

Ross sale

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Local & State / B1

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Sports / C1



Journal and Courier

Lafayette-West Lafayette, Indiana

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Winter won't quite surrender

Some plants stung by late hard freeze

By JOHN NORBERG

A blast from the winter past has zapped magnolia blossoms and sent a shiver up the trunks of dogwoods and redbuds in the Lafayette area.

As dawn broke Tuesday, the temperature at the Purdue University Agronomy Farm fell to a record-breaking 16 degrees, a freeze hard enough to wilt flowers, not to mention spring spirits.

"We enjoyed the magnolias for two weeks, but they're all history now," said Michael Dana, associate professor of horticulture at Purdue. "You're seeing brown magnolias all over town now. They could have lasted a couple more weeks, and the blooms this year were especially good."

Dogwoods, redbuds and many other flowering trees that bring joy to winter-weary hearts might have made it through the freeze, Dana said.

Statistically, apple orchards will lose about 15 percent of the crop with a freeze of 18 degrees. Losses increase quickly. A freeze down to 10 degrees this late in the year can ruin 90 percent of a crop.

Kathy LaOrange at Tioga Orchard in Monticello said she doesn't know the extent of damage to the apples yet.

"It's hard to tell," she said. "But I don't think we were hurt too bad."

The orchard has about 2,000 trees on 24 acres.

Dana said the blossoms on many dogwoods and redbuds had not opened enough to be hurt by the freeze. As long as the buds are tightly closed, they can withstand some cold. A lot depends on how much individual blossoms were opened.

Dana said peach and apricot blossoms were probably zapped by the freeze, as were tulips. Daffodils might be all right.

My guess is, it's not as bad as I had anticipated. My guess is we had a 10 to 20 percent loss. Certain varieties might be in short supply this fall. It's just spotty."

-Jack Martin, apple orchardist

The previous record low for April 5 in Lafayette was 22 degrees in 1920.

Temperatures are expected to range from the upper 30s to the mid-60s today and Friday. Highs should stay in the 60s through the weekend.

Warm weather is expected next week as flowers shake off the chill.

Tax cut wins in House

GOP rounds up enough late votes

By BRIAN TUMULTY and NORM BREWER

WASHINGTON — House Republicans late Wednesday easily nailed down the last plank of their "Contract with America" — a \$189 billion tax cut. Democrats decried as a sop to the rich.

The measure passed on a vote of 246-188. "Starting today, relief is on the way," declared House Majority Leader Richard Armey, R-Texas, who said the tax cut was in the contract "because it's needed by the American people."

The House easily defeated several efforts to weaken or kill the bill.

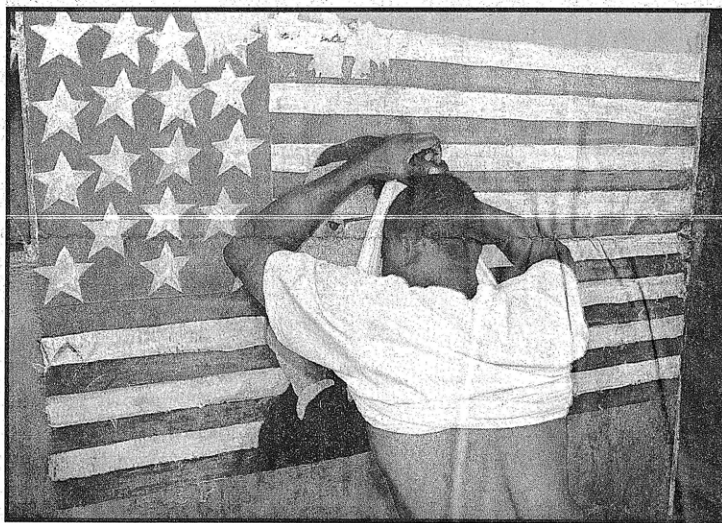
The bill, which faces far more treacherous terrain in the Senate, includes a \$500-per-child tax credit for families earning up to \$200,000; rollback of income taxes paid by high-income Social Security recipients; a 50 percent cut in capital gains taxes paid by individuals; and repeal of the alternative minimum tax paid by many corporations.

Republicans leaders spent days rallying votes, finally developing a compromise that calls for delaying the tax cut until the adoption of a budget moving toward deficit eradication.

Indiana's delegation split along party lines: six Republicans for the bill, four Democrats against.



Analysis of Contract/A3



Afraid that the image of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will be tainted, a young man named Daniel covers his image. Earlier, Daniel, a member of a virulent pro-Aristide political organization, threatened to shoot an American reporter and photographer if they didn't leave Cite Soleil.

By Frank Oliver, Journal and Courier

THE SERIES: A weeklong look at how local residents are helping Haitians through the transition to democracy.

INSIDE TODAY: While thousands live in poverty in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's wealthy live among sidewalk cafes and fully stocked markets. Pages A6-7

COMING FRIDAY: A children's hospital struggles amid crime and increasing deaths.

IN THE DARK OF THE SUN

By JOHN NORBERG

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—Down walkways slightly wider than their shoulders, past crowded concrete block rooms where people sleep on floors, Noel Bonhomme points toward the door of his home.

The constant noise of the narrow streets, the cacophony of people arguing and talking and selling and buying, pours through openings that serve as windows in the concrete walls that mark the place where Bonhomme lives.

Little sunlight reaches here. The single electric bulb hanging by its cord from a ceiling is left unlit.



HAITI FAITH IN CHANGE

Downstairs are two tiny rooms, each barely big enough for three people to stand. A ladder leads to a second-floor room about 10 feet square. Each night, eight people sleep on the floor, lying on top of small piles of clothing they wear in the morning.

Thirteen people live in this home

in the middle of Cite Soleil, a slum where 200,000 to 300,000 people are crowded into an area about 1 1/2 miles square. No one ever counts the numbers here. People come and go. They are born and die far faster than any census could measure.

It is a world without toilets where open sewer lines run past homes, the odor mixing with the deep, putrid smell of piles of rotting garbage. Poverty, noise, filth and disease decimate the hopes and dreams of people. In the midst of this, a message is painted on a wall inside Bonhomme's tiny, simple, dark house.

"I love you," the message on the

wall says in English. And next to that, an answer: "I love you, too."

Dream shattered by chaos

Bonhomme's hands are rough and hard from the work he does each day, carving figures from hunks of wood. But his heart is soft with hope that better days will shine in his life, if not tomorrow, then next year; if not next year, then the year after that. There's more hope than food in Cite Soleil, more faith than promise.

Cite Soleil lies at the political heart of Haiti. It was from this slum that the Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide

See HAITI, Page A6

Developers plowing through loophole

By GREGORY A. HALL

When two pieces of Americana collide, does it make for good land use or disgruntled neighbors?

Tippecanoe County farmers and developers are debating the point because loopholes in the county subdivision ordinance allow developers to transfer building sites to a more desirable location.

New neighborhoods that result, nestled in rural areas, are close enough to the city to share its conveniences, but

far enough to avoid its problems. They're also right next to farms. The combination has farmers upset.

Mark Nesbitt, a farmer in Tippecanoe and Montgomery counties, realizes that people want houses with acres of farmland around it. But he said they don't want him to build a hog barn next to their house; they don't want the smell.

Keeping farmland and subdivisions separate works, he said.

"Let's keep it that way. ... When you start going out helter-skelter through

the county... you're getting up all kinds of problems," he said.

Nesbitt said he's frustrated by the developers. "They probably don't live here," he said. "They don't care."

Low-impact development

One of the farmers' beefs is that the developers take up prime land for agriculture.

But Patrick Cunningham, a surveyor See LAND, Back Page

WHAT'S NEXT

The next community forum on parcelization and residential development in rural areas will be tonight at the Fairview Community Center on County Road 200 North just east of County Road 900 East.

Another will be April 17 at the Tippecanoe Villa.

Both start at 7 p.m.

Reforms in the county subdivision ordinance addressing the rural residential development are scheduled to be ready for consideration by the Area Plan Commission and the county commissioners this summer.

Lugar: End income tax

Senator seeks sales tax

By RONALD A. TAYLOR

WASHINGTON — The current federal income tax system is too complex and intrusive, increases the price of U.S. exports and should be replaced with a national sales tax, Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., said Wednesday.

The remarks came as the presidential hopeful prepares for another weekend of active — if low profile, campaigning, this time on the East Coast.

Lugar's proposal would abolish federal individual and corporate taxes, along with the capital gains, gift and inheritance taxes.

"And with them all of the tax loopholes which have been created for special interests," Lugar said at the Cato Institute in Washington.

Lugar said he envisions a 17 percent national sales tax on all retail activity. The states would collect the tax.

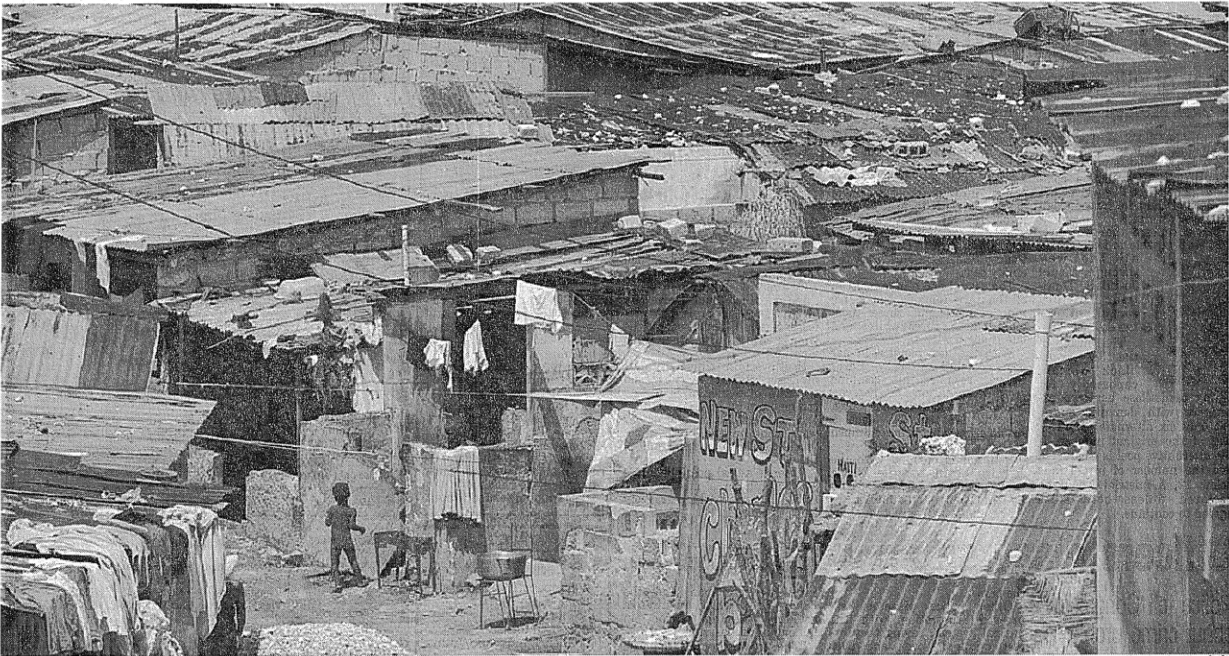
Under his plan, the Internal Revenue Service would be abolished, Lugar said.

To limit the impact on poor people, Lugar would allow exemptions for food and medicine and even the purchase of a home.



Lugar

HAITI: FAITH IN CHANGE



In one of Port-au-Prince's worst slums, homes are made of corrugated tin, cinder block and cardboard. It is estimated that 200,000 to 300,000 people live here.

By Frank Oliver/Journal and Courier

CROWDED HAITI: SLUMS OF SLUMS

Continued from Page A1

received enormous support and was elected president in December 1990.

The people who live here believed Aristide would make their lives better. But nine months later, Aristide was ousted in a political coup. He fled to the U.S. while a military dictatorship ruled Haiti, governing Cite Soleil with murder and malnutrition, poverty and seemingly endless pain.

Some members of the Haitian military and police, attaches, and members of organizations known as FRAPH and Macoutes roamed this slum at night, killing people whose support for Aristide remained vocal.

People were dragged from their homes, shot and left dead in the

street. Their bodies sometimes lay there for days before they were removed, a savage message from the government to the people.

With the arrival of U.S. troops in Haiti last fall, the return of Aristide and the elimination of the police and military, those political killings in the night have ended. But overwhelming problems continue. Malnutrition, death and murder continue. Crime is increasing.

The cost of food, which doubled and tripled during the military dictatorship, has not come down. Employment has not greatly increased. Poverty remains the same. People find it increasingly hard to survive day to day.

A children's hospital that had one death a week last year now has one death a day.

And some people here say the

Cite Soleil is the heart of poverty, political turmoil in Port-au-Prince

lack of police has left a society victimized by crime. Free clinics that a year ago provided medical care, medicine and food have been robbed and have shut down.

And some observers here say the people who were themselves oppressed by the military dictatorship are now the oppressors.

Seen from above, this quagmire of poverty and politics appears a patchwork of unpainted, rusting metal roofs so close together that one touches the other. Wide streets are the size of one-lane roads. Some streets with homes on either side are really nothing more than dirt or concrete paths about one yard wide.

Wood from the mountains of Haiti, where deforestation is a major problem, is expensive. Most homes are made of concrete block, although some are fashioned of cardboard and tin. Some of the floors of homes in Cite Soleil are concrete. Some are dirt.

There is no running water in the homes, which rent for \$100 to \$140 U.S. per year. Water is purchased from a businessman in the slum who pulls it up from a cistern and sells it for about 20 cents a bucket. A family needs four or five of those buckets every day.

"That's a lot of money when you don't have any money," says Diane Wagner, a nurse from Rochester, Minn., who has volunteered in this community for seven years.

Wagner picks her way through the narrow paths that run like mazes through Cite Soleil. People shake her hand and kiss her cheek as she passes.

Antoine Mercilien, 23, lives here. Dressed in a green shirt, red pants and San Francisco 49ers cap, he talks through a translator.

"I have two children," he says. "I work in construction but I don't have enough work to support my family."

Other people help him feed his children.

"I live with other people," he says. "I don't have a house, I don't have work. But I'm glad the American soldiers came here. I'm able to live more freely now and there's not as much oppression."

Opening the market

While Mercilien talks, a crowd has gathered around Wagner, who has closed her clinic in Cite Soleil because of thefts, threats and lack of security. There is a heated political discussion in Creole.

Bonhomme, 26, holds a piece of wood he will carve for a special order for a U.S. soldier. He has a pass to enter Camp Democracy, where the U.S. military is based. There, he is allowed to sell his hand

carvings at a PX store.

He speaks English. "I will get maybe \$20, U.S., for this," he says of the carving he's ready to start. "This is good money. It takes me two days to make it. Sometimes I make \$50 or \$60 U.S. but I have four brothers and three sisters and my father is old and my mother is old. It's a small amount of money for all my family."

He laughs when asked how he made money before the U.S. military came.

"It was very difficult," he says. "Before they came, you didn't go out at night. If they saw you on the street after 7 or 8 at night, they said 'Are you FRAPH or Macoute or attache?' If you said, 'No I am not,' they killed you."

"It's better with American troops here. I think security is better and sometimes the money, the life is better, sometimes."

Wagner thinks security is worse since Aristide returned and that he does not have their best interests at heart.

People talking with her say it's the U.S. military's responsibility to provide security, but the military is just trying to back up a small Haitian police force. One man believes there are 20,000 U.S. soldiers in Haiti and wonders why they aren't doing more to stop crime. The day he speaks, fewer than 4,000 remain in the country. Rumors and misinformation spread through the streets.

Not everyone in the Haitian army was bad, Wagner says.

"It's better with American troops at least there was security," she says. "They should not have taken everyone out of the Army."

'You need to come back'

A man nearby complains to Wagner about the Haitian army.

"Is it the army stealing food meant for the poor here?" she says. "No, it is the people."

A man, an Aristide supporter, says that last year the military came and put guns to his head. He had to flee to the countryside until the U.S. soldiers arrived.

A young man named Daniel is talking loudly in Creole. He's excited and gesturing, swinging his arms.

"He's very much into the Lavalas (Aristide's democracy) movement," Wagner says. "He thinks it's other people who are paying people who live here to steal the food and medicine from the clinics. He is totally brainwashed."

One man says Americans who run the clinics are keeping money coming from the U.S. for themselves.

"It's insanity," Wagner says.

"You are the only people who are helping us," another man tells Wagner. "You need to come back."

On the street, Daniel refuses to let anyone be interviewed by U.S. reporters. When people begin talking to them, he shouts at them, directly in their faces, so the words they're saying can't be heard. They back down in the face of his anger.

"These people will sell our stories and photos for a million dollars in the United States," he shouts. "They give us nothing. 'Leave,' he tells the reporters. "Or I will shoot you."

"Don't be afraid of him," Bonhomme says. "He just talks."

Children jump rope on the street and ignore the commotion. A boy leading a pig on the end of a rope walks down a path.

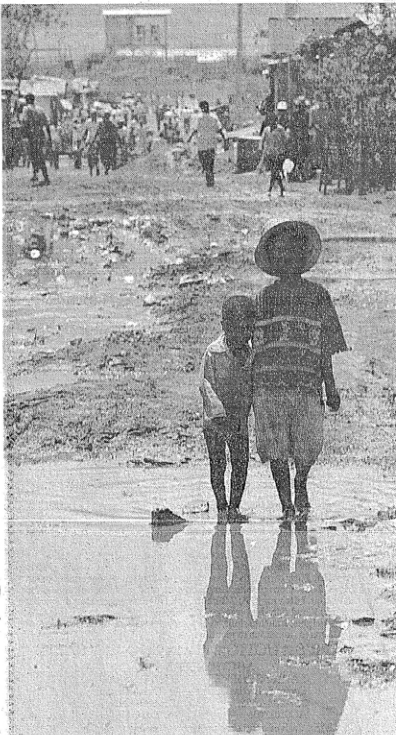
In Bonhomme's house, Wagner

sits on the sole, small mattress. She holds a child in her lap. The young girl snuggles close to her. Overhead, a U.S. Army helicopter beats the air and rattles the metal roofs. Clothes are scattered on the floor. A photo of Aristide hangs near the door.

In the upstairs sleeping area there is more writing on the walls. "God forgive us, give us his grace," one reads. "Jesus saves the world," says another.

And as the helicopter pounds overhead and people argue, through the smells of garbage and sewage and cooking, amid the poverty, the small, dark houses and the dull eyes of sick children, one statement on the wall stands proud for all who come to this home.

"If God be for us," it says, "who will be against us."



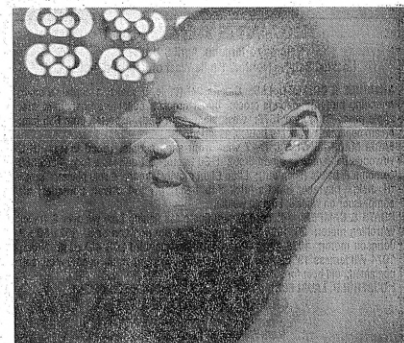
A young boy leads his brother through the streets of Cite Soleil. When it rains, streets become clogged with sewage and garbage.

By Frank Oliver/Journal and Courier



Along the Caribbean coast south of Port-au-Prince, ships are constructed by hand at Haiti's only shipyard.

By Frank Oliver/Journal and Courier



Daniel Noel argues heatedly with Diane Wagner, an American volunteer in Port-au-Prince during a dispute over politics.

By Frank Oliver/Journal and Courier

HAITI: FAITH IN CHANGE

A DELUGE OF FOREIGNERS

A well-off man bemoans status of his nation's institutions

By JOHN NORBERG
Journal and Courier

PETIONVILLE, Haiti—It isn't that his heart is broken. That's not what he's saying at all. When your heart is broken, the pain comes all at once and it begins to heal. But the heart that beats life inside this handsome middle-age man isn't healing.

Instead, a sorrow and a sadness and a constant pain grips his soul. It has robbed his life of something vital that once came from deep inside and isn't there anymore.

"What is it like having U.S. soldiers here?" he says, repeating a question slowly in English spoken with a French accent.

"I am sorry sir," he says. "I am a Haitian. I know you have a country. But this is my country. Whenever troops come here, it is hard for me. Having foreigners on your soil, no, it is bad. To be living with foreign masters with no word of our own."

"Since the soldiers came, it has been raining in my heart."

With droplets of rain wetting his heart, he sits in his spacious living room in Port-au-Prince, not far from the upper-class suburb of Petionville.

His living room connects to a dining room with a fine table. The furnishings are lovely and very comfortable. Beautiful and expressive paintings by Haitian artists decorate the walls.

His hair is gray, his features chiseled. He is pleasant to be with, sincere, trying to do what's best, trying to see things from all sides. He was once quick to laugh. But this day he doesn't laugh—not once. He chain-smokes cigarettes.

Although he belongs to a wealthier class of Haitians, his home is in a neighborhood where rich and poor share the same street. He is not ostentatious, seeming to prefer the simple life.

This Saturday morning, one of his vehicles has been hit by a U.S. military humvee. They didn't stop after bashing into the door on the driver's side, leaving a large crushed area with scraped paint. They sped away.

"Now, three times this has happened to me," he says, pointing to his four-wheel drive vehicle parked on his drive. "Twice it happened to my wife and this morning it happened to me. And what do they do when this happens? They speed up. That's the way it works down here."

"Before, we had local occupation. We had our own military here, but the way it was, it was like being occupied by our own troops. Now, we have foreign occupation. They're just as bad."

"When the Americans came, we just changed masters."

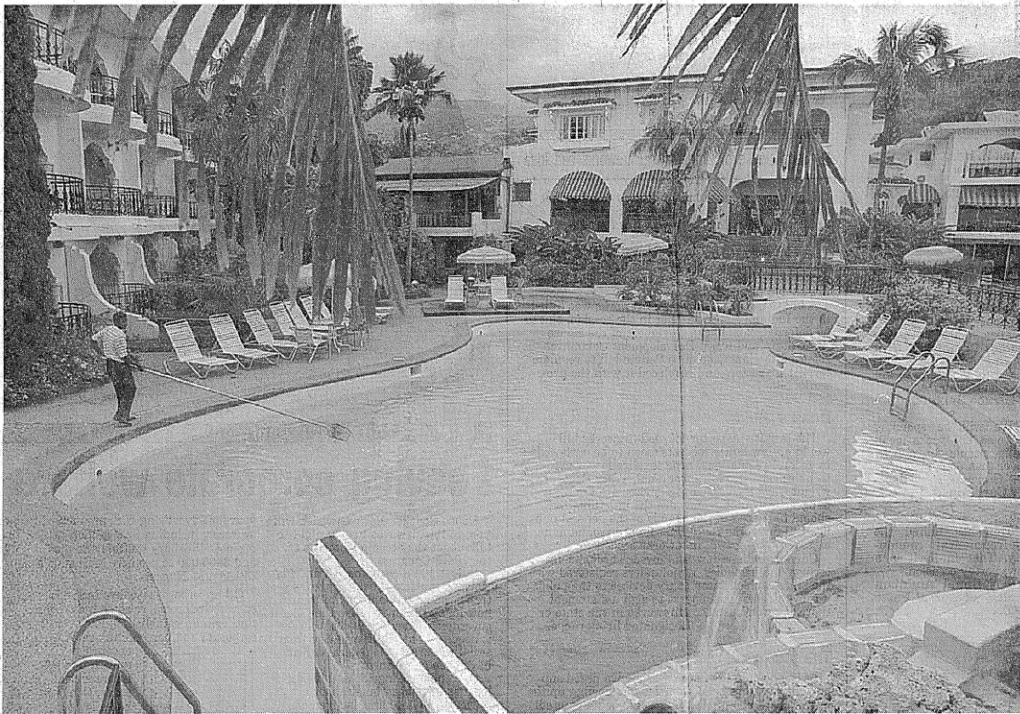
Just a 15-minute drive from the slums of Cite Soleil and La Saline, from the disease and malnutrition and death that stalks the vast areas of Port-au-Prince below, is the lovely community of Petionville. Once the capital of Haiti, it is now home to many of the country's wealthy, although the most affluent have mansions in the hillsides.

In Petionville, people linger at sidewalk cafes, drinking beer and wine and reading newspapers, eating elegant meals. Le Supermarche du Grand Public at Rue Lamarre here is stocked with every item you would find in a U.S. grocery store. An armed guard stands at the door.

Well-dressed people shop here. Many of them are foreign. Some are U.S. journalists who venture to Port-au-Prince by day and return to the upscale Hotel Montana at night.

Pink bougainvillea bloom on the street corners. Trees offer shade. In an isolated area, away from easy view, is the El Rancho. Here is a beautiful white, majestic building that opens onto a huge courtyard with two blue pools, elegant restaurants, bars and a large casino.

"Beauty literally engulfs you everywhere you go at El Rancho," the hotel brochure says. "From the mountains and valley outside to the elegant accommodations inside, with carefully carved native mahogany furniture and sculpture, Italian marble floors, colorful paint-



The El Rancho, a resort in Petionville, offers gambling in its casino from dusk until dawn. The wives of U.S. businessmen frequent the resort.

By Frank Oliver/Journal and Courier

ings and bright fresh-cut flowers."

The man behind the desk handing out the brochure says Haiti was once full of beautiful places.

"Haiti used to be a paradise," he says wistfully.

A Haitian who hears the clerk waits until he's out of his earshot to comment.

"It was if you were rich," he says. "Business is good at El Rancho. U.S. businessmen working for private contractors attached to the U.S. Department of Defense invite their wives to visit here."

But all this is far from the heart of the Haitian businessman as he sits in his living room and laments what is happening in the country he loves.

He will not allow his name to be used. People once were shot for what they said in Haiti, he says. They aren't shot anymore. People are now killed for what they say and by men throwing stones and swinging clubs and broken bottles.

Tales of Aristide

Crime has skyrocketed since the U.S. troops came and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returned, dismantling the police and military.

"I can tell you frankly," the man says softly. "It is worse in Haiti now than during the embargo time. There is no security on the streets even during the day. Before, the crime was always at night. But now it's during the day. I can't walk the streets during the day downtown, anywhere. It's getting worse and worse and worse."

During the time of the military junta after Aristide was ousted in a coup, he estimates, 15,000 to 20,000 people in Haiti worked as police. This includes the military, which was effectively a police force.

Now, he says, the government is starting from scratch, training a new police force, a process which could take several years.

"The way I think this country will disappear first," the businessman says. "What country have you heard of without a police force? The law has to be enforced by the police. You have no police, you have no law. This is unbelievable."

"The poor, they have been had for Haitians, he says.

"The people suffered a lot during the past years," he says. "All the Aristide people, they did suffer a lot. It was at nighttime the army and others would enter their slums and kill them, random killings." But he thinks now with rising robberies and rapes and murders, it's even worse.

He is not an Aristide supporter. "Who knows what Aristide is

doing now," he says. "He's making money, lots of money now. He's building a good retirement."

He questions how Aristide, a former monk, became a wealthy man.

"I heard from one of Aristide's staunch followers that when he ran for election five years ago, he was worth \$600,000. That from one who never worked... He took it from you and me and from the poor kids. He's building up his own cash now."

Rumors in Haiti include one that Aristide's wealth grew into the millions of dollars while he lived in exile in the United States.

"Aristide has done nothing for the poor since he came back," the businessman says. "He did nothing before the coup, either. I don't think he has ever built a latrine."

The wealthy in Haiti have never paid their taxes. Aristide has been working to end that. The poor setting up an open market, selling cabbage and tomatoes on several yards of street space, pay a fee to the government for their spot.

Large sums of money also come to the government from state-owned businesses—the telephone company, the electric company, companies that produce flour and cement. There are government-owned insurance and retirement fund companies.

Now talk circulates of privatizing these.

"I don't know how Haiti came to this," the businessman says. "I lived through the Duvalier regime. The country had order. Since then it's

worse. In 1986 when Jean-Claude Duvalier left, I thought we would have big change for the better. It didn't happen. It became worse."

He's not impressed by the "democracy" he sees so far.

"President Clinton comes here because it's the only plus in his foreign politics," he says. "He wants to get flowers for this, so he comes to Haiti."

"But is this democracy with people being killed and robbed every day? Apparently it is."

He says farmers in the country are being robbed, stores in the city are being robbed. People believe democracy gives them the right to take what they want.

"And what can I do?" he says. "You can't report crime to anyone. Can I report that I got hit this morning by one of your GIs? To whom can I report? Tell me. What will they do? I have a burglar alarm in my house, but if someone comes in, who will I call? No one can do anything."

"What will come of all this? Doomsday. It's bad. It is bad. I lost faith."

"What will come of all this? Doomsday. It's bad. It is bad. I lost faith."

"What will come of all this? Doomsday. It's bad. It is bad. I lost faith."

A better future?

Maybe new elections will bring better leaders to Haiti, he says.

"We have to get out from where we are with officials coming to grab money," he says. "We have to get away from that. But we haven't entered that era yet, not with the bunch we have. In 1957, we had a candidate for president who said the fish rots from the

head to the tail. I always kept that in my mind. Until we get a good head, nothing will be done. The ministers will steal. I think a head of state like that will happen in the future."

"He will have to be a real strong man for people to respect. We'll have a good one some day."

He has said all he has to say. His guests stand to leave.

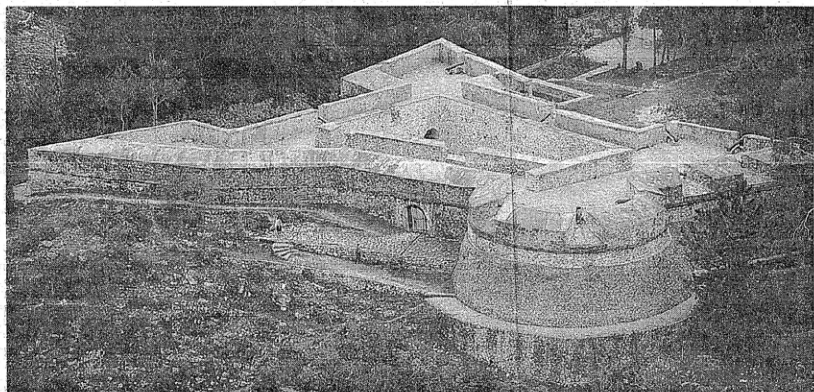
But before they go, he adds one more thought. It's a request. He has said some things about Aristide, that he doesn't want repeated.

"Don't print some of the words I said about Aristide," he says. "He is still my country's president."



Le Supermarche du Grand Public, an upscale supermarket in Petionville, stocks meat, California wines and other gourmet foods. Just five miles away lies Port-au-Prince, where residents scramble for each day's meals.

By Frank Oliver/Journal and Courier



A French fort stands as a reminder of the time when France ruled Haiti, from 1697 to 1791. Today, the fort is a tourist attraction.

By Frank Oliver/Journal and Courier