

Iran Agrees To Freeze Nuclear Enrichment
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VOL 14 NO. 153

Monday November 15, 2004

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

Ribeiro: NAf. 3,000 limit not good, but willing to work with governors

SIMPSON BAY--Justice Minister Norberto Ribeiro in principle does not agree with the proposal of Curaçao's Lt. Governor not to allow immigrants earning less than NAf. 3,000 to have their spouses join them in the country.

Speaking at a press conference in St. Maarten after attending the Lt. Governors' meeting in Saba on Friday, the Minister said, "I don't think it is a good thing in itself. I don't think it completely correct for a lot of cases to hold that measure at NAf. 3,000."

Asked if this move would not be a violation of international treaties signed by the Netherlands Antilles, Ribeiro said, "This is one interpretation. As a matter of fact, the court just recently decided in one case that the NAf. 3,000 was a little too much for a certain individual case, but the same court, in another case, indicated that NAf. 3,000 was okay, based on the circumstances of the case."

He continued, "So even the court is looking at the individual aspects of the matter, but the court also stated that to come to a definitive solution in this matter, the authorities have to come to a common ground. You have to

come with a national norm."

However, he is willing to work with the Lt. Governors on this matter and this position was also stated to them at the gathering in Saba, which the Minister had

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Verdonk insists on sending back convicted Antilleans

WILLEMSTAD--For Dutch Minister of Integration Rita Verdonk (VVD) the road is clear for strong measures against Antilleans who end up on the wrong path in Holland.

The minister, who cancelled her visit to the Antilles after a joint committee failed to reach agreement on measures to deal with the problem, says there is no problem with sending convicted Antillean criminals back to Curaçao. "Legally that has been taken care of. We can introduce it," she said during a gathering of the Antillean Network in Amsterdam.

If it's up to Verdonk, the Dutch Government will also establish an admittance regulation for Antillean youngsters. There will

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The Coast Guard and the Aruban rescue organisation SARFA held an exercise in rescuing people from the sea. This was done, among other things, by hoisting them up to the helicopter or on to another boat.

SMPA-Labega saga continues in court, Island Council today

PHILIPSBURG--The Island Council is scheduled to meet at 3:00pm today to debate "Recent developments at St. Maarten Ports Authority (SMPA) involving the Counterpart to the Managing Director."

The meeting is being convened at the request of Councilmen William Marlin and Frans Richardson of National Alliance (NA) and Councilwoman Gracita Arrindell of People's Progressive Alliance (PPA).

SMPA has moved to terminate the services of St. Maartener Christina Labega, the counterpart to SMPA Managing Director

Rommel Charles, an expatriate.

However, in a bid to mend fences, the Island Council in its October 4 meeting unanimously passed a resolution recommending that SMPA and Labega work together for six months, during which time Labega would be provided with training opportunities preparatory to her eventually taking over the Managing Director's job.

Both opposition parties in the Island Council are miffed that the SMPA Supervisory Board has seemingly ignored the council's October 4 Resolution and is moving ahead with court proceedings to have Labega's contract terminated. Those proceedings are

scheduled to continue in court today.

In a statement issued last Monday, Arrindell advocated that the Island Council should "instruct the Lt. Governor to sack both the Supervisory Board and the Managing Director" of SMPA for their actions that she contended were "detrimental to the interests of the shareholder, the Island Council of St. Maarten."

"The actions of the Supervisory Board and Managing Director of the SMPA are not only disre

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IN BRIEF

Philipsburg **CARNIVAL 2005 IS ON!**

St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation (SCDF) has finalised its schedule and slogan for Carnival 2005 and has already started gearing up for mas in St. Maarten next year. **Page 3.**

Philipsburg **A CHIPPIE BIRTHDAY**

"On Monday, November 22, Chippie is celebrating its first anniversary in St. Maarten and in celebration of this anniversary and market adaptations, UTS has decided to drop our rates effective today, Monday." **Page 4.**

Marigot **ADICASM PLEASED**

"We welcome Mayor Albert Fleming's statement about foreigners controlling our Chamber of Commerce and wanting to control the future New Collectivité," ADICASM President Paul Whit Jr. said. **Page 3.**



A medical practitioner was rushed to St. Maarten Medical Centre (SMMC) shortly before 11:00pm Saturday for injuries sustained to his head when his Toyota Starlet slammed into the rear of a Chevrolet Camaro on L.B. Scott Road. The road was wet at the time of the accident and reports indicate that the vehicle skidded and slammed into the rear of the Chevrolet when the doctor hit his brakes. The driver of the Chevrolet escaped unhurt. This John Halley photo shows the damaged Toyota Starlet, while the inset shows the medical practitioner holding his head to prevent the loss of more blood.



ADICASM welcomes Mayor's statement

MARIGOT--"We welcome Mayor Albert Fleming's statement about foreigners controlling our Chamber of Commerce and wanting to control the future New Collectivité," ADICASM President Paul Whit Jr. said.

Mayor Fleming had said during his St. Maarten/St. Martin Day address, "Strangers, foreigners who are not St. Maarteners, are now in charge of the Chamber of Commerce. They are after the control of the new Collectivité and if we are not extremely vigilant, we will become third class citizens in our country."

ADICASM has sent a

letter to the mayor requesting an urgent meeting on these two important points: Chamber of Commerce elections and the future of the New Collectivité. It is looking forward to meeting with the Mayor this week, according to Whit.

"The Mayor's statement has our blessing, but words are not enough. We need action. We are looking forward to having a fruitful meeting where we can come up with solutions for the future," said Whit.

When asked about the results of Chamber of Commerce elections, Whit said, "There were too many

things that went wrong,

disrespecting the principles of democracy, which we will deal with in the near future."

Whit lists Horizon 74, which lost the Chamber of Commerce elections, having four members elected to the 12-member board of the Chamber.

SCDF looking for participants, says Carnival train is moving

PHILIPSBURG-- St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation (SCDF) has finalised its schedule and slogan for Carnival 2005 and has already started gearing up for mas in St. Maarten next year. Both the schedule and the slogan will be announced to the public later this week in a press conference.

SCDF President Michael Granger said Carnival festivities, scheduled for 19 days in April, will actually be a day longer than they were in 2004. He explained that the Easter holidays in 2005 fall at a time when the SCDF would not have any conflicts when scheduling Carnival. "So we had the freedom to adjust the schedule as we thought was best and it ended up a day longer," he said.

While the slogan and schedule will be announced later this week, Granger urged all stakeholders in Carnival to start getting ready for the festivities. "SCDF has been crossing T's and dotting I's for about two months now, completing behind-the-scenes preparations. The public is urged to start now and do the same.

"This includes troupe leaders, band leaders, booth holders and everyone else involved in Carnival. We are also calling on all potential participants for the local shows of Carnival to register with SCDF as soon as possible. Once you are registered you can already begin looking for your sponsors and getting ready to participate in your show of choice," Granger said.

The local shows for which SCDF is looking for participants are the Junior Carnival Calypso Show, Junior Carnival Road



Michael Granger

March Show, Junior Carnival Queen Pageant, Teen Carnival Queen Pageant, Senior Carnival Queen Pageant, Mr. and Ms. Mature Queen Pageant and the Senior Calypso Monarch Show.

"All of these shows require months of preparation. It is much easier and less stressful for someone to simply register now, get their bearings and start preparing for the show. We've seen too many people start much too late with preparations and ended up being the least prepared on their big nights," Granger added.

After the success of Carnival 2004, which saw an increase in attendance for every local show, SCDF is hoping the general public will continue supporting local shows as much as it did in 2004 and even more so for Carnival 2005. "In fact, our slogan for Carnival 2005 encourages the public to do exactly that. We were very happy to see the outpouring of support for our local calypsonians, both Junior and Senior,"

he said.

He also expressed hope that corporate sponsors would come on board for next year as they did for Carnival 2004.

"With enough money we can do wonders with Carnival. We often hear people saying we should do this or that, while pointing to Trinidad and Aruba as examples. However, those countries have million-dollar budgets for Carnival. Not even from corporate sponsors, but government alone. If we can get to that level of sponsorship, we can have out-of-this-world festivities as well."

The SCDF will also host meetings with the band leaders, troupe leaders and booth holders starting next week to discuss any changes and receive suggestions and/or recommendation from these parties.

Granger continued: "The time is now! We are calling on all Carnival lovers to wake up, shake off the rust of a few months, oil up the Carnival machine and let's get rolling. From this week until the end of Carnival we will be in Carnival mode. The Carnival train is getting ready to leave the station. We want everyone on board for what promises to be quite a ride once again in 2005."

Persons who are interested in registering for any of the shows mentioned should call Granger at 522-5133, Suzette Moses at 551-0075 or Mario Gumbs at 522-6966.

UTS slash rates for Chippie anniversary

PHILIPSBURG-- "On Monday, November 22, Chippie is celebrating its first anniversary in St. Maarten and in celebration of this anniversary and market adaptations, UTS has decided to drop our rates effective today, Monday," said UTS General Manager Windward Island Glen Carty via telephone yesterday.

"UTS offers again the cheapest means of calling compared to other international carriers and mobile providers on the island," he said of the reduced rates. They will apply to both pre- and post-paid Chippie calls and International Direct

Dialling (IDD).

Carty said the company was using its fibre optic cable to deliver "this crystal clear sound quality" to its clients and would continue to adjust its international rates "to remain the most competitive international carrier and provider on the island and in the region."

UTS is also "busy" expanding its services to other islands and is preparing to "turn on" the Chippie service in Statia. It will be officially launched in Statia "within few weeks and before the end of the year." Chippie is already available on Saba.

UTS is also preparing to

launch its GPRS and Multi-Media Service (MMS) which will enable customers to surf the Internet, retrieve e-mails and take pictures and send them via their phones.

Carty reminded customers that UTS' advertised post-paid rates for businesses and residential customers were final, with no taxes added. "The prices we advertise are the net prices and UTS will continue to adjust our rates to remain the most competitive international mobile provider in the Caribbean," he assured.



From left: CEO of UTS CariGlobe Clecton Phillip, St. Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas and UTS CEO Julio Constansia turn the sod to mark the official start of construction of the UTS CariGlobe Chippie network in the twin-island federation

Construction of Chippie network starts in St. Kitts

ST. PHILIPSBURG--Several dignitaries, including St. Kitts/Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas, underscored the importance of the UTS-CariGlobe partnership to introduce Chippie service to the twin island federation during the ground breaking ceremony at Belle Vue Estate, St. Kitts, to mark the start of construction of the Chippie Network recently.

Chairman and CEO of UTS-CariGlobe Telecommunications Ltd. Clecton Phillip and United Telecommunication Services (UTS) Chairman Julio Constansia also attended the ceremony.

Douglas told attendees he was immensely grateful that

St. Kitts and Nevis would have one more alternative at their disposal for their telecommunications needs. "And our greatest satisfaction is that this cellular service will be provided by an authentic, local company of St. Kitts and Nevis, a wholly Caribbean enterprise," he said.

He stressed that the telecommunications industry on the island was of the utmost importance. Not only do telecommunications have a big role to play in the promotion and expansion of commercial, financial and economic activities on the island, but they also contribute to the development and education of the community.

He continued: "It is not

without reason that we have chosen UTS to be our partner in this process. It is a well-known fact that UTS has been positioning itself solidly in the telecommunications market in the Caribbean for the past years. Apart from this, it was our preference to work with a partner that is also 100 per cent Caribbean. We wish to thank UTS for the faith they have put in St. Kitts and Nevis."

Constansia said the groundbreaking signalled the laying of a foundation for a new future in telecommunications on the island. "Our vision has always been to construct a cellular network that interconnects all the islands of the Caribbean. We are happy that this vision is becoming a reality day by day.

"In the coming weeks we will close off the first phase of this project with the launching of our Chippie service in St. Eustatius. At that moment all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles - St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius, Bonaire and Curaçao - will be able to offer the same Chippie cellular service on the same cellular infrastructure at basically almost the same tariff."

Phillip dubbed the groundbreaking ceremony historic, because "for the first time in St. Kitts and Nevis, in the OECS, and possibly in the wider Caribbean a 100 per cent Caribbean company is breaking ground to signal the start of construction of a cellular network."

The UTS-CariGlobe Chippie cellular network will have a total of 16 cell sites.

Boy dies in crash

BONAIRE--A nine-year-old boy was killed in a traffic accident in Bonaire.

It happened on Kaya Internashonal, in front of Flamingo Airport. A double cabin pickup truck with a mother and her two children went off the road for some reason and crashed into a wall.

The mother and one of the children were able to get out of the wreck, but the boy suffered severe head injuries. He was rushed to the hospital by ambulance, but passed away soon after.

Cornelis "Nilo" Arne-man is the island's third road fatality for the year.

SMPA-LABEGA SAGA

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spectful, but also denigrate the role and responsibilities of the Island Council and its shareholder representative in providing advice and counsel to government-owned companies," Arrindell also said in her statement.

She said should the Board and the Managing Director of the SMPA refuse to follow the advice of the majority owner of the company, "they do so at their own peril."

And, in an interview last Monday, NA leader William Marlin explained that the opposition would be seeking clarity about the Executive Council's posi-

tion on the issue at today's meeting.

The Island Government, Marlin contended, cannot hide behind the "hands-off" or arm's length policy described in the civil code where it pertains to government-owned companies.

Opposition members of the council are also likely to revisit the issue of the role and scope of authority of the SMPA Supervisory Board at today's meeting of the Island Council, as well as issues such as the life of the contract of the Chairman of the Supervisory Board and concerns about conflict of interest associated with his appointment at the harbour.



Island Adventure Photos n.v.

The annual Animal Welfare Foundation Regatta held earlier this month was a success, the foundation said. Taking part in the event, sponsored by St. Maarten 12 Metre Challenge, were members of Rotary Club of St. Maarten and of the Interact Club of St. Maarten Academy. "Everyone who participated enjoyed the exciting race." The proceeds from this event will be used for the foundation's educational programme, especially to produce copies of "Kind News" for more than 8,000 school children on the island.



Participants in the Annual Spelling Bee pose with their certificates. Left is winner of the competition Edrika John Baptise. Christopher Bell (second left) placed third and Jonathan van Arneman (third left) placed third.

MAC dominates annual Spelling Bee challenge

ST. PETERS--Hillside Christian School was dethroned Saturday when students of two Methodist Agogic Centre (MAC) campuses took all three prizes in the Annual Elementary Spelling Bee Challenge Cup, which was

held at Rupert I. Maynard Youth Community Centre in the presence of a moderate crowd.

Eleven-year-old Edrika John Baptise of MAC's Rev John. A. Gumbs Campus took the winning spot after a stiff "spell off"

with second place winner Jonathan van Arneman of MAC's Browlia F. Mailard Campus. Ten-year-old Christopher Bell of John A. Gumbs campus, who made it to the final round, placed third.

The students were presented with certificates shortly after the Spelling Bee ended and will be presented with their trophies and other prizes during the Academic Achievements Awards Programme, which will be held at Rupert I. Maynard Youth Community Centre next Sunday at 5:00pm.

John Baptise will represent the island at the Caribbean Spelling Bee Competition, which will be held in St. Maarten on August 12, 2005. The competition will coincide with International Youth Day.

Five schools squared off in the Spelling Bee. Other competing schools were Oranje School and MAC Campus III. Voice of St. Maarten Radio Network PJD2 is the main sponsor of the challenge.

Central Committee meets with environmental groups today

PHILIPSBURG--The Central Committee of the Island Council will meet with St. Maarten Pride Foundation and Nature Foundation St. Maarten during its meeting today, starting at 10:00am, Chairwoman Maria Buncamper-Molanus said.

The meeting is an effort to gather information regarding the environment and the work of the foundations, which have been active in the community pertaining to

matters related to nature and environment.

"The meeting will give us, as the legislative branch of government, some information that could lead to initiating legislation or help us to understand why certain proposals should have our support when brought to the Island Council," she stated.

The forum will also give the groups an opportunity to share their calendars of events for the coming year and for the committee members to become more familiar with the workings of the groups and their concerns.

VERDONK INSISTS

Continued from page 1

be restrictions for Antilleans who want to establish themselves in Holland.

"You should think of conditions like appointing a guardian for Antillean youngsters, having a fixed address and registering for a course."

Even a guarantee sum is a possibility for Verdonk, where Antilleans moving to Holland would have to pay a certain amount.

The Antillean Government has already announced it will oppose an admittance regulation or deporting Antilleans with problems. Prime Minister Etienne Ys said the joint committee had overstepped its boundaries when it discussed a "concealed admittance regulation," and pulled out.

Kingdom Relations Minister Thom de Graaf disagrees with Ys' decision, because he should have awaited the conclusions before giving his opinion. This puts the improved relations with the Dutch Cabinet under pressure.

"We are supporting the policy of Ys with all kinds of means. Then I don't want to get it back in this fashion. What they are now in effect saying is 'we see it as your problem, not a common problem,'" said De Graaf.

Verdonk announced "unilateral measures," based on pressure from the 18 so-called "Antilles municipalities" with lots of Antillean youngsters and

a motion from Parliament urging a stricter migration policy for criminal Antillean youngsters.

But while the Integration Minister insists she and De Graaf are in agreement on the issue, the latter said the stage of an admittance regulation had not been reached. "I do think we should look into the possibility of placing conditions on a certain group; for example youngsters between 16 and 24."

De Graaf is not as sure as his colleague minister about the legal aspect of placing travel restrictions on Antilleans or sending them back. "I'm not saying it's impossible, but I don't know if Holland can decide that unilaterally."

Antillean member of the Dutch Second Chamber

John Leerdam (PvdA) said he intended to hold De Graaf to his word that Antilleans will be treated as citizens of the Dutch Kingdom. Sending back Antilleans is nonsense. "That just can't be."

Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende rejects the notion that placing travel restrictions on Dutch citizens from the Antilles and Aruba is discrimination. "We have to face the problem," he argued.

Meanwhile, Mayor Guusje ter Horst of the city of Nijmegen told radio Gelderland that expelling criminal Antilleans was unavoidable. He said that between 30 to 40 per cent of Antilleans in Nijmegen were involved in criminal activities and Holland could not offer them an acceptable alternative.

Accident victim to be flown out to Curacao

PHILIPSBURG--A young woman L.G. who was involved in an accident on Walter Nisbeth Road Thursday night will have to be flown out to Curaçao for further medical attention.

L.G. was the pillion rider on a motorcycle that was involved in an accident with a white Suzuki Rav 4 and reportedly sustained two fractures to her jaw and other injuries to her hands and mouth. Because the injuries to her jaw cannot be handled locally, she will have to be flown to Curaçao.

The accident reportedly took place in the vicinity of Popular Supermarket as the driver of the Suzuki was making a U-turn.

The motorbike slammed into the rear section of the jeep and the male rider C.M. received several cuts to the face and bruises to his hand and legs. He was stitched up at St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC) and sent home.

The motorcycle was badly damaged, but no one in the Suzuki was injured.

AGENDA

ST. EUSTATIUS

Police Station 182333
Emergency 111
Hot Line 108
Fire Department 120
Hospital 182211/182371
Landsradio 182210
Post Office 182207
St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum 182288
Winair Office 182362
Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport
Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.
Coastguard NA&A 113
St. Eustatius National parks: Gallows Bay: 318 2884

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
WINAIR, Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 4162255/2713
Taxi Service Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 160
Administration Building
 The Bottom, tel. 4163311/
 4163312/4163313
Tourist Office
 Windwardside, tel. 4162231
Harbour Office
 Fort Bay, tel. 4163294
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 Eugenius A. Johnson Center.
Coastguard NA&A 113
Red Cross
 General meeting every last Monday, 6 p.m. Eugenius 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 2759
Crimestoppers 0800 7777777
AIRLINES
 American Eagle 497 3501
 Winair 497 2748
 Liat 497 5000
 Tyden Air 497 2719
 Air Anguilla 497 2643
 Trans Anguilla 497 8690
COURIER SERVICE
 DHL 497 3400
 Federal Express 497 2719
 UPS 497 2239
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. 2nd 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
 Arts and Craft Centre
 4.30 p.m. 1st Monday in month.
Interact Club of Anguilla
 Meets every Friday at 3.15 p.m. at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School
Alcoholic Anonymous meetings every Sunday at 8:30 am and Monday at 5:00 pm on Shoal Bay picnic area.



VKE officers carry the flag-draped coffin with Felicia's body out of the Seventh Day Adventist church after the funeral.

VKE officer laid to rest in St. Eustatius

ST. EUSTATIUS--A gun salute was fired when the body of Voluntary Corps St. Eustatius VKE officer Franklyn Felicia was laid to rest on Sunday.

Felicia joined the VKE in March 2001 and took the

oath in October 2001.

He passed away on Thursday at the age of 46, after a long period of illness.

Police Inspector Harold Look and Commander Patrick gave tributes to Felicia on behalf of the po-

lice department and VKE respectively.

Members of the Voluntary Corps St. Maarten VKS travelled to Statia to attend the funeral with many others.

'Kaiser' Sorton dies at 89

SABA--Christian Richard Alexander Sorton, former Island Council member for the Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM), passed away at the age of 89 at Hon. Henry Every Old Age Home on Saturday, just after 9:00pm, Saba Government Information Services & Protocol (SGISP) released Sunday.

Sorton, known to everybody on the island as "Kaiser," was taken into the home a number of months ago and said he was very happy to be there, SGISP stated.

Although his health began to deteriorate, Kaiser Sorton was still able to go out on referendum day and cast his vote for the option of his choice.

The former WIPM Island Council member was a very active person within the Saban community for many years, which he served with pride. According to the release, he was always willing to share his old memories with everyone.

His great-nephew Dave



Christian Richard Alexander Sorton, also known as Kaiser.

Levenstone said Kaiser Sorton was a very special character. "He was a great critique of many things and he also voiced his opinions in the various newspapers. He was never afraid of speaking his mind and up to his final days, he always had his opinion on what he felt needed to be done on the island," Levenstone said.

Calling him an old-timer with a wealth of knowledge and a staunch book reader to whom many local politicians went for advice,

Levenstone said, "Uncle Kaiser, as we all called him, was never afraid to correct any of his own people and he used to speak hard words to them when needed."

Commissioner/Acting Lt. Governor Will Johnson on Sunday also said he was shocked at the news that Kaiser Sorton had passed away. Johnson added that just recently he had spoken with the deceased, who then seemed in good spirits.

The funeral will take place at Anglican Church Cemetery in the Bottom on Thursday, following a thanksgiving service at this church. In keeping with Sorton's desire, no eulogy will be spoken at the service.

Expected to attend the funeral services will be former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles Maria Liberia Peters, Island Council member of St. Eustatius, Clyde van Putten and former Commissioner of St. Eustatius Eric Henriquez.

Acting Lt. Governor Johnson has ordered that all flags be flown half-mast as of Monday morning as a last respect to Kaiser Sorton.

St. Maarten police report

Handbag Stolen

A patron of Bliss nightclub reported her handbag stolen on the night of November 11. She apparently left the bag unattended for a short period and returned to find it missing. The bag contained a French identification card, two Visa credit cards, a cellular phone, US\$100 and 100 euros, according to police spokesman Inspector Geronimo Juliet.

Assault

Two men locked in a civil case reportedly took matters into their own hands and assaulted each other on November 12. A.B. of St. Maarten filed a report with the police that he had been assaulted by A.C. in the vicinity of Island Water World. A few hours later, A.C. also filed a complaint with the police, claiming that A.B. had hit him with a metal can and he had sustained injuries to his elbow, neck and shoulder.

Attack at Lady C

A male patron S.S.W. of St. Maarten filed a complaint with police that the owner of Lady C Floating Bar in Simpson Bay had attacked him with a bottle around 2:30am on November 13. S.S.W. sustained a cut on his right eyebrow.

Car break-in

A Kia Rio parked on Cannegieter Street was broken into and the radio stolen between November 13 and 14. The culprits gained access to the vehicle by forcing the right side door.

Audio gear stolen

Thieves gained access to a house in Mary's Fancy by forcing the iron bars and made off with a CD player, DVD player, VCR and a number of CDs between November 13 and 14.

Attempted car theft

Rental car R-1683 was broken into between November 13 and 14 while parked on Front Street. The electrical wiring of the car was tampered with, but the culprits did not manage to make off the car, Juliet stated.

With the holiday season approaching and the number of car and house thefts slowly increasing, the police spokesman urges the population to be more careful when locking up their cars and houses. He also advises residents to keep their valuables safe and take all necessary precautions against thefts.

Additionally, as darkness falls earlier in evening, motorists are advised to turn on their headlights as soon as the sun begins to set, Juliet said. It is a dangerous practice by drivers to not turn on their lights until it is extremely dark, he said. "Without lights, other drivers are not able to see you and this can cause accidents."

Man accused of stabbing wife with screwdriver

MARIGOT--Gendarmes arrested an adult male of unspecified nationality on Friday around 1:00pm for allegedly stabbing his wife with a screwdriver following a quarrel between the two.

The woman was taken to hospital to have her injuries treated. According to Gendarmes, the man delivered repeated blows to the woman's stomach, neck and back, causing serious injuries. He will appear before the Prosecutor charged with aggravated

assault. Gendarmes also conducted a traffic control for alcohol abuse in Marigot at the request of the Prosecutor on the night of Saturday to Sunday. Five drivers were warned for driving under the influence of alcohol and three of them had their licences suspended.

According to the Gendarmes, driving while in an intoxicated state is a leading cause of major traffic accidents and fatalities, and the frequency of these controls will be increased.

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Sang's Super Center celebrated its first anniversary on Saturday. Children were able to have their photos taken with their favourite cartoon characters, seen here with owner Johnny Sang and wife. Shoppers who spent US \$75 or more were given a free buffet, while there were also free tire cleaning with Kit car wash products, live music and free tasting of Ponche Caribe.



Spanish Harlem Orchestra, one of the world's top Salsa and Latin Jazz bands, was a hit at the first St. Maarten Salsa Escape concert held at Sonesta Maho Beach Resort on Friday night. The visiting and local salsa enthusiasts and professionals enjoyed an evening of music and dance by some famous visiting performers, including Paul Pelicoro and Eleny Fotinos of New York, Arte Philips and Kristine Bendul. The five-day event was widely promoted throughout the world and consisted of salsa workshops for beginners to expert level.

WIPM councilman congratulates Statians with their National Day

SABA--Councilman Rolando Wilson (WIPM) in a statement on Sunday congratulated the people of St. Eustatius on Statia Day and with the 228th anniversary of Statia's First Salute to the American flag.

He said among other things, "This unique, historical island has always had close family and other ties with Saba. These ties should be strengthened in the areas of commerce, culture, sports, education, politics and more."

Wilson memorised that Statia will hoist its own flag for

the first time on Statia Day and will inaugurate its Coat of Arms at the same time.

He congratulated young Statian Zuwená Suares, who

designed the Statia Flag, and wished her success with her studies, hoping she will continue to contribute to her island.

REBEIRO

Continued from page 1

to make extreme efforts to attend.

Due to the surge in violent crimes in Curaçao in the past weeks, Ribeiro was busy with emergency measures to combat the situation and to attend the meeting, he had to request the use of the Dutch Royal Marines plane to get to St. Maarten before heading to Saba.

"I emphasised with the Lt. Governors that I want to work together with them, so that we can form a unity," he stated.

Based on the law of Admission and Expulsion LTU, the Minister has the power to interfere in the daily activities of the Lt. Governors related to immigration, if he sees fit. "I told

them (the Lt. Governors) that this is the last thing I would want to do.

The correct way to intervene, according to the Minister, is the way agreed upon by the Lt. Governors and himself, which is to revise the instruction of the Minister for interference in the work of the Lt. Governors.

"This is the place to add your own opinions, because a lot of times Lt. Governors get criticism that is not completely fair, because they are following the Minister of Justice. The problem is sometimes that the Minister of Justice has instruction that is a little outdated and in a certain way, and not knowing how to handle it legally, he

interferes with the work and gives a decision that is contrary to a decision that a Lt. Governor just took," he stated.

The correct way to handle such situations is to update the instruction of the Minister, which was last amended in 1963. The two sides have agreed to form a small committee shortly with representatives of the Minister and Lt. Governors to look at the instruction to try to find the unity needed.

First call of cruise ship Opera today

PHILIPSBURG--Cruise ship Opera of the Mediterranean Shipping Cruise (MSC) company will make its inaugural call to St. Maarten today. The Italian liner is one of the first of the fleet to add the island to its itinerary.

This port of call is one of the final stops on the vessel's 17-day Transatlantic Sailing Voyage itinerary. Before heading to St.

Maarten, Opera was in Tortola and after visiting St. Maarten the next call is Nassau, Bahamas, before the completion of the cruise in Fort Lauderdale on Thursday.

The 763-foot cruise ship was commissioned this year and has a passenger capacity of 1,756. It caters primarily to the Italian market.

'I' the female, 'I' the white outsider, looking at *The Salt Reaper* by Lasana M. Sekou.

-A book review by Dr. Maria van Enckevort-

PHILIPSBURG--In his introduction to *The Salt Reaper – Poems from the flats* by Lasana M. Sekou, Hollis “Chalkdust” Liverpool firmly grounds the St. Maarten author in the radical intellectual and poetic tradition of the Caribbean region.

Standing on the shoulders of his predecessors, Sekou allows us a vision of the future (Hollis accentuates C.L.R. James and George Lamming, to whom I would like to add Aimé Césaire). That this is not his vision only, or the hallucination of an unworldly, utopian poet, was highlighted during the book party at Philipsburg Jubilee Library on November 6.

Compared to his last volumes of poetry *Quimbé* (1991) and *Mothernation* (1991), Sekou's latest work also demonstrates a definite influence of Kamau Brathwaite's “video style.” It was there before, as in *Nativity* (1988) – and even in *Images in the Yard* (1983), well before Sekou “met up” with Kamau's work – but it was not as distinct.

Observing and analyzing Sekou's performance of November 6, the following words by Kamau came to mind: “I think that oral traditions do have a very strong visual aspect.

“In the African tradition, they use sculpture. Really, what I'm trying to do is create word-sculptures on the page, but word-song for the ear.”

This style does not necessarily make for “easy” reading, but it adds to the epithet of the poets' nation language. And it is language that gives us our identity. Passing on the tradition of oralities, of storytelling and of song, Lasana Sekou is singing a new nation into existence.

In *The Salt Reaper*, the author takes the reader across countless texts, historical facts, and common sense, sensus communis, which literally means that the same meaning is shared by all: Black, brown and

white alike. In these texts, meanings are endless and circulate across and back from one medium to the next as in the poem “Week-end Dose”:

“hear grace on radio pumping what is ours in word-up sound as she does do.”

For Sekou, history is a text that needs to be questioned: “Yes, Bartolomé, ‘who in future generations will believe this?’” and can be revised as he does in “Cradle of the Nation,” a poem that Dr. Carolyn Cooper called “magisterial”: From the “red-gleaming gold” in Africa, across the middle passage, enslaved Africans arrived in “... Great Bay/dumped. Lumped. Lashed. Raped. Reviled and blooded.”

Sekou gives his voice to those who for too long have been voiceless. His is a labor of love bringing forth the birth of a people, a nation, liberation ... But reader, beware, “freedom not paid for is forfeit” the poet cautions in “The Blockade Next Time.”

Further on in the first section of the book, in the poem “Freedom,” he makes it clear that the fight for freedom is a fight for power, which will allow the claiming and reclaiming of manhood, which enslavement, colonialism, genocide, exploitation and like ills have sought, are seeking, to crush (Sekou refreshes this theme in his more recent “dark man” or “dm” poems).

This empowerment, however, is not limited to the “dark man” alone – that is how “I&I” read and deconstruct the texts. “I” the female looking at the male and “I” the white outsider looking at the Black insider. All is in the “I” of the beholder. Like Césaire who claimed before in his “Cahier d'un retour au pays natal” that:

“No race holds the monopoly of beauty, of intelligence, of strength

and there is a place for all at the rendezvous of victory



Lasana M. Sekou reciting from *The Salt Reaper* at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.

... .”

Sekou addresses alternative spaces of imagination that do not fit into strategies of inclusion and exclusion. In “Caribbean road work in St. Martin” the new Jerusalem, a nation in transition – consists of a “comingling path of tongues.” The roads that lead into the nation's future are many: “borning here/rearing here/illegal here/naturalizing here.”

The poet and “the cubs” are “kneading the word(s) to flesh” to feed this new nation, where the difference between South and North, the difference between high and low, the difference between “us” and “them” ought to have been annihilated.

It is not only to freedom fighters that Sekou has lent his “poet's tongue.” The chilling “Doped Up Roughings” deals with “those of us falling through the cracks” (drug addicts, the homeless, prostitutes, five-year-olds and grandmothers living in fear because of a family member on drugs).

And in “Double Dutch. Immigration at Schiphol” Sekou lashes out at the

neo-imperialism of the “red, white and blue slave kingdoms” and their global politics. Speaking with pride of the African heritage in the Caribbean, yet never obliterating the suffering inflicted on enslaved Africans and their descendants, Sekou queries his thoughts on reparations within the context of this latest “ship hole,” where he finds himself in the same boat, but at a different stop.

Lasana Sekou, archeologist of our Black and black-

est memory, teacher and prophet of “S'Maatin's” future has spoken. Now it's time to turn to the lover. The aficionado of the eternal female caught in a moment of prayer.

But here my words fail and I have to recommend the reader to the book *The Salt Reaper – Poems from the flats*. And I have to recommend the reader to attend one of Lasana's performances. For his voice only can at the same time caress and intoxicate, antagonize and liberate.

Editor's note: Dr. Maria van Enckevort is the Director of Research and Publication at University of St. Martin. The former Milton Peters College teacher obtained her doctorate in history at University of the West Indies-Mona.

The Salt Reaper – Poems from the flats

by Lasana M. Sekou
House of Nehesi Publishers,
2004, 130 pp, US\$15



Participants in the third Annual Interscholastic Secondary Schools Debating Competition were treated to dinner, compliments of the Island Government, at John Larmonie Centre Friday evening. The debate was won by International School for the second consecutive year. In picture: Participants and organisers pose for a photo shortly before enjoying a sumptuous meal.

Environmentalists oppose project at Seroe Colorado

ARUBA--The Environmental Action Foundation in Aruba is very much against the plans of government and Sasaki Associated Inc. to develop a new tourist area in Seroe Colorado.

They believe Aruba has enough hotels already. Besides, these new plans will hurt nature big time.

They are angry about the fact that government and the Sasaki project de-

veloper have stopped the discussions with the different community groups involved. Now that they are no longer participating in the discussions, they consider it their responsibility to convince the political establishment of the social and economic effects of the plans and the detrimental consequences for the environment.

They cannot understand why government wants

to insist on the plans in Seroe Colorado, without analysing the project more thoroughly. "It is all about politics. If we are not careful, later Aruba will be presented again with the bill for a project that failed, like the racetrack project."

The plan includes the building of three hotels with a total of 1,400 rooms, which the foundation considers a complete unnecessary expansion.

"Aruba does not need more hotels. Even the existing hotels in Oranjestad are not full. Besides, in order to cut costs, only cheap foreign workers are being recruited, which spoils the market for our own local workers.

"In addition, virgin beaches like Rodgers Beach and Boca Grandi will suffer under the new influx of tourists and part of them will disappear for the construction of golf courses."

The environmentalists hope that the other organisations that stepped into the fray over the racetrack project will join them in their fight against the plans for Seroe Colorado.



Curaçao's Small Business Association ADECK closed off its annual congress with an entrepreneur's market at Super Breezes Hotel. Various large businesses joined ADECK members in an exchange of ideas, products and services.



While the financial services sector of Curaçao has suffered several setbacks in recent years, it still generates 12 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings. In addition, the sector's operational income last year was 411 million guilders, while it produced 121.8 million in profit tax.

'Make unionism subject in school'

WILLEMSTAD--The labour union movement as a subject in schools was one of the proposals made during a summit meeting of local labour unions in Curaçao.

The unions are trying to breathe new life into the

trade union concept of co-operation and social collaboration, stated STraf president Wim van Lamoen. During last weekend's summit "Kumbre Sindikal," they discussed the future of the union movement.

All organisations are of

the opinion that the trade union's concept must be strengthened by educating trade union members, stimulating employees to sign up with a union and searching for extra funds for trade union activities. The package of measures also includes the introduction of the subject "trade unions" in schools.

Van Lamoen considers the trade union movement to be an important factor in the development of the community.

"At the moment I'm very worried about the quality of people we are producing as a community. I miss the cooperative element of the concept. If nothing is done soon, we as a community risk losing this quality.

"That is why the trade union movement should be introduced as a subject in schools. It should become one of the standard fields of study within education." The unions are planning to develop the class materials themselves.

Education commissioner Eduardo Cova (PLKP) said he had been caught slightly off guard by the proposal. He pointed out that the Central Government was the one authorised to establish new school subjects.

He also pointed out that creating a new subject was a long process. "You have to reschedule the class hours, shorten certain subjects to make room for a new subject, and you must establish who is qualified to teach this new subject. This takes time. But as soon as we receive the proposal, we will review it."



Angry seas in Bonaire

Storm caught Bonaire boat owners off guard

BONAIRE--A storm that approached Bonaire from the North brought heavy rains and large thunderclouds.

Very unexpectedly and for 30 minutes, the wind became strong and turned in a South-Southwesterly direction, causing a so-called wind reversal and rough waves at Malecon.

Because the weather got worse very unexpectedly, several boats and vessels moored at the big pier had to be moved to safety very fast. The storm took especially the owners of the smaller boats by surprise. They had very little time to move their boats and because of this,

a few small fishing boats crashed onto the coast.

The storm also severely damaged a few piers, including the one of Club Nautico. There were no personal injuries though.

On land, there were no incidents worthy of mention. The salt pans were flooded, some trees fell and telephone communication was out for a few hours.



The Amigoe team

Amigoe wins VIP's race

ARUBA--Amigoe editor Karin Swiers and Dutch competitive yachtsman Gunnar Larsen won yesterday's VIP race of Aruba's Heineken Regatta 2004, an annual event for sponsors and members of the media.

Circumstances for the competition were not so good: rain, very little wind that kept changing directions and threatening thunderclouds gathering above the sea. But the participants didn't let this affect the competition and their fun.

The fourteenth edition of the Heineken Regatta VIP race started around 4:30pm. In 10 catamarans, representatives of *Bon Dia*, *Amigoe*, Martijn Trading, Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and the Aruba Government were at the start. Each team had an experienced steersman on board.

Thanks to a sudden rising wind, the *Amigoe* catamaran went ahead and remained in this position. The last participating catamarans reached the beach at Holiday Inn around 5:15pm.

The distribution of prizes took place during a happy hour on the beach. Each VIP received a T-shirt. Number three Julie Renfro and steersman Simon Farren (*Bon Dia/Aruba Today*, ed.), number two Ricardo (ATA) and number one Larsen/Swiers (*Amigoe*) received medals and champagne.

Another *Amigoe* catamaran with editing coordinator Marjanne Havelaar came in seventh. The consolation prize went to Erick Brete (government).

Afterwards there was dinner and a party for all the participants on Pelican Pier.



Former sportsman Philip "Lipo" Elhage (second from left) was the recipient of the first "Ergilio Hato Prize" awarded by Orilio Foundation. He was chosen for his successes in baseball and weightlifting, as well as his valuable work as sports administrator. The current director of government's sports foundation Sedreko received his prize from the widow (second from right) of the late famed goalkeeper Ergilio "Black Panther" Hato in Teatro Luna Blou. Also in photo are Valdemar Marcha (left) of Orilio Foundation and Elhage's wife Jane (right).

Alliance Française brings French Music to St. Kitts

ST. KITTS--The Alliance Française will host Chris Combette, a popular name in French/Creole music circles, on November 20. He will perform in a one-night concert at St. Kitts Marriott Hotel, along with local musician Gairy Knight.

Combette's band will feature Arsene Pop (drums); Emile "The Master" Romaine (bass guitar); Georges Mac, a percussionist who has performed alongside people like Molovoi and Johnny Pacheco; and Eric Bon Leur, guitar, who has played with

people like Andy Narell and Earl Klugh.

In an interview with *The Daily Herald*, Director of Alliance Française in St. Kitts-Nevis Rita Schneider indicated that the event is an effort to enrich the local appreciation of other music forms, and that prior to this group coming to St. Kitts, they spent four days performing in Trinidad and Tobago. She indicated that many more groups will be coming through from the French Islands.

Commenting on why the group will not perform in Nevis, Schneider indicated that the cost of getting them to Nevis was too high, even though that was part of the initial plan. She said, though, that the more concerning issue was the lack of logistic support coming out of Nevis, prior to the event.

She said that in the future, once certain things can be done with adequate support from interested persons in Nevis, she will have no problem getting other groups to perform there. She cited the need for help in planning in the areas of accommodation, venue and sound. "Alliance Française will pay the fees charged by the artistes," she indicated.



The DC-9 of Venezuelan airline Aserca landed safely in Curaçao on Friday to initiate its flights from Caracas on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Several carriers are starting to fill the void left by the bankruptcy of Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA).

Anguilla records large increase in imports in October this year

ANGUILLA--Imports to Anguilla during October reached EC \$23.8 million, a 20.5 per cent increase over October 2003. The capital goods category, which was a single category of machinery and transport equipment, was 94.5 per cent of the total.

The value of imports within the capital goods category during October grew by EC \$4.1 million over the same period last year. The major contributors to the large

increase were heavy equipment, outboard motors, vehicles, water purifying machinery and electrical equipment.

Primary goods also increased in value for this period, though only by a small amount. Chemicals and related products were the only components within this group that recorded an increase.

Imports of consumption goods declined by 2 per cent during October compared to

last year. The manufactured goods recorded increases and this was due to imports of tyres, plywood, building cement, wall and floor tiles, aluminium sheets, furniture and ceramic products. Both food and beverage components within this group showed declines.

The total value in duty collected for goods imported during October was EC \$3.5 million.



Clement 'Juni' Liburd (left) stands next to his mother as she receives her award.

Anne Liburd identified as 'Woman of Great Esteem'

ST. KITTS--Anne Liburd has been identified as a 'Woman of Great Esteem' and awarded for her contribution to the development of the women in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Liburd is a well-known businesswoman and mother of several accomplished professionals in St. Kitts, including Director of Broadcasting Clement Juni Liburd. She was nominated by the Federation's Ambassador to the United Nations Dr. Joseph Christmas.

Bishop Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales, who was in the Federation for the Carib News Conference this past weekend, presented the award to Liburd on behalf the Women of Great Esteem, an organization affiliated with the United Nations.

The Bishop said Liburd stands predominantly among women of the world, as she is one of 100 women from 39 countries around the world chosen to receive this award. She said Liburd was a pioneer upon whose shoulders younger women would be able to stand and she encouraged her to continue to fight the struggle, so that future generations of women could have the life they deserve.

Liburd, a highly amusing lady throughout her lifetime, was thankful for the gesture and took the opportunity in her usual jocular manner to poke fun at her inability to attend the award ceremony that took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2001.

She said that due to terrorist attacks on the United Nations, which took place shortly before her nomina-

tion for the award. Because of her age, she decided not to undergo the stringent security measures put in place to keep terror groups such as the Taliban out of that country. She asked that her congratulations be conveyed to the other women chosen for the award.

The awardee revealed to SKNIS that she had represented the Federation during the 'Decade for Women,' declared by the U.N., from 1980, when she went to Mexico for the initial

conference. She travelled to Denmark in 1985 for the mid-decade conference and to Africa for the final conference in 1990.

According to Liburd, during that period she used the opportunity to voice her opinions at the highest international level in relation to the advancement of women.

She explained that prior to, during and after that conference she was proactive in addressing women's issues.

Club continues its beautification project in Blowing Point village

ANGUILLA--The Anguilla Beautification Club (ABC) planted 10 coconut trees, 10 flamboyant trees and dozens of oleander shrubs along the roadsides of Blowing Point village. The planting took place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

President of the ABC

Josephine Gumbs says the Club is grateful to Teme-nos, Malliouhana and the Blowing Point Community for all the assistance given to the project. It is being funded by the Anguilla Community Foundation with a grant that was made possible through a donation from a donor who spe-

cifically requested to assist the ABC.

The beautification of Blowing Point has also included work at the ferry terminal, which is almost completed. The Club is also hoping to make some improvements to the car parking areas.



Members of the Anguilla Beautification Club busy planting along the roadside at Blowing Point.

Shoplifters' photographs to be displayed in Barbados stores

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados--Shoplifters, take note. Photographs and information about you will soon be posted in business places across Barbados.

Police public relations officer Station Sergeant Barry Hunte said Saturday the move was part of the force's plans to arrest shoplifting during Christmastide.

He added that the police would be meeting with business and supermarket owners soon, and in the meantime he appealed to security officers to contact the Criminal Investigations Department with informa-

tion on shoplifters.

He said apart from keeping shopping safe, the information would also serve as a reminder to business owners and alert the public about the identity of these criminals.

Hunte said shoplifting presented a big headache for business owners.

"If you ask store owners in Bridgetown you would see that it is a major problem, especially if you look at the amount of property recovered when we arrest these people.

"You know who these characters are. The records

of the court are there for perusal about persons convicted of shoplifting offences who continue to go back out there and subject commercial and business interests to thousands of dollars in loss of property." Hunte continued: "I will not call their names, but their names are well known and they have associates.

"We have a plan in place where when they walk in a store they will believe they are standing before a mirror at home because they will instantly recognise themselves. Newspapers have shown their pictures

in the past, so basically what we will be doing is a reminder."

Hunte said that police officers, island constables, special constables, members of the Special Services Unit, formerly known as the Task Force, as well as recent graduates from the Regional Police Training Centre would hit the streets soon to provide added security.

He also said that joint patrols with the Barbados Defence Force would continue, particularly in the tourism belt. (*Daily Nation*)

Patrick Denny, dead at 64

GEORGETOWN, Guyana--Veteran Guyanese journalist Patrick Denny died early Friday morning, leaving a legacy of unfailing dedication to his country and his family.

His death has shocked the local press corps in which he had been a leading figure since joining Stabroek News in 1993.

He was the newspaper's managing editor at the time of his death at age 64. He died at 3:00am Friday morning in the Intensive Care Unit of the Prashad Hospital, where he had been recovering after undergoing surgery on Wednesday morning.

Denny described by some as "a dedicated workaholic"



Patrick Denny

was awarded the Medal of Service in 2000 for his dedication to journalism. (*Stabroek News*)

Former Antigua Govt minister wins libel suit against newspaper

ST JOHN'S, Antigua--A judge in Antigua and Barbuda has ruled that a former government minister was libelled by The Observer newspaper.

High Court Justice Errol Thomas awarded EC \$25,000 (US\$9,200) in damages Friday to former finance minister Molwyn Joseph. The Observer newspaper said it would appeal against the ruling.

The case stemmed from an article published on November 3, 2000, by the Observer that mentioned the transit through customs of a Rolls Royce owned by a friend of Joseph's upon its arrival in port in 1996.

The newspaper article said Joseph had "caused to be stolen from the Customs at the Deep Water Harbour a Rolls Royce," for which no customs duties were paid.

Joseph sued in 2002, denying he did anything wrong. He called Friday's ruling "an important day for justice."

Observer editor Winston Derrick said he would appeal the ruling and said the judge "did not understand the case" and made errors in the proceedings.

Derrick said the article's contents offered fair commentary on the actions of a public figure.

The incident mentioned in the news article happened in 1996 while Joseph was finance minister. A few days after officials cleared the antique Rolls Royce through customs, it turned up parked at Joseph's home.

Then Prime Minister Lester Bird ordered an investigation. A report concluded that Joseph had not intervened illegally, but the value of the car had not been assessed.

Belizean nurse gets nod as Unsung Hero for 2004

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados--Nurse Margaret Juan, a nurse living and working in Belize, has been named FirstCaribbean International Bank's regional Unsung Hero for 2004.

One of seventeen Caribbean nominees, Nurse Juan was selected by a distinguished panel of judges, chaired by former Commonwealth Secretary General, Sir Shridath Ramphal, at a recent meeting in Barbados.

The panel also selected two runners-up – 81-year-old Lucy Miguel, who cares for neglected children in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and William Shagoury, social activist from Jamaica.

Nurse Margaret Juan single-handedly started and continues to operate The Good Shepherd Clinic in Succotz, a rural village in Belize. There she attends to between 60 and 80 patients with a variety of ailments each week. She provides

medical care to persons who would not normally be able to afford it, with no financing from the government. She carries out her work with donations, which she solicits on behalf of her clinic, a section of which is set aside as a shelter for battered women.

Lucy Miguel has cared for many neglected children in St. Vincent & the Grenadines for the past 20 years. These include the children of terminally ill women, and children whose mothers have gone overseas to work. Miss Lucy has also taken in many children who have come from the Grenadine islands to the mainland to go to school, and had nowhere to stay. She did this while working as a shop assistant and caring for her own children. Many of Miss Lucy's charges have gone on to hold prominent places in Vincentian society.

William Shagoury has

Latortue orders arrest warrant against Aristide for corruption

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti--Haitian Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said on Friday he ordered his justice minister to obtain an arrest warrant on corruption charges against ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Latortue, installed as the head of an interim government after the bloody rebellion that forced Aristide into exile in February, made the announcement as he formed a committee to investigate possible misappropriation of public funds and other acts of corruption by the Aristide government.

"I gave (Justice Minister Bernard Gousse) the order and I expect the warrant to be issued," Latortue told reporters.

Latortue and other Haitian officials have publicly accused Aristide of corruption, but no charges have been filed and no evidence made public against the former Roman Catholic priest, who remains hugely popular among many of Haiti's poorest citizens.

Under Haitian law, only

judges have the power to issue arrest warrants.

Latortue said if the warrant was not issued by Monday, he would write to Gousse to renew the order and set a deadline. He said he had issued the same order two months ago.

"This is something we should have done a long time ago and the time has come," said Latortue, calling on the international community, particularly Washington and Paris, to cooperate with Haiti's interim authorities in the fight against corruption.

Latortue appointed a five-member investigative committee led by Paul Denis, one of Aristide's fiercest opponents, to investigate the Aristide government from the beginning of his term in February 2001 to his departure on Feb. 29.

Denis, a leader of the Democratic Convergence coalition of political parties that opposed Aristide, vowed to carry out the investigation with "order, method and impartiality." (Reuters)

contributed to 15 self-help and non-governmental organisations in the community of May Pen in Jamaica. His work in the community cuts across a wide range of ages, and ranges from raising funds to building facilities for the training of young people, to purchasing bicycles for policemen, to building bus shelters. He has continued to his commitment to his community by donating asphalt to pave a section of the road in the area where he lives, and is a frequent contributor to a project called "Food for the Poor", by donating materials to the programme.

This year's Unsung Heroes programme comes in the wake of last year's successful launch, which was piloted in the Bahamas, Barbados, St. Lucia and Belize. The programme was conceptualised to acknowledge and honour "ordinary" people who continue to work selflessly and silently, to build their respective communities.

The programme seeks to best exemplify Caribbean Pride in our communities. These seventeen nominees have already been proven winners at the national level, and have been duly recognised in informal ceremonies by their host territories after successfully securing final nomination.

The winners will be honoured at a ceremony to be held in Barbados within the coming weeks.

British paper tells of secret stem cell lab in Barbados

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados--A regenerative stem cell research institute appears to be up and running in Barbados, according to the Financial Times of London.

The institute, stated the newspaper, is being financed by a group of American and Ukrainian investors and scientists who are teaming up to conduct research and pro-

vide therapy to patients using foetal stem cells at a cost of (US)\$25,000 per person.

But while Barnett Suskind, Chief Executive of the Barbados Institute, told the major business paper that they had started providing therapy to patients six weeks ago "with the government's approval," Dr. Elizabeth Ferdinand, acting Barbados'

Chief Medical Officer was quoted as saying: "I have not been aware of the issue and have no comment to make at this stage."

So far, three patients have been treated and the Institute plans to focus on people suffering from auto-immune diseases, diabetes and neurological disorders.

Suskind expressed the hope that the Institute could establish a working arrangement with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital so that formal clinical trials of stem cell therapy for congestive heart therapy could be carried out in association with the QEH.

Stem cell research is one of the hotly debated scientific issues in the United States, Britain and other parts of the world. Stem cells, taken from body have the ability to divide repeatedly and researchers and others have succeeded in isolating and growing human stem cells in a laboratory.

Scientists contend stem cells can be used to replace damaged tissues and can treat such diseases as Parkinson's and diabetes.

Plans call for the Barbados Institute to import stem cell preparations from the Ukraine where they come from aborted fetuses of six to 12 week gestation, stated the paper.

The treatment and the research was developed at a scientific institute in the Ukraine headed by Valentin Grischenko, who said in London that almost 20 years of clinical experience had shown that stem cell therapy was both safe and effective.

(Tony Best, Daily Nation)

Dominica pleased with outcome of IMF mission

ROSEAU, Dominica--Dominica's economy is expected to realise economic growth of at least two per cent in 2004, according to one of the findings of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission to the island.

This IMF team visited October 18-29 to review economic performance to the end of the first quarter of the 2004/2005 fiscal year and to agree revised performance targets and benchmarks of its ongoing three-year programme here.

According to a Government Information Service (GIS) press release, the Mission confirmed that the Economic Stabilisation Programme remains on track.

GIS said the Mission also disclosed that fiscal performance has been satisfactory; that taxes on income and profits were in excess of expectations, especially with respect to taxes on domestic goods and services; sales tax collections were significantly in excess of expectations, thus reflecting increased levels of economic activity;

and; taxes on international trade and transactions were also significantly in excess of projections.

The Mission found that Government has continued to maintain discipline on expenditure but it cautioned about grants and transfers to local institutions and contributions to regional institutions.

It also noted that care needs to be exercised regarding the completeness of reporting capital expenditure.

The next IMF Mission to Dominica is tentatively scheduled for mid-February 2005 at which time the economy's performance to the end of December 2004 will come under scrutiny.

GIS said the Government is pleased with the outcome of the latest IMF/World Bank Missions for, "The economic indicators reveal that the economy is on an upward growth trajectory, demonstrating that the negative growth rates of 2001-2002 are a phenomenon of the past."

Horne hits at 'very brown uptown face' of the JLP

KINGSTON, Jamaica--In what sounded like a parting shot as he weighed his options about resigning from the crisis-ridden Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), Senator Norman Horne has expressed concern about the "very brown uptown face" of the party and declared that it no longer represents the majority of Jamaicans.

Horne did not mince words, in an interview Friday with the *Sunday Observer*, about his disillusionment with the constant infighting that has led to his receiving a reported punch to the face, in the fractious JLP leadership race to succeed party leader Edward Seaga.

"The Labour Party I joined in 2002 is a different party today. I mean, it's the same name, but the kind of commitment I had in 2002 going in, and the vision for what we wanted to accomplish as a political party is different now," he said.

"Now I have to decide whether or not I want to be a part of this transformed new Jamaica Labour Party. I mean, when I joined in 2002, you had a Bartlett, a Shaw, Babsy (Grange) and Derrick Smith, all of whom were united with Mr Seaga about the vision we had for Jamaica. Now we're seeing a different kind of party where the leadership doesn't really represent the majority of Jamaica.

"This new Labour party has taken on a very brown face, a very uptown face, and I'm not sure that this is what the Jamaican people need," said Horne.

He indicated his sorrow



Senator Norman Horne

over the ouster of Edmund Bartlett and Olivia 'Babsy' Grange as deputy leaders, and his clear disappointment with Audley Shaw's about-turn in joining the Bruce-Golding-for-leader camp.

"I'm not sure where Audley Shaw stands since one moment he's here and the next moment he's there. But I don't even think I know where anybody in the Labour party stands anymore, because I'm not even sure if we still have the vision we had in 2002."

Horne's strong words came at the height of the battering he has taken over the last few weeks as the JLP leadership race has lurched from one crisis to the next. Believed to be the Parnell Charles campaign's biggest financial backer, Senator Norman Horne is now mulling over his next step.

Last week, in the middle of the legal tug-of-war over the JLP delegates' lists, he announced his intention to resign his JLP posts after the leadership elections.

At first, he pointed to his business concerns as the primary reason for his early

retirement. But on Friday, in the interview with the *Sunday Observer*, he made it clear that one of the main reasons for his decision to go was the constant bickering, as well as the quality of leadership within the Opposition party.

"It's really at the forefront of my agenda right now. I'm rationalising whether to stay in politics, or if I should return to business on a full-time basis," he said, expressing disgust at individuals whom he said were bent on pursuing self-interest rather than the best interest of the party. (*Jamaica Sunday Observer*)

OECS gets \$13 Million assistance from Canada

ROADTOWN, Tortola--The nine-member grouping of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is to be the beneficiary of Canadian \$13.1million to assist the organization's St. Lucia-based secretariat improve itself and strengthen the sub-region.

Paul Thibault, President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the BVI made the announcement during his visit to Tortola in the British Virgin Islands for the 40th Authority Meeting of the OECS at which he and leaders of government, signed the five-year OECS-CIDA Contribution Agreement.

"This new agreement demonstrates Canada's commitment to the development

EU seeks end to current diplomatic freeze in Cuba

HAVANA, Cuba--The European Union is considering a shift in policy toward Cuba that would get it back on speaking terms with President Fidel Castro's government, diplomats said.

EU policy-makers will meet on Tuesday in Brussels to discuss whether to stop inviting dissidents to National Day receptions in Havana, a practice that so incensed the Cuban government it shut its doors to European diplomats.

Spain and Britain believe the diplomatic freeze, in which ambassadors are

shunned and telephone calls are not returned, has led to a dead-end that runs counter to EU interests in Cuba.

"I think the policy will change by the end of the year," one European diplomat said. "There is a mood for change, provided we can get it right."

"We are in limbo. The freeze makes it hard for us to do what we should be doing here, which is prepare for a post-Castro transition," he said.

The issue has divided the 25-country EU.

Germany and the Netherlands, as well as several new members from Central Europe that lived under Soviet communism, oppose changes in policy without an improvement in Cuba's rights record.

The attempt to restore political dialogue with Havana was begun by Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero of Spain, the EU country with most trade, cultural and historical ties to Cuba, its former colony.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, meeting last Monday with Zapatero in Spain,

doubted restoring dialogue with Havana would help advance democracy in Cuba. Schroeder said "underlying conditions in Cuba still need to be developed."

Spain wants to lift measures adopted by Brussels last year in response to the imprisonment of 75 dissidents and the summary execution of three Cubans who hijacked a ferry to try to escape to the United States. Only seven of the imprisoned dissidents have been freed.

The EU steps included inviting dissidents to National Day parties and ending high-level political visits to Cuba.

Spanish officials said those measures had served their purpose of raising the profile of Cuban dissidents and gaining them international recognition, but had led to a dead end that limited European influence in Cuba.

The diplomatic freeze hinders contact with middle-level Cuban officials, as well as intellectuals and artists who have been told not to attend European diplomatic events. (Reuters)

The delegation is now in Grenada to get a first hand view of the impact of Hurricane Ivan on the social, economic and physical infrastructure of the island and to discuss CIDA's plans for continued assistance. (Caribbean Net News)

Bush may have to act to save intelligence reform

WASHINGTON--U.S. President George W. Bush, who opposed creation of the Sept. 11 commission, may have to confront his own party in Congress if he wants the panel's main intelligence reform recommendation enacted this year, analysts and officials say.

But as congressional negotiators worked into the weekend to break a deadlock over rival reform bills from the Senate and House of Representatives, analysts said Bush was unlikely to pressure Republican leaders

for a deal during the lame-duck session of Congress that starts this week.

"The question we really have now is, 'How serious is the president?'" said Norman Ornstein, political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute.

"If he told the Republicans he wanted it done, or if he gave a talk or a press briefing and said ... 'I don't like this gridlock,' it would happen," he said. "But I think there's no strong eagerness on the part of the White House to do that."

America, allies drawing up plans to aid Palestinians

WASHINGTON--The Bush administration is preparing with European allies to help the Palestinian Authority organize January elections and improve its security forces to crack down on terrorism, U.S. officials and diplomats said on Sunday.

The immediate priority, they said, is getting funding, monitors and technical assistance to the Palestinians for the Jan. 9 presidential elections to choose a successor to Yasser Arafat, who died last week.

U.S. President George W. Bush is reconsidering redirecting millions of dollars in U.S. funding to nongovernmental organizations to help prepare for the elections and provide other support. As much as \$75 million already is in the pipeline for Palestinian programs, and a portion of that could be used for the elections, congressional aides said.

Bush could also waive existing congressional restrictions and provide U.S. aid directly to the Palestinians.

The United States also is pressing Israel for steps that would make the elections easier to hold, such as pulling Israeli security forces back from certain Palestinian population centers, officials said. "He (Bush) needs to get the army of Israel out and send civilian observers in order to see true, genuine, fair elections taking place," Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat told CNN.

He urged the United States and the Europeans to send nongovernmental organizations and teams of election observers "immediately to the West Bank and Gaza in order to help us."

The presence of Israeli forces, and whether Israel will allow Palestinian voting in East Jerusalem, could dominate talks in Washington on Monday between Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Besides election preparations, plans being drawn up by the Bush administration and its European allies are expected to include a new assessment of how to help Palestinians' reconstruction and development. The cash-strapped Palestinian Authority could receive money from a World Bank trust fund--and from some countries directly--as reforms are implemented, according to officials and documents.

Officials said the effort would be spearheaded through the Middle East mediation "Quartet," which is made up of the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia. The group, which produced a faltering peace "road map," could meet as early as Nov. 22-23, officials said.

Washington and its partners in Middle East peace efforts are considering asking the U.N. Security Council to back Israel's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair said last week the plan will help jump-start negotiations on the so-called "road map" for peace.

Blair said on Sunday it would be "premature at the moment" for Bush to appoint a special envoy to the Middle East, though he held out hope of convening an international conference.

At stake is the key recommendation of the 10-member commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks--creation of a national intelligence director with authority over America's \$40 billion intelligence budget. In its best-selling report, the commission said a national director with full budget authority was needed to effectively oversee an intelligence community marred by huge failures over the Sept. 11 attacks, and later, Iraq.

But a Senate reform measure that would create such a position is opposed by House Republicans who want power kept in the hands of the Pentagon, which controls 80 percent of the intelligence budget.

Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican involved in the talks, said a deal could be reached when Congress returns this week. "Much of that will hinge on the suc-

cess of negotiations through the weekend," she said in a statement.

But others, noting the failure of an earlier attempt to reach a compromise by the Nov. 2 election, expect little headway without White House intervention. If the effort fails again, they say, there may not be enough momentum for reform when a new Congress begins in January.

"The ball's in Bush's court," said a Democratic congressional aide. "People are losing faith that this is going to go forward."

Rep. Jane Harman of California, top House Intelligence Committee Democrat, said Bush must get Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who would lose clout under the bill, "to stand down on this issue so that the will of Congress and the 9-11 Commission can be implemented."

"The holdouts are a few members of the majority in the House--Republican members who are guided by Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, who continues to oppose reform," Harman said on CBS' "Face the Nation".

Bush, who won reelection by campaigning on his leadership in the war on terror, made intelligence reform a post-election priority by urging congressional action after his victory over Democrat John Kerry. "The president is very much committed to getting intelligence reform done this year," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said last week.

But an administration official who asked not to be identified gave no indication that Bush was ready to pressure his own party's leadership in the House. "It's been our staff talking to their staff," said John Feehery, spokesman for House

Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois, who is spearheading opposition to the Senate bill.

Analysts say Bush may be concerned that creating a national intelligence director with new sweeping powers could throw spy operations into turmoil at a time of war. "In some ways it's also like admitting a mistake, which the president does not like to do," Ornstein said.

Pro-choice senator must back Bush, Frist warns

WASHINGTON--A Republican senator who has questioned whether an abortion opponent could win approval to the U.S. Supreme Court must agree to back President George W. Bush's nominees if he is to head the committee acting on those nominations, the Senate's Republican leader said.

Republican Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, in line to become chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has yet to make a persuasive case that he should head the panel, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said on "Fox News Sunday". The committee's actions in considering nominees for anticipated vacancies during Bush's second term will help shape the court's balance of power.

"I would expect Chairman Specter, if it's Chairman Specter, to have a strong predisposition to supporting that nominee sent over by President Bush," Frist said.

Specter, who supports abortion rights, sparked a conservative furor by saying after the Nov. 2 election that Bush still lacked enough Senate votes to overcome Democratic attempts to block on any nominees who would overturn the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. Bush is expected to have a chance to fill multiple Supreme Court vacancies during his second term, and for many in Bush's conservative base, obtaining a court that would overturn Roe v. Wade is a top priority.

Many conservatives, who accused Specter of having a pro-choice "litmus test" for judicial nominees, have urged Senate Republicans to disregard his seniority and reject him as Judiciary Committee chairman.



File photo of U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney waving after his debate with John Edwards in Cleveland, Ohio on October 5, 2004.

Cheney visits hospital for tests, heart is fine

WASHINGTON--U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, who has a history of heart attacks, went to a Washington hospital on Saturday after experiencing shortness of breath but later left for home and said he was fine.

Cheney, 63, has had a cold and aides said his cardiologist, Dr. Jonathan Reiner, advised him to visit George Washington University Hospital out of an abundance of caution.

Reiner later issued a statement ruling out "any cardiac cause" of Cheney's symptoms and also ruled out pneumonia and lung problems. "The vice president likely has a viral, up-

per respiratory infection," Reiner said in a statement.

Walking toward his motorcade as he departed the hospital, Cheney told reporters, "I feel fine."

With Cheney was his wife, Lynne, who said, "Sorry we ruined your Saturday. We're great. Thank you."

Cheney has had four heart attacks, the first in 1978 when he was 37 but none while he has been vice president. The most recent was a mild one shortly after the contested presidential race in November 2000.

The vice president had a stent--a permanent wire mesh tube--implanted to open an artery after his last heart attack. A defibrilla-

tor, to help regulate his heartbeat, was implanted in 2001.

Cheney spokeswoman Mary Matalin said the vice president had developed a cold after a post-election hunting trip from which he returned on Thursday night. He was well enough to go to work on Friday and participate in a full day of meetings during a visit to the White House by British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

But he had a "very fleeting" episode of shortness of breath which Reiner wanted him to check out to be on the safe side, Matalin said. "He's Mr. Caution," Matalin said of the cardiologist.

Iran agrees to temporary nuclear enrichment freeze

TEHRAN/VIENNA--Iran pledged on Sunday to suspend its uranium enrichment programme to ease concerns that its nuclear programme is aimed at developing weapons, but warned that the freeze was only temporary.

Hassan Rohani, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, said the suspension would remain in place as long as talks with the EU continued on a final resolution of the issue.

"One hour ago we submitted a letter to the IAEA," Rohani told reporters after a meeting in Tehran with the ambassadors of Britain, Germany and France, which have been negotiating with Iran for several weeks on behalf of the European Union. Receipt of the letter by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, makes the scope and starting date of the suspension legally binding.

Iran's U.N. ambassador, Pirooz Hosseini, declined to say when the freeze would take effect. "Tomorrow we will learn everything," he told Reuters.

A senior EU diplomat close to the talks said Iran had agreed to all points covered in a preliminary agreement hammered out in Paris a

week ago. "We have reached a full agreement regarding all the issues mentioned in the package," he said.

Iran, which denies U.S. accusations that it is secretly developing atomic weapons, had held up a final deal by demanding that it be permitted to continue the early stages of uranium conversion. The EU rejected this idea.

"The suspension is what the Europeans wanted, a full one," a diplomat close to the IAEA said.

A diplomat close to the IAEA said the arrival of the letter on Sunday meant it would be included in a crucial report, due to be released on Monday, summarising the IAEA's two-year investigation of Tehran's nuclear programme. Once confirmed by IAEA inspectors on the ground, the freeze is likely to protect Iran from being reported to the U.N. Security Council for possible economic sanctions when the IAEA board of governors meets on Nov. 25.

The "EU Three" have said that, once the suspension begins, they will discuss a package of incentives with Iran--ranging from cooperation on peaceful nuclear technology

to a possible trade deal--in return for Iran permanently giving up any activities that could be used to make bomb-grade material.

Rohani's deputy Hossein Mousavian told reporters those talks would start on Dec. 15. However, questions remain, as Iran has continued to insist that it will never give up its "sovereign right" to enrich uranium, even while negotiating with the EU.

"We have accepted the suspension as a voluntary step and it does not create any obligations for us," Rohani's deputy, Hossein Mousavian, told Iranian state television.



Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rohani speaks with journalists after an official meeting with European Ambassadors at Saadabad palace in northern Tehran on Sunday.

US researcher finds Atlantis off Cyprus

LIMASSOL, Cyprus--A U.S. researcher on Sunday claimed he had found the lost civilisation of Atlantis in the watery deep off Cyprus--adding his theory to a mystery which has baffled explorers for centuries.

Robert Sarmast says a Mediterranean basin was flooded in a deluge around 9,000 BC which submerged a rectangular land mass he believes was Atlantis, lying 1.5 km beneath sea level between Cyprus and Syria.

"We have definitely found it," said Sarmast, who led a team of explorers 80 kilometres (50 miles) off the south-east coast of Cyprus earlier this month.

Deep water sonar scanning had indicated man-made structures on a submerged hill, including a 3-kilometre-long wall, a walled hill summit and deep trenches, he said. But further explorations were needed, he added.

"We cannot yet provide tangible proof in the form of bricks and mortar as the artefacts are still buried under several metres of sediment, but the circumstantial and

other evidence is irrefutable," he claimed.

At a news conference in the port city of Limassol, Sarmast provided only animated simulations of the "hill".

Whether and where Atlantis existed has captured imaginations for centuries. According to ancient Greek philosopher Plato, Atlantis was an island nation where an advanced civilisation developed some 11,500 years ago. Theories abound as to why it disappeared, from Atlantis being hit by a cataclysmic natural disaster to Greek mythology which describes the civilisation as being so corrupted by greed and power that it was destroyed by God.

Sceptics believe Atlantis was a figment of Plato's imagination.

Sarmast says he was led to Cyprus by clues in Plato's dialogues. Plato's reference to Atlantis lying opposite the Pillars of Hercules--believed to be the Straits of Gibraltar--have often led explorers to focus on either the Atlantic Ocean, Ireland or the Azores off Portugal.



U.S. Marines with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, patrol through rubble in Falluja.

US troops hunt Falluja rebels, keep aid out

FALLUJA, Iraq--U.S. and Iraqi forces hunted rebels in the devastated Iraqi city of Falluja on Sunday as fighting subsided after a ferocious six-day-old assault.

Kidnappers who had threatened to kill Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's cousin, the cousin's wife and their daughter-in-law if he did not call off the Falluja offensive said they would release the two women, Al Jazeera television reported.

No help has reached civilians in Falluja since the assault began on Monday and U.S. forces kept a Red Crescent aid convoy of seven trucks and ambulances waiting at the main hospital near a bridge over the Euphrates River on the edge of the city.

A Reuters correspondent who drove through the city saw utter destruction. Bodies lay in the streets. Homes were smashed, mosques ruined, and power and tele-

phone lines hung uselessly.

U.S. Marines swept through a last rebel redoubt in a southern quarter of the city that they see as a bastion for foreign fighters loyal to al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. "These are pretty diehard. These people down there are not sniping or firing, but waiting in their defences for the Marines coming to their buildings. That's when they open fire," Marine Colonel Mike Shupp told Reuters at the hospital.

Shupp said he had not heard of any Iraqi civilians being trapped inside the city and did not think there were any, so the Red Crescent did not need to deliver aid to civilians there. "There is no need to bring supplies in because we have supplies of our own for the people. Now that the bridge is open, I will bring out casualties and all aid work can be done here."

"We will wait for permis-

sion and we will stay here tonight," Red Crescent convoy leader Jamal al-Karbouli told Reuters.

Allawi, who has vowed to crush a raging insurgency before elections in January, said Falluja had been cleared of rebels. "Falluja is no longer a safe haven for terrorists," he told Al Iraqiya TV. "No doubt there will also be clean-up operations for some nests. I don't know how long this will take."

He said on Saturday there had been no civilian casualties--contradicting accounts from residents inside the city, where intense violence has halted medical services and made any independent assessment impossible.

"Our situation is very hard," said one resident contacted by telephone in the central Hay al-Dubat neighbourhood. "We don't have food or water. My seven children all have severe diarrhoea. One of my sons was wounded by shrapnel last night and he's bleeding, but I can't do anything to help him."

Falluja a sea of rubble and death after offensive

FALLUJA, Iraq--After six days of intense combat against Falluja insurgents, U.S. warplanes, tanks and mortars have left behind a shattered landscape of gutted buildings, crushed cars and charred bodies.

A drive through the city reveals a picture of utter destruction, with concrete houses flattened, mosques in ruins, telegraph poles blown over, power and phone lines hanging slack and rubble and human remains littering the empty streets.

U.S. officers say they have taken control of all Falluja in the offensive that killed more than 1,000 Sunni Muslim militants, foreign fighters and other insurgents. But their gains have turned large areas of the city to brick and dust.

"The only good muj is a dead muj," said U.S. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Garza, using the slang term for mujahideen (holy warriors) as his Humvee drove past a bloated, burned body.

The northwest Jolan district, once an insurgent stronghold, looked like a ghost town after the assault. As Marines pointed their M-16 rifles down abandoned streets, they found reminders of the days when parents took their children to Falluja's simple amusement park, now deserted.

There was no sign of the guerrillas who had scribbled graffiti along the walls of the park, encouraging Falluja's 300,000 residents to join a holy war against U.S.-led troops. "Long live the mujahideen," read the graffiti.

Nothing could be further from the truth as a small convoy of U.S. Humvees moved through the centre of the city, pounded by air strikes, artillery and heavy machineguns. Four bloated and burned bodies lay on the main street, not far from U.S. army tanks and soldiers.

The stench of the remains hung heavy in the air, mixing with the dust.

Another body lay stretched out on the next block, its head blown off, perhaps in one of the countless explosions which rent the city day and night for nearly a week. Some bodies were so mutilated it was impossible to tell if they were civilians or militants.

Falluja, regarded as a place with an independent streak where citizens even defied

streets.

The only sign of life was two Iraqis standing in one street desperately trying to salvage some of their smashed belongings.

As U.S. soldiers walked through neighbourhoods their allies in the Iraqi forces casually moved along dusty streets past wires hanging down from gutted buildings. They carried boxes of bottled water up to the rooftops of upscale villas they now occupy. The Iraqi soldiers sat



An Iraqi nurse treats 2 year-old child Mustafa Adnan, at a Baghdad hospital, who lost a leg when his house in Falluja's Jolan district was shelled during fightings between U.S. forces and insurgents in the war-torn city on Sunday.

former leader Saddam Hussein at times, seemed lifeless. The minarets of the city's dozens of mosques stood silent, no longer broadcasting the call to holy war that so often echoed across the rooftops, inspiring fighters to join the insurgency. The only sound was the rumbling of tank tracks.

Restaurant signs were covered in soot. Sidewalks were crushed by 70-tonne Abrams tanks and rows of crumbling buildings stand on both sides of deserted streets.

Upscale homes with garages looked like they had been abandoned for years. Cars lay crushed in the middle of

up on the roofs staring down at the obliteration.

U.S. officers say they now only face a few pockets of resistance in the city, whose population fell by at least half in the days and weeks preceding the offensive.

As a small convoy of Humvees moved back to position on the edge of the Jolan district, a rocket landed in the sand about 100 feet away--a reminder that militants are still out there somewhere, even if the city that harboured them has fallen. "God that landed right there. I heard it go right over our heads," said Corporal Samuel Shoemaker.

Many Syrians feel it's time to quit Lebanon

DAMASCUS--Twenty years ago Ahmed Shukmarra went to Lebanon as one of tens of thousands of Syrian soldiers, believing his presence would help halt a civil war in Syria's small neighbour.

Today he sees no reason why roughly 14,000 soldiers, part of a force first deployed in 1976, should stay in Lebanon, particularly given increasing pressure from Washington and the United Nations for them to withdraw. "We went there to stop Lebanese

from fighting but why we are still there this I can't understand," said 43-year-old Shukmarra, who left the army and now owns a clothes shop.

The United States has imposed sanctions on Syria, accusing Damascus of supporting "terrorist" organisations, insisting it should stop controlling Lebanon and saying that it must renounce weapons of mass destruction.

Many Syrians feel that interference in Lebanon could work against Syria

and that it is time to leave Beirut alone. "I have Lebanese relatives, I like Lebanon but not as much as I love Syria," said 23-year-old student Khadijah Neaman.

"If staying in Lebanon will harm us then we should leave. It's a logical thing to do. Whether Syrian troops are there or not we will always be relatives and we will always have a special relationship," she said.

In September, the United States and France drafted U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559

condemning foreign interference in Lebanon and calling for foreign forces to withdraw, a call the council repeated last month. Syria was not mentioned by name in the resolution, but its role as the main power broker in Lebanon has been openly criticised by Security Council members.

"I think that until Syria makes up her mind to let Lebanon be Lebanon, then the international community will continue to focus on it," U.S. Deputy Secretary of

State Richard Armitage said last month.

Resolution 1559

Inside Lebanon itself, many are fiercely critical of the influence Damascus wields over Beirut.

Parliament recently changed the constitution to allow pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud to extend his term--a move which resolution 1559 tried to pre-empt--and a newly installed government is seen as having been chosen for its loyalty to Damascus. Since resolution 1559, many Lebanese groups have spoken openly about the need for Damascus to withdraw.

Others, including the Shi'ite Muslim guerrilla group Hizbollah which is backed by Damascus, have argued that a Syrian presence in Lebanon is necessary to preserve national unity and to help resistance against Israel, which until 2000 occupied southern Lebanon.

Some Syrians said the Lebanese did not appreciate the benefits of their involvement, and cited that as another reason why Syria should pull out.

"We have always helped them, but why would we get ourselves into trouble for people who don't like us and don't want us to be there?" said Najdat, a taxi driver. "When someone does not welcome you then why would you keep offering help?"

Syria redeployed some 3,000 troops in September from the outskirts of Beirut toward the border, a move analysts said was aimed at easing

international pressure. But both Beirut and Damascus have repeatedly said they will not accept outside interference in Lebanese affairs and that only they will decide when Syria should withdraw.

Not Worth Our Blood

"What is between the two countries is governed by history, geography, borders, people, trade and everything," said Syrian political science professor Imad al-Shuaibi.

Shuaibi said those calling for a full withdrawal were only doing so to pressure Syria, not out of concern for Lebanon's right to sovereignty.

"What I have against this presence is that it's a military one. It should have been a presence based on interests for two countries and based on trust as well," said Michael Kilo, a Syrian opposition figure. "This is not the case now."

Some Syrians see Lebanon as a weak country unable to cope alone and support their government's decision to stay in Lebanon. "History showed us that Lebanon can't survive without the help from Syria, that is why we were one country," said merchant Ahmed al-Ali.

For others the overriding concern is what will happen to them if Syria continues to defy international opinion. "We sacrificed our blood for that country, we lost good men in that land but the question is do we have to loose more blood for it? What for?" Shukmarra said. "I don't think we should."

Arafat successor escapes gunfire, Palestinians to vote January 9

GAZA--Yasser Arafat's interim successor escaped injury in a Gaza gunfight triggered by hostile militants on Sunday as Palestinian officials set Jan. 9 for elections to replace the late president and avert a feared power vacuum.

The clash at a mourning tent set up for Arafat was the latest sign of factional anarchy challenging would-be moderate heirs to Arafat who are favoured by Washington as potential peacemakers with Israel but lack a popular power base.

The incident began after gunmen from Arafat's splintered Fatah movement shouting "No to Abu Mazen"--Abbas's nickname--marched by him as he stood outside the tent, paused and began firing shots into the air. The gunmen's rifles were pointed upwards, not at Abbas and Palestinian officials said it was not an assassination attempt.

Members of Arafat's presidential guard hustled Abbas, 69, into the tent and threw him to the ground for his safety as the militants burst in. Chaos ensued as gunmen and bodyguards began shooting at each other. In the end, two bodyguards lay dead and four other Palestinians were wounded, medics said.

As gunfire blazed about him, Abbas was hustled to safety in his local office. The gunmen withdrew and no one was arrested.

"We were paying condolences. Emotions were high. There was random gunfire and pushing in the crowd," a calm-looking Abbas told reporters at his



Palestinians protect the new Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (C) also known as Abu Mazen, as gun shots are fired after he arrived to accept condolences for Yasser Arafat death, in Gaza, on Sunday.

office afterward. "There was chaos and there was previous chaos (in Gaza), and perhaps that was one of the reasons leading to today's events."

Abbas is disliked by militants because he advocates a negotiated peace with Israel and has condemned suicide bombings and other violence in a 4-year-old Palestinian uprising. He has been chosen chairman

of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the highest Palestinian decision-making body, and is tipped as the presidential candidate of Fatah.

Arafat's death on Thursday at 75 left power in the uncertain hands of veteran deputies lacking the vast popular stature that the charismatic founder of Palestinian nationalism long enjoyed. Elections to

be held within the 60 days set by law will be crucial to creating a democratic leadership with a mandate to start reforms, tackle lawlessness and launch talks with Israel.

"There will be free and direct elections to elect the president of the Palestinian National Authority on Jan. 9, 2005," interim president Rawhi Fattouh told reporters.

Islam growing fast on African continent

KIGALI/NAIROBI--The veil that cloaks the head of Zafran Mukanwali is a modest symbol of a potentially dramatic shift in religious affiliation in Africa.

The former Roman Catholic put down her rosary and embraced Islam a decade ago out of disgust with ethnic murders committed by Catholics, including priests, in Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

"I realised that the Catholics do not practice what they preach," said the 22-year-old Tutsi, whose parents were among the 800,000 people butchered by extremist Hutus. "When I realised that the people I was praying with killed my parents, I decided to convert to Islam because Muslims saved many lives and did not take part in the killings."

Before 1994, Muslims comprised between 1 percent and 2 percent of the overwhelmingly Catholic population in Rwanda. Today that figure is 5 percent, census returns show. Muslim leaders say the number of mosques has risen to 570 from 220.

The shift is prompting new interest in Islam's long, uneven spread elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, where Christianity normally predominates and indigenous faiths are in retreat. Those who gauge political risk are on alert for any sign of strain in the usually equitable relations between Christians and Muslims south of the Sahara, and for any evidence of the arrival of radical Islamic movements from the Middle East.

Statistical Warfare

While anecdotal evidence suggests a growth in the proportion of sub-Saharan Africans embracing Islam, as



Muslims in Ivory Coast gather around a mosque to celebrate the Eid al-Fitr in the capital Abidjan.

well as "born again" forms of Protestant Christianity, data is scarce.

Hassan Mwakimako, who teaches religious studies at Nairobi University, says census surveys either do not track religious affiliation, or if they do, tend not to publish it.

Ephraim Isaac, director of the Institute for Semitic Studies at Princeton University, said there are estimates but none are authoritative. "There is a kind of statistical warfare with Islam said to be growing by leaps and bounds on one side, and growing Christianity, especially Pentecostals and charismatics, on the other," said Isaac, an Ethiopian. "Statistics have influence. People like to be on the winning side."

But Bah Thierno Amadou, 36, a Sierra Leonian Muslim living in Madagascar, has no doubt his religion is on the march. "More Africans are converting to Islam. There

was hardly any Islam in Sierra Leone in the 1960s. Now it has a big following, and it's getting bigger in each generation," said Amadou, who also lived in Liberia for 16 years.

He says the wars pursued by U.S. President George W. Bush are powerful recruiting tools for Islam in many parts of a continent with long memories of 19th century cooperation between European missionaries and colonisers. "He (Bush) says he's a Christian and he does things to destroy people's lives and property who are Muslims. Africans identify with the victims of Bush, because they suffered under the European colonisers, also Christians," Amadou said.

"In Uganda, Islam is growing so fast. Every single minute we are getting people converting," says Sheik Harun Sengooba of the Union of Muslim Councils for

East, Central and Southern Africa.

In South Africa, Islam is growing among blacks in a country where 80 percent of the 45 million people are Christian.

Currently, less than 2 percent of South Africans, or about 650,000 people, are Muslim, mostly members of the country's Indian and Coloured (mixed-race) communities. But the semi-autonomous Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) estimates 74,700 Africans

are Muslim from fewer than 12,000 in 1991 when apartheid outlawed racial interaction.

"The gap is closing and we are finding each other," Sheik Thafir Najjar, who heads the Cape Town-based Islamic Council of South Africa, says of reconciliation since the end of apartheid.

Money helps. Islamic non-governmental groups in Africa, many backed by Gulf oil cash, grew from 138 in 1980 to 891 in 2000, more than twice the rate of increase in the total number of Africa's NGOs in the period, says Mohammed Salim, a Sudanese political scientist at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Collision Course

Islam or Christianity, both proselytising religions that are inherently competitive, have long co-existed in Africa. Tensions between the two have been mitigated by the influential legacy of tolerant African traditional religions, communal movements that have no ambitions to convert humankind.

But the contest can be violent, feeding sectarianism into wider conflicts such as those in Sudan and Ivory Coast. A report by the Roman Catholic church as far back as 1990 said Catholics

and Muslims in Africa risked going on a dangerous collision course over efforts to convert new followers.

Relations seems to be at their worst in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, where the two religions share roughly equally its population of 130 million people. Religious violence there has killed at least 5,000 people since 2000, when 12 northern states predominantly inhabited by Muslims established Islamic Sharia law.

A demonstration by Muslims in Nigeria's northern city of Kano against the U.S. war in Afghanistan in October 2001 flared into communal riots with at least 200 people killed.

Kenyan historian Ali Mazrui says tensions have been stirred in parts of Africa after Sept. 11 as Washington demanded African nations cooperate in a crackdown on Muslim militants.

"The aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, may begin to undermine the multiracial solidarity of post-apartheid South Africa. It has already deepened the cleavage between the Christian-led central government of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam and the overwhelmingly Muslim separatist islands of Zanzibar and Pemba," he said.

Archaeologists hope to solve riddle of Tutankhamun death

CAIRO--Egypt plans to X-ray the mummy of Tutankhamun to find out what killed the king who ruled Egypt more than 3,000 years ago and died while only a teenager.

Archaeologists will move Tutankhamun's body from its tomb, which was discovered packed with treasure in 1922, to Cairo for tests which should resolve the mystery over whether he died naturally or was murdered.

"We will know about any diseases he had, any kind of injuries and his real age," Egyptian antiquities chief Zahi Hawass told Reuters. "We will know the answer to

whether he died normally or was he killed."

The mummy would be moved by the end of November and the CAT scan, which will produce a three-dimensional X-ray of his remains, completed by the end of the year, he said.

Tutankhamun's treasures, including a stunning gold mask which covered the head of his mummy, were removed from the tomb in Luxor's Valley of the Kings by British archaeologist Howard Carter. They are usually on show in the Cairo Museum.

But his mummified remains were left in the tomb in a

stone coffin. Archaeologists last opened the coffin in 1968, when an X-ray revealed a chip of bone in his skull. That fuelled speculation that a blow to the head had killed the king, whose high priest and army commander have been singled out as chief suspects.

"No one has seen the mummy since 1968," Hawass said.

The three-dimensional x-ray of what appears to be a fracture would show whether it had been caused by a blow to the head, said Brando Quilici, a film maker with National Geographic, which is partly sponsoring the research.

Dutch PM urges dialogue after sectarian violence

AMSTERDAM--Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende visited a mosque on Sunday and urged dialogue amongst different communities in the Netherlands after a wave of sectarian attacks in a country once known for its tolerance.

The Netherlands has seen an upsurge in violence since outspoken filmmaker Theo van Gogh was shot and stabbed to death by a suspected Islamic militant as he cycled to work on Nov. 2. There have been at least 20 tit-for-tat arson attacks on mosques, churches and schools since Van Gogh was killed, several of them in the south of the country where Balkenende spoke at the Fatih mosque in Eindhoven.

Speaking to an audience of about 200 people during the Eid al-Fitr festival marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, Balkenende urged Dutch people to unite regardless of belief, background or their history.

"We must keep talking to each other. All well meaning people need each other in the Netherlands," he said.

The prime minister was given a bunch of tulips from the Netherlands' Turkish community, part of a large Muslim minority which makes up 6 percent of the Dutch population. "The tulip is originally a Turkish flower, but also a symbol of the Netherlands. With this we want to indicate that we feel at home here," a representative of the Turkish community was quoted as saying by Dutch news agency ANP.

Arsonists threw two molotov cocktails into a non-denominational secondary school in the south of the country late on Saturday, but did not cause damage or injuries, police said. It was not clear if the attack on the Heerlen-based Emma college was linked to recent attacks on religious targets.

"There is no indication of a connection with the current situation in the country, but we are not excluding it either," police spokesman Jack van Kleef said.

Van Gogh had enraged some Muslims with a film accusing Islam of promoting violence against women. His murder has prompted at-

tacks on mosques and Muslim schools by right-wing radicals and revenge attacks on churches and Christian schools by Islamic militants. A Muslim school was damaged by a bomb on Monday, another set ablaze on Tuesday and a Catholic school in Eindhoven was destroyed by fire on Wednesday.

Prosecutors said preliminary investigations into a fire that destroyed a small mosque on Saturday in Helten showed it was a case of arson, but no one had been arrested.

Dutch Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk held "small groups" responsible for the spiral of attacks and said the Muslim community should help prevent youths being drawn to militancy. "We are busy setting up a network of people in a position of trust who can be consulted when youths are seen frequenting the wrong kind of people," she said on news programme Buitenhof.

"We also have to be stricter with people who come to the Netherlands and want to recruit people for the jihad (holy war)," she said.



Firemen tackle a blaze following an illegal rave in Amsterdam, on Sunday.

One dead, six injured at Dutch all-night rave

AMSTERDAM--Dutch police arrested the organiser of an all-night rave in an Amsterdam warehouse where a blaze killed one and injured six on Sunday.

Police is still investigating the cause of the fire, but excluded any link with a wave of at least 20 arson attacks on mosques, churches and schools since outspoken Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh was killed.

The fire, now under control, broke out between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. when several hundred party-goers were still inside the building at an industrial estate occupied by squatters. The 30-year-old party organiser was detained and suspected of culpable homicide.

"The firemen found one deceased victim inside. Six have been taken to hospital with severe burns as well as

breathing problems," said Fire Brigade spokesman Kees Jongh.

A thick column of smoke could be seen from many parts of Amsterdam. Fire fighters were at the scene with 15 fire engines and other vehicles.

Raves are popular in Netherlands, often filling an entire stadium with more than 10,000 party-goers.

Wall St. Outlook: Bull Market with Legs?

NEW YORK--Stock investors this week should get more clues on whether the bull market has long enough legs to drive gains to year end, as many market pros now expect.

Equities have been on a tear since the election returned Wall Street's preferred candidate, President Bush, to the White House, with no contested balloting or attacks. The bull's

groove is expected to extend into this week.

Yet the robust buying remains subject to the geopolitical aftershocks of Yasser Arafat's death--particularly if there is an effect on crude oil prices. Earnings from a few remaining corporate bigshots, including Wal-Mart Stores Inc., also will set the tone.

More reports on the U.S. economy's health will pour in, with the lat-

est reading on inflation for October, data on U.S. factory activity, and leading economic indicators from the Conference Board all expected in the coming week.

The broad market, as measured by the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, is up about 4.8 percent in November, putting it on track to be the largest monthly rise of 2004. On Friday, the S&P 500 struck a fresh three-year

high. Even the lagging Dow Jones industrial average moved back onto positive ground for the year--for the first time since June.

"It will be important to see if the market follows the breakout strength of the last week-and-a-half," said Charles Blood, equity strategist at Brown Brothers Harriman. "It ought to be able to hold its own, and make some progress. Nothing in the data would suggest that there are some crucial numbers that would blow the market off course."

Tom McIntyre, chief portfolio manager at McIntyre, Freedman & Flynn, a Cape Cod, Massachusetts, manager of around \$125 million, said, "The market doesn't want to go down. You are going to see that continue because some money managers are running out of time. They are behind the averages. I think money is going to get put to work between now and the end of the year."

For the week, the blue-chip Dow gained 1.46 percent, the tech-laden Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 2.28 percent, and the S&P 500 rose 1.54 percent. For the year, the Dow is up 0.8 percent, the Nasdaq is up 4.1 percent, and the S&P 500 is up 6.5 percent.

The quarterly earnings season winds down, with retailers' report cards the dominant trend in

the coming week. Four of the Dow's 30 components are on the earnings calendar.

Wal-Mart, the discount king and the world's biggest retailer, and Home Depot Inc., the world's biggest home improvements retailer, are scheduled to report earnings before Tuesday's stock market open. After Tuesday's closing bell, computer and printer maker Hewlett-Packard Co. will release quarterly results.

On Thursday, Walt Disney Co. is scheduled to report earnings after the closing bell.

Others with earnings

on tap this week include: Lowe's Cos. Inc., Home Depot's rival and the second-largest home improvement retailer, early on Monday; department-store chain J.C. Penney Co. Inc. early on Tuesday; Applied Materials Inc., the world's largest maker of chipmaking tools, late on Wednesday, and Gap Inc., the largest U.S. specialty apparel retailer, late on Thursday.

Much of the economic data on this week's menu covers last month. As a whole, it is not expected to send shock waves through the market.



Merck & Co. Inc. Chief Executive Officer Raymond Gilmartin is shown at a press conference September 30.

New York Times:

Merck decided against 2000 Vioxx drug study

NEW YORK--Top executives at pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co. Inc. decided in May 2000 against developing a study to test directly whether its Vioxx painkiller drug might pose a heart risk, The New York Times reported on Saturday.

Just two months after results from a clinical trial suggested concerns the popular anti-arthritis drug might cause a higher risk of heart attacks, company scientists questioned whether a focused trial was possible and marketing executives apparently feared one would undermine sales, the Times reported in an article on its Web site.

Merck recalled Vioxx on Sept. 30 this year after a separate long-term clinical trial already under way in 2000 showed it doubled the risk of heart attack and strokes in patients who had taken it for over 18 months to prevent recurrence of

colon polyps. Merck's stock has fallen almost 38 percent since.

According to the Times report, based on what it called a detailed reconstruction of Merck's handling of Vioxx, Merck scientists wondered in May 2000 whether a study to determine Vioxx's cardiovascular risks, which might have required as many as 50,000 patients, was even possible. The Times reported that a slide prepared for a meeting of top executives said: "At present, there is no compelling marketing need for such a study. Data would not be available during the critical period. The implied message is not favorable."

Merck executives said this week the company acted responsibly, voluntarily withdrawing Vioxx as soon as it had clear evidence the drug was harmful. They said that even if they had conducted the type of study they discussed internally

and rejected in 2000, the company might not have detected Vioxx's risks any sooner.

"Merck wasn't dragging its feet," said Kenneth C. Frazier, the company's general counsel. "It's pretty hard for me to imagine that you could have done this more quickly than we did."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which Merck consulted, also agreed that designing a trial to specifically assess Vioxx's cardiovascular risks would have been difficult and, unless constructed to provide benefits to patients, would have been unethical as well, the paper said.

The FDA recently published a study estimating Vioxx could have caused about 28,000 heart attacks or deaths since it was approved in 1999. An estimated 20 million Americans have taken Vioxx.

By Charles Krauthammer

Election Day myths

WASHINGTON -- In 1994, when the Gingrich revolution swept Republicans into power, ending 40 years of Democratic hegemony, the mainstream press needed to account for this inversion of the Perfect Order of Things. A myth was born. Explained the USA Today headline: "Angry White Men: Their votes turned the tide for the GOP."

Overnight, the revolution of the Angry White Male became conventional wisdom. In the 10 years before the 1994 election, there were 56 Nexis mentions of angry white men in the media. In the next seven months there were more than 1,400.

At the time, I looked into this story line -- and found not a scintilla of evidence to support the claim. Nonetheless, it was a necessary invention, a way for the liberal elite to delegitimize a conservative victory. And even better, a way to assuage their moral vanity: You never lose because your ideas are sclerotic or your positions retrograde, but because your opponent appealed to the baser instincts of mankind.

Plus ça change ... Ten years and another stunning Democratic defeat later, and liberals are at it again. The Angry White Male has been transmuted into the Bigoted Christian Redneck.

In the post-election analyses, the liberal elite, led by the holy trinity of *The New York Times* -- Krugman, Friedman, and Dowd -- just about lost its mind denouncing the return of medieval primitivism. As usual, Maureen Dowd achieved the highest level of hysteria, cursing the Republicans for pandering to "isolationism, nativism,

chauvinism, puritanism and religious fanaticism" in their unflinching drive to "summon our nasty devils."

Whence comes this fable? With President Bush increasing his share of the vote among Hispanics, Jews, women (especially married women), Catholics, seniors and even African-Americans, on what does this victory-of-the-homophobic-evangelical rest?

Its origins lie in a single question in the Election Day exit poll. The urban myth grew around the fact that "moral values" ranked highest in the answer to Question J: "Which ONE issue mattered most in deciding how you voted for president?"

It is a thin reed upon which to base a General Theory of the '04 Election. In fact, it is no reed at all. The way the question was set up, moral values was sure to be ranked disproportionately high. Why? Because it was a multiple-choice question and moral values cover a group of issues, while all the other choices were individual issues. Chop up the alternatives finely enough, and moral values is sure to get a bare plurality over the others.

Look at the choices:
 -- Education, 4 percent
 -- Taxes, 5 percent
 -- Health Care, 8 percent
 -- Iraq, 15 percent
 -- Terrorism, 19 percent
 -- Economy and Jobs, 20 percent

-- Moral Values, 22 percent
 "Moral values" encompasses abortion, gay marriage, Hollywood's influence, the general coarsening of the culture, and, for some,

the morality of pre-emptive war. The way to logically pit this class of issues against the others would be to pit it against other classes: "war issues" or "foreign policy issues" (Iraq plus terrorism) and "economic issues" (jobs, taxes, health care, etc.).

If you pit group against group, moral values comes in dead last: war issues at 34 percent, economic issues

variously described at 33 percent, and moral values at 22 percent -- i.e., they are at least a third less salient than the others.

And we know that this is the real ranking. After all, the exit poll is just a single poll. We had dozens of polls in the run-up to the election that showed that the chief concerns were the war on terror, the war in Iraq and

the economy.

Ah, yes. But the fallback is then to attribute Bush's victory to the gay marriage referendums that pushed Bush over the top, particularly in Ohio.

This is more nonsense. George Bush increased his vote in 2004 over 2000 by an average of 3.1 percent nationwide. In Ohio the increase was 1 percent -- less than a third of the national average. In the 11 states in which the gay marriage ref-

erendums were held, Bush increased his vote by less than he did in the 39 states that did not have the referendum. The great anti-gay surge was pure fiction.

This does not deter the myth of the Bigoted Christian Redneck from dominating the thinking of liberals, and from infecting the blue-state media. They need their moral superiority like oxygen, and cannot have it cut off by mere facts. And so once again they angrily claim the moral high ground, while standing in the ruins of yet another humiliating electoral defeat.

The law demands equal rights for all

Dear Sir,

I can well understand that Messrs James and York are angry and frightened by the enormous changes in St. Maarten over the last decades. All people want to live in communities of like-minded folk, who share the same history, language, cultural values etc. We are all tribal people who would by choice discriminate against those who are different.

That is why we have law; to restrain our grosser instincts. The law says that all legally documented, law abiding citizens must have equal rights. To give more rights to any section of society over any other is to start on the slippery slope that ends in race or class warfare. This has been proven countless times throughout history.

Surely we all believe in Martin Luther King's dream that one day all men will look at their neighbour, no matter what his creed or colour, and say and believe that "Yes, he truly is my brother." After all, we all

came out of Africa such a short time ago.

I admit that I am not perfect, but do try to encourage my children to be class and colour blind in the hope of a better tomorrow. It must be very hard to see the cream being taken by incomers, but if it is any consolation, it is happening everywhere. Millions of people are on the move all over the world. In the U.K. the millionaires' list is full of Patels and others who arrived within my lifetime from Bangladesh, India etc.

The truth is that immigrants are insecure, often persecuted and so work harder than people who feel safe and are surrounded by family and friends. An organisation that exists to help a certain section of society, funded by its members, is a fine thing, as long as it does not seek to pervert the law to its members' advantage.

I rest my case.

William Slayter

Why are non St. Martiners so insecure?

Dear Mr. Editor,

With St. Martin's Day just passed, I have a few questions which I would like to air in your newspaper.

1. Why is it that each time a St. Martiners vents his or her frustration at feeling overwhelmed and considered a minority at home, so many non St. Martiners are ready to take that person down? Why are non St. Martiners so insecure about the fact that they are just that, a non St. Martiners?

2. Why is it that so much yelling and screaming takes place when for once a politician is bold enough to say St. Martiners first? All the Caribbean islands, bar

none, put their natives first. They are even encouraged to do all that is necessary to see that this happens; in fact to ensure that they do not end up in the same situation as St. Martin. Why are we not allowed to do the same? Why should it be our young people who have to leave, while more and more people arrive here every day? Why should we not be allowed to enjoy some of what has brought these 100 nationalities to our shores?

3. Why are we the ones to hear that we have no culture, no this, no that, no that, no the other. Culture is the way you live day in and day out. Maybe there were not

many artists etc. and on this island, but remember that 50 years ago, this island had 2,000 people on the Dutch side and 3,000 on the French side, a grand total of 5,000 people. Check all other island populations and count the amount of "culture" you have per 5,000 people.

Along with which, those were the days when people left every island, and not only St. Maarten, to look for work. It remains a fact that St. Martin is only 37 square miles and no matter what, it cannot support the rest of the world. Not even the United States has been able to do that.

Diane Hodge

Good Riddance

To the nameless author of the open letter to commissioner Laveist in *The Daily Herald* of November 9, threatening a mass exodus, the Nationalist says good riddance!

The analogy between people from other Caribbean islands working in St. Maarten and Moses and the children of Israel is a baseless one. Commissioner Laveist is no Egyptian Pharaoh holding Caribbean people in bondage and forcing them to make bricks without straw.

Whom were you referring to when you wrote, "There is none among you that can claim four generations of people born on this island"? This hate-filled statement reveals the true nature of your problem. Your anger is with the people born on this island. Your wrath is directed at Commissioner Laveist because he is trying to get jobs for locals and you are afraid that this genuine endeavour may be at your so-called Caribbean people's expense.

What contributions to this society are you talking about? The constantly long lines at Western Union are evidence that the only contributions that you make are the US dollars that you send back to your respective islands. The hollow claim that "you and your parents worked and sweated on this island to make it what it is today" reeks of nothing less than hot air. Did you work and sweat for nothing? Didn't you make more money in one month than you could have earned in one entire year in your islands?

Your simple and stupid remarks about the commissioner being hypocritical for knowing "of the abuses Indian nationals endure at the hands of their masters" are ridiculous. Rumors of these practices have circulated in the community - long before the tenure of Commissioner Laveist began - for years, but no Indian national has ever come forward to provide the authorities with concrete proof of such abuses. Furthermore, what does this have to do with Commissioner Laveist and work permits?

Numerous times, in your

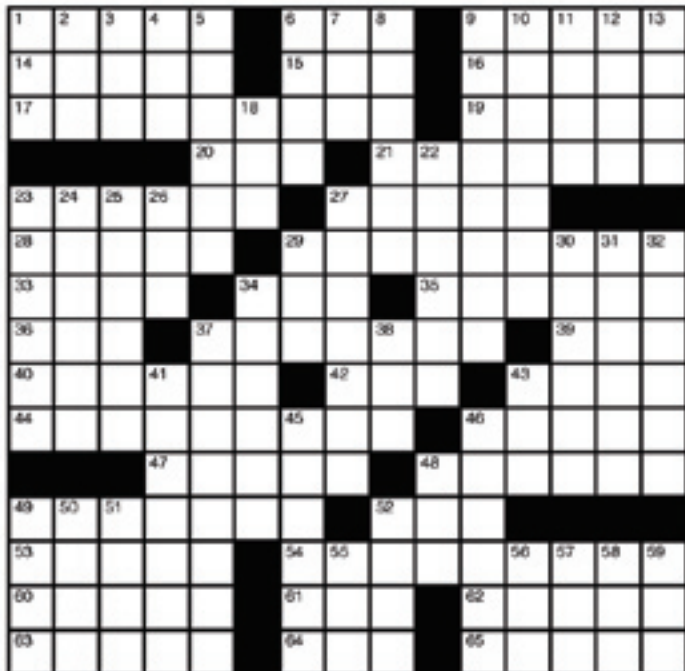
open letter, you accused Commissioner Laveist of changing procedure to fit and feed his ego and of creating a xenophobic nation. These slanderous and libellous statements are completely baseless, and could land you in front of a judge! St. Maarten is not a banana republic dictatorship. Procedures can only be changed by collective decisions of the Executive Council, and not by any one commissioner.

You came in the thousands, worked and lived illegally. Government offered you amnesty - not once, but twice - and now that you think that your anchors catch, you can walk around threatening to throw commissioners out of office. How are you going to do that, by a coup d'etat? Because most of you can't vote! Should a St. Maartener go to any other Caribbean island and disrespect the authorities like you have done, I shudder to think of the consequences for that stupid person. But we run a civilised society here and freedom of speech is tolerated.

All that you are trying to do with your malicious open letter is to stir up ethnic strife among the people on our peaceful island. But you got the wrong address, Moses. Part the Caribbean Sea and start your mass exodus tomorrow. And good riddance!

Joseph R. Brooks

- ACROSS**
- 1 Enjoyed a siesta
 - 6 May celebrant
 - 9 Muddies
 - 14 Edmonton player
 - 15 Memorable time
 - 16 Actress Potts
 - 17 Gave up hope
 - 19 Letter-lady White
 - 20 Wrath
 - 21 Frocks
 - 23 Begins
 - 27 Wherewithal
 - 28 Expands one's staff
 - 29 Slowpokes
 - 33 Coral formation
 - 34 ___ excellence
 - 35 Energetic drive
 - 36 "Ode on a Grecian ___"
 - 37 Menial workers
 - 39 Peter's last name?
 - 40 Mrs. George Burns
 - 42 Corn serving
 - 43 Speaker's platform
 - 44 Flouncing
 - 46 Dried plum
 - 47 Looks ___ everything
 - 48 Fashioned
 - 49 Rouses
 - 52 Chicago ballplayer
 - 53 Makes a long story short?
 - 54 Ladylove
 - 60 Bird with fine plumage
 - 61 Male child
 - 62 German autos
 - 63 Is affected by
 - 64 Blowup letters?
 - 65 Green years



11/15/04

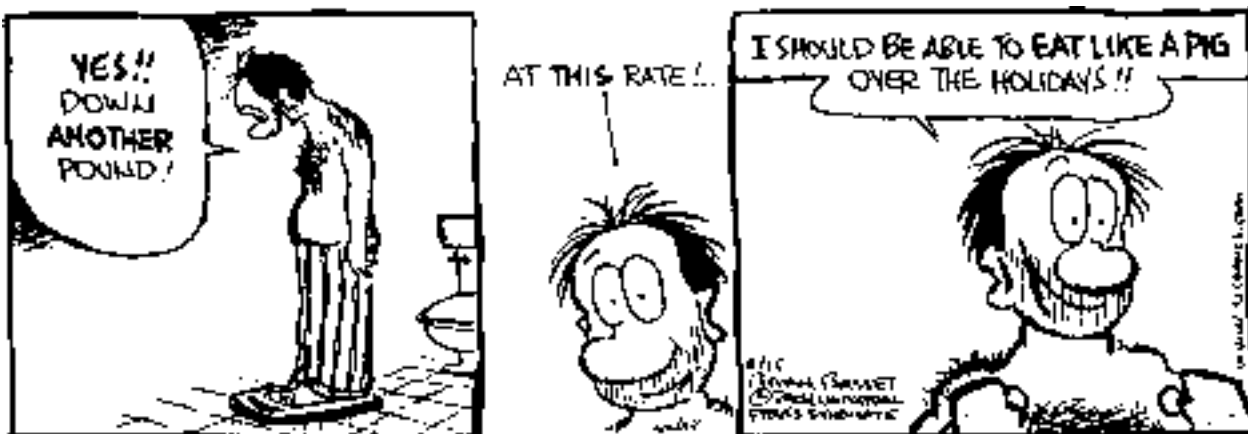
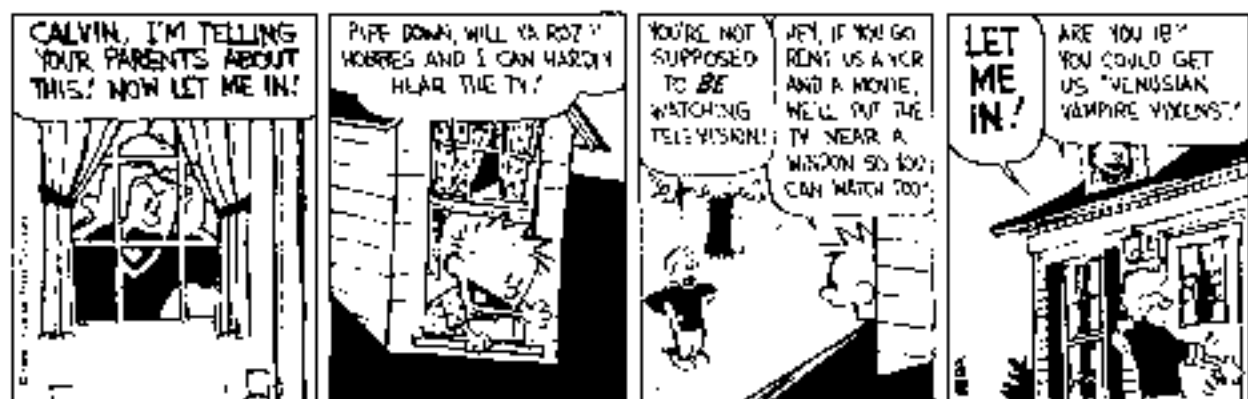
- DOWN**
- 1 Greensward
 - 2 Stretch the truth
 - 3 South African golfer Ernie
 - 4 Get-up-and-go
 - 5 Attributes
 - 6 Little more than
 - 7 Mining product
 - 8 Bright red
 - 9 Voracious
 - 10 Jackie's Aristotle
 - 11 Hosteries
 - 12 "Whose ___ is it Anyway?"
 - 13 Wet expanses
 - 18 Gov. tax collector
 - 22 Somewhat
 - 23 Shoulder signals
 - 24 ___ del Fuego
 - 25 Sites for fights
 - 26 Ump's cohort
 - 27 Melodic ornament
 - 29 Sigma follower
 - 30 Twin city
 - 31 Marilu's character on "Taxi"
 - 32 Perceived
 - 34 Hunting animal

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 37 Journal keepers
- 38 Joke or choke
- 41 Slave
- 43 Matter-of-fact
- 45 Demand
- 46 J.F. Kennedy's vessel
- 48 Total
- 49 Steer flesh
- 50 Outer limit
- 51 Filly's father
- 52 Is unable to
- 55 Sine qua ___
- 56 Paris street
- 57 Fruity cooler
- 58 Malleable metal
- 59 Blockhead



HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (Nov. 15). A voyage of a thousand miles begins not just with one step. Before you launch, you need to do lots of preparation and practice. That's what this year is about.

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 5 - An official reminds you of restrictions you may have forgotten, or simply ignored. Actually, you'll get a whole lot farther ahead playing by the rules.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - A question comes up that requires you to go outside to find the answer. This may be annoying, but probably isn't life-threatening. Enjoy.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - The question now is, what do you need and what can you do without? Be honest, so you don't waste good money on stuff that's superfluous.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is an 8 - You'll be up against a critic, wherein you'll have to defend your position. Hopefully you're well prepared with your own experience.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - A job you've been avoiding, and with good reason, won't be denied. If you really can't bring yourself to do it, hire somebody who can.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - Connect with people who can help you figure out what to do next. A good planner and a hard worker are more than welcome on your team. You keep track of the details.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - Count your earnings and make some plans about how you're going to spend them. Change something at home that's been bothering you. That'll be a good investment.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - The farther you go, the more you can see there still is to learn about. Do the research, even if it's a little scary at first.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - Go after the money that you've been promised, even if it's hard. Persistence pays, both figuratively and literally.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - Your wisdom and perseverance are obvious to others. You're tough, and even when wounded, you always come back swinging. Take the credit.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 5 - OK, get back to business now and re-assess your systems. Do some fine-tuning with new information and materials you've collected.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - You can give comfort to friends, if you will, simply by being yourself. Reach out to somebody who's hurting. It means a lot, although he or she will never ask.



**SEND LETTERS TO P.O. BOX 828
or e-mail queenie@thedailyherald.com**

Dear Queenie,

My dad is in prison and I don't know when he will be coming home. I don't know what to tell people when they ask me about him, like where is he or what does he do for a living.

Queenie, what should I say when people ask these kinds of questions?—**Embarrassed**

Dear Embarrassed,

Whatever you decide to do, do not lie about your father. This is a small island and sooner or later the person will find out the truth. Then they will know that you lied and you will have two things to be embarrassed about: your father's imprisonment and your own lies.

You don't have to answer people's questions if you don't want to, but if you don't, they will probably become even more curious. The best thing to do is to tell the truth as briefly as possible. For example, you could say, "My father did something bad and had to go to jail for it. I am sure he will do better when he comes home."

If you don't want to say even that much, or if the person is so rude as to ask more questions, just say, "I'd rather not talk about it," and walk away if they persist.

Only notices of fund-raising events, non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices column. Notices must reach The Daily Herald by 4:00pm to be published in the next edition.

EVENTS

Saturday, November 20

VARIETY CONCERT

Organized by Home Away From Home Taking Care of the Golden Age Foundation featuring the Royal Anguilla Police Community Brass Band.

Place: Dutch Quarter Community Centre.

Time: 7:30pm

Price: US\$10 OR Naf. 20

Tickets available from foundation members. Funds received will help with Senior Citizens third annual cruise.

Sunday, November 21

HARVEST PROGRAMME

Organised by the pastor and members of Bethel Methodist Church in Colombier, starting at 3:00pm. The general public is invited to attend. Your presence will be highly appreciated. A small donation will be collected.

Saturday, December 4

FUNDRAISING WALK-A-THON

Organised by the PTA of Sister Borgia Elementary School.

Time: 5:00am – 7:30am

Price: US \$6.00 per person (Includes breakfast)

Route: Sr. Borgia School – Cannegieter Road- Sundial School – Walter Nisbeth Rd. – Sucker Garden Road – Becky Hill – Middle Region – Arch Road – Sucker Garden Rd. – Walter Nisbeth Rd. & back to Sr. Borgia School.

Tickets available at the school and from parents.

Saturday, December 4

YOUNG ARTISTS CHRISTMAS RECITAL

Organised by the Presto Talent Education Foundation. It will be an open air concert by Dennis Tjon & students featuring solo and four hands piano, choir, recorder group and audience participation.

Place: Emilio Wilson Park, L.B.Scott Road (across from the ballpark)

Time: 7:00pm sharp.

Admission: Free.

Sunday, December 12

ART IN THE PARK – ST. MAARTEN'S ART FAIR

Featuring local artists.

Place: Emilio Wilson Historic & Cultural Park, L.B. Scott Road (across from the Ball Park).

Time: 10:00am – 5:00pm.

Admission: US \$1.00 (a donation for the park).

Free parking. Call 548-3723 or 544-5189 for more information.

Sunday, December 19

4th ANNUAL PUDDING, TART & GUAVABERRY PUNCH CONTEST.

Organised by the Department of Arts and Culture.

Place: Waterfront in Marigot.

Persons interested in participating or in serving as a judge should call: 0590.51-19-05



BWP General Meeting tonight

The Board of the Business & Professional Women Association invites members of the association and prospective members to their general meeting on Monday, November 15 at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library. The meeting starts at 7:30pm sharp.

Workshop on Dyslexia

St. Maarten ASCD in collaboration with the University of St. Martin is organising a workshop on Dyslexia by Dr. Meredith Carter on Wednesday, November 17 at the university of St. Martin at 7:00pm. Participants will view and participate in two dyslexia programmes. For more information call 548-4183.

Raffle postponed

The NAGICO Spurs Netball Club informs all patrons that its fundraising raffle has been postponed and will now be drawn on December 18.

Car Raffle postponed

The St. Maarten Guyanese Foundation regrets to inform the public that the drawing of its Grand Diwali Car Raffle originally scheduled for November 12 has been postponed. The raffle for one Hyundai Getz motorcar will now be drawn during the last week of February 2005.

Jamaican Hurricane Ivan Relief Fund

The Jamaican Social and Heritage Foundation wishes to remind persons interested in donating monies to the "Jamaican Hurricane Ivan Relief Fund 2004" may still do so at any of the local Windward Islands Bank branches. The account No. is 103-981-500.

"The Law in Focus" for November

On Thursday, November 18 and 25 Social Insurance will be discussed with the head of SVB, Mr. R. Willemsberg.

The Law in Focus is a weekly educational program aired every Thursday from 9:00-10:00pm on Channel 15, St. Maarten Cable TV, and on Monday nights from 7:00-7:30 on cable TV Saba and Statia.

Safe Haven Online & on Hotline

Safe Haven can now be reached online via MSN messenger and Yahoo messenger. To contact us you must download either of the following messengers, by going to www.msn.com or messenger.yahoo.com and adding us to your contact list by typing the appropriate email address safehavenhotline@hotmail.com or safehavenhotline@yahoo.com. We are online from 8:30am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday. Contact us for confidential assistance, information and online counselling services. Our hotline number remains the same **333**.

Looking for talent

Radio Calypso is searching for talented Hip Hop and Break Dancers to participate in an up-coming show. For information call 00590-690-755202.

Parking at the Library

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library makes know that their parking lot will be opened only to users of the library; all other vehicles will be towed away.

Classical Ballet Lessons for Children

Children from age 5 can sign up for Classical Ballet lessons at Port de Plaisance on Thursdays at 3:00pm. For more information call Maryline on 544-4155 or 00590 690 378542.

Annual Soualouiga Drum Festival 2005

All interested drum groups, Majorettes, Scouts etc. from St. Maarten/St. Martin and the neighbouring islands are urged to register for the festival which will be held on March 12 & 13, 2005 under the sponsorship of the Soualouiga Jump Up Brass Band. Registration forms are available at the Philipsburg Community Center. For more information call Youmay at 524-1976 or Dinaida at 553-2286.

Selection practice, Girls Softball

In preparation for the Fourth Eastern Caribbean Region Girls Softball Tournament scheduled for February 4-6, 2005, the St. Martin Pony Softball League announces that selection practice with Coach Christine will take place as follows: Tuesday,

Thursday and Friday afternoons at the John Cooper/Jose Lake Sr. Ballpark. Contact President Gabriel Brown for additional information.

SNBF invitation

The St. Martin Nation Building Foundation (SNBF) invites all interested persons to become involved in the work of the SNBF. There are various ways open for such participation. Young people are especially invited get involved in the setting up of an "SNBF junior Nation Builders wing". For more information contact any of the following Board-members: Leopold James, President - Tel 544-3512; Alvin York, secretary - Tel 547-0361; and Recaldo Romney, Treasurer - Tel 542-3826.

Extra Lessons

Palm Art School is registering children ages 4-15 for homework supervision, extra lessons in Dutch, English and Math. The classes start from 1:00 to 5:00pm Monday to Friday. For information call 523-2485.

Bookmobile Schedule

The new Visit Schedule for the Bookmobile: Friday afternoons 3:00 to 3:30pm Dutch Quarter (Zorg en Rust) 3:45 to 5:00pm Belvedere Community Center.

Christmas Market

Philipsburg Jubilee Library announces the start of their Christmas Market preparation. Persons interested in selling craft, art, cakes etc. are urged to contact the library 542-2970.

Choir Practice

Risen Christ Church of Reward is signing up committed adults and children for their choir for the planned Christmas Musical. Registration for adults starts Thursday evening at 7:30 and practice starts just after that. Youngsters 12 to 19 can sign up with the youth choir on Saturday morning 11:00am, practice will be from 11:00am to 12:00pm.

GED Tutorials

Community Tutorial Foundation in Dutch Quarter is offering GED tutorials to prepare students for the December 6, 2004 exams. For information call 556-3300 or 554-3409.

Rapper Ol' Dirty Bastard dies suddenly in New York

LOS ANGELES--Rapper Ol' Dirty Bastard, whose criminal lifestyle and strange behavior overshadowed his work as one of the founding members of rap collective Wu-Tang Clan, collapsed and died in New York on Saturday, his record label said.

The artist, whose real name was Russell Jones, was found in a recording studio complaining of chest pains, a source told Reuters. Paramedics were called but were unable to save him. A label spokeswoman said the cause of death was unknown.

Jones, 35, had a history of drug abuse. But a spokesman said he was clean at the time of his death and had been taking court-mandated drug tests.

"Russell inspired all of us with his spirit, wit, and tremendous heart," said a statement from Roc-A-Fella Records, the label founded by rapper Jay-Z. "The world has lost a great talent, but we mourn the loss of our friend."

In the hip-hop genre, where many performers attract the attention of the law and most spare no expense flaunting their extravagant lifestyles, Jones was in a class of his own.

Jones fathered 13 children, according to Blender magazine. His other stage names included Dirt McGirt and



Rapper Ol' Dirty Bastard, whose criminal lifestyle and strange behavior overshadowed his work as one of the founding members of rap collective Wu-Tang Clan, collapsed and died in New York, on Saturday.

Big Baby Jesus, the latter moniker inspired by his belief that "I always been Jesus."

He was released from a New York state prison in early 2003 after serving almost three years for drug offenses and probation violation, and subsequently received treatment at a mental hospital. His life on parole was filmed for a documentary broadcast by music cable channel VH1.

Following a 1999 arrest for

possession of crack cocaine, he reportedly asked the police to "make the rocks disappear" because it would hurt his standing as a role model. During one of his many court appearances, he called a female prosecutor a "sperm donor."

His rap sheet also included arrests for making terrorist threats, wearing a bullet-proof vest, and involvement in a shootout with police.

In 1998, he stormed the stage during the live telecast of the Grammy Awards to complain that Wu-Tang Clan should have won a prize in part because he went to the trouble of buying an expensive new outfit. Jones, who was born in the New York borough of Brooklyn, co-founded Wu-Tang Clan with cousins Gary Grice (aka GZA) and Robert Diggs (aka RZA) in 1992.

With the personnel clocking in at nine members, the group released its debut album, "Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)," the following year and it peaked at No. 41 on the U.S. pop album charts. Its 1997 follow-up, "Wu-Tang Forever," boasting some bizarre ranting by Jones, debuted at No. 1.

Members of the loosely knit group engaged in solo projects, with Jones' first effort, "Return to the 36 Chambers," peaking at No. 7 in early 1995. In 1999, "Nigga Please" peaked at No. 10. A spokesman said Jones had almost completed a new album.

In addition to his children, Jones is survived by his mother, Cherry Jones, who said in a statement that her son was the "kindest, most generous soul on Earth."

TV 15 (local) St. Maarten Cable TV

Local time	Programme
Monday, November 15	
8:00am	Replay AVS Week in Review
9:00am	Caribbean Newline
6:00pm	Best Bites
6:30pm	Island Life Destinations
7:00pm	GIS Bulletin
7:30pm	AVS News
7:58pm	Medical Edge
8:00pm	Music Videos
8:30pm	Oral Gibbes Live
9:30pm	Westwood Park
10:00pm	St. Maarten Lottery
10:05pm	Rising Stars
11:00pm	AVS News
11:30pm	Caribbean Newline

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

Local times	Programme
Monday, November 15	
11:00am	NOS Journaal
11:05am	Tik tak
11:10am	Sesamstraat
11:25am	Stoffer en klip
11:30am	Ruilen
11:45am	Het Klokhuis
12:00pm	Gewe(e)st
12:25pm	Blokken
12:50pm	Sinterklaas Journaal
1:00pm + 7:00pm	Thuis
1:25pm + 7:25pm	Keuringsdienst van waarde
1:50pm + 7:50pm	De rode loper
2:10pm + 8:10pm	VRT Journaal
2:50pm + 8:50pm	Twee Vandaag
3:30pm + 9:30pm	NOS Journaal
3:50pm + 9:50pm	Weerbericht
3:55pm + 9:55pm	De grootste Nederlander finale
5:45pm + 11:45pm	Nova/Den Haag Vandaag
6:25pm + 12:25am	NOS Sportjournaal
6:40pm + 12:40am	Man bijt hond

Screamers clamour for MTV awards tickets in Rome

ROME--Talent isn't required, but screams, cheers and lots of gyrations are.

Welcome to MTV's auditions for "screamers" where the lucky 500 winning pop fans are being awarded front row tickets to the MTV Europe Awards ceremony in Rome next Thursday.

A couple of thousand hopefuls turned out for the competition on Saturday, strutting their stuff in white tents set up in the shadow of Rome's massive cathedral, San Giovanni in Laterano.

"We're looking for extroverts, egomaniacs and people who want to shout and just have fun," said MTV's spokesman for the event, Andrea Labanca, as another 15 contestants cavorted to a tune by hip-hop duo OutKast. "These guys know that the winners are

not only going to get free tickets, they're going to be dancing two metres from Eminem. They're going to be part of the choreography."

After putting on a show for the judges, crowds of music lovers donning wrap-around sunglasses and bearing plenty of midriff awaited their fate. "I don't know if I'll win, but it was worth trying--I just can't imagine dancing next to Beyonce," said Melissa, a 22-year-old student originally from North Africa.

Alessandra, a tall blonde in thigh-high boots, squealed with joy when she was declared one of the winners. "I love music and dancing and being in the middle of people, I wouldn't miss this for the world."

But it wasn't just the youngest contestants or most talented dancers who

triumphed. "People of different ages and different backgrounds have come from all over Italy and we want the ceremony to reflect that," said one of the judges.

OutKast, already big winners at this year's Grammy awards, were set to take home the prizes at the music channel's European awards ceremony after landing five nominations. Other big-name nominations include Usher, American superstars Beyonce and Britney Spears and the new British sensation Franz Ferdinand.

But rapper Eminem could steal the show when he performs his new single "Just Lose It". Rumour has it he is planning to dress as Michael Jackson as part of a spoof on the pop legend.

British music's who's who re-record Band Aid song

LONDON--Twenty years after the release of one of the biggest singles of all time, leading British artists gathered on Sunday to re-record the Bob Geldof-inspired charity hit "Do They Know It's Christmas?"

Paul McCartney, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Jamelia and The Darkness were among those at a London studio to record the single, which bookmakers have already tipped for the Christmas number one spot.

"It's time to recreate the magic, and perhaps add a little of our own," The Darkness singer Justin Hawkins told Xfm radio.

Geldof and Ultravox singer Midge Ure created Band Aid, a supergroup of 40 artists, in 1984 and with the hit single raised over 10 million pounds (\$18 million) for famine relief in Ethiopia.

Ure has described the latest line-up as a "who's who of coolness" after he managed to get big names like Robbie Williams and Dido on board for the slightly re-arranged song. Artist Damien Hirst is making the CD's cover.

Proceeds will again go towards aid for Africa,



Sir Bob Geldof and his daughter Fifi Trixie Belle arrive for the Band Aid 20 recording at Air Studios in London, on Sunday.

particularly for Sudan's volatile Darfur region, where tens of thousands have died since March from disease and malnutrition.

"I just returned from Africa and it sickens me that every day of hunger they see as normal," Geldof told BBC television, as he urged people to buy the single.

Geldof, who travelled to Ethiopia earlier this month as part of the British-sponsored Commission for Africa

group, became the public face of Band Aid and the subsequent Live Aid concert which raised over 60 million pounds.

He emphasised funds raised from the new band Aid single, due out on November 29, will go straight to those who need them. "The money will keep those who are hungry not hungry," he said.

The "Do They Know" song has already been re-recorded once, in 1985.



Japan's Princess Nori (R), 35, daughter of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and Yoshiaki Kuroda (L), 39.

Princess to marry municipal official

TOKYO--Princess Sayako, the 35-year-old only daughter of the Japanese emperor, is set to marry a commoner and leave the imperial family, Japanese media said on Sunday.

The princess, known informally as Nori, is engaged to marry a Tokyo local government official, 39-year-old Yoshiaki Kuroda, next spring, the reports said.

The couple both graduated from the private Gakushuin University in Tokyo, and share an interest in wildlife, media said.

Nori, youngest of three children of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, spends part of her time working at an ornithology research institute.

An official at the Imperial Household Agency said he could not comment on the reports before an official announcement, which has been delayed to late December out of consideration for victims of an earthquake in Niigata. A series of powerful tremors beginning on Oct. 23 have killed about 40

people, injured thousands and left many homeless in the region.

Reports of the engagement come almost a year after Nori's sister-in-law, Crown Princess Masako, quit her public duties due to fatigue. Court officials later said she was suffering from a mental disorder brought on by the stress of adjusting to palace life.

Masako's husband, Crown Prince Naruhito, 44, is heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Marlins beat Padres in bragging rights game

PHILIPSBURG--The Volvic Marlins of Mary's Fancy edged out the Cul de Sac Padres 5-4 in St. Maarten-St. Martin Pony League baseball Saturday.

Both teams are in the hunt for a playoff spot in the Bronco division, age 12 and under playoffs that start at the end of the month.

The teams were scheduled to face each other for the last time of the regular season Saturday. However, the Pony League Selection team was invited to Antigua for the weekend.

The Bronco division game was to be rescheduled. When rain in Antigua forced the cancellation of the trip,

the two teams decided to play the rescheduled game as a friendly.

The Marlins batted first and scored four runs off a lead off double by Jason Vasquez and singles from Ceshar Boasman and Francisco Blanco.

Both teams train at the John Cooper/Jose Lake Sr. Ballpark and a friendly rivalry has

developed. Stanley Alsie was on the mound for the Marlins. He worked two innings, keeping the Padres bats quiet and struck out three.

The Padres brought in Richie Santiago to pitch midway in the first. Santiago allowed just one run and struck out 10. The Marlins added a run to the scoreboard in the third.

The Padres replied with

two runs in the fourth. Santiago reached on an error and was driven in on a hit by Franklin Thewit who latter scored on a passed ball.

The Padres scored twice more in the fifth before back to back grounders to the Marlins second baseman resulted in outs.

Santiago came to the plate for the last time. He hit the first pitch

offered to deep center-field. Alsie, who was relieved by Vasquez, camped under the ball, made the catch and preserved his win.

The pony League competition resumes this weekend with two games scheduled under the lights at the Louis Vanterpool Stadium in Marigot.

Former major leaguer evaluates local youths

PHILIPSBURG--Athletes of the St. Martin-St. Maarten Pony League trained hard under the guidance of former professional baseball player, turned trainer Hendrick Sanchez Orta this weekend.

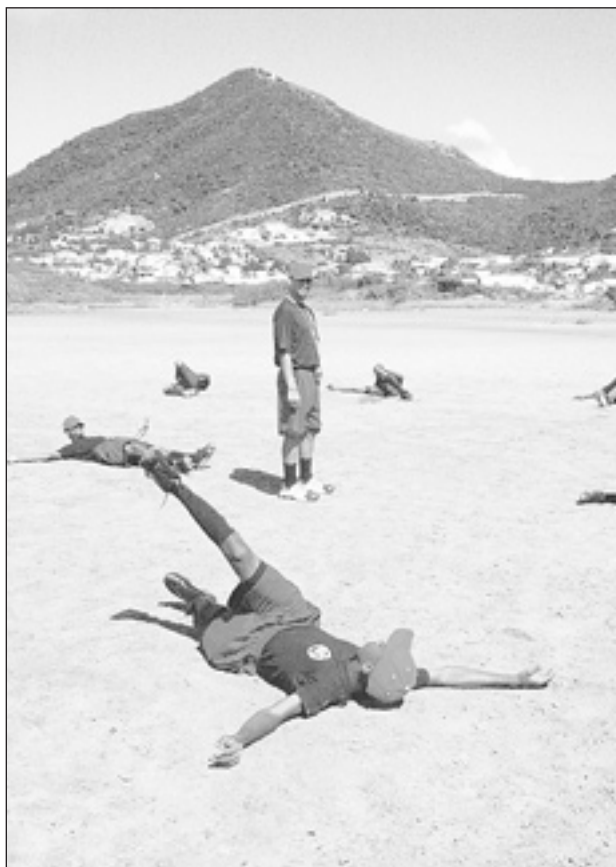
A pitcher for the Texas Rangers, Orta, or Sanchez as he prefers to be called, visited St. Maarten to work with the local athletes.

Orta has been involved in the Pony League baseball program in his native Puerto Rico. Now he has been asked to help train some of the athletes here.

Sanchez conducted a regular conditioning work out at the practice football field on the Pondfill Saturday and worked with pitchers and catchers Sunday.

The trainer wanted to see first hand the level of the athletes. He returned to Puerto Rico yesterday. He will now prepare a complete training program for the Friendly Island Pony League.

"We expect Sanchez to return in December," explained Gabriel Brown, president of the local Pony League. "He will travel to St. Maarten on Thursdays.



Members of the Pony League exercise under the guidance of former major league pitcher Hendrick Sanchez Orta on the Pondfill practice field Saturday.

He will train our athletes and Friday, Saturday and Sundays."

Not only will Sanchez train the young ball players. He will work with the coaches so they can continue the

program between visits. After the last practice Sunday Sanchez will return home.

"We are seeking sponsors," said Brown. "We hope to extend the program indefinitely."



The Lucians Cricket Team, batting here, handed the newly elevated to the A-division Ram's Food World team their first loss in the Charles Vlaun Memorial cricket knock out Sunday.

Overseas player helps Lucians defeat Ram's

PHILIPSBURG--Ram's Food World won the St. Maarten Cricket Association B-division championship in the last knock out. The team earned the right to play in the A-division.

Ram's played their first match in the premier league of the Charles Vlaun memorial Cricket knock out Sunday. They lost by five wickets.

Ram's faced Lucians. The Lucians won the toss and sent Ram's to the crease in a scheduled 50 overs match that was cut short due to rain.

Ram's was bowled out for 152 runs. H. Valmond was the top scorer for the Food

World Squad. He batted for 51 runs. He was good for three fours and one six.

D. George added 23 runs to the Ram's tally. He faced 41 balls.

B. Dupre and J. Eugene both collected two wickets each for Lucians. Dupre worked six overs. He allowed 35 runs. Eugene, a Windward Islands player from St. Lucia, bowled seven overs. He gave up 23 runs.

In reply, the Lucians scored 154 runs for the loss of five in 23.2 overs.

Eugene, the Lucians overseas player, was selected Man of the Match. He faced 50 balls at the crease in 86 minutes of play. Eugene hit eight sixes and three fours. He scored 72 runs and was not out.

Teams are allowed to bring in up to two overseas players to compete in the local competition in an effort to increase the level of play.

D. Seernarine was the

best bowler for Ram's. He bowled seven overs. He allowed 42 runs and collected three wickets. R. Chummy took the two remaining wickets. He bowled 5.2 overs for 43 runs.

A-division games will continue with two games Sunday. At the Caribe Lumber Ballpark the Windward Islands Bank Pioneers will face Mary's Boon Strikers.

In an effort to give all the teams more game time, the Cricket Association will start playing at the cricket grounds in La Savane. Sunday the Future Champions A team will take on the Winair Conquerors. The scheduled 50 overs match will be the first time the youth squad, the Future Champions, will play in the premier league.

The Champions ended the last competition as sub-champions of the B-division and went on to earn the right to play in the A-division.

RBTT Bank Little league School games continue

PHILIPSBURG--Three primary school and one secondary school competition game were played in the RBTT Bank St. Maarten Little League Competition Saturday.

In the first game, the Genevieve De Weever School defeated Sister Marie Lau-

rence 8-4.

Gilberto Gumbs pitched the complete game. He struck out 11 batters and allowed only four hits for the win.

The De Weever team connected for seven hits. Dwayne Doran was the best batter for the Deweev-

er School. He went three for three. He drove in three runs and had an inter-park home run.

Ernesto Gumbs went two for three for De Weever School.

Wilson Philips was the best batter for Sister Marie Laurence School. He went two for three.

St. Joseph won the second game of the day. St. Joseph School squeezed past Prins Willem Alexander School 10-8.

George Mardenborough was the winning pitcher. The Prins Willem School had nine batters go down swinging. St. Joseph only had eight strike outs. Mardenborough went one for one for his team. The one hit, was a four bagger.

Rocky page was the best batter for the Prins Willem School. He went two for three with a home run. Francisco Gumbs went one for two in the losing effort.

Game three was a blow out. Charles Leopold Bell School clobbered Leonard Connor 14-1. Daryl Brooks was the winning pitcher and Shenderick Dorethea was the best batter as the Bell school combined for a total of eight hits.

In the secondary school competition, Milton Peters College Stars got past St. Maarten Academy 8-7.

Theo van Heyningen was the winning pitcher. He also batted two for three for his team.

Emeric Marlin connected for one of the team's six hits. Marlin hit the ball out of the park.

Dennis Remy was the best batter for Academy. He went two for four.

The RBTT Bank Little

League Schools competition resumes this afternoon, weather permitting. Genevieve De Weever School is scheduled to face Oranje School. First pitch is scheduled for 3:00pm.

Jamal Wilson from the St. Joseph School is safe at first. St. Joseph defeated Prins Willem Alexander School 10-8 in the RBTT Bank St. Maarten Little League Competition Saturday.



A member of the Under 16 national Netball Team saves the ball as the team faced the GEBE Stars of Cay Bay on the wet court at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex last night.

Caribbean Stars lose game and fight

PHILIPSBURG--The court was wet and slippery. Action was not as fast as normal, yet the GEBE Stars of Cay Bay managed to wallop the Under 16 national netball Selection Team 45-3 at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex last night.

The second game of the evening was spectacular. The second place Volvic Caribbean Stars (2-1) faced the third place Nagico Spurs (1-2).

"The game was close. It was goal for goal," remarked James Marsham, one of the competition organizers.

The Selection team will compete in the OECS Under 16 Netball Championships on St. Lucia, next month. Nine countries from around the region are expected to compete in the netball competition this year.

It will be the first time St. Maarten has fielded a team at the games. In an effort to prepare the young girls for the competition, the

mini training tournament at the sports complex was organized.

To help raise money for the trip to St. Lucia, the selection team conducted a raffle. Berhym Mathew won a microwave. Delicia Spencer won a DVD player and Reena Nateram won a cell phone.

The Spurs upset the Volvic team 34-30. That's when things turned ugly. Team officials from the Stars got in a shouting match. Names were called. Spectators became agitated and began yelling too.

"We calmed everything down before it turned physical," said Marsham. "But it is a shame."

The Caribbean Stars walked off the court claiming they would not be back. The competition is scheduled to continue Sunday at 5:00pm. The Spurs will face the Selection. The Caribbean Stars are scheduled to face the number one GEBE Stars.

Koop Youth tennis tournament starts Friday

PHILIPSBURG—The second annual Koop Youth Tennis Tournament will be played on the courts at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex November 19, 20 and 21.

The competition will be divided into five categories. There will be an open class, 15 and under, 13 and under, 10 and under and a beginner division.

Cost to enter is US \$2 for members of LAB Sports and \$3 for non members.



The John Cooper/Jose Lake Sr. Ballpark stands wet and empty.

Robles grand slam to no avail as game rained out

PHILIPSBURG--Domingo Robles connected for a grand slam home run in the fourth inning to give the GEBE-TelEm Dodgers a 12-5 lead over the Inter-mar Tigers of Cay Hill in game three of the best of seven St. Maarten Baseball Association double A final series.

The game ended in no decision at John Cooper/Jose Lake Sr. ballpark Saturday night. The game was stopped due to rain. As five innings had not been played the game had to be replayed from the start.

The second attempt at game three began Sunday evening. Pedro Gonzales hit a home run in the second inning to give the Tigers a 1-0 lead. The Dodgers scored twice in the third to go up 2-1.

In the sixth, the Tigers tied the game and that was where play stopped, again due to rain. As the game

went past five innings, play will resume where it left off.

"We'll stick to the schedule and play game four Tuesday," said Tony Arnell, the competition coordinator. Game three will be completed Wednesday evening.

Both matches are scheduled to begin at 7:30pm. There will be no admission charge Wednesday evening.

The series is tied at one all. The Tigers won the first game 12-7. The Dodgers won game two 13-1. The results of both games had been protested.

"The Dodgers lost their protest," said Arnell. The Dodgers protested the legal status to play of three of the Tigers in game one. "The protest was filed wrong. They (the Dodgers) cited the wrong articles in the by-laws."

The protest was thrown

out on a technicality. The Tigers win stands.

"We expect to have a decision on the second game protests by Tuesday's game," said Elton Richardson, the association's president.

The result of all the protests and court battle between the Sunset Theater Stars and the Tigers in the semifinals caused the delay of the Netherlands Antilles Championship and the Dutch Caribbean Baseball Games. Both tournaments were scheduled to be played at the John Cooper/Jose Lake Sr. Ballpark beginning St. Maarten Day.

The two competitions were pushed back until November 17. Now due to the rain delay, St. Maarten still has no champion so the two tournaments have been put back further to November 24.

Killer Bees sting La Savane in B-division

PHILIPSBURG--Ram's Killer Bees delivered a stinging blow to the La Savane Cricket team in B-division play of the Charles Vlaun Memorial Knock Out at Caribe Lumber Ballpark Saturday.

The Killer Bees went to the crease first and scored 168 runs. James Wilson led the Bees stinging attack. He scored 31 runs and was not out. He hit three fours.

R. Alexander added 32 runs to the tally. He hit four fours. Alexander faced 42 balls in 59 minutes of play.

The Bees won by 63 runs. They held La Savane to 96 runs for the loss of six in a shortened match of 23 overs.

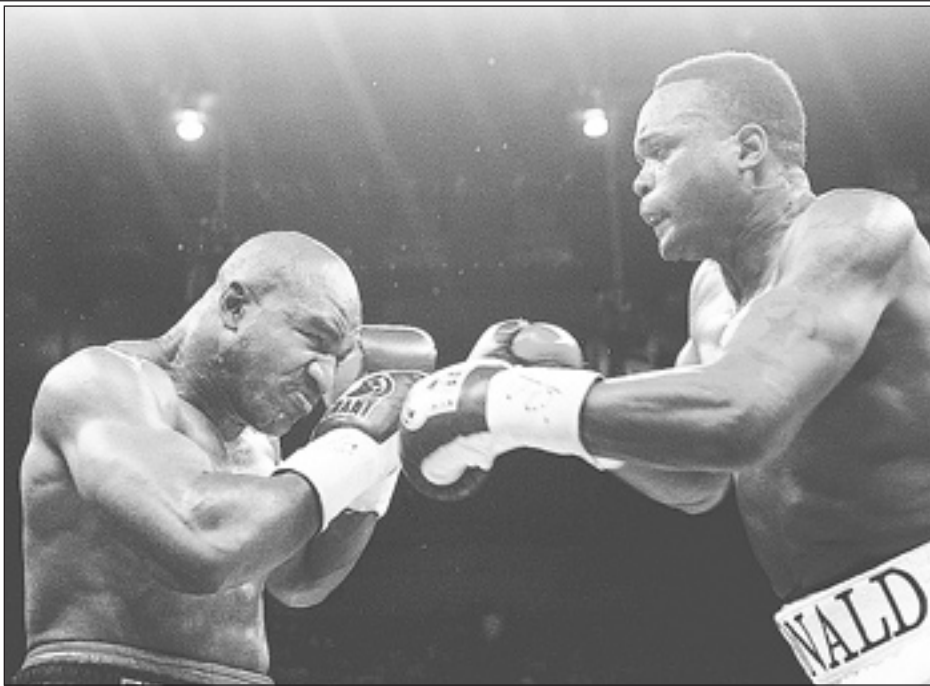
D. Hartley was the top batsman for the French Side team. He scored 34 runs. He faced 52 balls in 69 minutes. He hit two fours and one six.

He was assisted by T. Flanders who added 33 runs to the scoreboard. Flanders faced 47 balls in 34 minutes.

Ricky Hotchandani led the Bees defense. He worked three overs allowing only 18 runs to score while collecting two wickets.

The St. Maarten Cricket Association B-division will continue play Saturday. The scheduled 30 overs match will pit Frairs Bay, formerly Boys N D Yard, against Sun Insurance Kaieteur.

The cricket knock out has been expanded from a double elimination competition to a triple loss knock out to allow the teams more playing time.



Evander Holyfield takes a punch from Larry Donald (R) in the third round of their NABC heavyweight championship fight in New York's Madison Square Garden, on Saturday.

Despite loss to journeyman, Holyfield won't quit ring

NEW YORK--Evander Holyfield may have finally run out of reasons to keep fighting. If so, it appears he'll be the last one to admit it.

The former heavyweight champion's sad decline continued Saturday night when he was dominated by journeyman fighter Larry Donald. Holyfield stood watching, unable to throw punches even when he saw openings, as Donald jabbed his way to a lopsided 12-round decision that made the 42-year-old Holyfield's quest for the undisputed heavyweight title seem even more ridiculous than it already was.

Still, he refused to call it a career. "I still feel that I can rise to the occasion, so why not continue to pursue the dream?" Holyfield said. "I've

never given up on anything."

Fighting for the first time since taking a beating last year from James Toney, Holyfield fell down while throwing a left hook 49 seconds into the fight, setting the tone for what would be a long night.

Holyfield won only one round from each ringside judge, and in the final round Donald added insult to injury by dancing in front of him and slamming left jabs and rights off of his head.

The fight preceded heavyweight title fights between IBF champion Chris Byrd and Jameel McCline and WBA champion John Ruiz and Andrew Golota at Madison Square Garden. Holyfield, who now has won only twice in his last nine fights,

was the sentimental favorite of the crowd, which chanted his name during the sixth round in a futile attempt to get him going.

Donald was content to land jabs to the head and throw an occasional right in the early rounds, but he soon became confident that Holyfield could not hurt him. His dominance was reflected in ringside punching stats, which showed Donald landing 216 of 643 punches to just 78 of 264 for Holyfield.

"There ain't no doubt I won," Donald said. "I won every round."

Donald had lost two of his last five fights and was knocked out by Vitali Klitschko two years ago.

Knock downs galore in heavyweight title bouts

NEW YORK--Chris Byrd felt the power and found the canvas. Then Jameel McCline found out what made Byrd a heavyweight champion in the first place.

Giving away 56 pounds and several inches, Byrd survived a second-round knockdown and a bigger man's punch to retain his IBF heavyweight title Saturday night on a split decision by the narrowest of margins.

The fight was the best of two title bouts at Madison Square Garden. In the other, WBA champion John Ruiz retained his title despite being knocked down twice and penalized once in an ugly fight with Andrew Golota.

Ruiz also lost his trainer, Norman Stone, who ran across the ring after the first round and threw a punch at Golota's trainer and then was ejected in the eighth round after repeatedly arguing with referee Randy Neumann.

Ruiz, though, came on strong late in the fight to win 114-111 on two cards and 113-112 on the third.

As crafty a fighter as the heavyweight division has seen in recent times, Byrd needed every bit of his skills to come on strong in the later rounds to win a split 12-round decision that was in doubt until the final judge's tally was added up.

The good friends hugged as the highly entertaining fight ended and the crowd of 12,777 stood and cheered. Byrd won by 115-112 and 114-113, while McCline was favored 114-112 on the third scorecard.

"The way I fought back

showed I am a true champion. I had to dig down. He weighed 270 pounds," Byrd said. "I definitely did enough to win the fight. I am a champion."

Byrd, who weighed 214 pounds to McCline's 270, was in trouble early, going down in the second round from a right hand and taking punishment from an aggressive McCline. He was trailing badly after five rounds, before beginning to find his mark and score with quick inside combinations.

It was the third title defense for the southpaw Byrd, and the third fight that was close until the end. In his last fight, he retained the title with a draw over Golota.

"He has fast hands and he took me out of my game plan," McCline said. "That was the difference."

Lyon back to winning ways against Nantes

PARIS--Olympique Lyon returned to their characteristic winning ways on Saturday, beating Nantes 2-0 to strengthen their Ligue 1 lead.

The three-times French champions, beaten for the first time this season by Lille in the League Cup first round in midweek, got back on track thanks to almost identical goals by Pierre-Alain Frau and Sidney Govou early in the second half.

Frau showed the way for his team mate 18 seconds after the break when he stole the ball from Nantes defender Alexander Viveros inside the box to score from close range. Govou made it two on the hour from the same spot.

Frau and Govou will spearhead the French attack in a friendly international against Poland on Wednesday.

Lyon, the only unbeaten team in the French league after 14 rounds, now lead second-placed Lille by three points. Lille drew 1-1 against Monaco on Sunday.

Olympique Marseille climbed to fifth in the standings with a 2-0 win over struggling Racing Strasbourg 2-0, although their home fans were not out in force after watching their team slip to successive defeats against arch-rivals Paris St Germain. PSG ended an unbeaten run of six matches, going down 3-0 away to Bordeaux.

AJ Auxerre remained third in the division with a 1-0 victory at home to Ajaccio.

Mexico dances around Kittitian footballers

ST. KITTS--Many Kittitians remained glued to their television sets as Mexico ran riot in a 5-0 triumph over the Sugar Boyz.

St. Kitts/Nevis were forced to play from their defensive third for most of the game and their resistance to the CONCACAF giants lasted only 30 minutes.

On a free kick about 30 yards out, Hector Altamirano drilled a shot directly at St. Kitts goalkeeper Adolphus Jones, who appeared to have the ball covered. But the ball deflected from his body and went into the goal.

Jose Fonseca took over after that. He scored a hat trick and was the provider for the other goal.

Fonseca's first goal came nine minutes after the

first and made the score 2-0. Fonseca dribbled, unmarked, deep in the right wing area and beat Jones with a shot inside the right post.

Fonseca scored his second goal in the 56th minute, converting from 10 yards, and completed his scoring in the 89th minute from 18 yards out after the St. Kitts offside trap was beaten. Sergio Santana got the other in the 48th minute but it was Fonseca's header that redirected a deep right sided cross into the path of Santana.

During that time the Kittitians were doing very little to bother the Mexicans. Their key man in midfield, George Isaac, was having a poor game with some unusual turn overs.

Like all other Caribbean opponents, St. Kitts were outclassed and outplayed. The crowd, made up of mainly Mexican fans, drummed and danced and begged their team to score five. They got their request.

Mexico and St. Kitts play the second leg of the home-and-away set Wednesday in Mexico. St. Kitts used the Orange Bowl in Miami as home venue for numerous reasons chief of which was the cost factor of hosting games.

St. Kitts/Nevis, who have now lost all 5 encounters, will no doubt finish the series winless as they will have to battle a superior Mexican team in the mid-day sun at Monterrey.



Adolphus Jones, goalkeeper for St. Kitts and Nevis, makes a save during Mexico's 5-0 win in their World Cup Qualifying match in the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida, on Saturday.

Rooney inspires United to 3-1 win at Newcastle

LONDON--Wayne Rooney scored twice and Ruud van Nistelrooy converted a penalty as Manchester United beat Newcastle United 3-1 away on Sunday to record their first win in three Premier League matches.

Former Manchester United captain Bryan Robson, meanwhile, had an unhappy start as West Bromwich Albion manager as his struggling side went down 2-1 at home to Middlesbrough on the ground he once graced as a budding England midfielder.

United remain 11 points behind leaders Chelsea, who won 4-1 at Fulham on Saturday when champions Arsenal beat Tottenham Hotspur 5-4 at White Hart Lane in a remarkable north London derby to stay two points behind in second place. Newcastle are now 16 points off the pace after a third successive home defeat in domestic

competition.

United manager Alex Ferguson, telling Sky Sports his side can still fight for the title, said: "We've come away with a victory that maybe some others won't get (at Newcastle)."

Rooney put United ahead after seven minutes when he volleyed his second goal in six league matches and fifth altogether since Ferguson won the race against Newcastle for the England striker's transfer from Everton in August.

Newcastle captain Alan Shearer equalised in the 71st minute after robbing substitute defender Wes Brown of the ball but complained bitterly about the penalty awarded to United three minutes later. Keeper Shay Given palmed down a Rooney effort but then brought down Paul Scholes as they went for the loose

ball and Van Nistelrooy converted from the spot for his third league goal and 12th overall this season.

Shearer said Rooney had pushed substitute defender Andy O'Brien, who went to ground as the pair went into the box tussling for the ball. "At 1-1 they were rocking," Shearer said. "A decision like that has completely changed the game."

Rooney took his league tally to three with his second goal in stoppage time when he blasted home the loose ball after centre back Titus Bramble had cleared a Van Nistelrooy effort off the line.

Middlesbrough, under former Manchester United coach Steve McClaren, climbed to fourth on 22 points with goal difference putting them above Bolton Wanderers, who lost 2-1 at home to Aston Villa on Saturday.



Chelsea's Arjen Robben (R) scores to make it 2-1 against Fulham as team-mate Frank Lampard (L) and Fulham's Moritz Volz (C) look on during their English premier league soccer match at Craven Cottage, London, on Saturday.

Robben raises Chelsea's game

LONDON--Arjen Robben has given Chelsea a new dimension, manager Jose Mourinho said after the Dutch forward helped the Premier league leaders to win 4-1 at Fulham on Saturday.

The 20-year-old Robben, who made his Chelsea debut only three weeks ago after recovering from a foot injury, scored his side's important second goal two minutes after Fulham's spirits had been lifted with a superb Pape Bouba Diop equaliser in the 57th.

Robben, a 12-million-pound (\$22-million) signing from PSV, scored his fourth goal in as many games and it was the third time in four league matches that Chelsea, two points ahead of second-placed Arsenal, had

scored four.

"He is very confident and his winning attitude and ambition is even bigger," Mourinho told Sky Sports News about Robben. "The team has improved a lot since he has been playing. We knew we needed to win and did it in a fantastic way."

Robben scored a brilliant goal in his Champions League debut when Chelsea beat CSKA Moscow 1-0 away on November 2. He followed that with another winner in the 1-0 league victory over third-placed Everton and wrapped up Chelsea's 2-0 win at Newcastle United in the League Cup in midweek with their second goal.

Arsenal were also high scorers in an earlier match

on Saturday but they conceded four, winning the derby against their bitter north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur 5-4. Mourinho, who prides himself on a well-drilled defence, joked: "5-4 is a hockey score not a football score."

Fulham manager Chris Coleman believes Chelsea will win the league primarily on the basis of a defence that has conceded only five goals in 19 matches this season. "I think they will be champions. They can defend, they don't give away goals, they've only conceded four (league) goals and now they've got the capabilities of winning 1-0. When they go 1-0 up they rarely lose and that's a good sign," he said.



Brazilian soccer legend Pele (L) and Franz Beckenbauer (R), president of the German 2006 FIFA World Cup organizing committee, pose together with the official mascot of the 2006 World Cup called "Goleo VI" and his friend the speaking ball "Pille", during a news conference in Leipzig, Germany on Sunday. FIFA boast that Goleo--the name is an abbreviation of "Go, Leo, go!"--can talk, dance, play music and make people laugh. He is accompanied by Pille, a talking football with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the game.

Rams batter Seahawks for first place tie

ST. LOUIS--Mike Martz's week of anger was no empty display. He saw the season slipping away for the defending NFC West champions and thought taking potshots at his players might be his best shot at turning things around.

The St. Louis Rams responded to the tongue-lashings and physical practices by slapping around the Seattle Seahawks. Marc Bulger got off to a red-hot start and a beleaguered defense held Seattle to three field goals in five trips inside the 20 in a 23-12 victory that earned the Rams a first-place tie with the Seahawks atop the NFC West on Sunday.

Martz held little back after consecutive losses to the Patriots and previously winless Dolphins. "You don't want the head man upset," wide receiver Kevin Curtis said. "It can't help but fire you up a little bit to play even harder."

Martz's tactics included a live scrimmage on Wednesday, a very unusual full-contact drill for the NFL but something that he'll continue after seeing such impressive results. "It's easy to take things for granted--all of us, coaches too," Martz said. "If you don't coach attitude and bring out the passion that they have to play this game, then you start to slide, and I think that's where we were."

The Rams (5-4) responded to Mad Mike by sweeping the season series against their top competition in the West, this time benefiting from an early cushion rath-

er than a fast finish. The Rams led 17-0 early in the second quarter; a month ago in Seattle, they had to score 17 points in the final 5 1/2 minutes of regulation to force overtime.

"They made key plays when they had to, and we didn't," Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren said. "I think that was the story."

Shaun Alexander had 176 yards on 22 carries for Seattle, giving him 531 yards the last three games and putting him over 1,000 yards for the fourth straight season. But Alexander's fumble after a 35-yard gain to the St. Louis 9 early in the fourth quarter blew the Seahawks' chance to tie it, with Aeneas Williams stripping the ball and Rich Coady recovering.

Other NFL Results:

Titans	- Bears	17-19
Jets	- Ravens	17-20
Saints	- Chiefs	27-20
Jaguars	- Lions	23-17
Colts	- Texans	49-14
Falcons	- Bucc's	24-14
Redskins	- Bengals	10-17
49ers	- Panthers	27-37
Packers	- Vikings	34-31
Card's	- Giants	17-14

Ooijer and Van Galen called into Dutch squad

AMSTERDAM--Netherlands coach Marco van Basten called up Andre Ooijer and Barry van Galen on Sunday for Wednesday's World Cup Group One qualifier against Andorra in Barcelona.

In a statement the Dutch FA (KNVB) said that the AZ midfielder Van Galen would replace Rafael van der Vaart, who was substituted an hour into Ajax's

AJAX

Continued from page 4

in the fact that the second half was of a lower level," said Koeman. "We weren't exactly lucky with our attempts. We did, however, play better than in the past few weeks. That gives us confidence. We have to carry on like this, then we will get closer to the top positions."

Feyenoord coach Ruud Gullit was also upbeat. "My team still is improving and it pleases me that the defence hardly gave away any chances. I can live with this result," he said.

The result sees Feyenoord drop to third after AZ continued their terrific recent form with a 3-0 win at NAC.

Co Adriaanse's side led for much of the match after Martijn Meerdink's 34th-minute opener, but it was not until two minutes from full time that Tarik Sektioui made the game safe with two goals in two minutes. The three points extends UEFA Cup contenders AZ's unbeaten run to eight league games.

Vitesse also recorded a 3-0 win, against SC Heerenveen, to leapfrog their opponents into fifth. Nicky Hofs broke the deadlock on 58 minutes with a well-struck free-kick before Matthew Amoah added two in the final ten minutes to seal victory.

The biggest victory of the weekend came at the Zuiderparkstadion, where ADO Den Haag eased to a 5-1 win against RBC Roosendaal. Geert den Ouden scored twice as Den Haag recovered from two successive losses in emphatic style.

Elsewhere, Roosendaal's fellow strugglers De Graafschap earned a rare point when Lonc Loyal headed an 81st-minute equaliser in a 2-2 draw against RKC Waalwijk.

FC Utrecht and Roda JC drew 1-1, while FC Twente defeated NEC Nijmegen 2-0 with goals from Karim El Ahmadi and a 40-metre lob from Jason Culina.

1-1 draw against Feyenoord with a knee injury on Sunday.

PSV's Andre Ooijer was also called up after Ajax's Nigel de Jong dropped out on Sunday with a head injury.

Midfielder Edgar Davids is also doubtful with a back injury that kept him out of Inter Milan's Serie A match at Cagliari on Sunday.

Betis edge Barcelona, Real hit winning form

MADRID, Spain--Brazilian forwards Edu Schmidt and Ricardo Oliveira scored a goal each Sunday to help Real Betis top previously unbeaten FC Barcelona 2-1 in the 11th round of the Spanish league.

Barcelona (8-2-1) missed a chance to establish a club record for its best start to a season. Frank Rijkaard's team needed a win to improve on the record by Bobby Robson's Barcelona side of 1996-97.

Earlier Sunday, Real Madrid trounced lowly Albacete 6-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium to move to within four points of

first-place Barcelona at the top of the standings.

Ronaldo scored twice, with Zinedine Zidane, Raul Gonzalez, Walter Samuel and substitute Michael Owen also netting to extend Madrid's unbeaten run to five. The victory boosted Madrid's morale before its visit to Barcelona next Saturday, and David Beckham added to Madrid's satisfaction by making his first appearance after a month's absence with broken ribs.

"Today we played a great game. We created lots of chances. Both individually and as a team we did really

well," Madrid coach Mariano Garcia Remon said.

Barcelona leads the league with 26 points, while Madrid has 22. Espanyol is in third place with 20 points, one more than Levante and two more than Zaragoza and Sevilla.

In another 11th-round match Sunday, last-place Mallorca drew 1-1 with Mallorca.

Barcelona dominated the first half with Ronaldinho unable to make the most of two headers, although goalkeeper Victor Valdes made an excellent save to deny Spain winger Joaquin Sanchez five minutes later.

Betis, which had won just one home match previously this season, looked transformed as the second half began and took the lead four minutes later when Edu ran in to volley Joaquin's cross at the far post. The situation worsened for Rijkaard's team in the 69th minute when Oliveira rounded Valdes to net the second after Barcelona captain Carles Puyol had fluffed a back header.

Barcelona, two goals down for the first time this season, reduced the deficit three minutes later when substitutes Gerard Lopez and Henrik Larsson both rose at the far post to meet Deco's cross from the right. Gerard appeared to get the final touch.

Betis withstood some fierce pressure to claim an important victory for coach Llorenç Serra Ferrer, a former Barcelona coach.



Real Madrid's Ronaldo (R) challenges Albacete's Jaime Rodriguez for the ball during their Spanish League soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium, in Madrid on Sunday.

Del Piero keeps Juventus six clear from AC Milan

MILAN--Alessandro Del Piero's goal gave Juventus a 1-0 win at Lecce as the Serie A leaders maintained their six-point advantage over second-placed AC Milan on Sunday.

Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko scored both goals as Milan beat Siena 2-1 at the San Siro to take his career tally to 100 Serie A goals.

Inter Milan's bizarre season continued as they came back from 3-1 down at Cagliari with two superbly-taken goals from Nigerian Obafemi Martins earning them a 3-3 draw. The result maintains Inter's unbeaten record but that counts for little--with 10 draws from

12 games, they are now 15 points behind Juve.

Third-placed Udinese were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Messina, who moved above Lecce into fourth place. AS Roma's troubles continued as they lost 1-0 to Reggina while a Paolo Di Canio penalty gave Lazio a 2-1 win over Bologna.

Heavy rain in Lecce resulted in a heavy, barely playable surface but a moment of skill from Juve's Zlatan Ibrahimovic and a piece of clinical finishing from Del Piero was enough to give the visitors their 10th win of the season. Ibrahimovic produced some fine footwork to lose his marker and

pick out Del Piero inside the area and the striker took his time before firing home in the 14th minute.

Lecce's potent attack, they are top scorers in Serie A, created few chances in the puddles and mud and Juve coach Fabio Capello said he was disappointed such a promising game had been wrecked by the conditions. "If that game had been played on a normal pitch we would have seen a spectacular game of football," he said singling out Ibrahimovic for praise.

"He is doing an extraordinary job. The work he does up front is creating space for the man alongside him," he added.



Washington Wizards' Brendan Haywood (L) is fouled by Dallas Mavericks' Shawn Bradley while driving the lane to the basket in the second quarter at the MCI Center in Washington on Sunday.

Stackhouse gets Mavericks rolling against Wizards

WASHINGTON--Jerry Stackhouse found himself in a starring role against his former team.

Stackhouse scored 28 points against his former team, including three 3-pointers during a pivotal 23-6 run in the fourth quarter, to help the Dallas Mavericks win for the seventh time in eight games, a 122-113 victory over the Wizards.

Dirk Nowitzki had 32 points and 13 rebounds for the Mavericks, who won despite four Wizards starters scoring at least 20 points.

With Michael Finley on the injured list with a sprained ankle, Stackhouse--who accepted a reserve role after being traded to Dallas--has been called upon to carry more of the scoring. He also had 28 points against New Jersey on Saturday.

"He's been giving us a big lift, especially now that Mike's out," Nowitzki said of Stackhouse. "We need somebody who can come up and score for us and he was big in the last two games. I think he's going to win a lot of games for us this year."

It was the first game between the two teams since the draft-day trade that sent Stackhouse, Christian Laettner and the draft rights to Devin Harris to Dallas for Antawn Jamison, winner of last season's sixth man of the year award.

Jamison led a balanced Wizards attack with 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Larry Hughes also had 23 and Gilbert Arenas and Brendan Haywood added 20 apiece to help Washington become the first team to score 100 points

against Dallas this season. The last time four Wizards scored 20 or more points in a game was Feb. 6, 2004, in a 112-100 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Arenas had nine of the team's 29 assists. "That's a good sign," Jamison said. "It shows you how we look for the open guy, we're unselfish, and that's the way basketball should be played. But there is also a second part of it. You have to find a way to do it on the other end."

"When you play a team like that you have to be clicking defensively," added Jamison, whose Wizards are 0-4 when they allow more than 100 points. "We had a lot of breakdowns, especially down

the stretch, and they got some open looks."

Stackhouse, who was booed every time he shot the ball in the first half, said he likes his reserve role in Dallas. "People try to make it more than what it is," Stackhouse said. "I've got a lot of love for those guys over in that locker room and obviously at the end of the game you saw they had a lot of love for me despite everything that's gone on. I feel like I'm in a better place, a place where I'm supposed to be."

Other NBA results

76ers - Magic 96-87
Heat - Bucks 112-110

Serena mauls Mauresmo to reach WTA semifinals

LOS ANGELES--Serena Williams is in love--with her new attacking game and herself.

Williams moved a step closer to salvaging her season with a 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 semifinal victory over Amelie Mauresmo in the WTA Championships on Sunday.

"She just went for it," Mauresmo said. "I would give all the credit to her. I was playing some good tennis and she really raised her level a lot."

Williams alternately blasted powerful groundstrokes, served in the 120-mph range and rushed the net, where she won 38 of 54 points. "I'm doing in the match what do I in practice, so for me that's really important," she said. "That's what I'm happy most about. Now I just got to

make sure I make them all."

Williams, ranked eighth and without a Grand Slam title this season for the first time since 2001, advanced to Monday night's final against Maria Sharapova, the 17-year-old Russian who stunned her in the Wimbledon final.

Dressed in a pink-and-white ruffled skirt and pink shirt, Williams pirouetted and blew kisses to 9,022 fans at Staples Center who were clearly on her side. She wore a white T-shirt with the slogan "I Heart Me" after the match.

"I love me. I love everything about me. I love my legs, I love my arms, I love my lips, I love my eyes," she said, laughing. "I think it's important for everyone to love themselves."

Butt hits maiden ton, Pakistan crush India

CALCUTTA, India-- Salman Butt struck a maiden one-day century as Pakistan beat India by six wickets on Saturday in their first match on Indian soil in more than five years.

Butt, in his sixth one-day, scored 108 not out off 130 balls out of a total of 293 for four. Captain Inzamam-ul-Haq added 75 to guide Pakistan home in front of nearly 100,000 people in a game celebrating the Indian cricket board's 75th anniversary.

The 20-year-old Butt, who cracked 13 fours, had retired hurt on 68 with cramp but returned to seal the result with an over to spare as India's bowlers struggled with the dew under lights at

the Eden Gardens.

"The trainer was very cross because I didn't eat anything, so I promised him I won't do it again," Butt told reporters. "But I couldn't have asked for anything else, this was a gift from God."

All rounder Shoaib Malik added 61 for his ninth one-day half-century. "Nowadays, every total is chaseable. But 292 was a big ask," Inzamam said. "The boys were very determined and full marks to Butt for his excellent knock."

Yuvraj Singh had earlier struck a blistering 78, with 10 fours and two sixes, as India posted 292 for six. Opener Virender Sehwag had given India early mo-

mentum with a quickfire 53.

In 2000, the Indian government banned all home and away cricket against Pakistan due to political tensions over the disputed region of Kashmir but relented in 2003 after a thaw in relations. India toured Pakistan earlier this year. Pakistan's return trip for a full series is scheduled for February next year.

India began their innings sedately after electing to bat but Sehwag got into his stride after Sachin Tendulkar (16) was run out whilst attempting a sharp single. Sehwag cracked six fours and two sixes but it was Vangipurappu Laxman, with a run-a-ball 43, who dominated a stand of 82 for the second wicket with some sweetly timed on-drives.

The pair took India to 111 for one in just the 20th over before all rounder Shahid Afridi, bowling leg-spin, raised Pakistani hopes by dismissing both batsmen in quick succession.

But captain Saurav Ganguly (16) cautiously steadied the innings before Yuvraj launched his onslaught. Yuvraj put on 74 with Ganguly (48) and added another 53 for the sixth wicket with Mohammad Kaif.

Pakistan wobbled early in their reply when Zaheer Khan removing Younis Khan for a duck, caught at first slip while pushing at a ball that angled away.

But Malik and Butt took the initiative with a second-wicket stand of 113, keeping pace with the required run rate as Pakistan stayed in the hunt.

Malik hit occasional spinner Sehwag for a six and a four off consecutive balls but fell in the same over, caught at short mid-wicket when he checked his drive.

Inzamam made an uncharacteristic start to his innings on a slowish pitch, facing 41 balls before scoring his first boundary before racing to his 73rd one-day half-century in his 328th match.

"Pakistan have beaten us four times in a row, so they must be playing better," said Indian captain Ganguly. "They deserved to win today. We never had a chance."



Pakistani batsman Salman Butt hits a ball to boundary while he completes a 100 run during the one-day international match between Pakistan and India, at Calcutta's Eden Gardens on the occasion of Indian cricket board's 75th anniversary, on Saturday.

Beckham may retire from England after World Cup

LONDON--England captain David Beckham says he may retire from international soccer after the 2006 World Cup, media reported on Sunday.

The 29-year-old has been named in Sven-Goran Eriksson's squad for Wednesday's friendly with Spain after recovering from cracked ribs but says the current World Cup qualifying campaign and the finals in Germany could be his last for his country.

"I think the World Cup is probably as far as it will go for me as an England player," the Real Madrid midfielder was quoted as saying in the Sunday Express. "But you never know if I feel good I may carry on."

England are well-placed to make the 2006 finals, sitting top of Group Six on 10 points.

Beckham's Real Madrid team mate Zinedine Zidane has already retired from playing for France in a bid to extend his club career and Beckham says he will carry on playing as long as he can. "I want to play on for as many years as people want to give me. When I start fading out and the legs start getting heavy is when I will look to do something else," he said.

Ganguly banned two tests

NEW DELHI--Indian captain Saurav Ganguly, who missed the last two tests against Australia with injury, has been picked for the first test against South Africa but will miss the match due to an unprecedented ban for a slow over rate.

The 32-year-old Ganguly was found guilty on Sunday for his team's over rate in Saturday's one-day loss to Pakistan and given a two-test ban, ruling him out for both matches against South Africa in Kanpur and Calcutta later this month. It is the first time a captain has been banned in this way, an International Cricket Council spokesman confirmed.

"At a hearing, Ganguly was found guilty for his

team's slow over rate," an ICC statement said. "As this is his second level-two offence in the last 12 months, it changes automatically to a level three offence according to the ICC's code of conduct."

In line with the strict ICC rule on over rates, a level-three offence results in a suspension.

India were almost 10 overs behind the scheduled close of play and the bowlers struggled late in the day on Saturday with dewy conditions at the Eden Gardens. A Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) official said they would appeal against the decision made by match referee Clive Lloyd.

Vice-captain Rahul

Dravid will lead the team in Ganguly's absence and fast bowler Irfan Pathan will be back in action in the tests after recovering from a side strain. He also played in Saturday's one-dayer to celebrate the Indian board's 75th anniversary.

Pathan replaces bowler Shib Paul while Ganguly had come in for backup opener Dheeraj Jadhav.

The rest of the 14-member squad remained unchanged from the fourth and final test against Australia in Bombay where India won by 13 runs although Australia still clinched the series 2-1.

Yuvraj Singh, who struck a 62-ball 78 in Saturday's one-day match, was not included. The first test starts on Saturday.



Combination picture showing the four golf players (L-R), U.S. golfer Tiger Woods, Scottish veteran Colin Montgomerie, South Korea LPGA women golfer Se Ri Pak and PGA golfer K.J. Choi at the MBC Raon Invitational tournament in Cheju island, about 500 km (313 miles) south of Seoul, on Sunday.

Montgomerie beats Woods to clinch Skins event

JEJU, South Korea--Colin Montgomerie held off Tiger Woods to win a one-day Skins event Sunday.

Montgomerie finished with nine skins worth \$75,000 while Woods had five skins totaling \$51,000. South Korea's K.J. Choi also collected \$51,000.

South Korea's Se Ri Pak,

the only woman competing, missed several chances and ended with no skins.

Montgomerie took the lead with a 12-foot putt on the par-4 first hole at Raon Golf Club on the island of Jeju. The Scotsman, a member of Europe's Ryder Cup-winning team, sank a

30-foot birdie putt on the

par-5 10th to collect five skins.

Woods took the second hole and earned a total of five skins with a birdie putt on the 12th and another at the 14th.

Sunday's prize money goes to charity.

Curtain of steel descends over NFL

CLEVELAND--Ben Roethlisberger walked out of Browns Stadium with his head and perfect record intact.

Unfazed by Gerard Warren's pregame threats or anything Cleveland's defense threw at him, Roethlisberger became the first rookie quarterback to begin 7-0 since the 1970 merger as the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Browns 24-10 on Sunday.

"Ben doesn't get rattled," said wide receiver Hines Ward. "For him (Warren) to make comments like that wasn't very smart. I guess maybe he's jealous of Ben."

He may not be the only one. Jerome Bettis had two short touchdown runs for the Steelers (8-1), who won their seventh straight game and continued their best start since opening 1978, when they went 9-1.

They did it by taking smash-



Pittsburgh Steelers strong safety Troy Polamalu (R) intercepts a pass in front of Cleveland Browns wide receiver Antonio Bryant in the second quarter at Cleveland Browns Stadium on Sunday.

mouth football to a new extreme. During pregame warmups, Pittsburgh linebacker Joey Porter punched Browns running back William Green, bloodying his lower lip during their fight. Both were ejected before the opening kickoff.

After handing New England and Philadelphia their first losses the past two weeks, Pittsburgh figured to be due for a letdown. That will have to wait until next week--maybe--as the Steelers remained the NFL's hottest team.

"We haven't done anything yet," Steelers coach Bill Cowher said. "We're fighting and scratching for everything we can get every week. We're not that much better than that team over there."

Bettis, starting for the second straight week in place of the injured Duce Staley, gained 103 yards on 29 carries. He scored on TD runs

from the 5 and 1 in the first half.

Bettis had a chance to score a third TD, but couldn't get over the goal line despite three cracks from Cleveland's 1 in the fourth quarter. "That's my job, what I'm here for is to be a relief pitcher," said Bettis, now 5 yards behind Tony Dorsett for fifth on the league's career rushing list. "This team is special. The guys behind the starters have to help. That happened today. James Harrison had a real good game."

Harrison filled in for Porter, who exchanged spit and fists with Green during their pregame bout near the 50. Harrison had six tackles and one of Pittsburgh's four sacks on Browns quarterback Jeff Garcia.

On another sack, Steelers safety Russell Stuvaints returned Garcia's fumble 24 yards for a TD.

Brilliant Kuijt goal keeps Ajax in check

AMSTERDAM--Dutch champions Ajax were held to a 1-1 draw by arch-rivals Feyenoord on Sunday, both sides losing further ground on leaders PSV.

Argentine Mauro Rosales fired Ajax into a 27th minute lead at the Amsterdam Arena. Dirk Kuijt's 10th goal of the season, a superb volley from the edge of the area, hauled the Rotterdammers level a minute before the break.

The match slowed down in the second half as neither team could find the game-winner.

PSV, who beat Willem II Tilburg on Saturday, have 32 points from 12 games, five ahead of AZ Alkmaar. Feyenoord drop one place to third on 26 points with Ajax fourth on 22.

Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink celebrated his 250th professional league appearance with his seventh goal of the season to give PSV a narrow win against Willem II at the Philips stadium. The striker's 16th-minute effort proved the difference between the sides in a far from fluent performance by PSV and they extended their

unbeaten start to the season to 12 matches.

Ajax coach Ronald Koeman, under-fire over his side's domestic form and a stuttering Champions League campaign, was pleased by his team's performance but not satisfied with the result. Koeman was forced to replace the injured Steven Pienaar and Nigel de Jong in the first half and his captain Rafael van der Vaart on the hour.

"Maybe all these forced substitutions played a part

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Ajax striker Yannis Anastasiou (R) and Shinji Ono of Feyenoord, battle for the ball during their Dutch League soccer match at the ArenA stadium in Amsterdam, on Sunday.