

## **V.I. Terms That Are Dropping Out of Use**

Compiled by Bernita Akin, from interviews with Vincent Cooper, professor of English and Linguistics at the University of the Virgin Islands, and Gilbert Sprauve, UVI professor emeritus, linguist and former V.I. senator.

**Bazadí-** highly confused (from French, accent on the last syllable)

**Big belly** – pregnant

**Burn off** – drive close to a person walking at the side of the road, scaring him and maybe making him run

**Caggin** – copying another student's work

**Cat boil** – infection in the corner of the eye, usually a punishment from a higher power for having given something to someone in bad faith

**Coopin'** – watching closely, as a parent may say to a child: "I'm coopin' you." Possible connotations: spying on, trying to outwit (Cooper); attempting to develop a closer, possibly romantic, relationship (Sprauve)

**Flam-** close violently, as in more than slam

**Getting the Reeling(s)-** Literally, having one's head spin; figuratively, getting really bazadí

**Glass-bottle** – Small pieces of glass, shards; may have come from French Creole glace-bouteil

**Hand and Foot** – Entire arm including the hand; entire leg, including the foot

**Hansing** – Trying out a new thing, usually without the owner's permission. So, you might hop on your friend's new bike and take it for a spin. Or, if he has a fresh haircut, you might slap him on the head and tell him you're hansing his haircut.

**Lappy-ass years** – a long time, a variation on "donkey years"

**Loff (or luff)** – a description of a shoe with a worn-down sole

**Morokoi** – a land turtle (molokoi in Guadalupe and some other islands.) Sprauve remembers some were kept as pets but was told that before his time, they were kept for cleaning the pits of latrines

**Pushin Lockhart's bread cart** – Another term for "big belly"

**Slinger** – Drift, move around aimlessly