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COLLEGE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, CARIBBEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ST. THOMAS, V.I. 00801

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Ecological Research Center

RESEARCH STATION OPENS AS PERMANENT FACILITY

The Virgin Islands Ecological Research Station (VIERS) at Lameshur Bay, St. John was opened permanently for use by CVI as well as students and researchers from other colleges. This quarter, \$14,000 was accrued by the Ecological Research Center (ERC) from hosting two CVI researchers, two classes (20 students), six professors and 89 students from four stateside universities. The total income from this project, under the supervision of ERC Director Dr. Michael Canoy, was absorbed by the College.

PURCELL ADDRESSES AAAS ANNUAL MEETING

Tom Purcell, research associate at the ERC, traveled to Houston, Texas in early January to present a paper at a poster session of the multi-disciplinary annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). "The Effects of Rainfall Runoff on the Water Quality of Undeveloped Tropical Bays of St. John, USVI" dealt with the results of a project funded by a grant from the Office of Water Research and Technology.

WATER QUALITY STUDY ON ST. JOHN BEGINS

Sampling has begun at Great Cruz Bay and at Chocolate Hole on St. John for a study of the water quality in those two areas. This study was initiated as part of the planning in conjunction with the building of condominiums proposed for the island. It is the second water quality study conducted by CRI on St. John and is based on information gathered during the original study in 1977-78.

I. DOCS
COLLECTION

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CANOY MEETS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

Dr. Michael Canoy attended a joint meeting in Washington, D.C. in late January to discuss with various federal agencies possibilities for funding projects at the ERC. The agencies, including the National Park Service, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Office of Environmental Education stressed their interest in promoting basic research in ecosystems, individual species of fishery potential, and an intensive environmental education program for students and citizen groups. Ted Sudia, chief scientist of the National Park Service, and others suggested improving and expanding facilities at VIERS. They expressed willingness to help get funding for such an improvement program. An update meeting is set for early summer.

EPA ADDENDUM CONTRACT COMPLETED

During the quarter significant new findings were brought about in relation to a study on St. Croix funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last year. The findings concerned the extent of and possible solutions to pollution from a rum distillery on the waters surrounding St. Croix. Besides contributing to the scientific knowledge of the Virgin Islands, the total \$126,000 EPA contract has provided \$20,000 in overhead to the College and approximately \$26,000 in capital equipment and lab facilities at VIERS. Five students and three staff members from CVI were involved in the project.

Social Research Center

LOCAL TAX SYSTEM STUDIED BY MCELROY

Dr. Jerome McElroy, senior research associate at the Social Research Center (SRC) has completed a paper on "Tax Elasticity in the Virgin Islands." In the 40-page document, he evaluated the local tax system using standard criteria to determine how well the system has performed since 1960. He looked closely at internal or local taxes (net of subsidy payments) such as: income, property, trade and excise, customs dues, gross receipts, various fees and income from public utilities such as Knud-Hansen Memorial Hospital and the Water and Power Authority.

He also examined external revenue sources such as the U.S. tax on rum and federal grants and loans. The results as reported in the paper were that performance of the tax system has been consistently below average. The paper will be published at a later date.

JONES-HENDRICKSON DISCUSSES VI ECONOMY

"The State of the Virgin Islands Economy" was the topic of discussion during a 45-minute radio broadcast February 26 on local station WSTA. Mel Mills interviewed Dr. S.B. Jones-Hendrickson, SRC coordinator, on his weekly program "New Directions." Under discussion were salary increases for the Legislature, the impact of oil prices on the local economy and the effects of the recession in the United States on the Virgin Islands.

On March 22 Dr. Jones-Hendrickson was interviewed in Washington, D.C. on National Public Radio. "The Virgin Islands Economy Since 1969" was his topic. He gave a general assessment of the past ten years in the VI and what he envisions happening in the next five years. The tone of his

statements was "guardedly optimistic" due to increased tourism and construction in the islands, colored by the negative influence of the stateside recession.

MICROSTATE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

April 18-21 are the dates for the 1979 Spring Conference sponsored by CRI. The theme of the meeting is "The Politico-Economic Development of Microstates." This subject will be explored both theoretically and empirically -- as comparative sectoral analyses of several island economies, as well as studies of the macro behavior of island systems. Twelve economic and political science professionals will address the meeting and a number of other experts in these professions, from both the United States and the Caribbean, will be on hand to contribute to the open discussions that are scheduled for each session. Papers presented will focus on policy options currently available to Microstates in their development processes.

Participants will have the opportunity to gain insight into specific characteristics of Microstates, such as small size, political affiliation, trade dependence -- and how those things affect the Caribbean population. The conference will be held in the Chase Manhattan Auditorium on the lower level of the Business Administration Building on the St. Thomas Campus of CVI all day April 18-20 and on the morning of April 21, with registration beginning at 8:30 daily. A registration fee of \$5 is payable each day of the conference or in advance. Call 774-1252, ext. 237, 249 or 252 for further information:

Water Resources Research Center

DIRECTOR ATTENDS REGIONAL MEETING

Dr. Roger Peebles, director of the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC), attended the Regional Water Center Directors Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on January 31-February 1. The participants discussed responsibilities of the Office of Water Research and Technology (OWRT) and water centers under new authorizing legislation "The Water Research and Development Act of 1978" (P.L. 95-467). The first Water Resources Research Act was passed in 1964 and expired in 1978.

SMITH JOINS WRRC STAFF

In February Henry H. Smith joined the Institute staff as research associate. He formerly held the position of senior planner in the VI Planning Office. Smith has a BA in Marine and Environmental Sciences from CVI and a MA in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland. He is originally from Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.

CRI REPRESENTED AT WASHINGTON SYMPOSIUM

Five hundred researchers and engineers met in Washington, D.C. on March 25-30 for the first OWRT National Water Re-use Symposium. Attending from the Institute were Dr. Roger Peebles and Henry Smith.

**WRRC TO PUBLISH
TECHNICAL REPORT #2**

In progress at the WRRC is Technical Report #2, that is set for publication later this year. Entitled "Comprehensive Water Management Framework for the United States Virgin Islands," the document will be written in laymen's terms and will be available for public distribution. The report will encompass all aspects of water in the USVI.

Outreach Activities

**BARBADOS SITE FOR
CCA BOARD MEETING**

The Garrison, headquarters of the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), on the British island of Barbados was the setting for a semi-annual meeting of the CCA board of directors. Dr. Norwell Harrigan, CRI director, is completing a term as vice-president of the organization. During his stay, Dr. Harrigan was interviewed on a local radio station on the subject of CRI's work and its potential for research on other Caribbean Microstates. The CCA was headquartered at CRI until 1972.

Also during his visit to Barbados, Dr. Harrigan met with the director and senior staff members of the Caribbean Tourism Research Center.

Tips for Energy Savers



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