-

sored by Island Water World and Carib Beer. The St. Maarten race has become a warm up event for sailors hoping to qualify for either the Central American and Caribbean championships or the Pan American Games.

As the ladies take their small single person boats out to the start line the winds are expected to be Easterly at 10 to 15 miles per hour with some gusting expected. The wind will gradually increase to 18 miles per hour as the day progresses.

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# Admiral wants to sail into sunset with championship ring

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—When David Robinson began his final NBA season, he charted a course that he hoped would lead him and the San Antonio Spurs to a championship title. Now, months later, looming just on the horizon is the "Admiral's" final port of call—the Hall of Fame and the championship ring he covets.

One of the greatest players in NBA history, Robinson demonstrated on Wednesday that he is not about to cruise into retirement. The 37-year-old center scored 14 points and pulled down six rebounds as the Spurs stopped the New Jersey Nets 101-89 in a first blood in the best-of-seven final.

Having weathered 14 seasons in the NBA, there was some question coming into the final as to how much the aging seven-footer's wobbly legs and aching body would allow the former-league MVP and 10-time all-star to contribute.

But when the call came out for all hands on deck for Game One, Robinson was front and center, reaching back and pulling out a clutch effort—particularly in the first half when he scored nine of his 14 points to keep the Spurs in touch after a jittery start to the series.

"If I'm able to move like that, get some things done, it makes us very difficult to beat," said Robinson, who became known as "The Admiral" playing college basketball at the U.S. Naval Academy. "I'm just going to try to continue to give them everything I've got. Six games left—I'm going to have some fun." "To win this championship would be phenomenal. It's what I'm playing for," he added. "It's the only thing I want. All the individual stuff doesn't matter to me now. All that matters is that we have this experience, this journey as a team and we get this championship."

Named one of the NBA's 50 Greatest Players, Robinson's underperformance in Game One recalled memories of a time when he was the Spurs' dominant force. That role now belongs to two-time MVP Tim Duncan, who has become the Spurs' court leader.

While great athletes sometimes have an unwillingness to pass on the torch, Robinson and Duncan had a smooth transition forged from mutual respect and understanding. "I get too much credit, it's only the smart thing to do when you get a great player like Tim," said Robinson, a key member of three American Olympic squads, including the 1992 and 1996 Dream Teams. "The way Tim is, he's at his prime and is going to continue to play great."

"It's part of my job to set the tone and be the example. They (the team) understands that winning that championship is number one. You get that and the rest falls by the wayside,"

he noted. "My role now is to keep us steady, keep us understanding we can get through tough spots. I just thought, if we need to win, this is the way we need to play. The reality is Tim Duncan is 10 years younger than me, you know there's going to be a transition at some point, so the thing is not to fight it."

While Robinson's playing minutes have diminished, he remains one of the most respected and well-liked players in the NBA. He is also a source of motivation and inspiration for his Spurs team mates, who would like nothing more than to sent the Admiral sailing into the sunset with another championship ring to go along with the one he won in 1999.

"To send him out this way, it would mean a lot," said Duncan. "Getting the ring for Dave, it's what makes this season more important."

New Jersey Nets' Kenyon Martin (R) drives against San Antonio Spurs' David Robinson in the first quarter of Game 1 of the NBA Finals, in San Antonio, Texas, on Wednesday.

## "Big" question still puzzling New Jersey

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—It is a search that has one question and so far no answer.

If the New Jersey Nets were being graded on that quiz they would receive a fail, having been unable to find the correct answer again Wednesday, dropping a 101-89 decision to the San Antonio Spurs in Game One of the NBA championship.

After being swept 4-0 by the Los Angeles Lakers last year, the Nets have slumped 5-0 in championship games—the longest skid in finals history—and were no closer Thursday to finding an answer to the "Big" question. Big men have provided big headaches for the Nets, the San Antonio's seven-footer center and twice league MVP Tim Duncan proving to be as much of an enigma as the Lakers's Shaquille O'Neal, who gained playoff MVP honors last year.

Duncan shook off a slow start in the best-of-seven series opener Wednesday to finish as the game's leading scorer with 32 points, leaving the Nets scratching their heads in search of answers.

"They are very similar, just Shaq weighs more than Tim," Nets All-Star guard Jason Kidd told reporters. "Their games they dominate, they're IA and IB when you talk about the best players on the planet. They both get double and triple-teamed and fouled and sent to the free throw line. They just continue to get better each year."

"He (Duncan) has seen ev-

erything, double-teams, triple-teams. He made some tough shots last night. You're talking about the MVP of the league," he pointed out.

Kenyon Martin, who shut down the Boston Celtics's All-Star forward Antoine Walker in the Eastern Conference semi-finals and controlled All-Star forward Ben Wallace of the Detroit Pistons in the East finals, again drew the tough assignment but could not stop Duncan and found himself in foul trouble.

"I don't know, I don't know," shrugged Martin when asked what more he could do to slow down Duncan. "I played him pretty well, I thought, but he just made tough shots. Bottom line, you have to tip your hat. When he's shooting jump shots from 18-feet and hitting them, you have to tip your hat."

Jason Collins, Rodney Rogers and Aaron Williams had no better luck than Martin in battling Duncan, who found his rhythm in the second half, nailing 24 points while pulling down 20 rebounds.

In need of answers and his options dwindling, Nets coach Byron Scott hinted that 36-year-old Dikembe Mutombo, who has been used sparingly during the postseason, could see more minutes in Game Two Friday. The 7-foot-2-center from the Democratic Republic of Congo played only six minutes of the first half of Game One when Duncan was limited to eight points.



St. Louis Cardinals batter Albert Pujols follows through on his swing for a double in the third inning at Busch Stadium, in St. Louis, Missouri on Thursday. The hit came off Blue Jays starting pitcher Mark Hendrickson.

## Cardinals bury Blue Jays

ST. LOUIS—Woody Williams held Toronto hitless until Orlando Hudson singled with one out in the eighth inning and the St. Louis Cardinals romped 13-5 Thursday night in a game the Blue Jays played under protest.

The Cardinals swept the three-game series, outscoring Toronto 32-15. Williams hit a bases-loaded triple and drove in four runs.

The Blue Jays lodged their protest in the second inning after an umpire's reversal on a fly ball cost them a triple play. Toronto manager Carlos Tosca was ejected for the first time in his major league career arguing the call.

Williams (8-1) gave up one hit in eight shutout innings, striking out five and walking one. He dominated the team he played for from 1993-98, allowing only Hudson's clean single right field on a 1-2 pitch. There hasn't been a no-hitter at Busch Stadium since Bob Forsch beat Montreal in 1983.

In Chicago, two days after his corked bat controversy, Sammy Sosa delivered a run-scoring single in the first inning to pave the way for the Chicago Cub's 8-1 rout of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in Interleague play.

That was the Dominican-born slugger's only hit of the

game, although he did score a run in the third following Ramon Martinez's double.

Chicago picked up seven runs in the third, all charged to Dewon Brazelton (1-5), Matt Clement (3-6) tossed seven innings of seven-hit ball for the win.

No punishment has yet been announced by Major League Baseball after umpires found illegal cork in Sosa's broken bat during Tuesday's game against the Devil Rays.

Interleague	
Braves	Rangers 8-4
Rockies	Indians 7-4
Marlins	Athletics 2-0
Padres	Tigers 5-1
Phillies	Mariners 4-5
Pirates	R Sox 5-4

## Brewers make Shea Stadium breakthrough

NEW YORK—The Milwaukee Brewers won for the first time in nine tries at New York's Shea Stadium, edging the Mets 8-7 in the first game of a National League doubleheader Thursday. The series was delayed for two days after New York was pelted by heavy rain.

Richie Sexson homered and double off Steve Trachsel (4-3) to plate three Milwaukee runs. Sexson's homer was his 18th of the season. Eric Young, Geoff Jenkins and Royce Clayton also took the shell-shocked Trachsel deep. Matt Kinney (4-4) tossed six innings of seven-hit ball for the win and Mike DeJean closed out for his 13th save.

Mets manager Art Howe (1,018-982) had hoped for better from his 2,000th game.

In the second game, the Brewers picked up all the runs they needed in their opening act as they beat the Mets 5-3. Milwaukee scored four times in the first inning off Tom Glavine (5-6), who left with an injured elbow after facing two batters in the second frame, his shortest stint since 1989.

Ben Sheets (6-4) went seven innings to notch the victory. Ty Wigington homered and singled to set the record for New York's runs.

## Soccer Highlights

### Kanu to decide Arsenal future

ABUJA—Arsenal striker Nwankwo Kanu will decide his future with the Premiership side after Nigeria's friendly against world champions Brazil in Abuja next Wednesday.

"I will decide whether to remain with Arsenal or otherwise after playing the matches against Malawi and Brazil for my country," Kanu told Reuters on Wednesday. Nigeria play Malawi in an African Nations Cup qualifier in Abuja on Saturday.

Kanu, who joined Arsenal from Inter Milan four years ago, saw little action last season, scoring only six goals in all.

### Boschker joins Ajax

AMSTERDAM—Ajax have signed Twente goalkeeper Sander Boschker on a two-year deal, the Dutch League runners-up said on Thursday.

The 32-year-old must compete with Maarten Stekelenburg as reserve keeper as Ronald Koeman had already announced that Romanian Bogdan Lobont would remain his first choice.

Boschker played 356 matches for Twente after making his debut in 1989 and had a major role in their 2001 Dutch Cup final victory as he saved three PSV penalties in the shootout.

### Aletico sign Musampa

MADRID—Malaga midfielder Kizito Musampa will join Atletico Madrid at the end of the season after signing a five-year deal with the Spanish first division club.

Atletico did not release the financial details, but Spanish media reported that they had paid a fee of around three million euros (\$3.50 million) for the 25-year-old former Ajax player.

"I was really keen to come to Atletico," Musampa told the Atletico website. "I have always wanted to play for one of the top clubs."

Musampa, who was born in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo but has a Dutch passport, began his professional career at Ajax and had a short spell at Girondins Bordeaux before moving to Malaga in 1999. He has been in impressive form this season and played a major part in helping the Andalusian club to reach the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup.

### Barcelona candidate

#### confirms Beckham talks

MADRID—Barcelona presidential candidate Joan Laporta announced for the first time on Thursday that he has been negotiating with Manchester United to sign England captain David Beckham.

"We cannot deny that we started negotiations some time ago for the signing of David Beckham," Laporta told reporters in Barcelona. "I cannot give any more details for the moment."

Laporta, who is one of six official candidates for the Barcelona presidency, said that it would not be easy to conclude a deal for the player but that he hoped for further developments in the next few days.

## FRENCH OPEN ROUND UP

In the third set it was nerves which decided the winner. Neither player could hold serve with any regularity, sharing six breaks up to 5-5. At that point, though, the Belgian stepped up, broke Serena for a 6-5 lead and then served out to love.

The partisan Parisian crowd had been willing to roil victory and greeted it with little short of delirium. The 21-year-old raised her arms in the air and pumped them as the crowd did likewise.

tears glistening in her eyes. "There are no words to describe what I was feeling on court," she said. "The crowd were behind me 100 percent."

The French crowd had already cheered Clijsters to victory after she had used a slice of luck to switch the momentum of her match. The pair had been neck-and-neck throughout the first set before a Clijsters shot slapped into the netcord as she descended Petrova held set



England batsman Marcus Trescothick (R) is caught behind by Zimbabwe batsman Tatenda Taibu (L) for 43 off 43 off Raymond Price (unseen) in the second test between England and Zimbabwe at the Riverside ground at Chester-le-Street in Durham, northern England, on Thursday.

## Stewart restores sanity to stop-start England

CHESTER-LE-STREET, England—Alec Stewart and Anthony McGrath scored unbeaten half-centuries to restore sanity to England's performance on Thursday as they reached 298 for five against Zimbabwe after the first day of the second test.

The pair compiled 142 without major alarm after Douglass Hondo had turned the game on its head by taking three middle-order wickets in an 11-ball spell during the afternoon.

Stewart, aged 40 and in his 128th match, and McGrath, in only his second, stuck to the basics after England, 1-0 up in the two-match series, slumped from 109 for one to 156 for five. Stewart finished with 67 and his partner, who made 69 in his debut innings at Lord's, was one run ahead of him as they rattled along at more than four runs an over.

The former England skipper, who passed David Gower's 8,231 test runs during his innings to go eighth in the all-time list of run scorers, said: "It's something to

go past names like Gower and Geoff Boycott. It gives you an extra reason to carry on. A lot has been written (about whether he should carry on playing for England) but all I've done is make myself available."

Hondo was probably as surprised as Mark Butcher, Robert Key and Nasser Hussain by his success. In two previous appearances he had managed one for 132. During the morning, bowling no more than medium-quick, he proved a greater threat to the slips than the stumps.

Butcher, however, having made an accomplished 47, got tucked up and chopped an attempted cut into his stumps. Key mis-pulled off the splice to square leg with four to his name and Hussain, eager to assert his authority, attacked when he might have defended and was caught behind for 18. All three played large parts in their own downfalls.

The greying Stewart, though, underlined his enduring value as a wicketkeeping all rounder, mixing pushed singles with boundaries while McGrath looked compact and well aware of his limitations,

relying heavily on straight-cut clips through midwicket. He drove Hondo for successive boundaries, the first straight and the second to his favourite leg-side haunt, to reach his 50 off 101 balls.

The Yorkshireman committed one error, top-edging a hook off seamer Andy Blythe after reaching 32 only for Raymond Price to spill the swirling chance as he ran around from fine leg. Stewart also survived a late edge towards the slips when on 54.

Zimbabwe, totally outclassed in the first test, at least made a fight of it on Thursday as they attempted to end a run of eight defeats in a row. Heath Streak, their captain and one player of true class, had taken the first wicket when he had Michael Vaughan caught at slip. Vaughan's 20 was an odd affair as he scratched about for 10 deliveries before hitting five fours in rapid succession and then getting out tamely.

Left-arm spinner Price, bowling flat and quick in order to contain, atook the second as England lost concentration after lunch. Marcus Trescothick caught for 43 as his attempted sweep popped up to wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu off pad then glove.

Chester-le-Street, home of county-side Durham, became England's eighth test ground on Thursday and the country's first new venue since 1902.

## Shoulder surgery on cards for Bryant

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers looks likely to need an operation after an MRI scan showed the All-Star guard has a tear in his right shoulder.

Bryant sustained the injury when he collided with Kevin Garnett in the first-round playoff series against the Minnesota Timberwolves. Although he will seek a second opinion before undergoing surgery, he seems to have his mind made up already.

"I'm pretty sure I'll have

## Ronaldinho's United move in balance

PARIS—Paris St Germain have had no contacts with Manchester United over the transfer of Brazilian striker Ronaldinho even if they are discussing the player's future with his agent, the French club said on Thursday.

"I did not meet any Manchester United official. I received no letter, no phone call and I don't work with go-between's," club president Francis Graille told Reuters in an interview.

Manchester United chief executive Peter Kenyon met with Ronaldinho's brother and agent Roberto Assis in Paris on Wednesday to discuss the Brazilian forward's future, but Graille said he was not involved in the talks.

"Roberto Assis is the one who mentioned Manchester United to us but we're not there yet," said Graille, adding he was having talks at the moment to decide whether to release the Brazilian star.

Graille said he had met Roberto Assis on Wednesday but not since, while Ronaldinho himself is on holiday in Brazil but expected back on June 9. "For the time being, we have not found any agreement. We have solid ground to believe Ronnie must stay. But nothing is definite one way or another."

The 23-year-old has a contract at the club until 2006 after joining from Gremio in 2001 but his brother said a "gentlemen's agreement" existed to release him after two years. "I have never heard of a five-year contract ending after two years," Graille said.

Bryant told reporters on Thursday. "I haven't received any second opinions yet but I think I want to get this taken care of, come back and double up on my training regimen."

The downside is that Bryant may have to miss the Olympic qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico in August.

"Unfortunately, those plans are on hold," he said. "I was looking forward to competing in the games and practising against the fellas. Hopefully, I'll be able to play in the final."

# SPORTS ARENA



## Distraught Serena in tears after semi loss

PARIS—Justine Henin-Hardenne and a hostile Parisian crowd reduced Serena Williams to tears and shattered her grand slam dominance at the French Open on Thursday.

The Belgian, aided by partisan centre court fans, mesmerised the mighty world number one 6-2-4-6-7-5 to create a piece of history by guaranteeing the new Roland Garros champion will be Belgian—a first for France's neighbours. She meets Kim Clijsters in the title match.

It was a win which was greeted with euphoria by supporters who had gone overboard at times, cheering the champion's double faults and leaving the American distraught. "It was a tough crowd out, there the story of my life," Serena said before breaking down in



Henin

tears.

Wiping her eyes, she sobbed: "I am not used to crying, I am sorry, I can get up here and say 'You know, I can do it... it is easy'. But deep down it kind of hurts."

"It is just difficult when people are booing and screaming in between points," she continued. "It's just difficult. It was a fight, that's all. I am going to have to learn how to win. Got to

keep smiling. I think if you keep smiling things work out."

Henin-Hardenne meets Clijsters in Saturday's final after the second seed had earlier beaten Russian Nadia Petrova 7-5 6-1. It will be a repeat of the 2001 semifinal, a match that Clijsters won to become the first Belgian grand slam finalist. She lost to Jennifer Capriati on that occasion.

Henin-Hardenne—back then just Henin—emulated her compatriot by reaching the Wimbledon final a few weeks later. She too came up empty-handed having been battered by Serena's elder sister Venus.

But on Thursday there was no denying the waif-like blonde who tormented world number one Serena. The American had not lost in a grand slam since losing the



Kim Clijsters of Belgium plays against Nadia Petrova of Russia in the semifinal of the French tennis open at Roland Garros stadium, on Thursday.

2001 U.S. Open final to Venus and did not take defeat too well. She offered the most cursory of congratulations to fourth seed Henin-Hardenne before walking off court, jeers, boos and whistles still ringing in her ears.

"She wasn't very happy, but that is sport, that is tennis,"

Henin-Hardenne said. "She has had lots of chances recently. It's about time she gave others a chance."

The tension throughout the two hours 20 minutes encounter was palpable as both players struggled to keep their nerves under control. The Belgian ripped through the first set, flailing her

famed backhand to great effect.

Serena countered in the second set, crunching winners past her opponent and using her impressive physique to muscle the ball for winners.

**Continued on page 43**



Number eight of the St. Martin Attackers races for the ball during the opening match of the Caribbean Alliance Cup at the Alberic Richards Stadium in Sandy Ground last night. The Attackers played Guadeloupe.

## Jamaica to play in Alliance, Guadeloupe wins cup opener

SANDY GROUND—The alliance nearly broke. Team Jamaica threatened to pull out of the Caribbean Alliance Cup football competition before the first ball was kicked.

The opening match went forward as scheduled. The first game was played before a near capacity crowd at the Alberic Richards Stadium in Sandy Ground last night. The hosts, the Attackers Football club, faced team Gosier from Guadeloupe.

Six teams representing six different countries were set to play for the Alliance trophy. Trouble started when the Jamaican team arrived Wednesday. The team did not like their accommodations. Tournament officials moved the Jamaica squad from the St. Martin Mecure Hotel where the other teams are staying to the Pelican Resort on the Dutch side of the island.

Up to the whistle for the first game the Jamaican pres-

ence in the competition was in the team. "We met with the team and worked everything out," said tournament organizer Glen Brooks. "Jamaica will be playing."

The Jamaica team will play their first game of the competition tonight. The first game will feature St. Kitts against the St. Maarten Victory Boys. Jamaica will follow as they face the Attack

**Continued on page 41**