



The San Juan Star

Virgin Islands 75¢

Wednesday, June 3, 1992

Puerto Rico 30¢



AP Laserphoto

New PM for Haiti

Marc Louis Bazin, 60, was named Haiti's prime minister-designate Tuesday. **Page 16**

AIDS policy group asks free needles for addicts

The recommendation, rejected in many places, is controversial and likely to spur debate here. **Page 3**

The road to the White House

6-state finale puts Clinton over the top

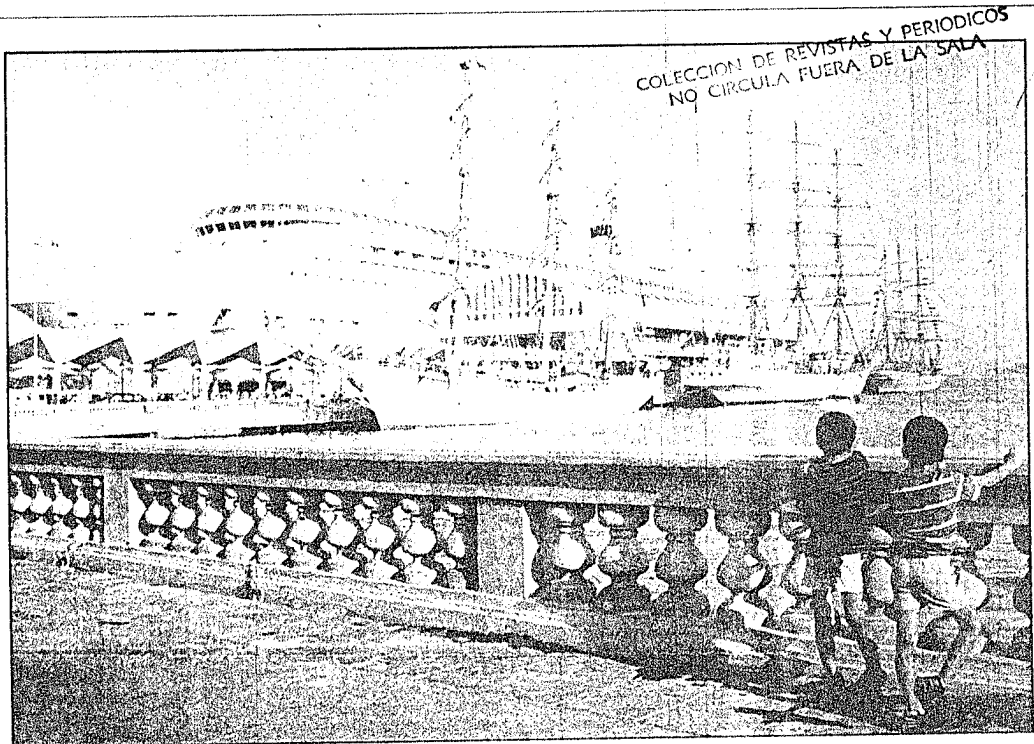
Triumph tempered by Perot's growing momentum. **Page 14**

Group lays plan for RHC library

The project comes on heels of move to restore the Carnegie Library. **Page 3**

Bond sale nets \$606 million

Sale to speed up aggressive plans for road improvements. **Business Today**



STAR photo by Humberto Trias Jr.

Two boys stare out into the San Juan Bay Tuesday at the regatta ships docked at the Old City pier. Regatta celebrations officially get under way Friday.

GRAN REGATA COLON
CUBEN Y EN DEFENSA



Old City braces for cars, crowds

Police to be out in force to make sure festival of boats doesn't become nightmare of autos. **Page 2**

Security tight for Gran Regata

Police prepared to deal with sabotage, hostage-takings, and requests for political asylum. **Page 8**

BUEN PROVECHO: Puerto Rico pavillon in Spain now serving bacalaitos **Page 33**

AIDS policy group urges giving syringes to addicts

Advice based on correlation with drug use

By P.J. ORTIZ
Of The STAR Staff

A national AIDS policy group strongly urged the Commonwealth Tuesday to distribute syringes to drug addicts, to help prevent spread of the deadly virus.

The recommendation is controversial and has been rejected in many places — and is likely to spur controversy here.

Only one state — Hawaii — and 10 U.S. cities, including New York and San Francisco, have needle distribution programs. The federal government provides no funding for providing clean needles to drug addicts.

The National AIDS Commission made the recommendation in a report released here Tuesday.

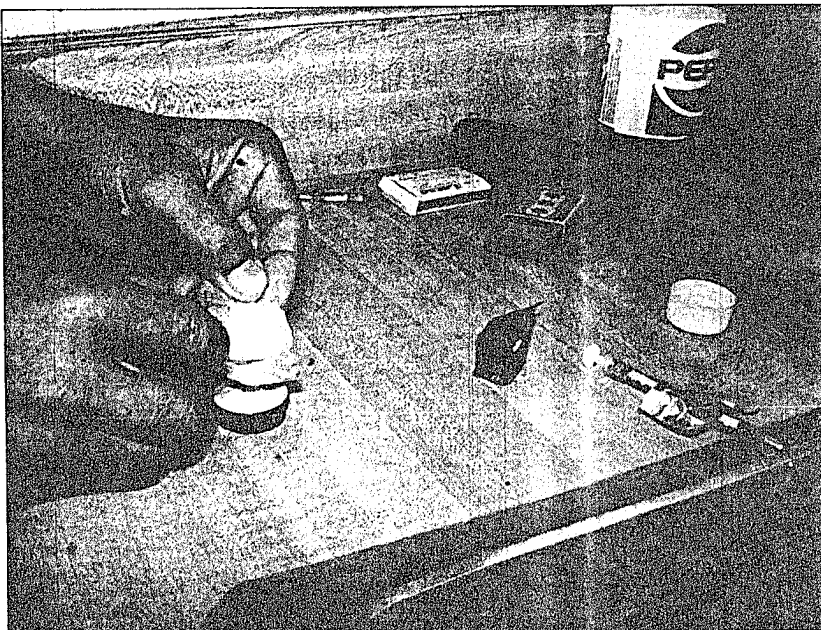
The advice is based on the high correlation of AIDS and intravenous drug abuse in Puerto Rico, where 70 percent of AIDS cases are related to IV drug users or their sexual partners. The children of drug addicts also are affected.

In contrast, the national average of reported AIDS cases linked to drug abuse is 31 percent.

Johnny Rullán, who oversees the Commonwealth's AIDS programs, said there is a greater acceptance of distributing condoms than there would be for a needles exchange program.

The Catholic Church opposes government distribution of condoms and for a long time the Commonwealth Health Department obliged. Condoms are now being dispensed in public clinics and other centers.

On Tuesday, Rullán asked the commission for help in getting political support for a needle exchange program.



The National AIDS Commission recommends Puerto Rico distribute needles to drug addicts to help stem the tide of AIDS. In this 1990 photo, an addict prepares a fix at a shooting gallery in the Luis Llorens Torres public housing project.

"We want to be able to do the same with needle exchange and cleaning," he said, but we need to show the politicians the scientific data in order to get their support," he said.

Created by Congress to recommend national AIDS policies, the commission visited Puerto Rico for two days in November 1990 to study the island's AIDS crisis. The report was based on information gathered during that visit.

According to the report, AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Puerto Rico among men between ages 25 and 44, and among women between ages 25 and 34.

The island had 7,992 reported cases of AIDS as of May 26, of which 63 percent of the patients have died. Health officials said the number could now slightly surpass 8,000, and estimate that 50,000 is-

landers are infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

"Despite the profound impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Puerto Rico and the repercussions for the Puerto Rican communities on the mainland, this nation's response to the HIV epidemic has not yet adequately taken into account the unique problems arising from the commonwealth status of Puerto Rico," the report said.

Singled out was the \$79 million cap on Medicaid spending in Puerto Rico.

The Commonwealth complains the cap hinders health care for AIDS patients, the majority of whom are poor. Critics, however, charge Puerto Rico doesn't spend enough of its own money on AIDS, al-

Please see AIDS, Page 6



Fortaleza photo

Arturo Díaz

Citizens plan to create an RHC library

Idea arises in wake of access ruling

By JENIFER McKIM
Of The STAR Staff

A group of high-powered citizens announced Tuesday plans to create a Rafael Hernández Colón Library to make "accessible" documents of the outgoing governor's 24 years in public office.

The announcement came four days after the Supreme Court struck down an executive order to regulate public access to government documents, saying the order violated the constitutional right of access to information.

The executive order was widely criticized by news organizations and others, who said it placed unreasonable restrictions on the public's access to government records.

Empresas Díaz Inc. President Arturo Díaz said the project was "appropriate" in light of the governor's efforts to control public information. Hernández Colón, who promulgated the executive order, is the defendant in a suit filed by the STAR, which is demanding the governor's travel records be made available.

Díaz — a member of the board of the Popular Democratic Party and longtime contributor to it — said the governor never meant that "documents wouldn't be made public later."

Hernández Colón, for his part, said he was grateful for the plans to open the \$2 million to \$3 million library in Ponce, his hometown. "This initiative will allow me to give our people the fruits of my experience, knowledge and connections outside of party politics," the governor said in a press release.

"It is precisely in this perspective that I am interested in contributing to Puerto Rico after finishing my responsibilities as governor," Hernández Co-

Please see LIBRARY, Page 6

Díaz says S.J. can afford raises

City Hall says Díaz doesn't know what he's talking about

By LAVONNE LUQUIS
Of The STAR Staff

New Progressive Party mayoral hopeful Carlos Díaz Olivio insisted Tuesday that San Juan can squeeze a \$50-a-month raise for city workers from its proposed \$269.6 million budget.

Municipal Assembly President Samuel Méndez Cuesta started the raise debate last week when he threatened to include \$6.7 million for the raises in the 1993 budget unless the mayor did so first.

But saying the raise would push the city's finances into the red, Mayor Héctor Luis Acevedo didn't incorporate it in the

budget he unveiled Monday. The city's annual payroll is \$84 million.

Acevedo could not be reached for comment Tuesday. His spokesman, however, dismissed Díaz Olivio's criticism.

"(Díaz Olivio) has never proposed anything of substance for the City," Rafael Jaime said. "He only makes hollow, empty criticisms..."

Méndez Cuesta promised Monday to keep insisting on the raises.

On Tuesday, Díaz Olivio claimed the city could afford to increase salaries if it trimmed "gratuitous fat" in cellular telephones, beepers, a newsletter and legal

contracts.

Díaz Olivio also criticized the amount Acevedo gave the Municipal Police Department, saying that if he were mayor, he would double the \$10.5 million amount.

Díaz Olivio, however, was vague about how the beefed up law enforcement could be paid for.

Maximizing income from municipal sporting facilities and tourism-related gross sales tax revenue were the two areas he pointed to.

"When you're talking about crime, money has to be found wherever you can find it," Díaz Olivio said.