World Cup Fever and Time Zone Madness
By: Chris Morvan

The 2018 FIFA World Cup is upon us at last, and fans of what Pele called “the beautiful game” will be hoping there is plenty of beauty about the proceedings in Russia.

In every tournament, there are one or two of the traditional top names that don’t make it to the finals, and on this occasion the notable absentees include Italy and, disappointingly for St. Maarten, The Netherlands.

American fans will also be looking for another team to support, with the USA having failed to qualify for the first time since 1986.

But that still leaves plenty of great teams and famous names.

France will obviously have a big following around these parts, and they’ve got an excellent crop of players at the moment. Will Paul Pogba finally live up to his potential and control games, or will he continue to offer only flashes of brilliance? Can Antoine Griezmann score goals for Les Bleus like he does for Atletico Madrid and will we see alongside him the experience of Olivier Giroud or the raw promise of Kylian Mbappe?

Germany is there and looking as dangerous as ever, with a solid defense and proven goal scorers in Thomas Mueller and Marco Reus...


Meet Fabian Badejo: Art Can Imitate Life

With the world at-large currently hyper sensitive about sexual matters and particularly male lust, it might not seem like the ideal time for a man to publish a book of erotic poetry; but that is what writer and broadcaster Fabian Badejo has done.

It’s called Fantasies: Love-making Poems, but he hasn’t recently written it, though, he tells me...

The Age of Pirates

Shortly after the discovery of the “New World” by the Spanish began a period of colonization and systematic plundering of the large Amerindian cities.

All of the wealth accumulated this way was then shipped to Europe aboard Galleons which often called on the Greater Antilles (Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico etc.) before attempting the long transatlantic passage...

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Letter From the Editor  
June 15, 2018

Summer has officially arrived! There has been a definite shift in the weather, so we have filled this issue with activities that will keep you cool and refreshed in what is already a humid summer.

Perhaps you’ll find refuge partaking in water activities in the invigorating ocean, or in the chilly air conditioning of your favorite bar while you watch the World Cup. Either way, it is a win-win!

Another thirst-quenching idea is participating in our Category 5+ contest! Have you tried any yet? Tune into Island 92 for on-air demos and interviews with the brains behind the different concoctions. There is also a list of participating bars and restaurants on page 15.

I would like to wish all fathers and father figures a terrific Father’s Day this Sunday.

Have a super weekend!

Hilary Grant
Editor

Online Portal

For in-depth information about our island, consult ST-MAARTEN.COM - the official online portal. Please use the convenient QR codes with any smart phone to access individual pages directly.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dutch Side

Ambulance: 912 or +1 721 542 2111
Hospital: 910 or +1 721 543-1111
Police: 911 or +1 721 542-2222
Fire Departmen: 919 or +1 721 545-4222

French Side

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Hospital: +599 (590) 52 26 29
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Ocean Etiquette: Enjoy Our Beaches Safely and Responsibly
By: Leslie Hickerson

As you dive into the clear waters of St. Maarten you will find yourself encountering a variety of sea life and corals. Spending the day at the beach or on a boat tour is the perfect way to enjoy your Caribbean holiday. To help protect the ocean from the effects of humans and keep yourself safe you can follow these five tips:

1. Don’t touch the reef
When you are snorkeling or swimming you may find that areas of the sea floor get very shallow and close to the surface. Even if these look rocky or dead try to avoid standing on any areas that aren’t sand. Even hard corals are very delicate to human touch and some areas can be concealing thinks like Sea Urchins or Fire Coral. Both of these sting when touched by bare skin and can last several days depending on the person!

2. Take a floatation device
Not only will this help you from having to take a break on sensitive or dangerous corals, it also makes it much easier for you to relax and enjoy your swim! You can use a pool noodle under your chest and arms while snorkeling to enjoy the underwater scenery, or use it to sit on to take a break and enjoy floating. Having something like this with you is also a great way to keep yourself safe in case you drift farther from shore than intended!

3. Choose your sunscreen wisely
When putting on your sunscreen to protect from your skin go with a higher SPF and re-apply frequently. When you are choosing which sunscreen beware of products that contain the ingredients Oxybenzone and Octinoxate. These are chemicals that are dangerous to corals and marine-life when worn into the sea. Recently the sale of products containing these has been banned in Hawaii. Having trouble finding some Reef Safe sunscreen on island? Check out the dive centers or shops on the boardwalk in Philipsburg.

4. Dispose of garbage properly
When you are relaxing on the beach it is natural to take your drink with you into the shallow water to enjoy. Just make sure when you are finished you take it back with you! Glass bottles can break and leave shards in the water or shore line for others to step on. If you enjoy a tropical cocktail try to do so in a reusable glass and ask for a refill rather than a new one! Plastics are a huge issue for marine life all over the world and our island is no exception! With few recycling options, visitors play a huge role in protecting our environment with the simple choice of using the same cup more than once.

5. Skip the plastic straw
More and more people are becoming aware that plastic straws are a serious waste and pollution problem. Most people use their straw for only a few minutes, but the plastic will take hundreds of years to break down and will turn into micro-plastics which can be ingested by marine life and end up back on our dinner plate! Some restaurants and bars on the island have already made the switch to using paper straws, but if paper straws aren’t an option- skip it entirely!

Now lather up the sunscreen, grab your drink and a pool noodle and head out to one of our 37 beaches to enjoy your day!
Meet Fabian Badejo: Art Can Imitate Life

Continued from Page 1

He had been working on it for more than 20 years, but it’s just been published. “And I have to take my hat off to the publishers, The House of Nehesi,” he says.

We are talking in a shady corner of the university lawn while an open-mic poetry event is in full swing. In fact, I have just dragged him away from it, because it is lunchtime and he has been listening to the less well-known poets doing their stuff.

“There is no life without sex,” he continues. “It is not a sin. But we use euphemisms to describe sexual organs and we don’t educate our children about sex – we leave that to the schools, and the schools are sometimes not best equipped to do it.”

This is not entirely new territory for Badejo. Five years ago, audiences for his play Shame and Scandal may have been taken aback to discover it was about incest. “I like tackling taboo subjects,” he says. “With incest, we know it’s there but it’s hushed up.”

The new book has been generally well received, although some people who know he author have found it a bit of an eye-opener.

“Some have been shocked and surprised,” he says. “Because it doesn’t match the public persona of Fabian Badejo.”

So, is it pure fantasy, or are there autobiographical elements? He says he gets asked this all the time and the answer is simple.

“Every writer, every artist, every musician leaves something of themselves in their work,” he maintains.

The public persona he refers to is that of a Nigerian man who left his home country to gain an M.A. in Hispanic Literature from a university in Spain, before arriving in St Maarten and establishing himself as a serious journalist with a second career as Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs. And if that were not enough, he hosts the long-running radio show Culture Time.

“All in all, the reaction to the new book has been positive,” he says, placing himself firmly on the side of the women (and men) who have spoken out against Harvey Weinstein and the others who have been shamed by the scandal the Hollywood mogul instigated.

“In the book, there are poems that are like an anthem for the Me Too movement,” Badejo states confidently. “I don’t deal with it lightly and I am very concerned about how a man treats a woman. I have four sisters and two daughters and I want them all to be treated well.”

With a track record that takes in many different kinds of writing (he considers himself more a playwright than a poet), having edited newspapers and magazines and now, the elder statesman, passing on some of what he has learned, Badejo is in a good position to appraise the literary landscape and its young inhabitants.

“I’ve done workshops with youngsters and the first thing I ask them is ‘What are you reading?’ Because you can’t write if you don’t read,” he says. He doesn’t agree with the common perception that young people don’t read anymore.

“They’re reading all the time,” he says. “But it’s on the internet, on their phones.

Another vital tip: “Be honest with yourself. Honest in terms of writing what you are feeling, and honest in acknowledging when something you write is someone else’s work. There is a lot of plagiarism around, sometimes unintended. But there is no shame in saying ‘John wrote that line, not me’.”

As for writing, he advises, you just have to write. All the head-scratching and deliberating in the world counts for nothing if you don’t simply get something written. “Write every day and read every day,” is his bottom line.
Do You Know St. Maarten?

Cheating? Find solution to the puzzle on Page 15

Please enjoy the eleventh edition of our crossword puzzle. You will notice that all of the questions are rooted in the Caribbean hemisphere and might take a bit of research to answer if you haven't spend much time here. It also means: the answers are valid for St. Maarten/St-Martin, but could also be for neighboring islands.

For example, if we are asking for an island to the North of our location, it can only be Anguilla.

If you try to solve the puzzle as a visitor to our island and you get stuck: don't be shy! Approach a local and ask! You might find they struggle to answer as well. Or strike up an interesting conversation and learn a bit about our very unique region.

This island is a melting pot of many cultures and languages; setting St. Maarten/St-Martin apart from other Caribbean islands. This is why we love it here!

A hint for today's crossword puzzle: Question 2 is tricky!

ACROSS
1 Local rhum
5 Large sea snail
6 What is NAF?
9 Moon changes sea level
10 From what island is Red Stripe beer?
13 Music of Dominican Republic
16 Keeps a boat in place
17 What to create at Tijon?
19 Name of island chain
20 BBQ stand for which island's airport?
21 Single mast sailboat
22 Stops traffic in Simpson Bay
23 KLM flies from SXM to which airport?
24 Buccaneer

DOWN
2 To what country does St. Martin's belong?
3 Bluewater fish
4 End of hurricane season
6 Cutting tool
7 Shrub in shallow salt water
8 Weed on beach
11 What to watch on Maho Beach?
12 Hurricane of 2014
14 Religious cult originating in Jamaica
15 Secondary boat on yacht
18 Short for Royal Bank of Canada

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Out in the wilds of Terres Basses on a rambling property, the temptation is to sit and marvel at nature; but that’s just me, a journalist visiting from the hustle and bustle of Simpson Bay. The woman I’m here to talk to has work to do, and the evidence is all around us.

We’re at Noco Art Villa, which doubles as studio and gallery for the artist Norma Trimborn. This hillside domain is a world away from Norma’s home town of Duisburg, an industrial town and inland port near Dusseldorf in Germany. She arrived here 17 years ago via China and New York.

“I left New York because I wanted an easier lifestyle,” she says. “And I chose St Maarten because it’s very international, a diverse society.”

Norma only became an artist in her 30s, but then “It took over my life. I reduced my daytime job to four days a week, then three days, and more and more I started to show my work. New York is a difficult place to be an artist; it’s very busy and money-oriented – and crowded. So here I had a better opportunity. And a year or two later my sister, Corinna, joined me here from Germany.” Corinna is also an artist, although the sisters’ styles and fields of activity are very different. Norma is an abstract artist, working in oils.

“Oil is a very forgiving medium,” she explains. “And it has body, so you can use it in a heavier way or a lighter way. It’s more flexible than acrylic or watercolor, for example.”

I suggest that, although she started relatively... Continued on Page 13
World Cup Fever and Time Zone Madness

Also from that part of Europe come Belgium, with a vast array of talent having emerged in recent years, from Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois to a stunning attacking midfielder including Kevin de Bruyne and Eden Hazard. Will they light up the tournament or prove once again to be a total less than the sum of its parts?

Perennial under-achievers England have an inexperienced squad and are capable of losing to anybody. The stellar names are few and far between at the moment, with only striker Harry Kane being of true international repute.

Spain continues to dominate Europe at club level through Real Madrid and Barcelona, but many of those clubs’ superstars are imports, from Messi and Ronaldo to Bale and Benzema. Is there enough homegrown talent to bring the Spaniards success this time around?

On the other leading footballing continent, Brazil will be a force as always, with their battery of magicians including Willian, Philippe Coutinho, Gabriel Jesus and Neymar.

Fellow South Americans Argentina are not the giants they once were, but should still be worth watching for the sake of not just Lionel Messi but Sergio Aguero, Paulo Dybala and Gonzalo Higuain.

Consistent performers but never contenders, Colombia have a talented squad. As is the case with most South American countries, the top players earn their living on the money fields of Europe, but perhaps the likes of James Rodríguez, Carlos Bacca and Radamel Falcao can take their homeland to glory this time.

Will there be a surprise package from Africa or Australia? Is Egypt about to show that there’s more to them than current Premier League sensation Ma Salah? You just never know.

Now the question remains: Where can I watch the World Cup on TV? The good news is that plenty of sports bars on both the Dutch and French sides will be showing matches.

ST-MAARTEN.COM’s Weekend Edition is aware of the below places you can watch the World Cup.

If your establishment is not mentioned, please contact Roy van Zutphen: +1 721 522-7948 or email Roy@st-maarten.com

### Second Place Pick!

- Madame Estate: 1. Rembrandt Café: BIG SCREEN TV’s, INDOOR. All games ++
- Philipsburg: 1. Holland House Beach Hotel: BIG SCREEN TV’s OUTDOOR & SHADED. All games ++
- Cole Bay/Simpson Bay: 1. Buffalo Wings: BIG SCREEN TV’s INDOOR. Games from 10AM ++
- Pelican Key: 1. Replay Sports Bar: BIG SCREEN TV’s INDOOR.
- Maho: 1. Taco Macho: BIG SCREEN TV’s. OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 10AM
- Marigot: 1. La Main a la Pate, Marina: BIG SCREEN TV OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 10AM +

### First Place Pick!

- 2. Le Sous Marin (snack bar), Marina: TV SCREEN. Games from 9AM
- 3. Chez Dounce, Rue de Hollande: BIG SCREEN TV’s. All games +
- 4. Arawak, Blvd de France: BIG SCREEN TV’s OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 9AM +
- 5. Bruno’s Place, Blvd de France: TV SCREEN OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 11AM
- 6. Chez Raymond: BIG SCREEN TV OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 9 AM
- 7. Wine Bar: BIG SCREEN TV OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 11 AM

### Kickoff Times

The bad news is what you see below: time zone madness and confusion. Russia is several time zones away from St. Maarten, a convenient time to start a game there is not quite so much fun for us. In Moscow, for instance, a 15.00 kickoff is 10 AM for us and the earlier game at 13.00 is 8 AM in St. Maarten/St-Martin. And that is just Moscow, Russia is quite large and covers different time zones.

To make sure you don’t miss a game you want to see, choose your venue and check with them what time it will be airing.

**Grand Case:**
- 1. Le Snack Shack: PROJECTOR & BIG SCREEN TV. All games ++
- 2. Max Place: BIG SCREEN TV. Games from 10 AM
- 3. Blue Martini: BIG SCREEN TV’s.
- 4. Tony’s Snackbar: BIG SCREEN TV’s. All games ++

**Hope Estate:**
- 1. Bacchus L’Express: BIG SCREEN TV’s. All Games ++
- 2. Chez Maguy: TV SCREEN. Games from 10 AM

**Cul de Sac:**
- 1. Stumpy’s Hut: PROJECTOR & BIG SCREEN TV. All games ++

**Orient Bay:**
- 1. SAO: Projector & BIG SCREEN TV. All games from 7 AM ++
- 2. CODA BAR: BIG SCREEN. All games from 7 AM ++
- 3. Bikini Beach: PROJECTOR. All games from June 20th after grand reopening.
- 4. La Plantation: All games. *after game pool party! ++
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The Age of Pirates

Soon, privateers, pirates and freebooters began organizing expeditions to loot these crafts loaded with gold, silver and gemstones.

Located at the Northern corner of the Caribbean islands, St-Martin with its many coves and bays, proved to be an ideal haven for ships flying the ‘Jolly Roger’. The island was an excellent strategic base for whoever wanted to strike at the Spanish convoys. After being discovered and named by Christopher Columbus in 1493 during his second trip, the island remained uninhabited until 1617. Settlement of the island became a source of conflict and fortifications had to be built immediately at Marigot and Great Bay, to fend off unwelcome visitors.

Merchants had to arm themselves with cannons. Well into the 18th Century, old government reports mention attacks by pirates, coming from the neighboring islands and trying to establish a most horrible reputation for inspiring such fear and panic that they could take ships and cargo without much resistance.

Today, the life of pirates is often romanticized. Bars and souvenir shops proudly present a figure of a crippled pirate guarding their property, the man handi-capped with a pegleg and a metal hook for a hand. Sailing charter boats find it amusing to fly the Jolly Roger flag... And everyone seems to be blissfully ignorant about the fact that these men (and few women) represented murder, rape, and theft. That said, it doesn’t mean that pirates were entirely lawless.

The Buccaneers especially had a strict code of ethics amongst themselves, where crews were participating in a semi-democratic decision-making process. Crews elected their captains, and they also voted on which target to attack. Buccaneers were a paygrade up from run-of-the-mill pirates, because many operated with the endorsement of the British and French government; as long as they attacked vessels of the enemy.

Remnants of these troubled times, such as sabers, cannons, cannonballs and bottles can often be found underwater.

The remains of fortifications are still available to visitors: Fort Louis overlooks the town of Marigot and Fort Amsterdam guards the entrance to Great Bay. The hike up the hill to Fort Louis is worth the effort, as the structures give a decent impression of the size of the buildings. And the view over Marigot is the best to be had.
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Quit Monkeys Around!

Maybe you have spotted a monkey or two while traveling around St. Maarten and thought to yourself, “I didn’t know monkeys lived here!” Well, the truth of the matter is, monkeys, although they’ve resided here a long time, are not indigenous to our island. The Vervet Monkey is thought to have arrived in St. Maarten/St-Martin through European settlers in the 15th century.

Vervet means ‘old world monkey’, but these St. Maarten dwellers are anything but old world. These troublemakers are notorious for causing disturbances on the Dutch side; and can be found turning over garbage bins, obliterating gardens and breaking into homes (no, seriously!).

If you see one of these rascals, it is best to keep a distance as on rare occasion they have been aggressive towards fellow mammals and humans alike. Keep your doors locked and if you live in a ‘country’ area, do not leave anything outside that you would be upset if it went missing.

Otherwise, keep your eyes peeled and get your camera ready for a snapshot of these scoundrels, who have recently been spotted in the Dutch Quarter and Oyster Pond region.
Norma Trimborn: Inside the Mind of An Abstract Painter

Continued from Page 7
late, she must have been good at art at in her youth.

“Not particularly,” she says. “What made we want to be an artist later was the desire to express myself, the quality of life, the contradictions within yourself.”

This came to a head one September in New York when the beauty of the season produced in Norma both happiness and melancholia, and she wanted to express that. She began actively working on her technique, taking classes and working initially in figurative styles, which her teachers encouraged her to do.

“But here in the last four or five years, I’ve been doing more abstract art,” she says with a faint air of relief.

What goes through the mind of an abstract artist is a mystery to most (perhaps all) of us.

“The way I work is, I go in front of a canvas without intention,” she says. “I have a palette and I randomly take some paint and start working. And I may work on three, four, five, six paintings at the same time.”

“If you like warm weather it’s certainly an inspiring place to be because of the diversity of the cultures,” she offers. “I was lucky enough to be able to acquire this land, so this studio is not small. I enjoy a very nice working environment for painting.

In terms of selling your work and being appreciated for what you do it is a little bit challenging here but you are connected internationally. I have an international airport ten minutes away. And there are a lot of retired people who come here from the United States and other places, for three or four months up to a year and who do have an appreciation of art and are happy to find you.”

Virtually any conversation here at the moment comes around sooner or later to Hurricane Irma, and while this property seems, at a glance anyway, quite unscathed; the paintings and words on the walls tell their own story.

There is a collection of Norma’s recent work inspired by a competition in which people were invited to submit a haiku – that very demanding Japanese three-line poem format that boils expression down to a minimum.

“I didn’t intend to refer to Irma in any of these paintings, but look at them,” she says. And sure enough, there are swirls and waves, lots of violent movement in evidence.

“And,” she points out, “Of all the haikus we received, I think only two contained no reference to hurricanes.”

continued from page 7

Continued from Page 7
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There is a collection of Norma’s recent work inspired by a competition in which people were invited to submit a haiku – that very demanding Japanese three-line poem format that boils expression down to a minimum.

“I didn’t intend to refer to Irma in any of these paintings, but look at them,” she says. And sure enough, there are swirls and waves, lots of violent movement in evidence.

“And,” she points out, “Of all the haikus we received, I think only two contained no reference to hurricanes.”

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late, she must have been good at art at in her youth.

“No particularly,” she says. “What made we want to be an artist later was the desire to express myself, the quality of life, the contradictions within yourself.”

This came to a head one September in New York when the beauty of the season produced in Norma both happiness and melancholia, and she wanted to express that. She began actively working on her technique, taking classes and working initially in figurative styles, which her teachers encouraged her to do.

“But here in the last four or five years, I’ve been doing more abstract art,” she says with a faint air of relief.

What goes through the mind of an abstract artist is a mystery to most (perhaps all) of us.

“The way I work is, I go in front of a canvas without intention,” she says. “I have a palette and I randomly take some paint and start working. And I may work on three, four, five, six paintings at the same time.”

“If you like warm weather it’s certainly an inspiring place to be because of the diversity of the cultures,” she offers. “I was lucky enough to be able to acquire this land, so this studio is not small. I enjoy a very nice working environment for painting.

In terms of selling your work and being appreciated for what you do it is a little bit challenging here but you are connected internationally. I have an international airport ten minutes away. And there are a lot of retired people who come here from the United States and other places, for three or four months up to a year and who do have an appreciation of art and are happy to find you.”

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Who could blame the bartenders for naming their concoctions 'Category Five Plus'? Now we have too many Cat 5 drinks on the island and we need a contest to decide which one is the public favorite.

The Category 5+ Hurricane Irma is now part of our history. We made it through and we don't mind Irma being memorialized as a drink causing a horrific hangover.

Here is how it works:
Go on a bar crawl and visit the participating bars and restaurants from all around the island and order each different version of Category Five Plus. (Please make sure that you have a designated driver for the occasion!) Happy drinking!

To view a list of contestants and to vote, visit ST-MAARTEN.COM by using the QR code to the right:

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Simpson Bay
TOPPER'S BAR & RESTAURANT
Simpson Bay
THE RED PIANO
Pelican
RENDEZ-VOUS LOUNGE
Porto Cupecoy
WASABI CHARLIE
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TACO MACHO
Beacon Hill - Maho

Photo right: Ana Maria of Taco Macho at Island 92 Radio mixing her hurricane cocktail

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