

## Dutch Cabinet split on Antillean entry and expulsion policy

AMSTERDAM — Plans to crackdown on Antillean delinquents by restricting their entry to the Netherlands and deporting criminal teens back to the Caribbean state have temporarily been shelved after divisions opened up within the Dutch Cabinet.

Democrat D66 Minister for Kingdom Relations Thom de Graaf is strongly resisting the plans drawn up by Liberal VVD Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk, newspaper De Volkskrant reported on Friday.

The cabinet decided on Friday instead to set up a commission of Antillean and Dutch experts to investigate how best to tackle the problem of delinquents from the Netherlands Antilles. The commission will also investigate “measures to regulate migration” from the five Caribbean islands which make up the Netherlands Antilles.

Political sources have earlier said that De Graaf was even opposed to Verdonk’s compromise proposal to set up the commission. But both ministers announced the decision on Friday and denied speculations of a cabinet rift.

The government coalition parties explicitly requested the creation of an “entry regulation” for Antillean youth three weeks ago. Verdonk promised the Dutch Parliament that she would draw such a policy up.

But under pressure from De Graaf this week, the VVD minister put both proposed measures on the backburner and suggested as a compromise that the investigative commission could be set up.

De Graaf was said to be resisting the compromise also, placing him at odds with his own party, which is in favour of imposing entry regulations on Antillean youth.

Amid the Dutch moves to tackle immigration and integration problems in the Netherlands, concern over Antillean delinquents has been a hot topic of debate in recent years. A brutal murder co-committed by Antilleans in the southern city of Tilburg sparked community outrage in July 2003.

Many Antilleans in Rotterdam live on welfare and the police claimed last week that up to EUR 100 million a year in drugs money is sent back to the Antilles and Aruba each year, adding weight to calls to restrict the entry of Antilleans to the Netherlands.



## Walk-out by DINA personnel

A series of events have culminated in a walk-out by the DINA personnel, which also includes the personnel of the Immigration Department.

SEPPA – the Government Workers Union – has been trying to meet with the Minister of Justice for quite some time now. An action by the DINA employees some weeks ago resulted in a commitment for a meeting by the Minister on September 22, 2004. On September 21 however the union received a letter from the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Justice that the meeting had to be postponed.

The DINA employees are furious because they are seeing no end in the ongoing reorganization process of the department, and the Minister apparently is not serious in finalizing the process.

An ultimatum to the Minister set by the union was postponed because of the Minister’s commitment to meet on September 22. Now that the Minister is not complying with his commitment SEPPA is recalling its ultimatum. Based

on this, the DINA personnel walked out last Saturday. The walk-out was for one hour. Minister Rudy Croes however, through the DINA Director, informed the employees that they are no longer welcome at the job. He added that force will be used against those that do not want to leave the premises. SEPPA in turn advised the employees to stay at the job. If the Minister wishes that they leave the job he will have to put this in writing. The Minister did put it in writing and prohibited the strikers to enter the office. The prohibition was valid for Saturday only.



# ATA Directors immortalized on World Tourism Day



In connection with the celebration of Tourism Month 2005, and specifically “Tourism Day” which was on September 27 as proclaimed by the World Tourism Organization, the Aruba Tourism Authority commissioned Gustave Nouel, the famous Aruban painter, to produce a painting of the Directors of Tourism that were at the helm of the department since its inception in 1953. According to a release distributed by ATA it was not possible to find information or a picture of Mr. Ernst Bartels (1947 – 1953) who is considered to be the first Director of Tourism of Aruba. The painting produced by Gustave Nouel shows the faces of Messrs. Michael Kuiperi (1953 – 1971), Betty Arends (1971 – 1985), Rory Arends (1985 – 1989), Remigio Wever (1989 – 1995), Jan van Nes (1995 – 2000), and Mrs. Myrna Jansen (2000 – present). The idea to produce such a painting came from the brains of Ms. Miriam Dabian, Deputy Marketing Director for ATA.

Yesterday the painting was revealed by the painter Gustave Nouel and Minister of Tourism & Transport, Mr. Edison Briesen. It now hangs on the wall in the reception area of the newly renovated offices of the Aruba Tourism Authority located at Punta Brabo (Eagle).

At the short painting revelation ceremony, held at the ATA offices, five of the six Directors on the painting

were present. Only Mr. Remigio Wever could not be present.

Minister Edison Briesen had words of thanks for each of the ex-Directors, and specifically also for the personnel of ATA, in dedicating so much effort in the promotion of Aruba as a tourism destination. He called the pioneers of Aruba’s tourism industry.

Following are the responses by the ex-Directors on the question: “What aspect in your period as Director of Tourism made the most impact on you, and is still on your mind?”

- Michael Kuiperi: Remembers the great cooperation that existed between all the employees. They were a small but united group. At one time the even decided to paint the “Tourist Bureau” office themselves;

- Betty Arends: Also remembers the great cooperation that existed within the small staff of the “Tourist Bureau”. They were ready to help and assist each other at all times;

- Rory Arends: 1986 was a heavy year for what tourism management is concerned. It was the first year of Aruba as an independent island within the Dutch Kingdom. It was also the year in which Aruba had to define the tourism industry all over again. Tourism had to contribute in an accelerated way to the economy of Aruba in view of the closing of the Lago Refinery in 1985. Promotional

and Marketing activities had to be accelerated and implemented both on island as abroad. During 1986 I spent 265 days traveling, many times with one or more Government dignitary[ies] to:

- promote Aruba as a desirable tourism destination;
- attract [tourism] investors;
- participate in activities related to the establishment of Air Aruba;
- to contribute to Air Bilateral Negotiations

I wish to thank my family for their understanding and support during this difficult year, and also the ATA staff for their dedication, support and hard work in building a solid industry for our island.

- Remigio Wever: Remembers the combined efforts of the private sector (AHATA) and the public sector (ATA) to promote Aruba. The cooperation between the private and public sectors of Aruba was many times set as an example to other destinations in Tourism Conferences of the Caribbean. Many conferences were brought to Aruba as a result of the combined private and public sector efforts. The culmination was SITE University in 1993, which conference put Aruba on the map of the Incentive Travel industry.

- Jan van Nes: Remembers the word “WE” or “US” when talking about Aruba. There was unity

and everybody had the same goal – to promote Aruba. At international shows ATA participated together with AHATA, and all talked the same language and had the same purpose in mind – Aruba, One Happy Island. That is what separated Aruba from the other islands in the Caribbean.

- Myrna Jansen-Feliciano: What marked my period as Deputy Director of Tourism is the event of September 11, 2001 that shocked the world. That event affected world tourism dramatically. With a lot of efforts we can now, after two years, say that the local tourism industry is surpassing our expectations. Another remarkable development of the passed years is that of technology (internet). Those two factors have stimulated change in the entire tourism industry and also in our organization, ATA. I see this period also as a period of growth and development for ATA: overcoming world and local challenges to achieve the goal of economic growth for our country. Globalization and integration of efforts and a clear focus on goals characterized this period.

Last but not least: In this period of challenges and changes that have taken, and will take, place the ATA-team and Aruba have shined in their work, performing with a lot of passion and dedication to achieve good results.

# The UltimateBet.com Poker Classic Tournament

A No Limit Texas Hold'em event, is back in the tropical paradise of Aruba for the third year in a row, bringing the excitement of online poker together with the thrill of face-to-face victory. Players from all over the world joined the World Poker Tour event for a week of great poker, big payouts and fun parties with their online poker friends and professional poker heroes, including movie star Ben Affleck.

Many of the online poker players of the popular site UltimateBet.Com were able to win their way into the UltimateBet.com Poker Classic Tournament. In addition to that poker buffs flew in on their own to play this unique No Limit Texas Hold'em, game. The final table will be filmed for the World Poker Tour television program and will air on The Travel Channel. One player will become the 2004 UltimateBet.com Poker Classic Tournament millionaire.

The tournament headquartered at the Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino from September 23 through October 4, 2004, features history in the making, GUARANTEEING the largest Texas Hold'em prize pool in World Poker Tour history - a minimum \$4 MILLION pot with \$1 MILLION guaranteed to first place.

On opening day, player converged onto the Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino Grand Caribbean Ballroom for a Poker Seminar with Ben Affleck and team UB starring Annie Duke, the best woman poker player in the world and Phil Hellmuth, the best player in all poker with nine - count 'em! - World Series of Poker bracelets to his name.

At the seminar, players were introduced to their on line heroes who shared their experiences, besides successful strategies. In the evening the party in the tropical gardens featured an abundance of food and drinks expertly catered by the Radisson culinary team. Oreo, Aruba's favorite band entertained. Pictured here the UB guests having fun on the island.



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**A.M.**

## MetaCorp helps community after Ivan

After the torrential rains that were caused by the aftermath of hurricane Ivan, and that caused a lot of damage in several parts of the island, MetaCorp and its subsidiaries immediately came into action and assisted wherever this was necessary. ATCO/EcoTech mobilized its heavy equipment to place trash containers, and also sent pump-trucks to relieve the effected areas of flooding waters.

In the week-end after the rain EcoTech hauled more than 70 trash containers and is still providing this service. Thanks to these intensive efforts the clean-up could be realized immediately. Tropical Bottling did not sit with the hands crossed and delivered a large number of cases of AWA and Malta Balashi to Red Cross Aruba, Ambulance, Fire Department and Police, who were on hand all over the island. MetaCorp also extended a helping hand to their employees and families that were confronted with flooded houses. Several employees stayed at the Renaissance Hotel until they could return home. The Renaissance



Eldon Tarr, MetaCorp employee, presenting the micro waves to Red Cross Aruba.

Department of Social Assistance did a great job in attending to employees that have suffered damage in one way or the other.

Last Saturday MetaCorp donated 55 microwaves to be distributed among the victims. Calculations indicate that the assistance to the victims provided by MetaCorp is in excess of Afl. 100,000.

## International radio controlled aircraft competition in Aruba



For almost a year the Aruba Radio Control Club website has been promoting an international competition in Aruba. The competition – Caribbean Pattern Competition Aruba 2004 – will take place on a still to be determined date in October. Participation by several countries is confirmed.

A Pattern Competition is a competition on precision in various categories. It is an internationally recognized competition with yearly events.

The competition in Aruba will be in the Sportsman, Intermediate and PO-5 categories, which are the categories in which the pilots that have registered are flying. The Aruba pilots have adapted to the categories and

practice every Sunday on the Cascabel Airfield at the Golfweg in San Nicolas.

In the last meeting of the Aruba Radio Control Club (ARCC) a committee was formed to make all necessary preparations for the competition. The intention is to make the Caribbean Pattern Competition an annual event that is organized on a different island each year.

More information on the event will follow in October.

Some days ago two Board Members of Aero Modelers Suriname paid a courtesy visit to ARCC and presented a nice remembrance to the club.

All those interested to see the airplanes in action are invited to come by the Aruba Radio Control Club on the Golfweg, on any Sunday

## RBTT Bank Reaches Highest Point



Construction of a renovated RBTT Bank in Noord is progressing. The highest point of the building was reached recently and of course this fact had to be celebrated with the traditional “Spantenbier”.

The ceremony was attended by the staff and employees of the RBTT Bank Noord Branch, employees of principal constructor Van Kessel and other sub-contractors involved in the construction of the building.

RBTT announced that the branch will soon be open again to provide banking service to the residents in Noord and vicinity.

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## Flora Market ready for Christmas

Christmas is only a couple of months away. Aware of the fact that in Aruba people start to prepare early, Flora Market already has its Christmas collection exhibited.

They recently received the shipment and have prepared an attractive exhibition. Flora Market invites the entire community to visit their outlet center located at Avenida Milo Croes.



## Proper identification required to be on the premises of Barcadera Harbor

The Aruba Ports Authority announced that, for security reasons, each person that wishes to have access to the premises of the harbor must be properly identified. This is also valid for vehicles that need to be on the harbor premises.

As of October 15, 2004 each vehicle that needs to be on the Barcadera Harbor premises must be identified by a sticker issued by APA. Each person that wishes to have access to the premises must be properly identified by a badge.

Vehicles will not be permitted on the premises unless they have a valid Insurance Document and a valid Inspection Document. The driver must have a valid driver's license.

Businesses that pick up products must be registered with the Chamber of Commerce. The owner must submit a request in writing to obtain access for him/herself or for an employee. The documents must be paid for at the office of the Security Officer of the Harbor Facilities, Mr. Virgilio Kingsale, at the Oranjestad Harbor.

After proper identification (driver license, passport, ID, valid work permit), a badge will be issued to the user concerned, and a sticker for the concerned vehicle. Both the badge and sticker have a validity of one year.

For more information, feel free to contact Mr. Kingsale at telephone 583 6633

## Young Students give presentation at Manchebo's Sunday Morning Concert



Music teachers Hubert Martis, Cuarta, and Alphonso Boekhoudt, Guitar, proudly presented an orchestra made of their young students at the Manchebo Beach Resort, French Steakhouse Restaurant during the Sunday morning concert. The concert offered year-round every last Sunday of the month by a local not-for-profit foundation dedicated to the promotion of regional music and local musicians, named the series after the late columnist Donny Lacle.

Hubert, better known as Ipi plays and teaches

the Cuarta a local four-string guitar. Alphonso plays and teaches guitar. He is also a master builder of Aruba's favorite musical instrument the caha di orgel, the organ grinder. The two teachers, operating within Fundacion Desaroyo Educativo Comunitario, the foundation for communal educational growth invite kids and their family members to take music lessons for very reasonable fees. Stephany, Gilly, Albert, Rolando, Carlos, Jerry & Igmarr played a complete program and delighted their audiences with compositions such as a Venezuelan Waltz, Chanita by Wever/Lampe, Ora Bo Ta Stima by Boisy Croes and Arubianonan an anonymous folk song.

Ipi explained his Cuarta was home made. He also made one for his colleague Alphonso, each instrument was custom made for the musician destined to play it, no mass production here, it is a work of art. Ipi also explains the foundation has as a mission the desire to achieve a strong family foundation and to educate the people of this island in artistic and cultural fields. It offers affordable educational courses in order to achieve a level of recognition as far as creativity in the art world. The concert was charmingly emceed by Joyce Pereira.



## Food & Art Festival

MAMBO, the organization of the business community in down town Oranjestad is organizing a "Food & Art Festival" on Saturday October 9, 2004. The event is organized in connection with "Dia de la Raza", also known as "Columbus Day", which is on October 12. The event will be a combination of Shopping, Art and Food.

MAMBO visualizes a main street full of activities, just as in the big cities Europe and other parts of the world, including the Caribbean; pleasant activities involving musicians, painters, performers, dancers, singers, etc. bringing their talents to the general public all over Main street. Several themes will be depicted at the various crossings such as: Mexico with mariachi music; Holland with "pannekoeken" Aruban with local food; etc.

MAMBO thinks that "Dia de la Raza" is an ideal date for such a celebration, considering that this part of the world is celebrating the multi cultural society that we are all living in.

Of course the main purpose is to attract shoppers. Most stores will have special offers available.

To top it all off MAMBO invited Aruba's restaurants to share in this celebration. There will be food stands at various locations where the restaurants will provide a "taste" of their menu and at the same time promote their special Christmas menu.

MAMBO is looking for local talents to paint cartoons, to perform "Mime", play musical tunes, act, sing, dance, etc. Interested Individuals or groups that re interested to participate in the event may contact Mr. Frank Tieleman at telephone 583 6642 or Renwick Heronimo at telephone 588 7837 (office hours). Participation is free, and there will be prizes.

Do you know a friend that would enjoy receiving A.M. every morning in their email?  
Send us his or her email to [info@arubaam.com](mailto:info@arubaam.com) and we will add them to our mailing list.

# The Heineken Plaza Open is off to a great start!



Notwithstanding the fierce sunshine and the wind that finally started to blow again, the first players of the 13th edition of the Heineken Plaza Open kept on smiling

on the courts of the Aruba Racquet Club last Sunday. With drops of sweat pouring off the players as if one had opened the tap, they fought for every shot, sometimes even taking

more than ten minutes before a game was won or lost. Red faces, racing heartbeats: it all did not matter one little bit. It's the Plaza Open and that's what counts!

Some results of the first day of play: Neil Wiggenton of the US had to concede defeat as Carl St. Jago took the pro-set 8-4 in a good, solid match on centercourt. They played in the 45+ categorie. Esther Polak struggled to find her form but, as Maureen Groters had the same problem, she managed to win 8-2 in the B-categorie. Lili Mejia went under when Jennifer Hirschfeld kept on returning the balls perfectly (6-8) in the first-timer categorie D. Well done!

C-player Skardel Akl defeated Dajdnat Misier (8-5), while B-doubles team Freddy Zedan/Joran van der Sloot beat Peter Villevoix/Lex Burgman in a surprise sweep. Experience counted in favor of B-mixed double team Rita Wong/



Patrick Henriquez, who came up trumps against Else Timmerman/Eddy van der Linden.

Photos show fun moments during day one of the Heineken Plaza Open. Matches start on weekdays at 6.30 pm. Everyone is invited to come and keep barman Jan Pieter company and watch the games. Great fun!

## Defense officials visit Governor



Recently the following defense officials paid a courtesy visit to Governor Fredis Refunjol: Dutch Defense Secretary General, Mr. A. Annink; British Defense Secretary General, Sir. K. Tebbit; Norwegian Defense Secretary General, Mr. J. Lunde; Navy Forces Commander of the Dutch Marines in the Caribbean, commander F. Seitsma and Commander of the Dutch Marine Kamp in Savaneta, Lieutenant Colonel G. J. Eerenberg.

## Kiwanis Club of Aruba with donation to Muchila Creativo



The purpose of "Muchila Creativo Foundation" is to develop and promote creativity for young and old in the Aruba community. This is done by providing courses in music, dance, theater and more. Kiwanis Club of Aruba presented a donation to the Foundation to help them cover the expenses of the material used for the courses.

These donations can be realized by Kiwanis only with the help of the community, that always supports Kiwanis in their fund raising activities. Kiwanis is grateful to all those that help Kiwanis to help the community. The donation was accepted by Mrs. Jeltje Bakker and Mrs. Tilly Vloor, respectively Managing Director and Treasurer of the foundation.

## Tierra del Sol management scavenges the island

WESTPUNT – An unusual managers' outing was held this past Friday evening for the management staff of Tierra del Sol. Director of Human Resources Mariella Gietel organized a scavenger hunt for fifteen managers and supervisors.

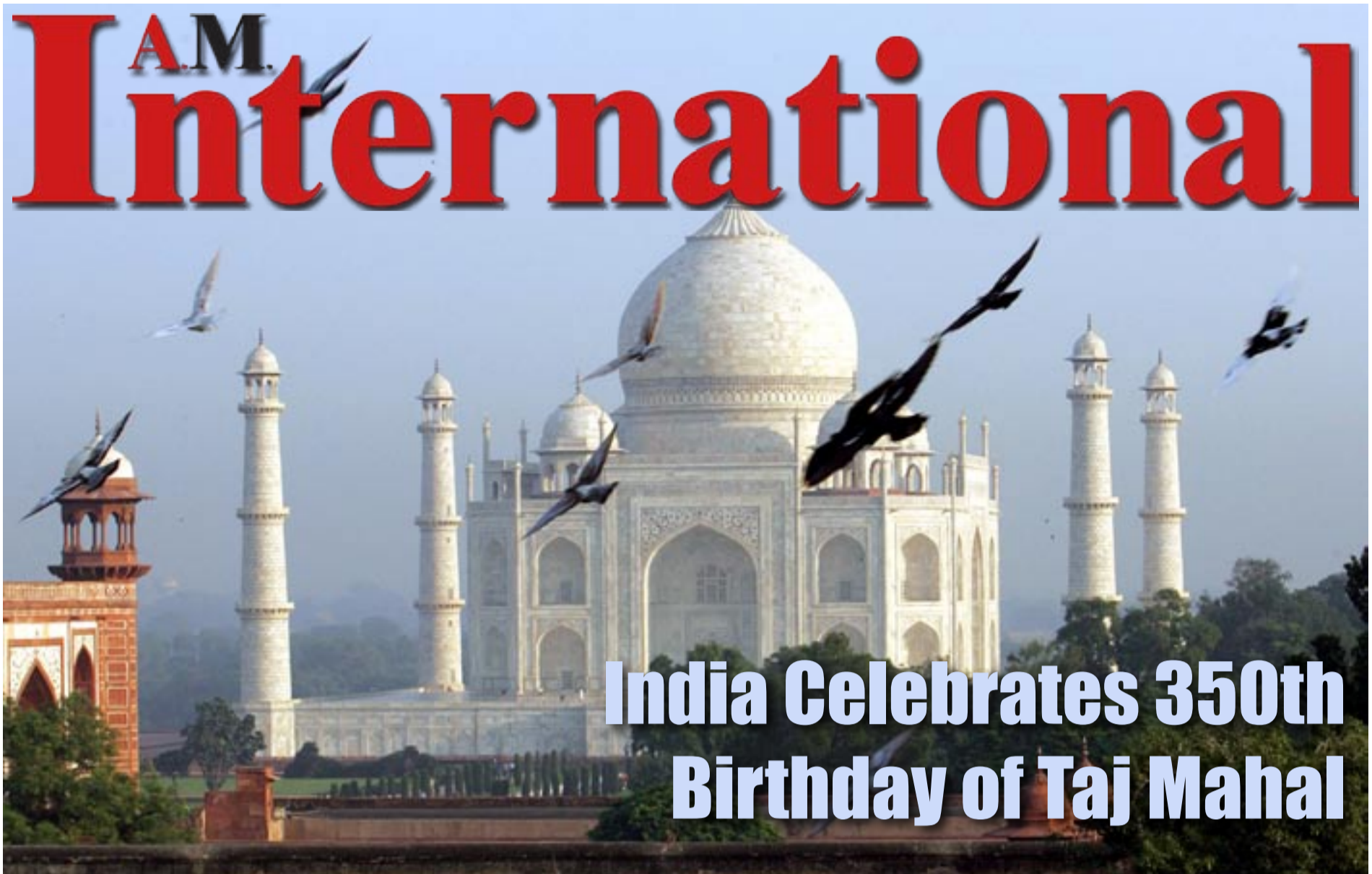
Normally the managers' outing consists of dinner together, but this time they were divided into four

teams, each with their own jeep, and sent on their way with a list of trivia questions and various items to scout for.

The "D" team—Sylvia from Accounting, Ricky from Engineering, and Stephanie from Villa Rentals and Marketing—finished first.

The scavenger hunt was followed by dinner for all at Benihana JapaneseSteakhouse.





**A**GRA, India - Hundreds of schoolchildren gathered outside India's Taj Mahal on Monday, releasing heart-shaped balloons and setting free white pigeons to mark the 350th birthday of the world's most famous monument to love.

Dozens of visitors at the white marble mausoleum built by Mughal emperor Shahjahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal were welcomed with marigold garlands and a vermilion mark on the forehead, to the strains of Indian classical music.

Outside the monument, on the banks of the Yamuna River, a pair of actors dressed as Shahjahan and Mumtaz held hands, recreating the 17th century romance between the emperor and the nobleman's daughter.

"My main purpose is to get people to forget about war and live with love and affection. We must put hate behind, what better place than the Taj Mahal," said actor Rajan Kumar, dressed in a traditional Indian tunic, pearl strings and a turban with a long white feather.

Officials and tour operators said the 350th anniversary of the Taj was an opportunity to lure tourists back to India after four years of a slowdown because of strife at home and abroad.

"This is a six-month-long celebration to highlight the Taj. Tourism had gone down because of the 9/11 attacks and problems with Pakistan," said Rajiv Tiwari, president of the Federation of Travel Associations of Agra.

But India's top court refused to lift a ban on nighttime viewing of the Taj, located in the polluted, congested city of Agra in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, saying federal environment and security agencies must first give their approval.

The ban was imposed in 1984 following reports that the monument was a target of militant groups and reinforced in 2000 over concern about preserving the site.

The grand finale of Monday's celebrations will be a concert in the Agra Fort, a magnificent red sandstone building nearby, where the Pakistani

singer Ghulam Ali will sing traditional ghazals with Indian singer Hariharan, in a gesture symbolizing the two neighboring countries' desire for peace.

Historians say Shahjahan consulted experts from the Middle East and Europe as he planned the mausoleum, which took 20,000 people more than 22 years to build. Although there is some dispute about when it was finished, the government and the Archaeological Survey of India say it was in 1654.

The Taj Mahal stands in the polluted, congested city of Agra, it stands on a marble platform surrounded by ornamental gardens. White minarets grace each corner and two smaller red sandstone buildings balance the postcard-perfect image on the banks of the Yamuna river.

But the surface of the onion-domed monument has yellowed over the years from the effects of automobile fumes, smoke from small factories, nearby funeral pyres and a large oil refinery near Agra, 200 km (125 miles) south of Delhi.

## ETA Defends Use of Violence After Latest Bombings

**M**ADRID - The separatist group ETA defended its use of violence in pursuit of Basque independence from Spain on Monday amid a new campaign of economic sabotage, but also said it saw a new opportunity to end the conflict.

Basque newspaper Gara said it had been given a video showing three armed and masked militants and published their statement. ETA at the weekend claimed responsibility for a

series of bombs that reduced power transmission between France and Spain.

"The leaders of ETA will respond with arms at the ready to those who deny us through the force of arms," one of them said, according to Gara.

ETA, classed as a terrorist group by the European Union and the United States, has killed more than 800 people since 1968 to press its demands for a Basque state carved out

of northern Spain and southwestern France.

Spanish Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said the government would continue to fight back with the police and in the courts.

"With the consensus of democrats, with the unity of democrats, with the anti-terrorist pact (between political parties), and therefore with the maximum police and judicial pressure, and that is all one should

say to ETA," he said.

ETA started targeting the power grid in September after a bombing campaign aimed at tourist resorts in August.

One bomb went off on Saturday and eight more on Sunday, all aimed at the transmission lines used to export electricity from France to Spain. Two of the four lines linking the countries' power grids remained out of service on Monday.

# Pakistan Makes More Arrests After Slaying Militant

**K**ARACHI - Pakistani security forces arrested more suspected Islamic militants a day after they shot dead a key suspect wanted in a failed bid on President Pervez Musharraf's life and the killing of U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl.

Security forces shot dead Amjad Hussain Farooqi, described as one of the principal members of al Qaeda in Pakistan, in a gun battle on Sunday afternoon in the southern city of Nawabshah.

"We've eliminated one of the very major sources of terrorist threat," Musharraf told reporters during an official visit to the Netherlands.

"Not only was he involved in the attacks on me but also in attacks elsewhere and terrorist attacks elsewhere in the country. So a very big terrorist has been eliminated."

Security forces besieged Farooqi's hideout in Nawabshah, after a phone tap operation confirmed his presence. Two Pakistani companions were captured and are under interrogation.

Brigadier Javed Cheema, an interior ministry official, said subsequent arrests were made in several parts of the country.

Police sources said at least three men were detained in the Sindh town of Sukkar, about 400 km



Pakistani troopers patrol the streets of Wana, the main town of Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal region, near the Afghan border September 27, 2004. A roadside bomb killed five Pakistani troopers and wounded ten others traveling in a convoy in the troubled tribal region of South Waziristan.

(240 miles) north of Karachi.

Farooqi, who had a price of 20 million rupees (\$338,000) on his head, was considered the main Pakistani planner of two failed assassination bids on Musharraf, including a suicide attack on his motorcade on Dec. 25 last year that killed 15 people and wounded 45.

Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao told a news conference that Farooqi was a known associate of Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who had advised him to target only the

senior most figures in Pakistan like Musharraf.

Farooqi's controller was believed to be Libyan Abu Faraj Farj, who has emerged as a leading al Qaeda figure in Pakistan.

Farooqi was also one of seven men wanted in the 2002 kidnapping and slaying of Pearl, a Wall Street Journal reporter.

Farooqi's death prompted authorities in Karachi to issue a red alert at foreign missions, government offices and places of worship to counter any retaliatory assaults by extremists.

## Israel Threatens Syria Over Militants

**J**ERUSALEM - Israel accused Syria on Monday of "directing terrorism" and warned it could face pre-emptive strikes against militants on its territory, but stopped short of saying it killed a Hamas leader in Damascus.

Syria had accused Israel of terrorism following the Palestinian militant's death in a car bombing on Sunday, three weeks after Hamas killed 16 Israelis in bombings Israel blamed on the Islamic group's exiles in Damascus.

In the latest violence, an Israeli helicopter missile strike killed a Palestinian militant traveling with other members of the Popular Resistance Committees, an umbrella militant group, in a car in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis, medics said.

The Israeli army said it targeted a "senior PRC member" responsible for dozens of shootings and mortar bomb attacks.

Shortly after the helicopter attack, Palestinian gunmen kidnapped an Israeli Arab producer for the CNN television network from a car in Gaza City after asking for him by name.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Such incidents involving journalists have been rare in Gaza and in the West Bank during the past four years of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Earlier, Israeli troops shot dead two fighters trying to plant a bomb near Gaza's border fence, Palestinian security sources said.

In the West Bank, Israeli police arrested a Jewish settler for the shooting death of a Palestinian taxi driver, and in the city of Nablus, soldiers killed two Palestinians during what residents said were confrontations with stone-throwers. Israeli military sources said the troops shot two armed men.

Taking aim at Syria, Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim said the Jewish state's northern neighbor was "a central junction in regional terrorism" and President Bashar al-Assad "works there as the traffic officer."

"Syria is responsible for directing this terrorism against us and therefore it cannot be immune to our operations aimed at preventing terror," Boim said on Israel Radio.

Asked whether Israel was behind the killing of Izz el-Deen al-Sheikh Khalil, 42, who Palestinian sources said headed Hamas's military wing outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Boim said: "I didn't say that. We don't confirm or deny this."

Channel Two television quoted unnamed security sources as saying Israeli agents had planted the bomb which tore apart Khalil when he turned the ignition of his car.

## U.N. Sends More Peacekeepers to Haiti

**G**ONAIVES, Haiti - The United Nations rushed hundreds more peacekeepers to storm-ravaged Gonaives to stem looting, while hundreds of weary Haitians lined up for food before daybreak Monday after spending a miserable night in the rain from Tropical Storm Jeanne.

The Brazilian general in charge of the U.N. force criticized the slow pace of relief that is compounding the suffering of traumatized survivors. At least 1,500 were killed and some 200,000 are homeless in Gonaives.

"The situation remains critical," Gen. Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira said in an interview with the official Agencia Brasil. Uruguayan troops were guarding road into town to keep looters from stealing food.

He said many people were suffering from diarrhea while others, many of them children, were contracting gangrene. Amputations were being performed under horrendous conditions, he said. Most injuries being treated are gashes from collapsing roofs or pieces of zinc roof hidden by the mud that still covers the city, where most survivors walk barefooted.

# Carter Predicts Florida Poll Will Again Be Flawed



Former President Jimmy Carter, who has monitored elections throughout the developing world, predicted on September 27, 2004 that the U.S. presidential vote in Florida would be as flawed as the 2000 poll there. Writing a commentary in The Washington Post, Carter said some basic international requirements for a fair election on Nov. 2 in Florida were still missing. Carter is shown at a May 29 news conference in Venezuela.

WASHINGTON - Former President Jimmy Carter, who has monitored elections throughout the developing world, predicted on Monday the U.S. presidential vote in Florida would be as flawed as the 2000 poll there.

Writing a commentary in The Washington Post, Carter said some basic international requirements for a fair election on Nov. 2 in Florida were still missing.

"The disturbing fact is that a repetition of the problems of 2000 now seems likely, even as many other nations are conducting elections that are internationally certified to be transparent, honest and fair," said Carter, whose Atlanta-based Carter Center has monitored more than 50 elections worldwide.

President Bush's victory in the 2000 vote hinged on a recount of votes in Florida, where his brother Jeb Bush is governor. The U.S. Supreme Court 5-4 ruling stopped the recounts,

effectively giving Bush the presidency over Democrat Al Gore.

After the election controversy, Carter and former President Gerald Ford led a commission and recommended changes in the American electoral process.

But Carter said many of the recommendations were not implemented due to inadequate funding and political disputes.

Listing problem areas likely in this year's vote, Carter said there needed to be nonpartisan electoral officials and a uniformity in voting procedures, regardless of voters' social or financial status.

Four years ago, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris was also the co-chair of Bush's state campaign committee and her successor, Glenda

Hood, was showing the "same strong bias," said Carter.

Several thousand ballots of blacks were thrown out on technical grounds in 2000 and a "fumbling attempt" had been made recently to disqualify 22,000 blacks -- likely Democrats - but only 61 Hispanics who were probably Republicans, as alleged felons, he added.

"Florida's governor, Jeb Bush,

naturally a strong supporter of his brother, has taken no steps to correct these departures from principles of fair and equal treatment or to prevent them in the future," wrote Carter.

"It is unconscionable to perpetuate fraudulent or biased electoral practices in any nation. It is especially objectionable among us Americans, who have prided ourselves on setting a global example for pure democracy."

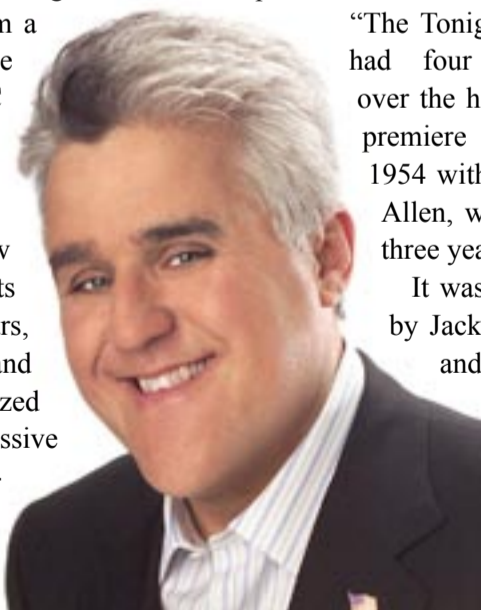
## US talk show king Jay Leno to step down after 17-year run

LOS ANGELES - US talk show king Jay Leno will quit his late-night programme in 2009, ending a 17-year run on "The Tonight Show" that made him a household name in the United States, NBC announced.

Comedian Leno, 54, took over hosting the 50-year-old show in 1987 from its presenter for 30 years, Johnny Carson, and has held onto the prized job in the face of massive competition from late-night rival David Letterman.

Leno and the television network's brass named his fellow NBC late-night talk show host Conan O'Brien as his successor-in-waiting.

"In 2009, I'll be 59 years-old and will have had this dream job for 17 years.



When I signed my new contract, I felt that the timing was right to plan for my successor and there is no one more qualified than Conan," he said.

"The Tonight Show" has only had four permanent hosts over the half-century since its premiere on September 27, 1954 with its first host Steve Allen, who held the job for three years.

It was then presided over by Jack Paar for five years and by the legendary Carson for 30 years, from 1962 to 1992, when Leno took over after guest-hosting in Carson's absence

for five years.

Arch-rivals Leno and Letterman from the rival CBS television network were the faces of a late-night talk-show ratings war in the 1990s.

## Former U.S. Bishop Won't Face Child Rape Charges

BOSTON - A former Massachusetts bishop charged with raping two children in the 1970s will not be prosecuted because the statute of limitations has expired, prosecutors said on Monday.

Thomas Dupre, 70, was charged by a grand jury on Friday of assaulting, abusing and raping two children under the age of 16 in 1976 and 1979.

"I intend to file a statement ... which will terminate the criminal investigation and prosecution of these matters in Massachusetts," Hampden County District Attorney William Bennett said in a statement.

Bennett added that there was no indication of any other potential victims of the former bishop.

Dupre, who headed the Catholic Diocese of Springfield for nine years, resigned in February, but was never defrocked. Other bishops were investigated over similar accusations and four have resigned.

A string of Massachusetts priests have faced similar sex abuse accusations from hundreds of victims in a class action suit.

Dupre's attorney, Michael Jennings, earlier on Monday said the six-year statute of limitation had passed. "These charges are barred by the passing of too much time," he said.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Boston agreed last year to a landmark \$85 million payout to hundreds of people who said they had been sexually abused by its priests.

# S.A.M. Sports

## International arbitrators hear Korean's Olympic gold claim

LAUSANNE, Switzerland - International sport's top arbitration body heard South Korean gymnast Yang Tae-Young's appeal against a judging blunder at the Olympic games in Athens last month which deprived him of a gold medal.

The Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) said the three judges would issue their ruling on the challenge against the International Gymnastics

Federation (FIG) at a later date, after their deliberations.

FIG has admitted a scoring error in the overall gymnastics tournament in Athens, but said its own rules prevented it from overturning the judges' decision.

Instead, it asked US gymnast Paul Hamm to exchange medals with the Koreans. Yang ended up with the bronze medal while his compatriot Kim Dae Eun took silver in the tightest Olympic men's all-round final in history.

Judges gave Yang's high bar routine a 9.9 start value rather than a full 10. Had Yang been correctly



International sport's top arbitration body heard South Korean gymnast Yang Tae-Young's, appeal against a judging blunder at the Olympic games in Athens last month which deprived him of a gold medal

valued and received the same scores, he would have taken gold.

FIG later suspended the judges responsible, but said under its rules judging decisions cannot be overturned.

The US Olympic Committee later angrily rejected FIG's request for a voluntary medal swap, saying the federation was "once again" shifting "responsibility for its own mistakes".

Hamm was due to take part in the hearing in Lausanne.

## Hurricane Jeanne Forces Singh Out

LONDON - World number one Vijay Singh has had to withdraw from this week's WGC-American Express Championship in Kilkenny, Ireland, after becoming a victim of Hurricane Jeanne.

Singh was due to fly home to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, on Sunday after his win in the Pennsylvania Classic but due to the hurricane he was unable to

return until Monday.

When he did get back, the storms had left his house with no power and water was coming in.

European Tour officials said that despite Singh's withdrawal, 44 of the top 50 in the world rankings would be teeing up in the tournament which starts on Thursday. They include three-time winner Tiger Woods.



## Real hope with Zidane set to return against Roma

MADRID - Real Madrid coach Mariano Garcia Remon confirmed that French star Zinedine Zidane would return to the starting line-up in Tuesday's Champions League clash with AS Roma.

The former World Player of the Year dislocated his right shoulder two weeks ago in the 3-0 humbling at Bayer Leverkusen and has not played since, but Garcia Remon said he was willing to do so on Tuesday.

"I talked to him and he wants to play, he knows it is going to be a difficult game, its like a final, and if we don't win it will be difficult to get through to the next stage," said Remon.

"If nothing changes between now and the game he will be in the starting line-up."

Garcia Remon, Real's star goalkeeper in the 1970s, replaced former coach Jose Antonio Camacho last week and is in charge of his first Champions League match.

The new man at the helm of the nine-times European champions pleaded with the critical Madrid fans to get behind his team on Tuesday, instead of throwing brickbats at them. "We've been failing as a team and there hasn't been brilliant individuals to step into the gap but two good results will change everything.

"Everybody knows what sort of atmosphere we can generate in the Bernabeu for the Champions League, we are famous for it.

"The public should know that the attitude of the players is fine and they are 100 per cent professionals," added Garcia Remon, responding to the public criticism that many Real players have not been giving their best for the team. Roberto Carlos has been one particular object of their anger, and Garcia Remon dropped him to the bench for Saturday's 2-1 loss at Athletic Bilbao.

"He had a bad game last week against Osasuna but he's been wanting the ball and I want him to get involved. We've been joking with him that he might be the best player in the game tomorrow."

David Beckham has recovered from his flu-induced fever and is also in Real's 18-man squad, along with fellow England international Michael Owen. Owen has shrugged off his minor thigh strain that stopped him travelling to Bilbao and is expected to be on the bench.

Garcia Remon did not comment on whether Beckham would start the match.

He admitted that he will never have a better chance to stamp his authority on Real as Roma arrive in the Spanish capital in turmoil, with coach Rudi Voller resigning on Saturday and just four points from four matches in Serie A.

# Trinidad Wants to Make More Boxing History

**N**EW YORK - All along, Felix "Tito" Trinidad seemed to know he'd wind up back in the ring. The good life he lived for 2 1/2 years was fine, but the allure of boxing remained strong.

So Trinidad played with his kids and rode his horses and attended cockfights, the kinds of things he couldn't do when he was training daily for months at a time. He went to schools to speak on the importance of an education, and visited hospitals to cheer up the infirmed. And one question he always seemed to hear was: "When will you fight again?"

The answer is Saturday night when Trinidad faces Ricardo Mayorga in a 12-rounder at Madison Square Garden in what has the makings of a brawl.

"I never run away from a big fight or a hard fight," Trinidad said Monday through an interpreter. "We don't believe in tuneup fights. We prefer to go at the big, hard fights. I look for the toughest opponents."

He's found one in the unpredictable Mayorga, whose 27-4-1 record includes 23 knockouts. That's not nearly as

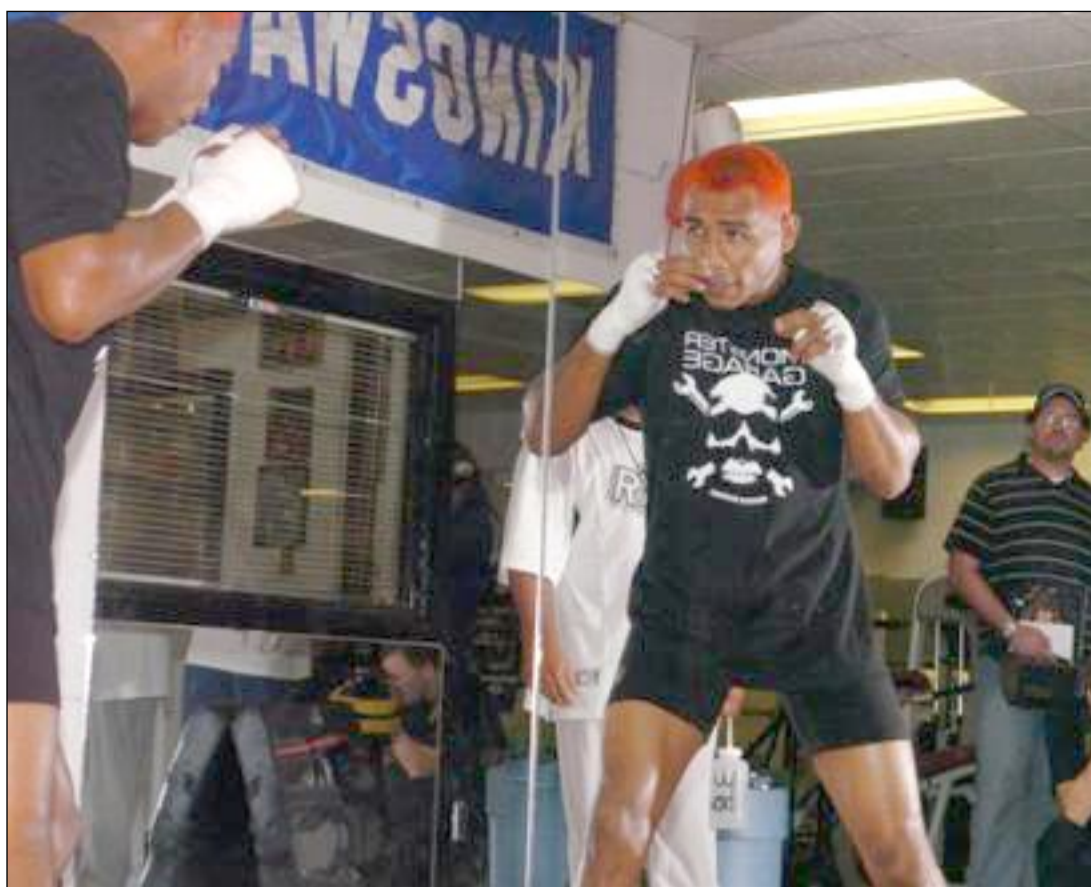
impressive as Trinidad's 41-1 with 34 knockouts, but Trinidad has fought just once since losing to middleweight Bernard Hopkins in a title fight three years ago.

So the Puerto Rican star could be rusty, right?

Trinidad chuckles. So does his father, also named Felix and Tito's trainer. "I'm a guy who lives healthy and has a good life," Tito said. "I'm coming back to prove some boxers take care of themselves."

"It's easy when you are retired to forget about your routine. But I missed all that training and running and routine I had while I was fighting. For a lot of fighters, it is a time to take it easy. Not for me."

Added his father: "He did not retire because of his health. At that time (after the loss to Hopkins), we recognized he should step away from boxing. But he has the support of his family and if he



Former welterweight champion Ricardo 'El Matador' Mayorga shadow boxes at the Kingsway boxing ring, Monday, Sept. 27, 2004, in New York. Mayorga will fight Felix Trinidad at Madison Square Garden on Saturday Oct. 2.

feels ready to come back to boxing, that is what he should do."

Trinidad has been training for six months and says he's ready for anything Mayorga might attempt. The Nicaraguan, who was outpointed by welterweight champion Cory Spinks last December, could do just about anything, too.

"In my past, fighters have come in aggressive with me and if Mayorga comes in that way, I'll take advantage of it," Trinidad said. "I've been watching his fights and Mayorga

comes to fight, so yes, I have respect for him. But I don't feel afraid. He's another boxer coming to fight me and nothing more."

Trinidad believes he has to "make more history" in the ring. One of the greatest boxers of the last decade, Trinidad held world titles in three weight classes, using a fearsome power and impressive maneuverability. His victory over Oscar De La Hoya in 1999 brought him acclaim in the United States to go with his unmatched popularity in Puerto Rico.

## Gannon Sidelined with Fractured Vertebrae

**A**LAMEDA, Calif. - Oakland Raider quarterback Rich Gannon is expected to be sidelined for at least six weeks after sustaining fractured vertebrae in his neck.

Gannon was hurt in the first quarter of this past Sunday's game against Tampa Bay when he took a helmet-to-helmet shot from Bucs linebacker Derrick Brooks during a scramble.

"He will be out an extended period," said Raiders head coach Norv Turner. "It's disappointing."

Gannon could be placed on injured reserve for the second time in as many seasons. Last year, he suffered a shoulder injury during an October 20 game against Kansas City and underwent surgery in November.

In three games this season, the 38-year-old Gannon has completed 41-of-68 passes for 524 yards with three touchdowns and two interceptions.

Kerry Collins, signed in the off-season after being released by the New York Giants, will take over the starter's role.

Collins helped the Raiders to a 30-20 win over Tampa Bay on Sunday, completing 16-of-27 passes for 228 yards with one touchdown and one interception in his Oakland debut.

## Brewers Accept Purchase Offer

**M**ILWAUKEE - The Milwaukee Brewers have agreed to accept an offer from Los Angeles investor Mark L. Atanasio to buy the team from the family of baseball commissioner Bud Selig.

Daniel Gilbert, the founder and chairman of Quicken Loans, said Monday that he was told the team had selected another buyer and a lawyer in baseball, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that Atanasio's offer was orally accepted by the Brewers' board last week.

Atanasio and the team are in the process of drafting the sale agreement, the lawyer said.

The Brewers' acceptance was first reported by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on its Web site.

"I am deeply disappointed that the Brewers have chosen another direction in the sale of the club," Gilbert said. "After nearly eight long months of negotiations, I believed we were on the verge of announcing a deal when I was informed of the Brewers' decision to sell the team to another party."

Steve Greenberg, a New York-based

investment banker handling the sale for the Brewers, said "a decision is imminent," and he expected it to be announced by the end of the week.

"Despite everything else that's been swirling around today, there's nothing to announce at this point," Greenberg said.

Atanasio's spokesman, Bill Mendel, declined comment Monday.

The franchise started play as the Seattle Pilots in 1969 and was bought by Selig in bankruptcy proceedings and moved to Milwaukee before the 1970 season.

Selig's family owns the majority interest in the team — 26 percent — but Selig hasn't drawn a salary since becoming commissioner full time in 1998.

Atanasio is a chief investment officer in the investment firm Trust Company of the West, which provides asset management services to foundations, including the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation in Milwaukee.

The Brewers were believed to be seeking more than \$180 million for the team, which has been for sale since January.