

10th anniversary of the evacuation of Plymouth on Montserrat Rebuilding an island after disruption and separation

by Wim Hart

Monday, April 3, marks the tenth anniversary of the mass evacuation of Plymouth, Montserrat's former capital. In these ten years the less than 5,000 people – out of the original population of around 12,000 – who are residing on the island have more or less come to terms with the hazards of a live volcano. The Soufrière Hills Volcano is there and the ash fall is proving it on a daily basis. Even though another dome – a mass of rocks and ash drifting on lava – is building up at a rate of 3 to 5 cubic metres per second, people don't look up to the white-tainted, ash and smoke belching hill top. They have learned to cope, to put the thing aside and keep themselves busy with what has become an extremely hard way to make a living. They do so in the "safe area" in the north, which measures 40 per cent of the stricken island's total size and they are depending on aid from Britain and the European Union, which aid is far from sufficient. Montserratians hope that their Sustainable Development Plan 2003-2007 will eventually make them independent of any aid. There are also those who are of the opinion that development goes too slow and that opportunities are lost.



Former capital Plymouth, covered with a layer of ash.

INSIDE



7 Saba Lt. Governor leaves



12 Gabriele Klaren: WISE

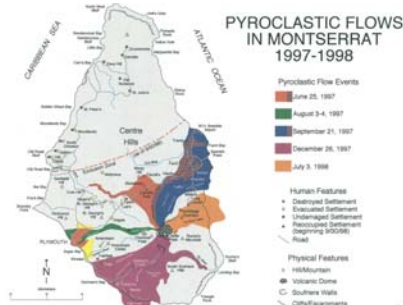
- 2 Leatherback turtle on Stasia
- 2 Tamu: Implanting chips
- 3 SHTA's Vision
- 3 New York Times Best Sellers
- 4 Cooking with Brenda
- 4 ENNIA: Investment facts
- 5 Eyewitness of evacuation
- 6 Montserrat: Fascinating, sad
- 6 Week in review
- 9 Dimitri's Internet column
- 10 Crossword, bridge
- 11 Brenda's household corner
- 11 Church news bits
- 11 Vance column, Tips for pets
- 12 Book review by Renier Heere

Volcanic activity began on July 18, 1995, with steam venting, explosions and ash fall on homes in Plymouth. Emergency Operations Centre (now renamed into Disaster Management Coordination Agency) mobilized two schools as temporary shelters for people who wished to leave Plymouth. Eruptions and evacuations took place all through 1995, when the Montserrat Volcano Observatory was established (July 18, 1995) and a temporary jetty was built in Little Bay. Said taxi driver Reuben, "The pier in Little Bay was built to take the people off island. One day a British battleship arrived. They told us to board the ship for an evacuation exercise. No one turned up, afraid that the ship would not take them back."

Then, on April 3, 1996, came the final evacuation of Plymouth. On May 12, 1996, "Mother's Day," pyroclastic flows reached the sea for the first time and, until then, largest ash clouds affected Cork Hill and parts of the safe zone.

Plymouth, once a thriving capital with the island's only port, became a ghost town in August 1996, buried under more than one metre of volcanic ash. The port and W. H. Bramble Airport both were closed in June 1997 and most roads were damaged or destroyed. At present there is a new road system and airport in the north and a new pier at Little Bay. Prior to what Montserratians call "the crisis," mountain areas close to the volcano were thickly forested, with fruit and vegetables grown in the cultivated areas. Eruptions and pyroclastic flows reduced these areas to lunar-type landscapes. "It was the food belt, but agriculture has died," said one Montserratian.

On March 25-28, WEEKENDER reporters visited the British Overseas



Territory Montserrat for an impression of what the island looked like and for a series of interviews with Montserratians. They made a tour of the island's safe zone, visited the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) and spoke with several per-

sons, among whom Chief Minister Dr. John A. Osborne, Director of Tourism Ernestine Cassell and Owner/publisher of *The Montserrat Reporter* Bennette Roach. Crunch, crunch, crunch did our shoes over the ash layers and a female

cleaner at our hotel looked in desperation at the flakes that kept her broom moving, until she cried out, "Rain fall, please fall, please!" Publisher Roche, who gave us a tour of the island, said, "I watched
Continued on page 5

Leatherback turtles and humpback whales return to St Eustatius



by Emma Harrison

Two endangered marine creatures recently returned to St. Eustatius: the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). Leatherback turtles come to nest on Zealandia Beach every spring; the

first tracks of this year were observed on 18 March, and it is presumed that the turtle nested the night of 17 March, 12 days earlier than the first nest recorded in 2005. The huge leatherback turtle, which can reach almost two metres in length and weigh over 500kg, will have migrated from her feeding grounds many thousands of kilometres away from St Eustatius. She will return to nest several more times over the next two months and hopefully will be seen by Stata Marine Park staff during their nightly patrols of the beach.

As in previous years, this leatherback chose to lay her eggs at the northern end of Zealandia Beach, where recent sand

these additional human impacts further decrease their chances of survival.

The second endangered animal to visit the waters off St. Eustatius was a humpback whale that was spotted by beach-goers in Oranjestad Bay on Saturday, 18 March. This is the third report of these magnificent mammals from St. Eustatius in the last few weeks. A National Park Ranger spotted two whales from the Botanical Garden last week, and the week before divers on-board a boat in the bay got a close-up view of whales in the bay. These enormous whales can reach up to 16 metres in length, and weigh between 25 and 30 tonnes. They are renowned for their spectacular breaching acrobatics and

I know where you were and what you did last summer



by Tania Petra Browne

There was much public interest and some horror when last month it was reported that video surveillance from CityWatcher implanted silicon chips into two of their workers. The two volunteer workers, one of them the company's CEO, were implanted with the rice size chips just under the skin in their forearm.

Sean Darks, the company's Chief Executive Officer, stated that the chip works like an access card. "There's a reader outside the door; you walk up to the reader, put your arm under it, and it opens the door. It's a passive chip. It emits no signal whatsoever. It's the same thing as a keycard."

The company is experimenting with the chips in an effort to identify workers with access to vaults where data and images are kept for police departments in order to limit and track security breaches.

Similarly, in 2004, 160 Mexican officials, including the country's Attorney General, were also implanted with the RFID (radio frequency identification) chips as a response to a rash of security compromises in the government. Mexico's top federal prosecutors and investigators began receiving chip implants in their arms in November of 2004, "in order to get access to restricted areas inside the attorney general's headquarters," said Antonio Aceves, General Director of Solusat, the company that distributes the microchips.

The Vencip provides more certainty about who accessed sensitive data at any given time. In the past, the biggest security problem for Mexican law enforcement was corrup-

tion by officials themselves.

The chip originally was developed to track livestock and wildlife and to let pet owners identify runaway animals. The technology was created by Digital Angel Corp, which was acquired by Applied Digital Solutions in 1999.

The United States' Federal and Drug Administration is in the final review process to allow application of the chips in medical institution personnel and patients.

VeriChip officials indicate that one potential use of the chip in medical settings is as a scanning device to download a chip's serial number, which they then use to access a patient's blood type, name and other information on a computer.

The potential uses of radio frequency identification chips are numerous inside the manufacturer. One model of the chip, which has on board a global positioning system, could be invaluable in locating missing and kidnapped children and elderly people suffering from dementia and even escaped prisoners, as it would allow remote physical tracking and monitoring of an individual.

There is also discussion of implantation of chips into government issued identification, such as passports and drivers licenses, allowing for remote identification of persons. In fact in 2005 United States Democratic Senator for Palo Alto amended a bill (SB 682) that would limit the use of radio frequency identification chips on health insurance cards, drivers' licenses and other personal identification documents. The amended version of the bill would prohibit state and local governments from mandating RFID technology on drivers' licenses, student IDs, health insurance and public library cards.

However, the bill would not limit how private industry uses the technology, and the government could still use the technology in other forms of identification, provided that the information be disguised with a unique identifier. State and local governments encrypt

the unique identifier to ensure that only people with a code could access the information and that the cards do not convey information to a reader until a password verifies that the machine is authorized to receive the data in an effort to limit fraudulent use of the technology.

Just as the perceived advantages are numerous, civil libertarians fear the potential for misuse is also great. They are warning that RFID technology represents an intrusion of privacy and that they can be used to breach the very security they are designed to protect. George Monbiot, in a commentary for daily online newspaper *The Guardian Unlimited*, agrees with the idea that these chips represent a slippery slope for civil liberties. He states, "At first the tags will be more widely used for workers with special security clearance..."

The workers will not be forced to have them any more than they are forced to have sex with their bosses; but if they don't accept the conditions, they don't get the job. After that, it surely won't be long before asylum seekers are confronted with a similar choice: you don't have to accept an implant, but if you refuse, you can't stay in the country."

With the new global frontier, where the world is everyone's back yard, this technology may be quite useful in crime prevention and victim identification. The new age of terror in which we exist today has somewhat reduced our right to privacy, and anonymity will become a thing of the past; hence an efficient way to track and mine data in this new age is a necessity. It is left to be seen, however, if the chip will indeed become the new form of identification.

Will governments demand that we implant them? As technology marches on, will we regard the RFID chip with horror and squeamishness, or will we become as numbed about cell phones that play video clips and have Internet connectivity? Acceptance may come as time chips along.

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A leatherback turtle returning to the sea after nesting on the beach

mining activities have created large holes on the beach. Her nest was just two metres away from the nearest excavations. Obviously if these illegal activities continue into the nesting season there is little chance that the nests will remain undisturbed. Egg shells from last year's turtle nests can still be seen at the mining sites. Turtles have many natural threats to face throughout their lives and

their complex songs. Like the leatherback turtle, humpback whales also undertake extensive migrations each year. They are breeding here in the tropics right now and hopefully they will provide people with another opportunity to view them before they too head north to feed; if not, then we will have to wait until next year to see them once again return to our waters.



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SHTA's Vision for St. Maarten (part 4 and last)

"Tourists expect a high level of service"

by Wim Hart

"We have received a lot of response to our 'Vision for St. Maarten. A Work in Progress,'" said Emil Lee, President of St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association (SHTA). "The SHTA White Paper that contains proposals for solution to the traffic congestions received over 14 pages with feedback in just a few weeks. We are getting more positive every day," added SHTA Project Manager Giselle Dirckx. Lee and Dirckx made these remarks during an interview with WEEKENDER, which was also attended by SHTA Project Manager Cheryl Williams. They all agreed that with "Vision" the island's largest private business representative has embarked on a very ambitious and also very necessary project in which the focus is on improving the Quality of Life of St. Maarten. "And this affects businesses, residents as well as the tourists whom we would like to come to the island," the SHTA spokespersons emphasized.



SHTA President Emil Lee seen in the photo with Project Managers Giselle Dirckx (l) and Cheryl Williams.

In previous articles WEEKENDER (publications of March 11, 18 and 25) published the first three parts of the interview with Lee, in which he explained why SHTA had changed its traditional approach that focused on issues pertaining to the development of tourism to issues that affect St. Maarten's community as a whole. Quality of Life.

The second article mentioned in particular Traffic and Congestion and the organisation's White Paper, which contains proposed solutions to reduce traffic and congestion on the island.

The third article highlighted the issues Safety & Security, Education and Environment." This fourth and last part deals with SHTA's vision on Employment, Economy and Cost of Living.

In the chapter Employment, SHTA states that at present the island faces a large foreign working community, growing youth unemployment, low spending power, little job security and brain drain. Businesses struggle with high labour cost, restrictive labour legislation, a pool of unskilled workers plus an expensive and lengthy process to obtain work permits. Tourists who expect a high level of service are disappointed in this respect due to, among other things, the little knowledge of our local culture and the lack of local flavour that foreign workers display.

Flexibilisation of labour laws is a must in the efforts to improve the current situation. And so are facilitating the work permit process and elimination of the abuse of six-month contracts and of the number of working hours.

SHTA states in its Vision. Removal of the dismissal law will lessen the barrier for new employees to enter the labour market and to promote employment, the island's largest private business representative advocates Government.

It also says that facilitating the work permit process will reduce the problems of illegal workers getting their children in schools, while their social standing and insurance possibilities will also be improved. Elimination of the contracts abuse, as present encouraged by a lack of consistent controls, gives companies that don't comply with the law an unfair advantage over good corporate citizens, SHTA argues.

The organisation further makes a plea for a better cooperation of the local industry and the education facilities on the island in efforts to achieve a better match of learned skills and the business demand. This in turn will give employees better job opportunities, higher pay and other benefits.

In addition, special incentive scholarships would motivate students to choose an industry that needs them. This would also encourage the return to their island of young people studying abroad.

SHTA breaks a lance for long term planning of economic developments, stating that this, through its positive impact on the labour market, will give training/education facilities the required time to produce well-skilled future workers and less dependence on foreign labour.

In general, raising the education level and skills will increase the chances for residents to reap the benefits of our economy, give better career possibilities and increase earnings.

Sustainable economic development and a fair competitive market place compared with other Caribbean islands will result in more job security, career growth opportunities and higher wages, says SHTA in the chapter *Economy*. For businesses it will mean making the necessary profit to allow growth, investment and upgrading to remain competitive. It also allows for reserves to combat disasters and to grant certain benefits to employees.

for which constant training is needed to be competitive and to increase the productivity (more satisfied customers, tourists). Marketing programmes, and getting everyone tourist aware and involved will ensure that St. Maarten is a vacation destination also for high-spending passengers.

SHTA wants a reduction of the high cost of living, the high cost of doing business in St. Maarten and the image that the island is a high priced destination with high air fares. Proposed solutions include reducing of income and wage costs, profit tax as well as other costs which would assist in reduction of inflation. (SHTA gives an example of this inflation by pointing to the price of full-service gasoline, which has increased no less than 1.267 per cent in a relatively short period.)

Broadening the tax base would result in the burden to be spread over all residents and businesses, while it still ensures the necessary revenues to government. In addition, a more simple tax system than the present one, together with strong enforcement measures will encourage more residents and businesses to pay their taxes.

Facilities such as a job website and facilitating work permit applications would reduce the

time and cost invested in acquiring new employees and as a result in reducing the overall cost for entrepreneurs. The current dismissal law makes labour also more expensive as many employees are hired through sub-contractors at a higher fee, thus reducing the risk of not being able to terminate a contract when necessary.

SHTA sees wind power, solar power and hydro-power as feasible alternatives to reduce the utility costs for everyone, especially with the ever-increasing prices for oil and other fossil fuels. Last but not least, SHTA states, changing our daily routines and the way we are doing business, for instance by making more use of the e-mail, instead of faxing or hand delivering, and Internet banking (do away with the long lines of waiting people) will help us to operate more efficiently and cost-effective.

Note: In the previous article on SHTA's "Vision for St. Maarten A Work in Progress..." it was erroneously reported that SHTA built a playground for 1 Can Foundation shelter for young children with the assistance of a number of contractors. The playground was built over a period of eight hours with SHTA Board Members, 1 Can Foundation board members and volunteers, not by contractors.

The New York Times Book Review

Courtesy of Shipwreck Ships

Paperback Best Sellers

- FICTION**
- 1 Fatal Burn by Lisa Jackson. (Zebra)
 - 2 Kill the Messenger by Tami Hoag. (Bantam)
 - 3 Rage by Fern Michaels. (Pocket)
 - 4 The Humint Chant by Sue Monk Kidd. (Penguin)
 - 5 Sam's Letters to Jennifer by James Patterson. (Warner)
 - 6 Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden. (Vintage)
 - 7 Devil in Winter by Lisa Kleypas. (Avon)
 - 8 The Five People You Meet in Heaven, by Mitch Albom. (Hyperion)
 - 9 Girl in the Shadows by V. C. Andrews. (Pocket)
 - 10 The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead)
 - 11 With No-one as Witness by Elizabeth George. (Harper torch)
 - 12 The Broker by John Grisham. (Dell)
 - 13 Angels & Demons by Dan Brown. (Pocket Star)
 - 14 McKettrick's Choice by Linda Lael Miller. (HQN)

- NON-FICTION**
- 1 Night by Ellie Wesel. (Hill & Wang)
 - 2 In Cold Blood by Truman Capote. (Vintage)
 - 3 A Million Little Pieces by James Frey. (Anchor)
 - 4 The Covenant with Black America (Third World)
 - 5 The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell. (Back Bay/Little, Brown)
 - 6 Smashed by Koren Zailckas. (Penguin)
 - 7 The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls. (Scribner)
 - 8 Three Weeks with my Brother by Nicholas Sparks and Mich Sparks. (Warner)
 - 9 Collapse by Jared Diamond. (Penguin)
 - 10 The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson. (Vintage)
 - 11 Animals in Translation by Temple Grandin/Catherine Johnson. (Harvest/Harcourt)
 - 12 Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond. (Norton)
 - 13 Holy Blood, Holy Grail by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and H. Lincoln. (Della)
 - 14 Confessions of an Economic Hit Man by John Perkins. (Plume)
 - 15 The End of Faith by Sam Harris. (Norton)

Windward Jerk Ribs

- 6 lbs. Pork Spare Ribs
- 2 cups Fruit Jam (Mango or Pineapple)
- 1 cup Water
- 1 Tbsp. Curry Powder
- 1 bottle Antilles Spice Clipper Ja-Mak-A-Me-Jerk
- 1 Tbsp. Antilles Spice Clipper Red Inferno Pepper Sauce

Rub spare ribs with Antilles Spice Clipper Ja-Mak-A-Me-Jerk and set aside in refrigerator for at least 2 hours (can be overnight).

Preheat oven to 350°F. Arrange spare ribs on a baking sheet, meat side down and bake for 1 hour, turning once. Light your outdoor charcoal grill and bring to glowing coals. Combine jam, water and curry powder in a sauce pan and boil for 3 or 4 minutes. Take off heat and add Antilles Spice Clipper Red Inferno Pepper Sauce, stirring in. Put the ribs on the grill and baste with the fruit glaze. Repeatedly baste and turn until brown. Remove from grill to serving platter and baste once more before serving.



This recipe was brought to you by Lord & Butler, Distributor of the Antilles Spice Clipper products. Available at all Lord & Butler, Shipwreck, Cabana and Boardwalk stores as well as many other fine retailers on the island. Look for our distinctive ship-at-the-deck logo.

Recipe taken from:
The Antilles COOKBOOK

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Updated investment facts



By Michel Ivanovic
Sales Manager ENNIA St. Maarten

Insurance companies are the providers for your long term planning. For the long term it may be interesting to invest your money (partly) in shares, bonds, liquidities and/or real estate. Thanks to our ex-ter company OHRA in the Netherlands, we can keep you up to date concerning the facts that are affecting your possible returns.

Economic situation

Developments in the important economic blocks continue to be placid. Economic growth is picking up, however, especially in Europe and Japan, and preliminary indicators point at a favourable economic climate. Inflationary pressures are gradually increasing. EMU inflation increased from 2.2 per cent to 2.4 per cent and in Japan inflation is now positive again, after many years of deflation. The prospects for the United States are less transparent. Important indicators, such as the purchase managers' index for indus-

trial and service sectors, fell in February. In addition, the rising trend in the housing market seems to have ground to a halt. A healthy housing market was a major confidence booster for American consumers in recent years.

Equity markets

The equity markets, after a powerful start in January, were put back a peg in the past month. As many companies presented their results, considerable share price fluctuations were seen. On balance, the MSCI World Index (measured in USD) fell by 0.3 per cent in February. In the United States the equity markets took off to a tentative start, however, the mood improved as the stream of company reports abated. The telecom sector could sustain a positive development and the capital goods and financial services sectors followed suit. The IT sector, on balance, had to concede some losses. However, the biggest decreaser was the energy sector, mostly due to

the fact that the price of oil fell under the US \$60 per barrel mark. Measured in local currency, the Dow Jones and the S&P500 increased in February respectively by 1.2 per cent and 0.1 per cent. The NASDAQ closed the month 1.1 per cent lower. At the European equity markets it was notably financial values and utilities that performed relatively powerfully. Shares in the automotive industry and feeder industries also performed well. The energy sector - as in the US - was performing worst. Health care, base materials and telecoms were among the sluggish performers. On balance, the MSCI Europe gained 1.8 per cent in February. The Japanese equity market was forced back a step. Base materials and utilities were the winners, while the eq-

	Index position		Performance	
	31-01	28-02	in national currency	in euro
Dow Jones	10,884.90	10,993.40	+1.2%	+3.3%
Nasdaq	2,305.82	2,281.39	-1.1%	+1.0%
S&P 500	1,280.08	1,280.66	0.1%	+2.1%
MSCI Europe	113.06	115.09	1.8%	1.8%
Nikkei Japan	16,449.80	16,205.40	-2.7	0.3%
MSCI World	1,313.21	1,309.45	-0.3%	1.8%

	euro interest		United States		Japan	
	31-01	28-02	31-01	28-02	31-01	28-02
3-month	2.39%	2.48%	4.46%	4.62%	0.004%	0.05%
10-year	3.46%	3.49%	4.51%	4.55%	1.57%	1.60%
30-year	3.73%	3.72%	4.68%	4.51%	2.41%	2.24%

	31-01	28-02	Difference
Currency (Euro versus)			
USD	1.216	1.192	-2.0%
JPY (per 10,000)	142.5	138.0	-3.2%
GBP	0.683	0.680	-0.4%
SFR	1.553	1.564	+0.7%

uity market, across the board, closed at lower levels. The energy and telecom sectors, notably, were among the laggards. On balance, the Nikkei index lost 2.7 per cent.

Interest and currency markets

Statements from the monetary authorities in both the United States and the euro zone indicate an intention to raise the official interest rates. In Japan, too, closure seems in sight after many years of monetary easement, though this is not expected to translate into interest rate rises in the immediate future. However, these developments do not favour the worldwide bond markets. On balance the European interest market barely moved in February.

OHRA Funds

Share performance in the interactive communication and digitalisation theme was varied. Shares of suppliers of hardware and systems for the telecom sector outperformed the others, assisted by favourable results and optimistic forecasts of Cisco, the largest enterprise in the sector. The storage sector also saw a positive share price development. Share prices in the semiconductor segment fell after profit takings. In the Internet sector, some of the heavyweights in the portfolio, Yahoo! and Google, once again conceded losses, while Chinese Internet shares, such as Ctrip and Netasee, performed extremely well.

The prices of the OHRA Communicatietechnologie Fonds and the OHRA Multimedia Fonds increased, respectively by 4.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent. The price of the OHRA Internet Fonds was 2.2 per cent. In the ageing and care theme, shares in the biotechnology sector could largely recover from the price losses in January, while in the pharmaceutical sector the American pharmaceutical enterprises again outperformed comparable pharmaceutical industries in Europe.

In the medical technology segment it was notably the prices of the manufacturers of orthopaedic products that were under pressure. On balance, the OHRA Medical Technology Fonds gained 6.6 per cent, whereas the price of the OHRA Care Fonds increased by 6.1 per cent. In the environmental technology theme, new energy shares - after strong price rises in January - settled in quieter waters. Winners were notably seen among the

European manufacturers of wind turbines and solar fuel cells, while share performance in the fuel cell industry disappointed American manufacturers of solar cells were forced to surrender part of their earlier profits. Companies active in process technology, such as producers of measuring instruments for power and water consumption, saw interesting share price increases. The price of the OHRA Milieutechnologie Fonds increased by 4.2 per cent, while the price of the OHRA New Energy Fonds rose in January by 4.3 per cent. The price of the OHRA Aandelen Fonds, composed of the above themes, increased by 3.5 per cent.

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Quick and Easy Recipes
From Brenda Carty

Corn Bread

Ingredients
 3/4 cup flour
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 1 1/4 cups corn meal
 1 cup milk
 1 tablespoon honey
 1 egg
 3 tablespoons melted butter

Method
 Mix dry ingredients and wet separately. Combine and stir well. Pour into a hot, greased loaf pan or individual muffin tins. Bake 25 minutes at 425.

BUSINESS WEEK IN REVIEW

For this week's Business Week in review check website thedailyherald.com and enter your email address in the Week in Review box.

MONTSERRAT *Continued from page 1*

a pyroclastic flow come down the volcano. Fortunately, it stuck after a while and did not come down further. Scientists (at the MVO) can predict that something is going to happen, but not how to what extent," he said.

He and many more Montserratians consider their volcano a tourist attraction that is unique in the Caribbean and has the potential to draw many visitors to the island, bringing in money and making life easier.

Winarip provides the only link with the outside world together, with occasional charter planes that bring in about 1000 a week of visitors from Guadeloupe or other islands. Winair can bring in 20 plus passengers four times per day on a daily basis, while prior to the air link there were ferry and helicopter services from Antigua. "Opale Express ferry sometimes came in with groups of passengers, whom we could take on a tour," taxi drivers said. They and other Montserratians complained that the return airfare to Antigua is high (US \$125), while tickets for the ferry were EC \$200 or about US \$75.

Reacting to these complaints, Chief Minister Osborne told WEEKENDER that the ferry had to be subsidised to an annual amount of EC \$6 million. He said due to sometimes rough sea conditions a large ferry was which is an uneconomical to operate. "Since the new airport is open, the money can be used for infrastructure and tourism. I don't think the ferry will come back."

The Chief Minister added, "We have now millions and millions of tons of sand and gravel to export, but we need a proper docking facility. We are waiting for funds to develop a harbour in Isles Bay." He said government was negotiating with people who planned to re-establish a medical school.

A major challenge, Chief Minister Osborne said, was to get people interested to invest into projects on an island that has a volcano hazard looming around the corner. He said he was still optimistic. "We had a difficult time after Hurricane Hugo, but within two years we built up the country better than before. We will survive this volcano as well."

Another development plan both the Chief Minister and Director of Tourism Ernestine Cassell discussed is the five-phase "Montserrat Little Bay New Town Development" project. The first phase comprises a central area that will accommodate a public market, cultural centre, car parking facilities and commercial buildings. Government, which runs a temporary office in an area called Bradles, will move to Little Bay New Town. The plan includes a Parliament Building, Court House, Post Office, Philatelic Bureau, Office of the Attorney General and Clerk of Council, an office for the Ministry of Communications and Works.

The second phase includes plans for light industry, pri-

vate homes and businesses. Services will include water, electricity, cable and fibre optics and the collection of sewage by way of a compact municipal system.

Phase three will provide primarily private housing and villa type developments with a parking area and a park or public open space. Phase four (Potato Hill) will include a major hotel and more private homes and villa type development, and residential and business development.

Before the volcanic eruptions Montserrat had just about 30,000 arrivals annually, which depleted to about 4,000 directly after the crisis and is now back to some 15,000 arrivals per year. "Our arrivals numbers have gone up, but in the past, day tour visitors had a significant impact on our taxi drivers, restaurants, souvenir shops and grocers and so on. There are talks with a private person to develop a ferry service between Nevis, Antigua and Montserrat. A ferry twice a week, carrying 80 passengers, would be profitable," says Tourism Director Ernestine Cassell.

She adds that Volcanic Adventure, Nature tours and Villa vacations are the island's basic products. "People coming to see the volcano has become the main activity. We are in the final stage of creating an interpretive centre at the MVO, explaining the island's past, present and future to visitors and our own people as an education project."

Cassell visits the three main Tourism Fairs in Berlin, London and New York. "We tend to go as an individual island with a booth in the 'Caribbean Village.'" The British Government invested EC \$7 million for the development of tourism. It covers ten main areas, including marketing and promotion over the next three years. The Tourism Bureau supports the private sector in attending the Fairs.

The Tourism Department was evacuated in April 1996. "Our office in Plymouth was first moved to a building in Olveston, until we went to Salem. We have been here in Bradles since 2002. I am a Montserratian and I came back home in 1997, just two days before the biggest eruption. We were abandoning our property in Foxes Bay, knowing we would probably never be there again. There are so many of us sharing the same fate!" says Cassell, who celebrates 25 years working for the tourism sector of the island.

Before his interview with WEEKENDER, Police Commissioner John B. Douglas, MBE, and the Governor and Police Force attended a workshop "Media Relations," which was focused on making his officers more familiar with giving information to the press. He said the volcano has had quite an impact on the Force. "Prior to the crisis we had embarked on an extensive training programme for all ranks. We had obtained a fleet of



Chief Minister
Dr. John A. Osborne



Police Commissioner
John B. Douglas, MBE.



DMCA Deputy Director
James White.



Director of Tourism
Ernestine Cassell.

vehicles from the Governor's Good Fund, thereby providing a more proactive response to the public at short notice. Then came July of 1995, with volcanic activity that kept the police focused and as a consequence we were more concentrating on the security aspects of the volcano and became a reactive body."

Some officers could not cope, as a result of which the force went back from 93 officers to 67. "I was a Super-Intendant at the time," said Douglas. The evacuation from Plymouth was voluntary, he pointed out. "We made a public appeal and they cooperated, leaving on their own accord. It was a very orderly operation. Unfortunately, many thought that it was only a temporary thing. They left their belongings at their homes, which are now buried under ash and rocks."

He added that there had been some looting during the evacuation operation. "We were able to make some arrests."

Like so many of his officers and other Montserratians, his family migrated to England and he stayed on. The new police office in Bradles is a purpose-built station with the jail next to it.

Police Commissioner Douglas is member of the Emergency Policy Group (EMPG) headed by Governor Deborah Barnes Jones. The other members of the Group are the Chief Minister, Director of the Disaster Management Coordination Agency and the Head of the Royal Montserrat Defence Force.

The procedure in brief is that once the volcanic scientists at MVO alert the Governor that something might happen which requires response, the Governor convenes an EMP meeting which takes a decision. A wide and varied group, comprising among others all Ministers, representative of utilities companies, police officers and more, have been

trained in cooperating and carrying out decisions quickly.

"Because there are people over there, there can be no delays," says DMCA deputy director James White. "In 2003, when the dome collapsed, the area from St. Peter's to Belham River was declared disaster area."

While says that evacuations are planned for the worst case scenario all the time, but they cannot force people. "What we can do is tell them there are dangers. There is an early warning system of 8 sirens controlled by the Royal Montserrat Police Force with a back up at the DMCA office and with hooters from the MVO to the Salem police and to Radio Montserrat. "Two sirens are strategically placed at Salem and Belham River Valley and go off every midday to build confidence in our people how to act in an emergency situation. We also go to the schools, communities and we even have house-to-house visits."

Chief Minister Osborne and White insist that every resident is being kept informed about the latest developments at the volcano based on scientific information from MVO. That giving information also has a weak side, they say, was proven last weekend when rumours circled the island that expatriates had been advised to move more to the north because of developments at the volcano. "Not true at all," the two officials emphasise. "Like everybody else on the island the expatriate community was informed of the latest assessment and no advice was given to them at all. The assessment was misinterpreted."

Depending on the rate and direction the dome is growing, Chief Minister Osborne concludes, he cannot rule out that residents from Olveston, Salem and other areas that border on the exclusion zone will be advised to evacuate their homes in case the worst case scenario includes these areas.

Publisher Bennette Roche Eyewitness of Plymouth evacuation

"I drove in ash all the way home from my office in Plymouth, stepped out at my home in ash. That pained me!" Bennette Roche said. He is one of many Montserratians who recall April 3, 1996, as if it was yesterday. The publisher of The Montserrat Weekly, the only newspaper left on the island after Soufriere Hill Volcano's pyroclastic eruptions destroyed former capital Plymouth in August 1997, and after the destructive flows of ash, mud and rocks had already killed 19 people on June 25, 1997.



Bennette Roche overlooking his destroyed Plymouth.

Roche told WEEKENDER that he had been upset earlier that same day, April 3, 1996, when Governor Frank Savage (Montserrat 1993-1997) had asked him to assist with making the press release about the secretary's concern that the activity was escalating. "Plymouth was still a city and you had to drive a couple of miles up to Tar River to see the smoke. I was at the Rotary Club before I sat with the Governor and a scientist of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) to write the press release for Montserrat radio. Everything was getting in place quickly

then, with buses to pick people up in the vicinity of Plymouth."

Later that same day, Roche said he went up to the volcano area and watched bursts of ash clouds erupting from the volcano. "Everything was becoming so white," he recalls. When he entered the area of Wh. Bramble Airport, he saw the biggest ash cloud ever belching from the volcano. "There is the proof!" I said to myself. "I called my wife. She said what a problem she had driv-

ing home because of the ash. I cannot remember that we were scared. It was just the unknown."

There had been previous moves, and after the final evacuation ten years ago, Roche says, people continued to go to Plymouth and a number of shops remained open. "After I moved my office to my home in Olveston, I still printed in Plymouth until August 1997, when the situation began to get worse and I decided to move the printer as well. However, it

was rather heavy and I did not get any assistance at all. It's still there, buried under tons of rocks and ash."

Speaking about what has been left of the island's economy, Roche—who is contemplating political career—is critical about Government's achievements. "Many opportunities for promising developments were lost due to inadequate handling by the present government. I do not think we used the possibility to create a new society as well as we could have."

Montserrat, a fascinating, moving experience

by Marga Hart

When we visited Montserrat in October 1994, we were quite charmed by the island. There were lush, green hills, friendly people and a capital with a small and cosy centre. We stayed at an apartment in the capital Plymouth and had rented bikes to explore the island, since the area around Plymouth was rather flat. One day we cycled up to Olde Town and Olveston, encountering a few steep climbs, and twice we cycled down to St. Anthony's, where we hiked along the White River to the waterfall and the next time up into the bamboo forest. All this is history.

When we approached Montserrat in the Winair plane this time, we were greeted by the plume of steam and ash of the Soufrière, the volcano that started to erupt in July 1995, resulting in the destruction of most of the areas we had visited. It was not until April 3, 1996,

at the time of the disaster, designed the building, which features 18 rooms with private bathroom and kitchenette, a pleasant dining area and a pool.

Our room had a four poster double bed, was pleasantly decorated and had ample space to store our belongings. Fresh towels were put in the bathroom every day and in one of the cupboards of the kitchenette we found teabags, instant coffee and sachets with milk and sugar, so we could start our day with a cup of tea before going down to have breakfast. Continental breakfast is included and consists of toast, butter and homemade jelly or jam with freshly brewed coffee or fruit juice.

During our buffet dinner on Saturday, the night of our arrival, we noticed that they had moved the buffet and placed it under the porch. We thought it was because it was going to rain, but the next morning we saw a sprinkling of ash had covered the area.



Former Belham River



Despite the ash cloud, there are still lush, green hills

that the Plymouth area was evacuated for the third and final time. Many people, like our host Bennette Roche of *The Montserrat Reporter*, thought it would be temporary again, but in March 1997 these hopes were dashed when Plymouth was buried in ash. This time stayed at a relatively new hotel, close to the new airport. Tropical Mansion Suites was built in 1999 by the Galloway family to offer accommodation to the tourists, scientists and other visitors who were slowly coming back to Montserrat. After the evacuation, most of the villas that had been available for visitors had been either taken by evacuees or been used for government offices, since they had had to move as well. Ivason Galloway, who had been studying in Miami for his Master in Architecture

It had been "ashing" as the Montserratiens say. Although it annoys them, they have become rather complacent about it. They just wash it off and continue with what they were doing. Normally the trade wind takes the ash out to sea over the deserted area, but a shift of wind will cause it to fall elsewhere on the island.

That day our host took us on a tour in the Plymouth area. We crossed Belham River again, as we had done the first time we visited, but this time we crossed a wide area of rock and ash instead of a river. When it rains, the area can become dangerous because of flooding, so you had better take a guide or one of the taxis when visiting the area, so you won't get trapped or get lost on the deteriorating roads. It was eerie to drive past the deserted houses, all covered

with ash and some collapsing under the weight of it. When we drove further, the impact of the disaster began to affect me. All those families that had lost everything! When we finally arrived on the hill top and overlooked the devastation of Plymouth, I was really overcome by the devastation I saw below. I clearly remembered the



Interior of an abandoned home near Plymouth.

hustle and bustle of the town and its friendly people and now looked down upon an area where only roof tops and the church spire were signs of what once had been this lively town.

Next day taxi driver Thomas Furlonge, better known as Reuben, drove us to Olde Town again where we wanted to visit Vue Pointe Hotel, close to the Belham River. Reuben told us he had promised to pick up his cousin Annie before we had called him. Annie was 84 years old and had returned from New York a few months before to escape the winter there. She and her family had left the island in 1995, and for the last three years she had come back to her home island for the winter period. Reuben too had left the island with his family and had gone to live in England, as had 6,000 of his fellow islanders. Only he could not adapt to life and the climate there and had returned, leaving his family behind, whom he

now sees once or twice a year when he goes to England or when they visit the island. His story is not unique. The disaster has split up many families. Those who stayed or have come back are working very hard to make the island attractive for tourists again, because it is still one of their main sources of income.

definitely something that can attract tourists to the island. But that is not the only thing. The island still has lush, green hills where you can take a hike and spot the national bird, the oriole, as some English tourists we met at the airport on our way back to St. Maarten.



Smiling waitresses at the hotel.

Visitors to Montserrat can expect a friendly welcome from them. Many indigenous young people are still away studying or having found a home in their new country. To fill in jobs in the tourist industry, some young people from other areas in the Caribbean, such as Guyana and Jamaica, have come to the island to work, like our smiling waitresses and receptionists at the hotel. Although the sight of the buried town might move you to tears, it is still fascinating to see the effects of a live volcano from close by. It is

There are also interesting diving sites and snorkel possibilities. Reuben told us the people he had transported to the dive shop the day before had heard the calling of the whales while they were diving. Most of all, these amazingly resilient people deserve your visit to their split island. Apart from giving you a fascinating experience, it will help them in their development and might make you more aware how lucky we are on our sunny St. Maarten.

Solagnier's legacy

Observations from outgoing Lt. Governor

by Suzanne Nielsen

Governor Antoine Solagnier calls out a cheery "Come-in!" for his final interview with The Daily Herald, before leaving Saba for his new position in Curaçao as Recorder to the High Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba on April 1. In his customary frank manner, he covers a wide-range of topics, voicing his deep insights about the future of the island gathered from his five years as Head of Island Finance, followed by seven years as Lt. Governor.

A prime concern is education. Solagnier was complimentary about the progress made in Foundation-Based Education and the recent appointment of a task manager for vocational training. But he is troubled that island education lacks a clear mission statement about its core business: is it training young people for CXK exams, or preparing them for the labour market. Alternatively, can the school's small enrolment successfully support both programmes? "At a time when the island is seeking closer ties to Holland, low Dutch language skills send our graduates to expensive United States universities," he added. The whole community must carry whatever choice is made, he emphasized.

Law and order

Solagnier's observations about the workings of the Police Department are harsh. The recent Camelia-Römer report acknowledged his

concerns, which have gone unheeded during his seven years in office.

"The Lt. Governor as local Chief of Police has no budgetary control and thus cannot influence the effective functioning of the Police Force," he noted. It is the Police Commissioner who carries financial management, and he refuses to provide accountability to local Police Chiefs. Solagnier said, "There is much waste," he added, pointing to the NAF 2.7 million allotted the Force on Saba. "For this amount, they cannot even pick up the phone, let alone assist and protect the community," he observed.

Regarding the approach to youth problems, Solagnier is again highly critical of the Police Force for its lack of community interest and of the Court of Guardianship for inconsistent application of existing guidelines. "A simple start would be to apply the rules that are already on the books consistently," he commented.

Solagnier started a comprehensive approach to find ways to invigorate traditional Saba family values by bringing together stakeholders from the general public, local churches, and community educators. It will be up to his successor to continue this momentum.

Island finances

The island is so cash poor that it cannot make larger purchases at St. Maarten pharmacies, for example, to take advantage of volume discount economies. Every month it is a struggle

to find creative ways to make government payroll. It is Solagnier's opinion that Saba's fiscal accountability has not been tackled diligently enough, but a day of reckoning will come with new constitutional status.

"Financial clarity is the key and this needs to be worked on immediately," he said, and added this was the toughest part of his job. "The budget is an ongoing tool, not something talked about once a year; it should be available at a keystroke, with the ability to plug in new numbers and immediately see the impact," explained Solagnier. An impressive financial reporting backlog, dating back to a devastating computer meltdown in 1997, is just now being resolved with help from USONA.

Poverty alleviation

Saba does have poverty, but not the traditional variety, Solagnier commented on current national "poverty eradication programmes." Sabans have grown accustomed that government handles their dilemmas, which has impoverished their ability and willingness to solve their own problems. "We, as government or individuals, can't continue to live on credit. We must pay close attention to our spending habits, increasing materialism and rising expectations, which strain the fabric of our island society," Solagnier said, pointing specifically to lack of parental supervision of youth. "We have had it too good for too long," he remarked.

Managed Growth

Solagnier has deep concerns about the preservation of Saba's uniqueness. "We don't know how to cherish what we have—we've grown complacent." He identified the culprit as the short attention span of the political system. Saba politicians get more involved in satisfying demanding constituents in the brief time span between elections than in creating policies for controlled development. Thus, Saba is trading its heritage for short-term gains because of a lack of vision and long-term planning. To illustrate, he pointed to the many reports and studies on Saba done over the years that warn of the dangers of unmanaged growth—the increase in vehicle traffic, the impact on the natural environment, problems disposing of increasing waste materials—the list is long. "They seem to remain in the



Antoine Solagnier

desk drawer," he commented about these open invitations to implement positive change.

One such report is the 2002 Gill report on Saba's possible candidature as a World Heritage Site. It clearly articulates the immediate actions Saba should take to preserve its uniqueness, such as improving and enforcing building codes, putting preservation mechanics in place and raising public awareness.

Saba has not taken any steps towards the requisite local legislation or even established an active group of interested stakeholders. Former Governor General Jaime Saleh, who heads the Curaçao Monuments Foundation that funded the Gill study, calls Solagnier regularly for updates, but there are no updates to give.

"Who will pull this cart locally?" Solagnier asked, pointing to the politicization of the issue when Commissioner Wil Johnson assumed the chairmanship of the local World Heritage Committee. In addition, the Central Government has dragged its heels in forwarding the necessary paperwork to UNESCO.

"Time is running out," Solagnier warned and added, "It's not only about what is disappearing, but about what is appearing—the development curve is accelerating." Just last year, he pointed out, two historic cottages in Windwardside were demolished. At the same time expansions to concrete block

Government commissioned two capacity studies that concluded "the more the merrier," but Solagnier disagrees—"How can we sustain this growth, given Saba's five square miles?"

Role of the Lt. Governor

How instrumental can the Office of Lt. Governor be in giving direction? Solagnier emphasized that his relationship to the Executive Council is mainly advisory since he is not elected, but crown-appointed. He has used other platforms to let the community share his vision, via speeches at public events and personal contacts.

Solagnier made a conscious choice to be available to citizens whether during Saturday morning shopping, at social activities, on his many walks on Saba's trails, or at public lectures that he attended as an audience member. Solagnier said that this pulse on the community has allowed him to defuse concerns in advance, by having a solution already in mind when a citizen approached.

buildings along the main shopping street shattered its charming quaintness.

Solagnier applauded the economic surge that will accompany the current expansion of the Medical School to about 400 students, but cautioned that further expansion should be carefully researched. Over 300 second-through-fifth semester students and additional faculty will eventually be housed in private apartments.

Solagnier questioned whether the expected construction boom would be monitored to fit into Saba's traditional architectural landscape—one of the requirements for World Heritage status. Island



Solagnier pictured on Saba Day 2001.



Solagnier greeting the elderly at Every Home.



Solagnier took the royal couple on the Sandy Cruz trail in August 2002.

WEEK IN REVIEW

Week March 25-March 31, nrs. 264-269

• SATURDAY •

Contracts for home, road repairs signed

Funding agency Reda Sosial is providing over NAF 1 million to finance several road upgrading projects and home repairs, especially for the elderly on the island. The contracts for the financing were signed by Finance Commissioner Sarah Wescot-Williams and Reda Sosial Director Herman George.

Immigration, crime dominate discussions at Chamber meeting

The treatment meted out to undocumented persons picked up during immigration raids, the cumbersome process of obtaining employment permits and the crime situation on St. Maarten were among the issues raised by members of the business community and the public during the St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce General Members Meeting (GMM) and panel discussion.

Former Ram's paid after workers protest for their severance pay

Former workers of the closed Cay Hill branch of Ram's Food World supermarket started Ram's Duty Free Shop on Front Street, demanding their severance pay, which they said had been due to them since Monday, March 20. Backed by their union, the workers converged near the Front Street shop shortly before 10.00am, demanding to see Ram's Managing Director Ashok Daryanani, whose office they claimed is located in the store.

• MONDAY •

Complicated times lie ahead for Parliament, says Goedgedrag

Governor Frits Goedgedrag warned the newly sworn-in Members of Parliament Sunday that governing a country is a complicated matter and that they will sometimes be confronted with very complicated issues. "You will sometimes undoubtedly be in tight spots in the period beyond of us. It will not always be easy. But it is your task and duty to do that which is in the general interest of the population of the Netherlands Antilles," he said.

Sarah: The ball is in Mr. Pechtold's court

St. Maarten's stand during today's bilateral talks with the Netherlands will mostly be one of demanding an explanation from Dutch Minister of Kingdom Relations Alexander Pechtold. The ball will be in Minister Pechtold's court, Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs Sarah Wescot-Williams said.

Salt being placed in Great Salt Pond

The Veterinary and Hygiene Department, Sector Health Care Affairs (SHCA) and the Public Works Department placed about 400 bags of salt along the banks of Great Salt Pond over the weekend to eliminate the conditions favourable to the breeding of midgets (mosquito-like insects).

Windward Islands won't be left alone

"You will not be left alone," Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage guaranteed when she specifically referred to the Windward Islands in her first speech as Prime Minister.

• TUESDAY •

Tallahassee cuts aid for foreign students



Gospel Artist Cece Winans (left) on Wednesday received a bouquet of flowers from First Lady Angela Richards, who welcomed the internationally recognised gospel artist to St. Maarten.

The state of Florida recently approved a ban on the use of public funds for foreign students attending state colleges and universities there. The ban, which will affect some 240 foreign students at FAMU, including St. Maarten students, means that the university is no longer allowed to use state funds for foreign students.

Pechtold insists on need for funds for children's homes

Dutch Minister of Kingdom Relations Alexander Pechtold pressed for a structural solution to cover the expenses of the children's home of I Can Foundation. The Minister visited the home for the third time and said he would be returning until the Central Government had put a permanent structure in place.

Bilateral talks with St. Maarten on hold

Bilateral talks between the Netherlands and St. Maarten were adjourned at the island territory's request. Dutch Minister of Kingdom Relations Alexander Pechtold said St. Maarten apparently needed more time to prepare in order to discuss concretely how to give content to new relations within the Kingdom.

Drug traffic increased to St. Maarten in 2005

Drug traffic increased to St. Maarten, the U.S. Department of State said in its narcotics report of the Netherlands Antilles for 2005. Traffickers reduced loads on go-fast boats in 2005 because of potential exposure to law enforcement. This shift was attributed to successful investigations and investments by the Netherlands Antilles in border security such as the new ground-based radar system capable of identifying inbound vessels.

Eight stores robbed in Speetjens Arcade

Eight stores in Speetjens Arcade at the head of town were broken into and robbed. The daring sweep by criminal elements coming swiftly on the heels of earlier break-ins left business owners operating in the area fearful.

• WEDNESDAY •

Franklyn Richards proposed to stay on as Lt. Governor

The Council of Ministers proposed to the Dutch Government to extend Franklyn

Richards' term as Lt. Governor. His six-year term will come to an end in September.

St. Maarten was ready, but stuck to principles

Bilateral talks with the Netherlands were broken off not because St. Maarten wasn't ready, but because the island stuck to the agreed process of coming to new relations in the Kingdom, Commissioner Sarah Wescot-Williams explained.

Minister Dick takes action against human trafficking

Minister of Justice David Dick made a firm commitment that he was going to combat human trafficking through the Netherlands Antilles. He launched a preventive publicity campaign to deal with the issue.

Dog poisoning incidents cause alarm on the island

Residents were warned to keep a very close eye on their pets following a spate of poisoning incidents that have taken place on the French side during the past ten days. The "I Love My Island Dog Association" said poisoning cases were reported in Orient Bay, Oyster Pond, Baie Nettle and the latest in Sand Ground.

• THURSDAY •

Dutch position doesn't belong in bilateral talks, says Sarah

Using the bilateral talks as a setting to discuss the Dutch Government's position on prerequisites for new relations in the Kingdom was unacceptable to St. Maarten, said Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs Sarah Wescot-Williams. The right format would have been a plenary session with all partners.

Proposal for flexibility resident, work permits

Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards and Commissioner Louie Laveist initiated discussions on making the application process and issuance of work and resident permits more flexible.

Agreements signed on poverty alleviation

Herman George of Reda Sosial was in Saba to sign two agreements with the Executive Council, local Reda Sosial representative Bobby Zaggers and local contractors. The two projects are part of the poverty alleviation effort. One project, under Steve Zaggers

Construction, will repair five houses in The Bottom and Windwardside. The project amount is NAF. 86,545.

Ram's committed to paying workers, says Daryanani

Managing Director of the closed Cay Hill location of Ram's Food World Ashok Daryanani said management was committed to paying the 66 workers who lost their jobs when the supermarket closed its doors in November last year. The company had to pay out a total of NAF. 439,363 in severance and notice pay to the 66 former workers, 29 of whom are unemerged.

• FRIDAY •

Last ferry from Saba for Lt. Governor Solagnier

Outgoing Lt. Governor Antoine Solagnier caught his last ferry from Saba as he left office and headed to his new position as Recorder to the High Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

Atlantic hurricane season could be milder than '05

Warm ocean temperatures foretell another active Atlantic hurricane season, but probably not so busy as the record-breaker that spawned Hurricane Katrina and other devastating storms last year, a top hurricane forecaster said.

American salesman says he was kidnapped and robbed

An American jewellery salesman was reportedly kidnapped and robbed of more than US \$310,000 in jewellery and US \$1,000 in cash by two bandits, one of whom pretended to be a taxi driver.

Man shot and killed by Anguilla police

Michael Gumbs of The Quarter was shot and killed by police, reportedly after he pulled a firearm on three officers in a threatening manner and refused to hand over his gun.

Court bars Minister Dick from replacing Pannellek

Judge L. Hoefdraad granted Richard Pannellek an injunction preventing Justice Minister David Dick from appointing someone else as Deputy Police Chief Commissioner of the Police Force of St. Maarten, Saba and Statia. The judge has also ruled that Dick should conclude negotiations with Pannellek, who held the position of Deputy Police Chief Commissioner in St. Maarten until November 15, 2004.

Remove all posters after events, says Pride

Several posters from past events such as the Suarez Brothers Circus still stuck to buildings, rocks and fences prompted St. Maarten Pride Foundation to call on concert and other event promoters to remove their paraphernalia from public view and to use regular advertising spaces in the future.

Sucker Garden project pilot for other districts

Standing on the newly-built sport fishermen's wharf on Sucker Garden Road, Commissioners Theo Heylinger and Franklin Meyers announced that the "Tourist Corridor Road" project was a pilot for the beautification plans for other districts. The corridor road project encompasses the building of a roundabout opposite Sandfall School, rock walls and sidewalks, and planting trees along Bumpercar and Sucker Garden Roads.



the internet column

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News

Inter(net)esting!

Load your favourites Websites at startup

Do you have Internet related tasks each time you start your computer? Wouldn't it be great to have all of the Web pages you visit frequently and maybe your e-mail programme run when you start the computer? Well, you can!

All you need to do is drop some shortcuts into your Startup Folder. Here's how:

1. First, open Internet Explorer (this trick can be done with Netscape too, but it works better with Explorer) and head to a page you want to see when your computer starts.

2. Next, grab the little "e" next to the address and drag it over to the Start button. Don't let go, just hover over the button for a couple seconds. The Start menu should open.

This is the "e" you need to drag:

3. Now, (still holding the mouse button down), move up to the Programmes menu. The Programmes menu should open.

4. Finally, move your mouse to the Startup folder (it will be underlined). Again, point to it for a second and it should open up. Drop the shortcut into it and you're all set. Make sure you drop the shortcut into the Startup Menu and not into the Programmes menu by accident.

Oh, you can use this for your e-mail programme too. Let's say you're using Outlook Express. This time, drag the icon with your right mouse button and follow the procedure above. When you let go of the icon to drop it into the start menu, be sure to click "copy here" from the little menu that pops up.

If you were to left click and drag it, it would remove the icon from its current location and move it to your Startup folder. Hence, make sure you do the right click drag.

That's it. Restart your computer and your browser should launch, opening all the stuff you just put into the Startup menu.

I want to mention that this works better for those with an "always on" type Internet connection. When Windows starts, you're already online, so you really get the benefit of this

little trick.

If you have a regular dial-up connection, that works too, just not quite as well. Ideally, your dial-up connection should be set to automatically dial. That way, when you start the computer, it automatically dials and loads the pages for you.

Lassoing Icons

Have you ever noticed that you can make little "boxes" on your desktop by holding down your left mouse button and dragging diagonally? Although it can be an entertaining distraction when you're on a boring phone call, it actually has a purpose.

You can use the technique on your desktop to make multiple selections by "lassoing" icons. Hit the Enter key and you'll launch all those lassoed programmes at once. Be careful, though. If you lasso too many programmes, it can take forever for your computer to get them all loaded (trust me!) Keep in mind that once you have the icons lumped together, they will just be highlighted. When you let go of your mouse, the "box" won't stay. Then just hit Enter and the programmes will open.

In addition, this little trick works in both My Computer and Explorer for lassoing files. It's handy if you need to open or delete multiple files.

Just one quick hint: make sure you lasso outside of (next to) the icons. If you don't, when you click actually starts on the icon.

April Fool's Day Gags!

April Fool's Day is upon us and I have been writing a while for this day to come around, so I could run a couple of programmes as free downloads. I have three little beauties for you guys today. These are programmes that will have your co-workers or family members freaking out. They are three tiny gag programmes that will frustrate anyone unfortunate enough to be on the receiving side of the gag.

Just imagine, you get back from lunch, sit down at your PC and go to launch a programme from the Start button, but as the pointer approaches it, the Start button darts away. Not believing your eyes, you naturally go for it again and again, the Start Button just leaps away from your pointer. Imagine the frustration of the user. Now, imagine how funny this scene would be to watch out of the corner of your eye. The key is keeping a straight face.

This would be the work of Avoid. It is an annoying application that tells the Start button to "avoid" the mouse pointer. This, along with two other gag programmes, is the work of R.J.L. Software, a company that apparently has a pretty healthy sense of humour. So, if you're looking for the perfect way to pull the wool over somebody's eyes, I think you'll like these gags.

There are three programmes that I thought would fit the bill of our readers. None of these are difficult to use, they are perfectly safe and are portable. You can also run two of them from the task scheduler to add to the effect. So, with no further delay, let's bring out the line up that's sure to make you some friends over the next couple of days.

Avoid:

This is the programme discussed in the opening where the Start Button moves away from the mouse pointer. To stop the service from running, simply take the mouse pointer up to the upper most left corner of the screen and a R.J.L. software window will come down, stopping Avoid. Download it from this link: www.rjsoftware.com/software/entertainment/avoid/download.shtml

Fake Delete:

This one could cause a heart attack on the wrong person, so choose your victim wisely. This programme will pop up a dialog box asking if you would like to delete the files on the C:\Windows folder (by default you can change this file). Regardless of your answer, the Fake Delete goes ahead with a very real looking folder delete complete with files in the recycle bin. This programme can also be scheduled to run at a predetermined time, so it seems a little more realistic. After the delete, a splash screen comes up notifying the user that it was only a joke, but you can disable this feature if you would like. www.rjsoftware.com/software/entertainment/fakedel/download.shtml

April Fool's Day should be pretty interesting with those!

I hope you enjoy the programmes. They are all of course 100 per cent harmless to your system, so don't worry about any damage actually occurring. Also keep in mind that these programmes are portable and will run from a flash drive, which is a perfect way to move the programmes onto another PC.

by Dimitri

Feel free to email me at dimitri@thedailyherald.com or add me in MSN Messenger at: dimitrius_art@hotmail.com

Priority e-mail

For my job, I send out a lot of e-mails that are very important for people to see right away. How can I set them as high priority, so they will view them as soon as possible? As you go about your daily e-mailing, you know that some of the e-mails you send out are much more important than others. For instance, e-mails you send out to clients at your business are more important than sending a joke to your best friend. (Or maybe it's the other way around for you!)

Setting your e-mails as high priority, or even low priority, will help your receivers understand if the e-mail needs to be read as soon as they get it or if they can let it go for a couple hours. I'm not saying you should mark every e-mail you send as high or low priority, but sometimes it's nice to let your readers know what's going on. High priority is much more common than low priority, because it just lets everyone know how important the e-mail is. Okay, so setting your e-mail priority is very simple to do, so let's get started.

In Outlook Express, create a new message just as you would for any other e-mail. Along the toolbar buttons at the top, look for the button that says Priority. Click on it once to get High Priority. Click on it twice to get Low Priority or three times to have no priority. There is also a down arrow on the button, so you can click on that to choose either high, low or normal (none at all) priority as well.

A red exclamation point is used for high priority and a blue down arrow is used for low priority. Once you choose your priority, a message will appear at the top of the e-mail saying which status that e-mail is set to. Then just compose the e-mail like you normally would and send it off. When your receiver gets the e-mail, they will see either the exclamation point or the arrow beside their message, so they will know instantly if they need to read the e-mail right away or not.

Thank you for reading my column. See you next week!



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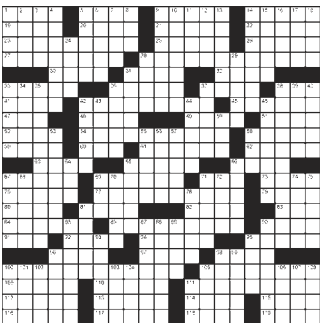
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Potluck
by Frances Burton

ACROSS

- 1 In vogue
5 Antibody carries
9 Male tracks
14 In-box filler
19 Workout class
20 Book after Joel
21 It may be alright
22 Skirt style
23 What Zorro brought
25 Know-it-all?
26 He judged O.J.
27 Alredies, e.g.
28 What the belly dancer brought
30 Goes astray
31 Dam's partner
32 Break into, say
33 Handy scanty
36 It grows in the dark
37 Sale condition
38 Argentine-born revolutionary
41 Cole calls
42 What the grump brought
45 Infernal
46 Rocky area
48 BMW rival
49 A zillion
51 Baltic states port
52 Fraternal fellows
54 What the communist brought
58 Magician's cressida
59 Highlight it
60 Have a go at
61 Valued highly
62 Senate divider, figuratively
63 Sounds of pleasure
64 Soy sauce maker's need
66 Toldy heroine
67 One-seeded fruit
69 Lamour attire
71 Pacific ___
73 Breaks off
76 At zero, say
77 What the house cleaner brought
79 Cut and splice
80 Quartz variety
81 Pluto's ball?
82 Roaster's need
83 Fawn bearer
84 Hungrier? Most likely
86 What the halcyon owner brought
90 Place to take your pick?
91 Storm centre
92 Mandolin kin
94 Cagney player
95 Gross out
96 ___ Valley Calif.
97 Single out
98 Shrinking sea
100 What the teacher brought
105 Has the chair
109 Rupp tapper

DOWN

- 110 Globe-trots
111 What the banker brought
112 Sheepshead
113 Anark of film
114 Exile idea
115 Door ding, e.g.
116 Hits the roof
117 Dunderheads
118 Sufferer's sound
119 Cry of woe
1 Tissue sac
2 Feminist Julia Ward ___
3 Operatic prince
4 Library noods
5 Less dizzy
6 Eastern rulers
7 Songstress Diana
8 Cheroot residue
9 Ancient Hebrew kingdom
10 "Shogun" author
11 Tear apart
12 Early victim
13 Triple A ball, e.g.
14 The blabs
15 Dik-dik kin
16 Jet-conscious dynasty
17 Story start
18 Meets with
24 Dreadful
26 Bards beats
29 Not far?
31 ___ Bay, Philippines
32 Daint wall
34 Greenbacks
35 What the politician brought
36 Rice ___
37 Time-honoured words
38 What the gambler brought
39 Philosopher Georg
40 Wipe off

- 42 Shoppers' aids
43 Penitent one
44 Blow away
46 Uniform tag word
50 Homer's neighbour
53 Like Barbie
55 Splatter catcher
56 Sell for
57 Pig out
58 Let go
64 ___ up (rate)
65 Slick
66 Revival shouts
67 Suffix with aero-
68 Make good on
69 Bygone may letters
70 On the double
71 Sugar reviews
72 Swedish chain
74 Aphrodite's mother
75 Bethlehem product
76 Dense growth
81 Silent butler's pickup
85 Rag street list
87 Turned out
88 Riders, e.g.
89 Dale running mate
90 Dilon of film
93 Accessory pin
95 Top hairy
96 Stand out
98 Curacao neighbour
99 Daughter of Lear
100 Bow-losing god
101 Pelee output
102 Victorian sort
103 Work the fields
104 Ring battle
105 Ponies game
106 Field of honour event
107 Sicilian sight
108 Retired field
111 Dese guys?

PUZZLE SOLVED



BRIDGE WITHOUT SAM

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What were your clubs?

Playing in the Blues with a partner who is usually sound, I pick up in fourth Chair:

♠KQ6 ♥AJ4 ♠AQ108 ♠A87

Partner opens a strong notrump and RHO preempts with 3♣. I have a problem. I could make a negative double, hoping partner will pass, but the vulnerability is unfavourable, so we will need to take 11 tricks to beat a slam. That seems unlikely, so I just blast 6NT, which rates to be the field spot. Partner has to play 6NT, and it is not cold.

NORTH	SOUTH	West	Me	East	Partner
♠KQ6	♠AJ83			Pass	INT
♥AJ4	♥KQ7	3♣	6NT	All Pass	
♠AQ108	♠K42				
♠A87	♠Q95				

Partner tries to get four tricks in diamonds, then cashes all his winners and tries to endplay the 3♣ bidder in clubs. He is able to cash a heart for down one. Remarkably, this is about an average score. Immediately after the play is done, West and I simultaneously ask my partner "what were your clubs?" We each wanted to know if he had the ♠9 or not, as there is a great end position available; which it is, depends on whether or not he holds that card. The whole hand actually was:

NORTH	EAST	WEST	SOUTH
♠KQ6	♠9752	♠104	♠A83
♥AJ4	♥962	♥10853	♥KQ7
♠AQ108	♠9763	♠5	K42
♠A87	♠3	♠KJ10642	♠Q95

Declarer should first play three rounds of spades and two rounds of hearts to try to get a count on the hand. If nothing useful comes of that, he can cash the top two diamonds. This time, the preemptor shows up with exactly two spades and one diamond. Before cashing the third heart, declarer must cash the last spade, throwing a diamond from dummy, then cash the ♠A. This brings everyone down to four cards. It's time to guess West's distribution. If he was 2317, then cashing the last heart winner and ducking a club will endplay him for the 12th trick. If he was 2416 and has not discarded a heart, then a club ducked to him will provide a long club trick. If he has discarded a heart, the club ducked to him will endplay him. It's necessary to cash all the non-heart winners before the last heart in order to protect against West's 2416 shape. He is squeezed out of the fourth heart or the club guard only if a high heart is kept to draw the last heart from his hand. If not, he can keep a good heart and the ♠Kx and never can be endplayed.

The question about the club spots was because of this potential position, which could have arisen if the ♠3 and ♠9 were switched:

NORTH	EAST	WEST	SOUTH
♠KQ6	♠9752	♠104	♠A83
♥AJ4	♥962	♥10853	♥KQ7
♠AQ108	♠9763	♠5	K42
♠A87	♠3	♠KJ106	♠Q95

When the last heart is cashed, West is one-suit squeezed. If he discards the ♠6, a club can just be ducked to him. If he discards one of the middle clubs, then the ♠9 is covered with the ♠Q, endplaying West to lead from his ♠K6 to dummy's ♠A8 for the last two tricks.

St. Maarten Bridge Club

Results Wednesday, March 29

1 Karen/Edward	65%
2 Margie/Rasheed	54%
3 Ans/Roel	53%
4 Eelso/Johan	50%
5 Piet/Peter	40%
6 Bea/Roy	39%

These are the results of the second night of a six-night competition. The St. Maarten Bridge Club's location is Holland House Beach Hotel, Front Street, Philipsburg, tel. 542-2527. Games are open to tourists and start at 7:30pm every Wednesday. Call Bart van der Meulen (559-6141) or Johan van Teeffelen (554-9292) for more information.

HOUSEHOLD Corner



By Brenda Carty

- A remedy for a wobbly chair is to glue coins or flat buttons on the bottom of the short leg and then cover with felt, so it will not scratch the floor.
- New candles can be soaked in a solution of salt and water for several hours, so that when dried they will not drip as much.
- To remove a little yolk of egg from the separated whites, dip a damp paper towel into the whites and the yolk will cling to it.
- Baking soda and sugar can be used effectively to kill cockroaches. Mix a half cup of baking soda with one tablespoon of sugar and sprinkle into cupboard corners.
- Use a Bounce drier sheet to wipe down a wet dog. It instantly makes the dog smell fresh.

Tips for pets... and other animals

By Chris and Theresa Duffell, DVM



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(919) 264-1111

Popeye

There have been many strange patients at our Animal Hospital. We have seen animals from the Zoo, namely ocelots, peccaries, coatimundis, bats and monkeys. We have seen all kinds of wildlife from the island, including pelicans, booby birds, snakes and even a whale. Some have been normal domestic animals that are very large, like the pig that came in on the back of a pickup. Even with all of this experience, some patients set new standards for animal care. Popeye is a Koi fish that is owned by Buzz and Sue. He didn't always have the name; he was just another fish in the pond, living a happy fish life.

As you might have guessed, his presenting complaint was that his eyes were bulging. He had gone off his food, was swimming erratically and away from the other fish, and his bulbous eyes made it clear that something was definitely wrong. Believe it or not, there are Veterinarians who specialize in fish medicine, and before I was even called, Popeye's owners did all that they could. One thing was sure; there was nothing wrong with the water. Buzz had run every test available, and it came back clean as a whistle. The pond was large and well situated in the shade, with good aeration and no algae growth. The other fish were fine and the diet had not changed from the specially formulated Koi chow that was imported fresh from Puerto Rico.



We didn't think it was a tumour, because it was affecting both eyes, and since the nutrition was good, the next most common problem would be a bacterial infection. Between the time she had asked me to look at the fish and I my arrival with my medical bag, Sue had fully researched the problem on the Internet at a site called "KOI VET". The site explained that the condition could be caused by a bacterium called *Pseudomonas* and that it was often fatal. We deal with *Pseudomonas* quite frequently in small animals, particularly as resistant bacteria with burns and infections of the ears and sinuses. There are a limited number of antibiotics that are helpful with these

infections, but there is one in particular that is safe for use in fish. Since he wouldn't take a pill, this meant daily injections, and since he could not live out of water, we would have to go fishing for five-pound Koi. So every day for two weeks or so, I would go up to the pond, net up the poor unsuspecting fish, and give him a jab. Popeye improved pretty quickly, began to eat and swim better, but we continued the shot so that we could completely eliminate the bacteria and prevent any resistance to the antibiotic we were using. In the end, I think he began to accept the daily handling, though I don't think he knew we were making him better.

CHURCH NEWS BITS

Christians' abuse today

A study published by Fides News Agency reports that 211 million children, 4-14 years old, are forced to work, 120 million of them full-time. Fides is the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The report says that 860 million children must endure nightmarish existences that include sexual exploitation and prostitution, poverty, AIDS, war and abandonment. Millions work in risky conditions, in mining with limited light and little oxygen, or are handling toxic materials, the report says. Worldwide more than 300,000 minors have been recruited as soldiers, the report said. Most are ten- to fourteen-year-olds. The smallest children are "the best candidates for small-arms operations, as they can hide, lie and spy easily," the report says.

Christian tribals

Christians plan to temporarily leave their homes in a tribal area in Western India, where right-wing Hindu groups are preparing a religious gathering. "It is a do-or-die situation for Christians," said lay-leader Samson Christian, who is leading the mass-exo-

odus. "The Hindu groups will finish the Christians if we don't do that," he said. The Hindu groups planned a Shabaricumbh, a religious awakening, in southeastern Gujarat state with a programme aimed at countering Christian missionary work among the "vanavasi (tribals). Christians of at least 17 denominations, including Catholics, live in this district, forming about 15 per cent of its 186,000 people. Organizers of the Hindu fair denied they plan to attack Christians. "Christians are our prime targets - not to harm them physically, but to counter their way for luring poor tribals into Christianity," said a volunteer at the organizer's main office. "We plan to bring them back into our fold," said the man who refused to give his name.

World Council pushes peace talks

The World Council of Churches said it is "dismayed and concerned" over the escalation of violence in Sri Lanka and has called on the government and the rebel Tamil Tigers to resume peace talks. "If the rapidly deteriorating situation is not brought under immediate control, it is likely to result in



By Gerard van Ween

another, long-drawn-out war, in which many more people may perish and hopes of peace and development suffer a major set-back." Rev. Samuel Kobia, the council's general secretary, said in a letter to Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapakse. The letter was made public as Norwegian peace envoy Erik Solheim began a new effort to get stalled peace talks back on track. The rebels have been fighting an intermittent civil war since 1983, seeking an independent homeland. To date, an estimated 64,000 people have been killed. Norwegian diplomats brokered a ceasefire in 2002, but the Tigers say it brought little change in their lives.

MY POINT IS...

We are tired of the bickering and finger pointing of our elected officials.



By Bruce James

A few weeks ago I said it was time that our elected officials set about getting together, sitting together and putting together a national agenda for St. Maarten. With the not only ongoing, but increasing bickering and finger pointing by our elected officials, one is beginning to wonder if they have the ability to do what is needed for St. Maarten. To put in place a national agenda, one must be able to set aside personal and party political agendas and focus on St. Maarten! "Can they do this?" is the question we must ask. It would seem that nothing is sacred and everything is being used in the BICKERING BATTLE. While senior citizens are in financial need, they bicker over increasing the old age pension. We do not hear them talking about a St.

Maarten pension plan, while we hear about workers being laid off and can't collect what they are entitled to. We don't hear our officials talk about the years of service which makes it impossible for many to start over again. We do not hear our officials talking about the 2006 batch of students expecting to graduate and get jobs in the market! We do hear about new job opportunities at a hotel to be opened this year. We do not hear about training opportunities for those willing and ready to work. We do hear about the threat of bird flu pandemic! While we must avoid raising unnecessary alarms, we must consider the possible impact this could have on our economy which is dependent on visitors from abroad! We do hear about millions of guilders for projects!

We do not hear about who will benefit and how! Alleviate poverty, yes, but not by handouts or hand downs, so the question is how our officials plan to alleviate the poverty. Will the alleviation be lasting, or just temporary? While there is so much planning and preparation needed, our officials are constantly bickering about how is to get credit or who is to be blamed, who did it and who is doing it. How are they doing it, without saying how I would do it: MY POINT IS..... Can our elected officials GET together, SIT together and PUT together a ST. MAARTEN NATIONAL AGENDA?

WISE Project For Albena Lake Hodge school students

by Brenda Carty

The Workshop Initiative for Support in Education (WISE) is a special skills programme for students from Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School. It started in 2004 and currently has some 70 students who attend.

The idea came about after a visit to the Isle of Wight in the UK, where a similar project operates successfully. The programme provides an opportunity for students who find it difficult to access the regular curriculum in some subject areas and gives them other means of achieving success. The project focuses on small groups of students who attend four mornings



Pottery room at WISE

The objectives of WISE are to help students to gain success, to build their self-esteem and discover their skills and potentials. It also encourages appropriate behaviour in a real life environment, where they learn to cooperate and



The standard of work produced is very high.

or less each week and work on individual projects that interest them. Projects include carpentry, metal work, ceramics, gardening, visual arts, making jewellery and sewing.

Coordinator of WISE Gabriele Klaren taught at Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School for six years, teaching art, craft, design and technology. She is now in charge of the WISE project and is very enthusiastic about it. Assisting are Roland Hodge, Gordon Cillis and Eusie Thomas, as well as volunteers Roger Lewis and Magdalena Gumbs.

can receive individual help and encouragement.

Students choose their project and are given individual attention to progress with it. On completion, anything made becomes the student's property and they are usually very proud of their achievement. A record is kept of attendance, projects and photos of each student with his/her completed work.

The standard of work produced is very high, with some well-finished wooden dressing tables, bedside tables, stools, domino tables and boards, shoe racks, CD

racks, boom boxes and other items. Model boats are also made and pottery, both on the wheel and hand built. Recently a garden was made with help from David Lloyd, who supplied the boxing, and the Agriculture Department that supplied the soil and young vegetable plants.

The sponsors for the WISE project are Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School, which pays the salaries and supplies most of the materials, used, the Education Department, which supplies breakfast for the students, the Anguilla Community Foundation, which gave a grant for tools, Courtney Devonish, who supplied the potter's wheel and clay, Byzantium, which gave the

secondary school. There are plans to make one of the rooms into a kitchen and to have cookery classes.

Transportation is also a need that has to be addressed. At present WISE is housed in the former Cottage Hospital building, which needs considerable repair and painting. More volunteers for specialised projects are needed.

Klaren says that the students change in small ways every time they attend with gradual improvements in attendance, attitude and work habits. Studies are made of the student's work skills, including how they comply with instructions and the quality of work produced, their self-management skills, including keeping the workshop tidy; arriving on time; arriving well groomed and clean. Attitude, respect of peers and their property, courtesy and respect for coordinators are also looked at.

Rhonda Connor, the Education Officer Multi-Professional Support Services, said, "WISE has been very successful in terms of the increase in numbers now taking part and the skills acquired. Children have gone back to school and registered



Improvements have also been seen in behaviour and attendance."

heads, Greig's Trucking and the Fisheries Department.

Future plans are to extend the programme to include the top grades of the primary schools and the first two forms of

for classes in skilled areas where they are now writing examinations. Improvements have also been seen in behaviour and attendance."



WISE staff L to R Eusie Thomas, Gabriele Klaren and Gordon Cillis. (missing is Roland Hodge)

BOOK REVIEW

This week a mix, something for everybody.

Ginger Lily,

by Margaret Knight
Samantha's childhood playmate, the wealthy, handsome and amiable Tony Brownfield, has been dating Sam since her return to Barbados from boarding-school in England. Her racially obsessed father, her mother and all the family assume that Sam will marry this white bachelor, The cream of society. But Sam has lost her heart to a bold, young black farmer.

Anyhow, you understand that this is quite a story and of course I am not going to tell you how it all ends. It is different to what romantic souls might expect...

Marine Life of the Caribbean,

by Alick Jones and Nancy Seflon
This is the second edition of this pocketbook of natural history series. It started all in the Cayman Islands and was first published by the Conservation Association on that island. They got help from the Centre of Marine Sciences of University of the West Indies (Mona) and could use the marine stations at Discovery Bay and Port Royal, all in Jamaica. She visited the famous Port Royal mangrove swamps.

The conclusion of the book is that enlightened conservation depends on reliable ecological data.

Conservation is concerned with the maintenance of communities in their normal state and conservationists must know what is normal. Value judgments have to be made and this book is a guide on that sometimes thorny path.

Macmillan Essential Dictionary for Learners of English

The book comes with a CD-ROM and comes with more entries than any other such dictionary. Also included is a 24-page Language Study section that helps you to



By Reinier Hoore

improve your vocabulary and pronunciation. From a local and cultural point of view, it is interesting to discuss the keeping of our local (St. Maarten) English or even publish a dictionary of local English, but for the larger world it seems essential to speak the language without using the local vernacular.

Cook Cuban, by

Three Guys from Miami
"100 great Cuban recipes with a touch of Miami Spice," the cover states. If you can't get to Miami for a Cuban sandwich, the next best thing is making your own. The three guys make the experience both fun and memorable. It is written in a light style: "If we're not having fun in the kitchen, we're not doing anything in the kitchen!" state the authors. The book has over 200 pages and is beautifully printed on high gloss paper. It costs almost US \$30, but is well worth having or giving as a present for years to come.

Macmillan Caribbean is really the most important publisher in this part of the world. Schoolbooks, Caribbean writers series, history, practical books, you name it. And even in case large sales are not to be expected, they give it a try.

All books available at Shipwreck Shops



Roland Hodge with group of students at WISE.



Group of students at WISE. Finger patterns are showing the village they are from.