



Happy Valentine's Day

February 11 to 18, 2005 Volume 13, Issue 6

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

# The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) • 717-8988

SINCE 1994



**KARNAVAL 2005**  
Photos on pages 10-11

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

**A fire in the central WEB power plant resulted in damage that will leave parts of Bonaire without 24 hour a day power for at least the next four weeks, said a WEB spokesman.**

Around 4:30 am, on Monday, February 7, an explosion in the number two generator caused a significant fire in the main powerhouse.

Bonaire's fire department immediately responded and brought the fire under control by 6 am. Although some parts of Bonaire had electricity back by 8 am others didn't get power until Monday evening. This was because, when the Caterpillar emergency generator started up the switchgear to the Rincon grid tripped out. Because a large portion of Bonaire's electrical capacity was disabled by the fire, for at least a week, maybe more, a system of rotating outages will ensure that all areas of Bonaire get power for a good part of every 24 hours.

There was concern that production of fresh water, which requires large amounts of electricity to desalinate the sea water, would be in short supply. However, WEB stated that there is no danger of that and no water will have to be shipped in. At press time the Belnem generators and the seaward powerhouses of WEB were operating and load shedding and shifting would be done in four-hour increments. Emergency generators have been requested from Curaçao.

WEB customers have been asked to conserve electricity and water as the situation remains delicate.



► Politicians on both sides of the Atlantic are paying attention to the **deteriorating airline situation**. Dutch Second Chamber members have asked for clarification from Minister of Transport Karla Peijs concerning the problems with Exel in the Netherlands and BonairExel. One of the questions concerns how much she actually knew about the secret agreement between AirExel, BonairExel and KLM. They want to hear from the Minister if the agreement is in line with legislation in the area of competition and cartel formation. The parliamentarians furthermore want the Minister to explain the aviation policy and agreements between the Antilles and the Netherlands concerning the trans-Atlantic route and the inter-island flights. They also want to know what the consequences will be for the Antillean people if Exel can no longer continue the schedule.

In Curaçao, opposition leader Anthony Godett has announced that he will seek a Parliamentary Inquiry if Antillean Transport Minister Omayra Leeflang and Prime Minister Etienne Ys do not provide satisfactory answers during a Central Committee meeting on the aviation developments requested by his faction.

► Early last week a **communiqué from BonairExel and DutchCarib-**

beanExel made one wonder if the airline was deciding to serve coffee, tea or milk while its wings were falling off.

It stated, just before its aircraft were grounded, "We can assure you that enormous efforts are being taken to guarantee the operations of the aforementioned companies. For the time being it is business as usual and operations are executed according to our current schedule. Our main focus remains customer satisfaction by providing reliable, friendly service and on time performance."

In the same message they announced: "Despite all the negative news going about, a new product is being developed on the Amsterdam route. DutchCaribbeanExel will be introducing a three-cabin product for the summer schedule, starting end of March 2005. The cabin will consist of 12 Business Class seats, 95 Leg-space seats and 164 Economy class seats. The leg-space class would grant passengers extra comfort compared to the economy class for a minimal price difference. More to follow soon."

I'll have a cappuccino, please.

► **Air Jamaica has grounded up to a dozen of its daily flights to North America**, a move which well-placed sources say is related to the US's concerns about aspects of Jamaica's civil aviation oversight procedures and maintenance management controls. America's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspected Jamaica in December and recently filed its report with the local authorities. Air Jamaica's top managers were unavailable for com-

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Letters (Park Fee, Park Fee Objection, Good Words, American Thanks)	5
Tsunami Help Update	5
Dietician-Setting Weight Goals	6
Editorial- BonairExpress	7
Bonaire Fails	8
Jong Bonaire/STCB Diving	8
Diving with Dee-Bristleworms	9
Karnaval Parade Photos	10
Karnaval Parade Photos	11
Bonaire Musing -Air to Bonaire	13
Prime Minister Balkenende Visit	18

## WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Classifieds	12
Pet of the Week (Poezie)	13
Picture Yourself	
(Wilmington, MA, US)	14
Reporter Masthead	14
What's Happening	15
Micro Movie Review	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
On the Island Since (Luis Peña)	17
Bonaire Sky Park (Val. Jewels)	19
The Stars Have It	19

ment on the development Sunday.

At least seven flights to Florida cities Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Orlando were cancelled Sunday. Flights to New York, Los Angeles and London were also cancelled and passengers who called the Air Jamaica reservation office were told that at least the Florida flights were showing up on the auto-

(Continued on page 4)

©2005 *The Bonaire Reporter*

Published **weekly**. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising** in *The Bonaire Reporter*, phone (599) 717-8988, 791-7252, fax 717-8988, E-mail to: **Reporter@bonairenews.com** *The Bonaire Reporter*, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

**Reporters:** Gerry Clow, Dodo, Antje Gunther, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Mabel Nava, Angélique Salsbach, Dee Scarr, Michael Thiessen, Eric van der Keuken, Marion Walthie

**Features Editor:** Greta Kooistra, **Translations:** Peggy Bakker, Sue Ellen Felix

**Production:** Barbara Lockwood

**Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa);

**Housekeeping:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 2) mated reservation system as being cancelled into Monday. "It is the low season," said a sales representative in explaining why both of the two daily flights from Kingston to Miami as well as one of the three to Fort Lauderdale, were cancelled. Source: *The Jamaica Observer*



Cova

► Antillean Economic Affairs Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Errol Cova **seems to be thinking of aligning himself with Venezuela rather than the US.** He's quoted in the Venezuelan newspaper, *El Araguano*. "I myself have always been against the FOL (American Forward Operating Location at Curaçao's Hato Airport used in the anti-drug war) base. Its justification has never been clear to me." Cova said Curaçao could not permit itself to be influenced by geo-political interests of other countries and that he considered

maintaining the historic ties with Venezuela a priority.

In the same interview he supported the sickness-producing oil refinery operated by Venezuela upwind of the capital of Willemstad. "While recognizing that the Isla oil refinery leased by Petroleos de Venezuela Societat Anonima (PdVSA) is old and in need of investment, I insist that the geo-political importance of the refinery to Venezuela should not be overlooked."



Isla

► Last Tuesday morning the **schools in the vicinity of Curaçao's Isla refinery had to send their students home due to the stench.** "The stench was so bad that we saw students of the neighboring Ancilla Domini-VSBO academy leave the school covering their faces with their shirts," stated school principal Raymond Vornis of the Bernadette College. Vornis stated that he was told by his employees that the rotten-egg stench had been present since the morning hours. "At around 10 the stench became unbearable." If the wind comes from the west for an extended period, which is very rare, those with sensitive noses can detect the Isla smell.



► Youthful looking **Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende**, spoofed in the Dutch Press for his resemblance to book character boy wizard Harry Potter, is visiting the Dutch Caribbean. He spent a day on Bonaire (see story on page 18). He is said to be in sympathy with his Antillean colleague, Prime Minister Etienne Ys, who is of the opinion that Lt. governors should be elected and that the coalition system of government should be replaced. Prime Minister Balkenende also said he supports an impact study to determine the pros and cons of the status of Ultra-Peripheral Territory (UPT) in the European Union before any decisions are made for the Antilles. Last week Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Ben Bot said that the Netherlands Antilles has to decide this year whether it wants to integrate into the Europe Union by becoming an Ultra-Peripheral Territory (UPT) or not.

► The **Rotary Club of Bonaire's annual Road Rally had 54 cars participate**, a new record. It ended with a BBQ at Sorobon Beach. Winners were:

1st Place Rob Claes and Mimi Kroon; 2nd Place Ron Gijzen and Paul Wichers; and 3rd Place Mr. and Mrs. de Wit. Proceeds from Rotary events are awarded to island charities.



Baby loras

► On Saturday morning, February 19, the *Fundashon Salba nos Lora* (Save Our Parrot Foundation) in association with STINAPA, Scouting and DROB **will hold the annual Lora count.** From previous counts it's known that there were about 350-400 Loras in the wild. Those Loras roost at night in trees. While many of these locations are known some are still unreported. For this reason Erwin Weiman, as President of *Salba nos Lora*, asks the population of Bonaire to help with determining where night roosts of the Loras are. People who have a kunuku or walk in the *mondi* should keep a lookout. If you have located a roost, call Erwin Weiman at 562-1000 or STINAPA at 717-8444 or DROB at 717-8130.

(Continued on page 18)

**STINAPA ANNOUNCES  
CHANGES TO BONAIRE  
NATIONAL MARINE PARK FEE  
SYSTEM**

**New Nature Fee to be Introduced  
on April 1, 2005. Includes Entrance  
to Bonaire National Marine Park  
and Washington-Slagbaai National  
Park**

In order to continue its important work and institute new programs that will preserve Bonaire's environment above and below the water, STINAPA Bonaire has proposed a restructuring of the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) fee collected annually from divers.

For the past 10 years, scuba divers have been charged a \$10 per year Marine Park fee to dive the pristine reefs surrounding Bonaire, while snorkelers and others using the waters surrounding Bonaire were doing so for free.

In order for STINAPA Bonaire to continue to maintain and expand its services and conserve the precious natural resources it oversees, which also includes Klein Bonaire, Lac and the cave system at Barcadera, the organization must not only implement a more broad-based funding program to generate increased revenue, but also become self-sustainable so that it is not dependent on donations and grants. With these goals in mind several studies were done amongst the visiting tourists to determine their willingness to pay. Discussions with stakeholders, the Government and others connected with nature conservation were held and a consensus was reached that the way the BNMP and Washington-Slagbaai National Park fees are collected must change. Hence the idea of a "Nature Fee" was conceived.

The new Nature Fee will be introduced on April 1, 2005. From then on all SCUBA divers entering the BNMP will pay a fee of \$25 per year. Divers will continue to receive the coveted BNMP tag to wear proudly on their equipment to show they care about protecting our coral reefs. All others who use the waters of the BNMP, including snorkelers, windsurfers, kayakers, sport fishermen, kite boarders, etc., will be charged a Nature Fee of \$10 per year. They will also receive a specially designed tag similar to the current BNMP tag, indicating their support for nature preservation.

In addition to being allowed to enjoy the Marine Park for a period of one year, all persons who pay the Nature Fee (both divers and other users) and show their tag along with their printed receipt will receive complimentary admission to Washington-Slagbaai National Park throughout the year their tag is valid. Swimmers, children up to the age of 12 and local residents will be exempt yet will have to pay the normal entrance fee when visiting Washington Park.

Funds collected from the Nature Fee will continue to be for research, monitoring, education, law enforcement, information distribution and maintenance of the areas STINAPA

Bonaire oversees.

On behalf of the entire population of Bonaire, STINAPA Bonaire would like to thank the many thousands of visitors who care about our natural resources and have shown their willingness to contribute to the professional management of the natural resources of Bonaire for future generations. □ *Elsmarie Beukenboom*

*(Elsmarie Beukenboom is the Director of STINAPA)*

**BREATHE THROUGH A TUBE AND  
PAY \$10**



Dear Editor:

It is no secret; I live on the sea, 18 steps from the tide line and two meters

above it. That can be rather scary when a Joan, a Lenny or an Ivan passes. But usually it is quite pleasant and when I feel like taking a dip, I grab my diving mask and snorkel and there I go. There is not much to see in front of my house, but I just find it convenient to breathe through a snorkel and keep my head down. My friend swims without this equipment; she keeps her chin up and mouth and nose above the water and, if possible, her hair dry.

We go swimming together and when we go ashore again there is a big man standing there in a kind of uniform, who asks me, "Where is your tag?" Tag? I know of no tag. The man turns out to be a STINAPA gamekeeper who explains to me that I, as a snorkeler, must have a tag, to prove that I have paid \$10 as "general nature fee." My friend, a swimmer without a snorkel, does not need such a tag. We look at each other more or less astounded, and in our brains the same question forms: Do we live in a lunatic asylum? When you snorkel, you have to pay; when you do not snorkel you do not have to pay?

How does one sell that to a tourist?

After having relaxed in a beach chair at his hotel for some time, Mr. A. decides to go for a swim. Snorkel and mask in hand, he strolls leisurely to the beach, where his progress is blocked by, yes again, a STINAPA gamekeeper who asks him threateningly, "And where do you think that you are going?" (You know the tone of voice). To his utter astonishment the guest learns that he has to pay \$10 before being allowed into the water. He gives up swimming for that afternoon and thinks: if I had listened to my wife we would have been in Antalya on the Turkish Riviera now.

From the wet to the dry: no improvement. He goes to Washington Park and is met by great confusion. Mr Kultura tries to explain.

There are divers, swimmers and windsurfers, snorkelers, kitesurfers, sports fishermen and others (who they are is not clear). Holders of tags, and those are all of the above except the

*(Continued on page 7)*

**Tsunami Help**

In a joint fundraising effort, Bonaire raised over NAf67.000 to provide aid to victims and survivors of the tsunami in Southeast Asia last month. The funds were raised with the assistance of all of Bonaire's radio stations and ended in a big fundraising event that took place on Saturday January 15, 2005, in Kralendijk. The entire community worked together under the named "Hand to Hand Tsunami Fundraising."

The funds raised will go directly into the affected areas in Asia, with 100% of the raised money being distributed – no costs are being charged against the raised funds. The purpose of the Hand to Hand Tsunami fundraising organization is to give structural help to the surviving victims of the tsunami, in particular the children. The organization expects the funds to increase further in the coming weeks due to on-going donations and fund raising efforts. Sebastiaan Houthuijzen provided us with an update on the fundraiser:

Money is still coming in. We will start calling people who pledged money but 'haven't got an opportunity to make the transfer yet.' Meanwhile the money is left untouched and we have contact now with the Dutch Red Cross to help us find a project that provides structural help focused on children approved by the Red Cross, this under the condition that no costs are made for administration, etc. This way we can follow the project, the money and we will all know it is well taken care of.

Special thanks go out to the MCB and the RBTT who are doing a marvelous job in helping us (making copies of the checks, faxing data without costs and even providing a unique sorting machine for all the change) and also the SGB who are still raising money. Visit the website at [www.infobonaire.com/tsunamihelp](http://www.infobonaire.com/tsunamihelp)

The devastating impact of the tsunami which hit South Asia on December 26<sup>th</sup> has shown the importance of protecting coral reefs and other aquatic environments.

Coral reefs and mangroves act as natural barriers, protecting coastlines from storm and wave damage. Dive In To Earth Day, during the week of April 22, offers you the unique opportunity to take a stand for the protection of coral reefs and your local marine environment and raise global awareness about pressing conservation issues. It's time to roll up your sleeves and organize or participate in a Dive In activity - whether it's a reef or lake cleanup, an educational snorkeling trip or a children's art contest!

For information on the project, how you can become involved, and great resources for organizers, please visit <<http://www.coral.org/divein>> or email [divein@coral.org](mailto:divein@coral.org). □ *G.D.*



## ASK THE DIETITIAN SETTING GOALS

**W**ant a healthier lifestyle? Setting the right goal can help you get there if you are passionate about what you want and understand why you want it.

### SETTING GOALS

Start by writing down a goal that is specific and realistic and then devise a plan that covers ways to overcome obstacles. To keep yourself motivated, include short-term goals that are within reach. For instance a goal can be: **Exercise five times a week.** To help yourself reach this goal, pick activities you can enjoy, even love. Schedule them on your calendar like any other commitment. It's like you are making a formal appointment with yourself. Another nice goal can be: **Eat more vegetables** (three serving spoons). To help you succeed, find recipes that include your favorite veggies and add one or two new dishes to your diet each week.

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical activity does a body good. It reduces your risk for heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and colon cancer. It helps you maintain a healthy weight, healthy bones, muscles and joints, and reduces the feelings of depression and anxiety. For general health

benefit, 30 minutes of moderate activity five or more times a week will do it. If you are looking to keep your weight down, however, shoot for 60 minutes.

### RICH NUTRITION

Eating a diet rich in whole grains, fruits and vegetables, lean cuts of meat, and low fat or nonfat dairy products may help prevent different kinds of chronic diseases. So what is the simplest way to make sure you are eating right? When you prepare your plate, include something from each food group, and the less processed, the better. When grocery shopping, choose foods high in dietary fiber such as cereals with at least five grams of fiber per serving, bread with at least three grams of fiber per serving, whole wheat pasta and whole grain rice. In addition to eating a variety of fruits and vegetables, this will aid you in getting 25-30 grams of dietary fiber a day, which studies have shown helps prevent some types of cancer. Fiber also helps fight heart disease and makes you feel fuller longer, fending off weight gain.

### HOW TO DETERMINE A HEALTHY WEIGHT – THAT FITS YOU:

1. Make sure the weight you strive for is a healthy weight. A healthy weight for your height should be between a

Body Mass Index (BMI) of 20-25. To measure your BMI you should know your weight and height in meters.  $BMI = \frac{\text{weight(kg)}}{(\text{height})^2}$ .\*

For example. Weight is 52kg; Height is 1.61, so BMI is  $52 : (1.61)^2$

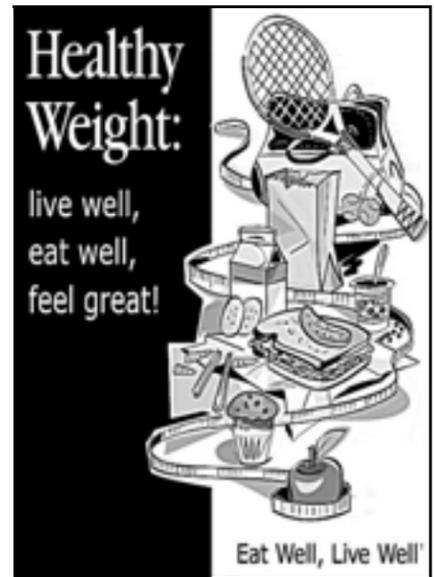
BMI=20, so in this case a weight of 52kg for a height of 1.61 is still a healthy weight, so it can be your goal weight.

Height	BMI=20	BMI=25
	weight not less than:	weight not more than:
1.55	48	60
1.60	51	64
1.65	55	68
1.70	58	72
1.75	61	77
1.80	65	81
1.85	69	85
1.90	72	90

2. If you are obese (very overweight) you should try to reach a BMI of 25 first. Don't select a goal weight that's too difficult at first.
3. If you already have a weight between BMI 20-25 and you want to lose some weight think back what your weight was before marrying (mostly for men) or before having children (for women). Of course it should be a weight that you have had over a long period of time and that was easy to maintain. So be realistic.

### What you should not do....

1. Do not choose a goal weight that you once had, but only for a couple



of months or weeks after a strict diet, because that weight was difficult to maintain. Be realistic with your goal settings.

2. Do not choose a goal weight too far beneath a BMI of 20.
3. Do not choose a goal weight of a famous top model or a Miss Universe. □

*Angelique Salsbach*

*\*There are web sites where you can enter your height and weight (inches or centimeters; pounds or kilos) and they'll give you your BMI. Enter "BMI" on your search engine. Ed.*

*Angelique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Write her at [dietitan@bonairenews.com](mailto:dietitan@bonairenews.com) □*

Letters (Continued from page 5)

swimmers, have free admission to the Park. Swimmers, children under 12 and islanders, not being tag-holders, have to pay the normal entrance fee, but if the swimmers and the children under 12 are foreigners they pay more. I have never understood why foreigners had to pay more than locals for it is not so that locals get a discount, oh no, foreigners pay extra. Why, are they not wanted in the Park?

Strictly speaking, it is too idiotic for words: because I choose to breathe through a little tube I have to pay \$10 a year. How will you sell it to a tourist? And how would you be able to exact it from him and check on him?

Divers are easier prey by their need for compressed air. But an increase of the "general nature fee" from \$10 to \$25 - is that not a little too steep? Would everybody be prepared to pay it or rather go elsewhere? (What is in theory \$25 a year is in practice usually \$25 for less than two weeks).

Does STINAPA wish to price Bonaire out of the market?

-Ger Vellinga

#### GOOD WORDS FOR THE REPORTER

Dear Editor:

It's been a year since I married a Dutchman and have been getting my free copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

I feel the news is presented objectively and with great love for Bonaire, a gesture which I, as a Bonairean, appreciate with all my heart.

In this way Bonaire appears inviting and positive with its news. Why don't other Bonairean newspapers do the same?

I especially enjoy the news and articles published about Bonaireans.

I also want to thank you on behalf of my spouse, Hans Hoornweg, for the fine descriptions of my island and my people. I hold close my many warm feelings to them.

*Bonaire Reporter*, you deserve a "golden feather," and with this mail you got it. Hats off to you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

-Hans and Chiba Hoornweg-Paula

#### THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

To the Editor:

We eight American high school students and two of our teachers enjoyed an en-

tertaining and educational visit to Bonaire, from January 9th to January 14th. We would like to thank everyone who made our trip so fun. During our stay we snorkeled, kayaked the mangroves, visited Klein Bonaire's turtle nests with Funchi, toured Rincon, shopped Kralendijk and windsurfed with Elvis. We viewed the pictographs, received a generous and complimentary lunch at Richard's and learned about Bonaire's science and history from Elsmarie and Fernando of STINAPA as well as from Karen of Sea & Discover and Renee on guided snorkel trips. We were lucky enough to meet friendly Bonairean students, the Bonai group, who are reconstructing a whale skeleton with Dr. Jay Havisser. The eight of us were especially impressed with the Donkey Sanctuary and the passionate woman behind this donkey paradise, Marina Melis. Our group, which hails from the Illinois Math and Science Academy, was eager to help out at the Donkey Sanctuary after we heard the donkeys' story. We found it interesting how these funny, lovable animals were tied to Bonaire's history, culture and ecosystem. We pitched in to feed and clean up after the donkeys since they require massive amounts of food, care, and hard work. Because their food is very expensive, we adopted three donkeys for a year, so our donation will pay for their needs. We marvel at Marina's efforts to protect the hapless animals from accidents, from cars and from their own trusting selves.

In addition, we thank Marina Melis and Pauline Kayes for helping make our trip happen. Every person and place we encountered was enormously hospitable and tons of fun. We extend our thanks to the island, and hope to see you again next year!

-Glen Hammond, Steven Harris, Mandy Hayes, Becca Krock, Deborah McGrath,

Michelle Raht, Audrey Wells, Anna Wilewska, Kinga Wilewska and

Theodore Yeh

*The Bonaire Reporter* welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number or e-mail address. Letters without that information will not be published.

If a writer wishes to remain anonymous or just use initials we will honor the request. Letters should not be more than 400 words in length and may be edited at the Editor's discretion. Send letters or diskettes to *The Bonaire Reporter*, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire; via fax 717-8988 or E-mail: letters@bonairenews.com □



## Editorial

**A** viation was the number one news item in the local media last week. The operations and future existence of BonairExel and DutchCaribbeanExel are being questioned intensely by the Dutch and Antillean press. Allegations of criminal activity by top members of the company and Exel companies shuttling in and out of Amsterdam bankruptcy courts are making European tour operators wary of booking their clients on Exel flights. Revelation of a "confidential" agreement between the then still-unborn BonairExel and mighty KLM make Bonaireans to wonder if there was a sell out of their beliefs that their "local" airline would bring convenient travel and prosperity to the island.

On top of all that was an admitted lapse in registration and insurance coverage because of lease transfer activities that grounded all BonairExel aircraft for all day Wednesday and most of Thursday, February 2 and 3 (Exel flew one aircraft between Bonaire to Curaçao and Aruba). The chaos at the airports was impressive, perhaps exacerbated by the impending *Karnaval* celebrations. People complained that

Bonaire and CuraçaoExel phones went unanswered so no information was available. Divi Divi airlines put on extra aircraft and private charters were flying, but they were inadequate to meet the demand. On Friday, BonairExel flew two of its three turboprops and a charter jet and were able to satisfy most travelers. The two turboprops had their country of registry changed from PH (Holland) to PJ (Antilles).

When BonairExel's failure to maintain insurance continuity halted scheduled service between the ABC Islands and Sint Maarten it made Antilleans realize how vital airline connections are to their lives. With the national airlines defunct because of massive losses of \$175 million for ALM/DCA and \$60 million for Air Aruba, appreciation of Exel's inter island service takes on a new light. Whatever happens to Exel, and it's hoped a transfusion of private capital and operational partnership with KLM will strengthen operations, it will not cost the Antillean taxpayer a cent. We've heard BonairExel's new name will be BonairExpress. We'll wait and see if it lives up to the name. □ G.D.

# TOURISM BONAIRE FAILS TO PERFORM

Based upon the available returns from its member countries, which encompass the English, French, Dutch, Spanish-speaking Caribbean as well as the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) estimates that tourist arrivals to the region grew by 7%, to reach 21.8 million in 2004. Bonaire's visitor count grew by only 1%, a figure of failure only exceeded by Curaçao's 0.9%.

Consistent with these results, Smith Travel Research, the international hotel performance analysts, reports that, based on their sample of Caribbean hotels in 11 CTO member countries, average room occupancy for 2004 was 67.9 % compared to 62.7 % in 2003, while average revenue per available room increased by 16.4 % to US\$96.14 in 2004.

These are both record numbers which, translate to a gross expenditure by these visitors of some US\$21 billion.

Why then does Bonaire fail to attract Caribbean tourists? Is it that our hotels, restaurants, water and land attractions are inferior? Doubtful, because refurbishing of facilities has maintained great accommodations; our restaurants are staffed by prize winning chefs; and our parks consistently get rated tops in the region. Are we pricing ourselves too high? Again, not likely. Look at the growth of "expensive" Anguilla this past year.

While we believe our public relations agencies can do a much better job, **for the American tourist the problem lies with access by air.** Any visitor flying from the states must make a stop before landing in Bonaire. That stop increases his chances of missing a connection and wasting at least a day of his vacation. No airline flies to Bonaire every day, even with a stop or two. Connections inflate prices, subtracting from what the visitor has to spend on Bonaire. Check out what the Bonaire Talk chat room says about the reliability of the airlines that service Bonaire if you want to read horror stories.

**Bonaire leaders: FIX THE PROBLEM. Get a few US originated non-stops a week onto Bonaire and watch the figures climb.** If BonairExel is too inexperienced to try it, get help or get someone else. ALM always said they made a profit on Miami flights while losing money on inter-island flights. Another airline can too. Make sure they all know that. □ G.D.

Destination	Tourist Arrival Period	Tourists	Change Between 2003 and 4
Anguilla	Jan-Nov	47,938	16.5
Antigua & Barbuda *	Jan-Nov	221,533	10.3
Aruba	Jan-Oct	608,532	14.5
Bahamas*	Jan-Dec	1,450,037	1.5
Barbados	Jan-Dec	554,914	4.5
Belize	Jan-Nov	208,640	4.6
Bermuda	Jan-Nov	258,324	5.2
<b>BONAIRE</b>	Jan-Nov	<b>57,269</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Cancun (Mexico) **	Jan-Oct	1,972,306	11.5
Cayman Islands	Jan-Jul	214,372	14.5
Cozumel (Mexico) **	Jan-Jul	244,034	18.7
Cuba <sup>P</sup>	Jan-Jun	1,134,611	13.4
Curacao	Jan-Dec	223,439	0.9
Dominican Republic*	Jan-Dec	3,443,205	5.4
Dominica	Jan-May	30,988	5.7
Grenada	Jan-Jul	89,854	9.2
Guyana	Jan-Nov	107,627	23.4
Jamaica	Jan-Nov	1,278,921	5.5
Martinique <sup>P</sup>	Jan-Oct	407,141	3.9
Montserrat	Jan-Oct	7,055	18.3
Puerto Rico **	Jan-Sept	1,082,649	6.9
Saba	Jan-May	4,920	11.1
St Lucia	Jan-Dec	298,431	7.8
St Eustatius <sup>P</sup>	Jan-Jul	6,810	7.5
St Maarten *	Jan-Sep	358,158	14.1
St Vincent & G'dines	Jan-Nov	75,087	10.9
Trinidad & Tobago	Jan-Sept	328,047	8.0
Turks and Caicos Is.	Jan-Sept	132,039	6.2
US Virgin Islands	Jan-Oct	550,451	10.1

\* Non-Resident Air Arrivals    \*\*Non-Resident Hotel registrations only  
<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures    n.a. Figures not available    N  
**SOURCE** - Data supplied by member countries and available as at January 28, 2005

## JONG BONAIRE AND STCB GO DIVING



On the boat: Fabricio Rombley, Roderick Gonzalez, Mabel Nava, Lisa Schut and Norvin Mercelina.

The teen diving program at Jong Bonaire will continue, thanks to Mabel Nava who started the program in 1991. Although she was appointed the new Project Director of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) she has volunteered to keep on running the program for Jong Bonaire.

STCB has a commitment to providing educational activities related to the conservation of sea turtles, so the new joint effort is a great opportunity to further this work. The two organizations will now assure the continuity of this three-year-old, very successful program. For the dive shops involved the program will remain as before except Mabel's contact numbers are 717-2225 or 790-0433.

Jong Bonaire and STCB invite all teenagers who are certified divers to become members of Jong Bonaire and dive with them every Wednesday afternoon. Teens who are interested in follow-on courses (such as advance, rescue, dive master, instructor) can have the chance to exchange work for the courses. Parents should know that communication is constant among the dive operations, themselves and Jong Bonaire. It is important that this program does not interfere with the teens' school progress.

To date the Jong Bonaire program has qualified 28 open water divers, 10 advanced, nine first aid, four rescue divers, three dive masters and one instructor. □ Press Release

# DIVING with DEE Bristleworms

## The Best Defense Is A Good Defense

Imagine my surprise the day I first watched Bruce Bowker allow a bristleworm to crawl onto his hand. After all, a bristleworm had been one of the stars of my scuba instructor's Dangerous Marine Animals lecture. We looked at photos of bristleworms as he told us something like, "Bristleworms look like caterpillars, but the clusters of bristles where the legs would be are nasty even if you just brush up against them, so be careful never to poke a bristleworm."

For years I avoided bristleworms – until the Day the Bristleworm Left Bruce Completely Unscathed!

Thanks to that demonstration, I thought more about bristleworms than I had since I began diving. I considered that bristleworms only display their bristles in defense. They don't "bristle" when they're crawling over a rock or sponge, so as long as they're not disturbed, they won't "bristle" when they crawl over us.

After that I had a lot of fun impressing people with my bristleworm approach. Sometimes I'd get too casual and the worm would bristle and I could see bristles imbedded in my fingers, but I didn't feel any pain and just brushed the bristles away – turns out this was because the bristles didn't break. Once in a while, though, the bristles would break, and that hurt like fire. The closest I've ever come to aborting a dive was when a bristleworm walked onto the inside of my wrist, encountered my wetsuit sleeve, became frightened, and bristled on the tender skin there. Nasty!

Bristleworms are true worms, related to earthworms. The type I'm referring to here is *Hermodice carunculata*; sci-

entific names are especially useful when the critter has different common names. This creature is called a fire-worm (by most current sources including Humann/DeLoach's *Reef Creatures*) and a bristleworm (which is used in the Audubon *Field Guide to North American Seashore Creatures*, and which is the name I originally learned). Both names are suitable, but since fire-worm describes the creature by the effect of its defenses (against people), and bristleworm describes it by its appearance, I prefer the latter.

Bristleworms have segmented bodies, with gills and bristles on every segment. The fuzzy triangle on the head of a bristleworm is a sensory organ that tastes the water – a useful ability for a predator and even more useful for a scavenger.

One of the best times to see bristleworms is at night. Some nights they seem to be everywhere, in clusters or alone, feeding on living and dead corals and just about anything else that can't move faster than they can. Bristleworms eat by engulfing their food, which enables them to partially digest staghorn and fire coral, then suck the coral flesh from its skeleton. (Not very appealing, is it?) Still, I admired their fuzzy beauty and single-mindedness in relation to food. I was pleased with photos I took of bristleworms munching on staghorn corals and gorgonians and fire corals (such photos usually captioned "Double Trouble"), and the occasional orange cup coral.

Bristleworms become especially active when their potential prey is vulnerable. When growth was scraped from pilings beneath Bonaire's Old Pier (to check for structural damage after a bad boat docking), orange cup corals, sea squirts, oysters, and other newly detached animals fell to the bottom,

where bristleworms gorged on them. Bristleworms also live within the rubble around octopus dens, emerging for any food the octopus discards. I've seen an octopus blow a bristleworm out of its den with a jet of water from its siphon.

To learn more about bristleworms as scavengers, David and I cut slots into



Bristleworm

## "For years I avoided bristleworms – until 'The Day the Bristleworm Left Bruce Completely Unscathed!'"

the lid of a glass jar and put some fish scraps in the jar. On several dives, we placed the jar on its side on coral rubble. Bristleworms would begin arriving in less than five minutes, emerging from crevices as far as 6 feet (2 m) away in less than 10 minutes.

Fishes, especially yellowtail snappers, were also attracted to the sight and scent of the food in the jar. The more bristleworms in the jar, though, the less interested the fishes became.

At the end of the dive I'd empty the jar onto nearby sand, jiggle the bristleworms off any food and take the food scraps away. Bristleworms with a food scrap would finish consuming it, then join the others heading home. Although yellowtail snappers and other fish competed with each other to steal the food before I could store it, no fish ever came within inches of a bristleworm. Even when yellowtails were

racing each other, they'd all stop short whenever they realized they were competing for a bristleworm.

What we learned about bristleworms as scavengers was that they are avid and well-equipped. The fewest number of bristleworms attracted by the jar was eight, but there were usually more than that, and one time there were 20!

We also learned that bristleworm defense mechanisms are excellent and well-understood by fish and most intelligent invertebrates, octopuses, who consistently avoid bristleworms.

Finally, we affirmed that a very basic truth applies even to bristleworms: **most animals won't use their defense mechanisms if they don't feel threatened.** □ Photo and story by Dee Scarr

Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. It will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529



### KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
2-11	4:32	1.3FT.	98
2-12	5:25	1.4FT.	90
2-13	6:11	1.6FT.	79
2-14	6:52	1.7FT.	66
2-15	7:37	1.8FT.	53
2-16	8:13	1.9FT.	43
2-17	8:48	2.0FT.	37
2-18	9:26	2.0FT.	38

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angie	Hinano	Santa Maria
Bettina, Venezuela	Irish Eyes	Sandpiper, USA
Bright Sea	Jacuzzi	Sirius
Camissa, Chan Is.	Jan Gerardus	Skye
Cape Kathryn	Kamalao	Sokol
Cavu	Luna C. USA	Sylvia K
Chulugi	Lena S	Surprise
Corail IV	Maebelle	Ta-B
Dream Bird	Mahi Mahi	Ti Amo, USA
Delphinus	Maggi	Tsih
SI Sabor	Meruva	Ulu Ulu, USA
Flying Cloud, USA	Mistika	Unicorn, Norway
Fiddler	Mystic	Varedhuni, Germany
Fiona	Nava Maria	Vierde Dimensei
Galandriel	Natural Selection, USA	Windmiller, Canada
Gambler	Northern Star	Ya-T, BVI
Gatsby, USA	Pamina	Zahi, Malta
Guacamar I, Ven.	Precocious Gale, USA	

COVER STORY



# Karnaval 2005 Grand Parade





# Karnaval 2005 Grand Parade




**April Fools**

*The Bonaire Reporter* needs your ideas to fill our annual April Fools issue.

Send your stories and photos to [Fools@bonairereporter.com](mailto:Fools@bonairereporter.com) or mail text or disk to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob Debrot 200-6, Bonaire.

**GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL?  
REACH MORE READERS THAN ANY OTHER WEEKLY  
NEWSPAPER BY ADVERTISING IN  
THE BONAIRE REPORTER  
FREE FREE FREE FREE**

Non-Commercial CLASSIFIED ADS (UP TO 4 LINES/ 20 WORDS)  
Commercial ads are only NAf0.70 per word, per week. Free ads run for 2 weeks.  
Call or fax *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988 e-mail ads@bonairereporter.com



**JanArt Gallery**, Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

**BonaireNet** is the leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>



**PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE BONAIRE.** Consultation, Supervision, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy **Drs. Johan de Korte, Psychologist, Phone: 717-6919**



**CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER**  
Trees and Plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m<sup>2</sup> of plants and nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). **Phone: 786-0956 or 787-0956**



**LUNCH TO GO-** Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call **CHINA NOBO 717-8981**

**Bonaire Images**

Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lovers Ice-Cream and Sand Dollar. *Photography by Shelly Craig*  
[www.bonaireimages.com](http://www.bonaireimages.com)



Visit **Gallery "MyArt"** Marjolein Fonseca-Verhoef Call: **785-3988**

**NEW BRASSERIE BONAIRE**

Restaurant - Terrace - Take away  
**\* SPECIAL DINNER - MENU \***  
NAf35.00 - \$ 20.00

**CRAB BISQUE  
CATCH OF THE DAY  
COUPE CARIBE**

OPEN: 11.30 a.m. - 02.00 p.m.  
DINNER 06.00p.m. - 09.30p.m.  
Sunday and Monday closed

**ROYAL PALM GALLERIES,  
DOWNTOWN KRALENDIJK,  
Kaya Grandi 26 F/G, TEL/FAX :  
717-4321**

**NEW RENTAL PROPERTY/TIMESHARE**

**For Rent: Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-privacy & security-May 1st until Dec. 15th.** Brochure available. Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293; (US) (570) 586 0098. Email [larjaytee@aol.com](mailto:larjaytee@aol.com)

**FOR SALE**

Brand New (never been used, in the box) **Sea & Sea MX 10 Underwater Camera and YS-40A Strobe.** NAf360.00. Call 717-2848.

**Mitsubishi Pajero 4WD**, 5 speed, Good condition. Perfect motor, Color white. **NAf 4.500 Phone: 786-7045**

**1996 Mitsubishi Lancer.** 60K miles, 4-Cyl. Very good condition. Asking \$5,200US. Info (599)791-6009 after 3 pm

**COMPUTER GEAR**

**Apollo Color Printer** by Hewlett-Packard, comes with extra set (1 black and 1 color) of ink Cartridges (uses HP ink cartridges), software, and user guide. NAf100,00. Call 717-2848.

**Laptop Computers for sale: Sony VAIO V505DX**, Pentium M 1.4 GHz Centrino - RAM 512 MB - HD 60 GB - CD-RW / DVD, LAN, Wireless 802.11b - Centrino 12.1" TFT XGA Screen Size, \$2,000 (negotiable) and... a **Toshiba Satellite A75-S229**, Pentium 4, 3.2 MHz, 15.4 TruBrite Wide-screen, TruBrite, 512MB RAM, 80GB Hard Drive, CD & DVD Writer, 802.11g Wireless, LAN, \$2,800 (negotiable). Call **786-5119** or [thussisiva@hotmail.com](mailto:thussisiva@hotmail.com)

**Dell 40-gig hard drive computer**, with upgraded monitor, keyboard and mouse, Pentium 3, running Windows Millennium, but can be upgraded to XP, NAf700.00, call 717-2848.

**BOATS & ENGINES for SALE**

**Classic Sailor**  
Traditional Bonairean Sailing sloop. Wood, traditional construction, about 21' long. Fiberglassed in and out for minimal maintenance. Two time winner of Bonaire Regatta, Class A. A dream to sail. Make an Offer. One of the last of its kind. Call **717-8988 or 785-6125.**



**WANTED**

**Wanted: place to rent** for 2 students in the months August, September, October (3 months). Please contact us: [ikbenjudith007@hotmail.com](mailto:ikbenjudith007@hotmail.com).

**Want to buy a 20 foot long power boat.** call 790- 1228

**City Shop N.V. needs computer technicians.** Interested persons should drop by City Shop personally between 5 and 6 pm daily.



**MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?**  
*Make it more livable from the start*  
**FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS**  
Interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy healing China trained, Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at **785-9013**



**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Feb. 11, 12, 13** - Kaya Rotterdam #7 in Hato - 10 am to 4 pm, clothes, toys, household, etc.

**Yard Sale - Household furnishings, appliances & hardware**  
**Dates: 26+27<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Time: 09:00-16:00hrs,**  
**Place: Storage facility Kaya Industria across from Rocargo/Warehouse.** Everything must go! Tel: 790-1604.

**FOUND DOGS**

1) This brown short haired dog with the beautiful face was found recently at the airport. She's about 1 1/2 years old. She had no collar.



2) This brindle colored dog was found by Sand Dollar Resort. He'd been around for about five days and some kind tourists fed him. They called him "Velcro" because he was sticking to them. But the tourists had to leave, and because he was such a nice dog they wanted him to have a chance at life so they took him to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. He's a young male, about five months old. The Shelter will hold a dog for 10 days for the owner to claim him. After that he can go up for adoption. Call 717-4989.



**FOUND DOGS**



3) This handsome **black & tan male dog** was found on February 4th in the area of the SGB School on Kaya Korona. He appears to be about 2 years old. He has no collar. Very friendly with people, and seems to be well fed.

**Owners can pick up their dogs at the BONAIRE ANIMAL SHELTER Kaminda Lagoen #26-A Open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm; Saturday: 10 am to 1 pm Phone #717-4989**

**TRIP**

**Sabana Eco-Cultural Tour to Surinam**, March 24 to April 2. In Dutch and English. 8-day tour includes all tours, accommodations, food and drink. Free day April 1. Air round trip Curaçao to Paramaibo NAf678. Tours - Euro 455. Anglieg Baidjoe, Kaya Betico Croes 17, Tel. 717-5634 after 8 pm.



**Fundraising Tsunami ASIA**

**+ 555 RED CROSS**  
**There's Still time to GIVE**  
**See Page 5**

## Bonaire Musing

“WHAT A GREAT ISLAND—BUT HOW THE HECK DO YOU GET THERE?”

It wasn't long ago that travelers from North America to Bonaire had one basic route: get to Curaçao (via Miami, on American Airlines/ALM), then wait for your ALM connection to Bonaire. This meant leaving northern cities at the crack of dawn to connect with a mid-day Miami flight, as well as facing an uncertain connection at Curaçao and sitting in a smoky waiting room with hundreds of KLM transfer passengers. ALM once offered weekly non-stop jet service from Miami and Atlanta, which provided one of the most scenic and enjoyable flights in the Caribbean—with full-cabin meal service and cheerful attendants, as well as connections to many airlines in Miami and Atlanta—and Canada 2000's once-a-week charter service from Toronto to Bonaire. (You may remember the days when suddenly Culimara was flooded with white-faced folks speaking a new form of English—and there was no cruise ship in port! Where did they all suddenly come from?? Answer: they fell out of the sky on an airline no one knew and which disappeared before anyone could remember it.)

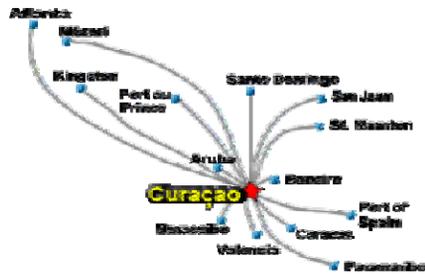
Today, we still have the Curaçao service daily on American, and the connection is handled by BonairExel and by Divi-Divi. Yet more and more North American travelers are choosing to come via two of three alternatives: Air Jamaica from Montego Bay and American Eagle from San Juan. Neither of these flights are daily. Air Jamaica flies three days of the week (Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday) and American Eagle, two-to-three days a week (currently Friday and Tuesday, returning on Saturday and Wednesday, with an additional flight per week during holiday periods.) Air Jamaica offers champagne, Air Buses with plenty of cargo space and mid-afternoon arrivals and departures. Eagle offers Oreos, ATR-42s, and late evening arrivals with early morning departures.

The third alternative is to come “via the backdoor,” which is to fly to Aruba and connect with BonairExel (soon to be renamed BonairExpress). Last year, Air Canada provided seasonal non-stop service Toronto to Aruba, thus providing good service for Canadians connecting with BonairExel. However, Air Canada, like so many of the full-service carriers, has had to let go its “fringe” service. Instead, those travelers now have to fly Air Canada to Miami, then continue to Aruba. Delta operates a seasonal service to Aruba from Atlanta, and United and US Air (as long as they continue to fly) from Chicago and Philadelphia respectively. American has service to Aruba from San Juan and Miami (also having let go of a seasonal service from Chicago.)

For all these Aruba connections, BonairExel suggests a four hour layover, to allow for luggage transfer and ticketing, as it has no ticketing arrangements with any of the North American airlines (not even Northwest, KLM's North American partner). This means that even if they have a flight one or two hours after yours arrives, they will not reserve you on that flight, and instead reserve you on the one leaving four hours later. (They may let you take an earlier flight, however, depending upon your arrival and flight availability.) And keep in mind: you have to ticket with them on-site, not in advance. This means collecting your bags, going over to the domestic flights building and waiting in line for a KLM ticket agent to hand-write (yes, on the old carbon-backed forms!) your ticket/s to Bonaire. That was our experience with them in Aruba last September.

So, where does that leave the North American traveler hankering to get to Bonaire this year? Yes, there are alternatives, but what are the benefits? Is any one of them a better value, in terms of cost, benefits, and quality of service? Well, the answer is coming in a follow-up article, as this writer further researches routing, pricing, and performance information. In the meantime, remember, Bonaire begins when you begin your journey here, no matter how long that journey takes. Any time my wife and I get on a plane bound for Bonaire, it is a pleasure to be aboard, as all the passengers become instant Bonaireans, heading home. □ *Gerry Clow*

*Gerry Clow is a former Boston Globe columnist and healing arts professional who has flown down to Bonaire more than 20 times over the past five years.*



## PET of the WEEK



Poezie

“Poezie” is a gorgeous Siamese cross cat. Her coat is made up of shades of chocolate brown to soft beige, and her eyes are the typical China blue of the Siamese. Poezie is alert and intelligent and would make a perfect companion for someone who appreciates her rare attractive good looks. She's about two years old now and is in robust good health, having had her health examination, tests and shots. The adoption fee of NA\$75 includes her sterilization. Meet Poezie at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □ *L.D.*

## PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER in Wilmington, Mass., USA



Debbi Savage of Trans World Radio, writes: "Recently we took a trip to our hometown of Wilmington, MA. Of course we took a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with us! There have been record amounts of snow in January 2005 in Boston, MA and the surrounding area. Here is just a taste of the white stuff."

Here Jon and Debbi Savage are showing *The Bonaire Reporter* to their granddaughter, Becki. They are trying to convince her to come visit them on the island of Bonaire where the weather is sunny and warm. However, Becki likes the snow. If you look closely, you can see Becki sticking out her tongue to retrieve snow flakes! We are still hoping she will visit soon and bring her parents.

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: [picture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

**Flight of the Phoenix**  
(Dennis Quaid)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

**Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason**  
(Renee Zellweger)

**Kaya Prinses Marie Behind Exito Bakery**  
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf10,50 (incl. Tax)  
High Schoolers - NAf7,75

NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM

**The Sponge Bob Square Pants Movie**

## KARNAVAL BONEIRU 2005

12 February Festival Closing  
fukabo2005@yahoo.com

### THIS WEEK

**Saturday, February 12 – Opening of photo show by Catherine Salisbury, 7 to 9 pm.** Cinnamon Art Gallery, Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind the Banco di Caribe.

**Monday, February 14 – St. Valentines Fundraising Dance Party to benefit the FKPD (disability foundation).** Featuring "All in Two" professional singers from Curaçao and local DJ Juan Danger. At Gran Chaparal, 8 pm to 1 am. Tickets NAf100 per person. A 10% discount to groups of 10 at a table – NAf180 per couple. Call Shunilla Kroon 717-6210 or Ansharella Frans 717-6292 during office hours.

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Sunday, Feb. 13- Adonia**

### COMING

**Saturday, February 19—Lora Count.** Call 785-1000, 717-8444

**Sunday, February 27—2005 School Swimming Championships,** Meralney Sports Complex.

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** Tuesday, Feb. 22-*Aida Vita*; Tuesday, Mar. 1-*Queen Mary 2*; Monday, Mar. 7-*Oceana*; Tuesday, Mar. 8-*Aida Vita*

**May 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> - King of the Caribbean at Lac Bay.** The event will kick off the 2005 PWA Freestyle Tour. For info, see [www.pwaworldtour.com](http://www.pwaworldtour.com) or [www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com](http://www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com)

### EVERY WEEK

**Saturday Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm.** Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. [www.infobonaire.com/rincon](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon)

**Sunday -Live music 6 to 9 pm** while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar.** Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live **Fla-Bingo** with great prizes, starts 7 pm, Divi Flamingo

## MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in  
Movieland Cinema:

**Ocean's 12** by national treasure Steven Soderbergh starring many, many celebrities. Maybe it's because I'm not a native English speaker but the actors were more often than not completely unintelligible to me. A couple of times during the movie I had no clue what they were on about. The biggest flaw of the story is the absence of a good heist scene. The heist in Ocean's 11 was masterful, and there is nothing in this film that even comes close. Instead we see a 30-second clip in black and white about how they robbed some college student of his back-pack. The film is filled with bizarre camera angles and currently popular but hugely irritating 'shaky cam' technique. I was glad when it was all over.

**Note for the theatre management:**  
Half the time the film was out of focus. Please do something about that. □

Dodo

**Monday -Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire,** 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

**Tuesday -Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225 /717-7500, ext. 14.

**Wednesday -Meditation at Donkey Beach** from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Open to all. Call S.H.Y. 790-9450

**Wednesday -Sand Dollar Manager's Cocktail Party,** Mangos Bar and Restaurant  
**Friday -Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort,** 5:30-6:30 pm

**Friday- Open House with Happy Hour** at the **JanArt Gallery** at Kaya Gloria #7, from 5-7 pm.

**Daily- The Divi Flamingo Casino** is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm- 4 am; Sunday 7 pm- 3 am.

**Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for Bonaire residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Saturday- Discover Our Diversity Slide Show,** pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

**Sunday - Bonaire Holiday -Multi-media dual-projector production** by Albert Bi-anculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat,  
**Monday -Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea** slide experience at the Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30-9:30pm.

**Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) Turtle Conservation Slide Show** by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

**Friday- Week in Review** Video Presentation by the Toucan Dive Shop at Plaza's Tippy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Bonaire Arts and Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bontieriano)** 717-5246/7117

**The Bonaire Swim Club-** Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.an

**Cinnamon Art Gallery -** Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. Contact Wendy Horn at: [wendy@bonaireart.org](mailto:wendy@bonaireart.org)

**Bonaire National Marine Park -** 717-8444.

**Bonaire Animal Shelter -**717-4989.

**Donkey Sanctuary -** 560-7607.

**Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) -**717-4303.

**Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care)** Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.  
**Special Olympics -** Contact Delno Tromp, 717-7659

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

**AA meetings -** every Wednesday; Phone 717-6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.

**AI-Anon meetings -** every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

**Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30pm -** call 567-0655 for directions.

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays,** 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

**Darts Club** plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

**Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

**Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions are welcome.

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday,** 12 noon-2 pm - Rendez-Vous Restaurant, Kaya L.D. Gerharts #3. All Rotarians are welcome. Tel. 717-8454

### BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

**Mangasina di Rei, Rincon.** Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

**Visit the Bonaire Museum** on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

**Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

**Sunday at Cai-** Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire's popular musicians.

**Rincon Marshé-** every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Bonaire's historic town.

**Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area. Alta Mira Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am. Town Walking tour at 9:30, Bus Tour at 10.** Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.

### CHURCH SERVICES

**International Bible Church of Bonaire –** Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle)  
**Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm** in English. Tel. 717-8332

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.** Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,** Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

**Catholic San Bernardus** in Kralendijk – Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 . **Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, **in English.** Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios),** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

**New Apostolic Church,** Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

\* \* \* \*

Send events to **The Bonaire Reporter**  
**Email reporter@bonairenews.com**  
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

# DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Caribbean Club Bonaire</b> On the Tourist Road 2 mi. north of Town 717-7901	Inexpensive-moderate Breakfast Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Quiet country setting, lovely landscaping, friendly staff Happy Hour from 5-7 pm Inexpensive Bar Hap dinner plus regular menu
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and turquoise sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the <b>highest standard of cuisine.</b>
<b>Crocantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	<b>Tuscan chef s prepare exquisite dishes.</b> Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a delight. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
<b>Garden Café</b> Kaya Grandi 59 717-3410	Moderate Monday-Friday, Lunch & Dinner Saturday, Dinner. Closed Sunday	<b>Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties.</b> Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and Latin Parilla
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> Home Delivery or Take Out 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side <b>Caribbean-style bistro</b> owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. <b>The Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111



# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## ACCOUNTING SERVICES

**Bonaire Pro** can keep your financial records in order, minimize your tax liability and provide helpful advice. For individuals or businesses.

## ANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

## BOOKS

**Bonaire Diving Made Easy**, Third Edition, is an essential in your dive bag. The latest information on Bonaire's shore dive sites.

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

**APA Construction** are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

## CLEANING SERVICE

**Conetal Cleaning Service** cleans homes, apartments, offices. Offers babysitting, gardening, laundry.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

**Dive Inn** Seven studio apartments and dive shop/school directly on the waterfront in the heart of town. Friendly, highly experienced with an exceptional staff.

**Ocean Adventures** Discover the world of low bubble, quiet diving. Learn, use, and try our Dräger Rebreathing equipment. At Dive Inn. Interested? Call 717-2278

## FITNESS

**Bonfysio** offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

**Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.** Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals.

## GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

**The Bonaire Gift Shop** has an wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

## GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK HELP

**Julimar** assists with the paperwork and procedures needed to obtain permits, citizenship, residency and more. Experienced in Immigration procedures.

## HOTELS

**Golden Reef Inn** is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk to diving and the sea.

## METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

**b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V.**, offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints and slides plus a variety of items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

**Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent.** They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.

**Re/Max Paradise Homes:** International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community.

**Sunbelt Realty** offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

## REPAIRS

**Bon Handyman** is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc.

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

**Buddy Dive Resort** offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

## RETAIL

**Benetton**, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

**Littman's Jewelers**, where good taste is foremost. Expansive selection of jewelry, collectibles and top name watches. Bonaire's official Rolex retailer.

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable. Call 717-8125.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.** Call 717-8922/8033.

## SPA—DAY SPAS

**Intermezzo Day Spa** at Captain Don's Habitat is the newest of this ABC island chain of elegant spas. Now offering seaside massages and facials.

**Pedisa Day Spa**—for all your body and wellness needs. 40 years of experience Classic and specialty massages, Reiki, Reflexology and more.

## SUPERMARKETS

**Tropical Flamingo** is convenient, clean, modern, efficient and has the lowest prices on Bonaire. Located behind NAPA.

Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

## VILLAS

**Bonaire Oceanfront** villa for up to nine people: five kitchens, five bathrooms. Ideal for divers.

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Call Bonaire Nautico at 560-7254. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

## WINES

**Antillean Wine Company.** You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

## YOGA

**Yoga For You.** Join certified instructors Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

**ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN:**  
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.  
The most advertising for your guild.  
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

## Luis Peña

“My father came in 1991 from Santo Domingo to work for a construction company. In 1993 my mother joined him. Back in Santo Domingo we stayed alone in the house. I was 13, my sister Ceneida was 14 and my brother Juan Camilo ‘Kiko’ was 15. We were taught to take care of ourselves. We cooked, did the laundry, ironed, cleaned and went to school. Some uncles and aunts who were living nearby supervised us. Two years later, when my parents had completed the paperwork, I came to Bonaire with my sister. We couldn’t go to school here because we didn’t know Dutch. Later, Ceneida returned to Santo Domingo and I stayed. For a year I didn’t do anything – just rode my bicycle around Antriol - and I didn’t feel happy. Then I met a man who told me about the Pasadia in Rincon. He told me it was a center for the handicapped and that they were doing lots of things like carpentry, making candles, house ornaments and postcards. So my father went to talk to the government. Three days later I went to work at the Pasadia.

My brother and I have the same birth defect: we didn’t grow much, we have problems with our legs and chest, but mentally we’re fine. Originally, I could ride a bicycle, but one leg was shorter, and as I grew it got displaced and started hitting the other leg, so something had to be done about it. I went to Santo Domingo and was operated on by the doctor who’d known me from birth. He straightened my legs and put nails in them, and now I can do things I couldn’t do before, but I can’t ride a bicycle anymore as I can’t bend my legs to pedal.

At Pasadia I chose to work with the group who makes candles. They trained me; I was very dedicated, I learned fast and progressed. Now I’m a professional and I design candles in all sorts of shapes. It was here I learned Papiamentu. My father had bought me a Spanish-Papiamentu book, but it wasn’t so easy. However, once I started working at Pasadia it came to me naturally. I am very grateful for the things they’ve done for me at Pasadia, and since Lupe Uranie became the Director the center has improved a lot. The majority of my colleagues are here because they have a mental handicap, but I respect them for what they are, and I treat them like any other person. We laugh a lot as they are very sweet people. Sometimes when our group leader, Fabiola, has to leave for a while, I take over. I have lots of patience!

I feel good here and the island is nice and quiet and you can live well. When I

arrived we had a wooden house, and when it rained more water fell inside than outside. It was in very bad condition. So Papa and I went to the Fundashon Cas Bonairiano to ask for a house and we got it. Now we have a complete home in Antriol: two bedrooms, one living room, a bathroom and a kitchen.

My parents are thinking of bringing my brother over, but it’s difficult as he is an adult now. Kiko was planning to go to university, but he dropped the idea as he thought it was going to take too long. He has the same physical problem as I have, but even worse, so he can’t work. He wants to come to Bonaire to see how it is. He’s never been. He’s very bright, so maybe he can

**“Often people who have children with a mental or physical handicap hide them from the outside world. Not my parents!”**

stay and come to work at Pasadia as well. We look very much alike, my brother and I. People always ask us if we’re twins. My sister Ceneida, who’s married and has a seven year old son, cooks for him, but everything else he takes care of himself. My family is doing well. My father, Meregirdo Peña Castro, is never without work, and my mama, Rosa Maria Del Rosario Peña, is also happy here. I have wonderful parents who are very proud of me and I feel very proud of them and myself. I always ask my father for advice and tell him about my plans. He’s my confidant. We’re very close; he’s the one person who can tell me what to do. I trust him completely. Many people have congratulated me because my father has always been so proud of me. Often people who have children with a mental or physical handicap hide them from the outside world. Not my parents! On the contrary! One day at church, this lady from Curaçao came up to us and complimented my father as she could tell what a wonderful dad he was! My parents have dedicated so much time to me and they loved me and appreciated me always for what I am, so I have no complex whatsoever!”

*Luis Peña (25) is a wonderful man with a handsome face and shiny smiling eyes. He has a good sense of humor and a great deal of confidence in himself*

*and it’s a pleasure just to talk to him.*

“Before, when I had my motor scooter I’d go out at night on the weekends to town and Sundays to Mass. I have many friends in town. I don’t make friends with younger people; I like older people, all nationalities and all kinds. When I go to town I talk to everyone. I look at the girls and listen to the music. I like meringue and bachata.

Then my motor scooter was stolen from the house. It was a normal scooter, but Orlando (Bonaire Motorcycle Shop, the Harley Davidson dealer) modified it with two extra wheels on the side for balance. Now I can’t go anywhere anymore. The only thing I ask my dad for is to take me to church. Instead of going twice a week to Bonfysio, I’m now going once a week. The motor scooter wasn’t insured for theft so nobody paid me, not the insurance, not the thieves, so I am the loser! My license was also in the scooter. I asked everywhere for it. Then this newspaper man heard my story through Bonfysio and he put an article in the paper. With help from *extra* newspaper and Bonfysio I got enough money to order another scooter in Santo Domingo last December. It’s much cheaper there. I didn’t want to buy an old rental here as I was afraid of troubles later on. Now the scooter is ready, but the ship that was to bring it is having problems and couldn’t sail. Now the scooter is at my uncle’s for safe keeping! I didn’t want to ship it by plane because I thought it would be too expensive for the good people here who are paying for the freight. I want to take the opportunity to thank everybody who helped me. I’m very grateful.

I never thought anyone would steal from me because I know so many people, but I’m still the same. I’m not letting it depress me, although I miss it



tremendously!

I love to go places and I love to travel, but I also like to watch TV, read and play cards and dominos with my parents and do things around the house. I’ve learned a lot at Pasadia, but I’d also like to work somewhere else and do other things - make a bit more money so that I can support myself better. I am a person who likes to do things and I’m willing to do anything, I’m a quick learner. If they teach me, I can do it. I also would like to take computer lessons. Maybe there’s someone on the island who has the time to teach me. If anybody wants to they can contact Pasadia in Rincon.

This is a very good island and the people are nice. They accept me as I am and for what I am and I live very well here. I’m very happy and I see a bright future– which will be even better when the new scooter arrives! I don’t think much about going back to Santo Domingo. As I see it, my life is here, but if my parents decide to go back, I think I’d go where they go. I could stay alone here if I had a better job, but I know that without my parents I would feel very lonely...” □

*Greta Kooistra*



# FIRST TIME VISIT FOR PRIME MINISTER J.P. BALKENENDE



At Jong Bonaire  
BVO photo

It's been 10 years since a prime minister of Holland (Mr. Wim Kok) visited the ABC islands. Considering the referendum-mandated reorganization of the Antilles, the visit of Dutch Prime Minister J.P. Balkenende might be considered overdue. His visit to Bonaire last Thursday was a combination of discussion and inspection.

Balkenende began, "I am touched by the beauty of the island of Bonaire and I see many economic possibilities. I've had comprehensive talks with the Island Government and others about the fight against crime, the problem of drug couriers and poverty. I was impressed by my visit to Jong Bonaire and the bario of North Saliña: to see, first of all, the immense effort Jong Bonaire puts into its after-school program, and also to be made aware of the impoverished living conditions of some of the people in North Saliña."

He added that the Netherlands provides 13 million euro a year to the islands.

Balkenende said, "I am impressed how, despite the poverty, there is still progress. I am sure when tourism grows and the youngsters are trained in social and individual skills there will be a tremendous positive outlook for Bonaire. An important purpose of my trip is to

get to know the 'insides' of each island better, all based on respectful and equal relations."

Antillean Prime Minister Ys, who accompanied Balkenende during his visit, added, "It was my express wish to invite the Prime Minister and his wife and child. We've had a very tight schedule, and I'm impressed with how energetic Minister Balkenende still is after a few strenuous days."

The *Bestuurscollege* of Bonaire and Prime Ministers Balkenende and Ys conferred about important issues such as the future relationship of Bonaire to Holland, considering the Referendum results. After all the island referenda have taken place (the last one will be in Curaçao in April) it will be clear which organization each island wants. "But to change direction will take a long time." Ys said.

According to Prime Minister Ys, 90% of the drugs exported from the Antilles already have been stopped because of the intensive control outgoing and the 'Zero Tolerance' at Schiphol airport. Ys stressed, "I would even venture to say that there is no other land in the Caribbean or even the world where the fight against drugs over the last five to 10 years is that successful." □

Marian Walthie

*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 4)*

► **Police will start checking for up-to-date stickers on the 2005 car number plate tax on Valentine's Day, February 14**, so they can show they love you. Motorists must get not only a new sticker this year, but also a new license plate. It will be really easy for the police to tell if you've paid the fee because the plate color has changed from yellow to blue.

Vehicle owners can pay the 2005 road tax at the office of the Island Receiver (*Ontvanger*). The last day to pay the tax before enforcement begins will be February 11. The office of the Island Receiver is open weekdays from 7:30am to 12 noon and from 1:30 to 5pm.

Gasoline cars and trucks pay NAf359 a year. For diesel powered vehicles it's NAf1.519 for the year. Motorcycles pay NAf 257.

► Most of you will remember the articles in an earlier edition of *The Reporter* and *extra* about the **scooter that got stolen from Luis Peña**. Due to his physical disability Luis depends on his scooter for everyday transportation. We mentioned that the staff of Bon Fysio could be contacted for donations and suggestions. The reactions were overwhelming. Everybody was shocked that somebody would steal the scooter of a disabled man. Two persons, who want to remain anonymous, immediately took it upon themselves to cover the cost of the scooter; the Bissessar family offered to transport the scooter from the Dominican Republic (where it was purchased) to Bonaire free of charge through their shipping company; and a group of employees from the MCB will cover the costs for insurance and license plate tax for the coming year. There were a lot more helpful people that made sure this story will have a happy ending, and we would like to thank them all!

The young man who stole the scooter was apprehended, but the scooter had been completely stripped. Hopefully those parts that were recovered will be released soon (until his trial it is still considered evidence) so they can be used on Luis' new scooter. Once the scooter arrives some modifications will be made so Luis can be on his way again. Hopefully we will see him riding around very soon. *Provided by Eric van de Keuken and Antje Gunther of Bon*

*Fysio* (also see On the Island Since... on page 17).

► WEB now has **new contact phone numbers as of February 1**. During office hours call 715-8244 (was 717-8244). Non-office hours call 9215 (was 115). The old ones will still work for several months. The numbers got a lot of use in recent days. WEB deserves high praise for their good communication during the crisis.

► **In 2005 Buddy Dive Resort will celebrate 25th anniversary**. To commemorate this special occasion the resort has developed a wide range of specials, activities and events to ensure that guests can benefit from this Anniversary Year. Over the years the resort has expanded to one of the largest operations on Bonaire with a very busy dive operation and 200 beds for its guests. The highlight of the year will be a big party for all guests, staff and VIPs December 10 to 17, 2005, complete with daytime activities, dinner and fireworks. For more details on the complete program visit <http://www.buddydive.com/News.html>. For more information call 1-866-GO-BUDDY, email [buddydive@travelmarketing.com](mailto:buddydive@travelmarketing.com) or visit <http://www.buddydive.com>.

► **Ma-Jochi, the New Age shop located in the Tambu Shop on Kaya Grandi across from the Harborside Shopping Mall, offers a great variety of special Valentine's day gifts**. If you want to surprise your beloved one with a special gift, you can place your order in person or by calling 786-3109 or 790-9450.

► This week's Jong Bonaire models in the Benetton ad on page 11 are Joemy Ricardo and Remison Makaai.

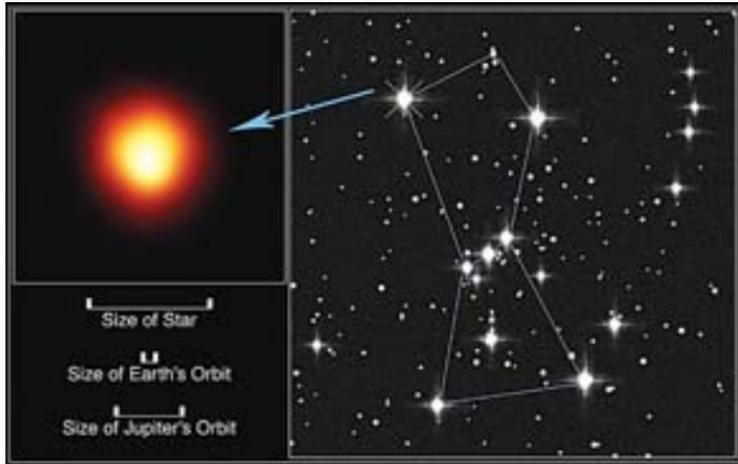
► **Happy Valentine's Day to all our readers and advertisers. We LOVE you.** □ *L./G.D.*





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up



## GIVE YOUR LOVE THREE COSMIC JEWELS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

If you want to give your sweetheart something out of this world this Valentine's Day we have three exquisitely beautiful cosmic objects all in the same part of the heavens, gift wrapped and ready to present: the traditional Valentine's Day star plus the jewel-like brightest star in the heavens and this year the marvelous "Lord of the Rings."

On Valentine's Day night, Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> between 8 and 9 pm face south where the brightest thing you'll see will be the brightest star visible from Earth, **Sirius**, which marks the eye of **Canis Major**, **Orion the Hunter's** great dog. To many people Sirius is the most jewel-like of all stars, not only because of its brilliance but because when it twinkles it flashes brilliant shades of blue and green, topaz and emerald. So here's a heavenly jewel to present to your loved one.

Plus this year just up to its left and below **Castor and Pollux**, the twin stars of **Gemini**, you'll see the planet called the "Lord of the Rings," which is almost at its closest, biggest and brightest it gets. It's the exquisite sixth planet, **Saturn**, which we are visiting with our Cassini space craft right now. It's not only brilliant to the naked eye but is also a knockout through even the smallest department store telescope. So in addition to jeweled Sirius, give the gift of the ringed planet.

To top it off and make your cosmic valentine super special, look due south between the hours of 8 and 9 pm, and you'll see the star I call the Valentine's Day star. It's very bright and very red and in fact is the brightest red star we can see with the naked eye from planet Earth. Just coincidentally it reaches its highest point above the horizon every Valentine's Day night between the hours of 8 and 9 pm. It marks the shoulder star of Orion the Hunter and its name is **Betelgeuse**. If you've ever wanted to give your loved one a really big valentine, well, this is about as big as it gets. Indeed if we compare Betelgeuse, the Valentine's Day star, with our own star, our 865,000-mile-wide **Sun**, Betelgeuse is so humongous we could fit over 160 million Suns inside it. And that's when Betelgeuse is at its smallest size because Betelgeuse changes its size regularly like a gigantic, slowly pulsating heart, one that beats, however, once every six years. When Betelgeuse is fully contracted at its smallest size, it is about 500 times the width of our Sun, but when it expands to its biggest size it is almost 900 times as wide.

In fact if we could place Betelgeuse where our Sun is, Betelgeuse at its smallest would reach out past the orbits of **Mercury**, **Venus** and Earth, all the way to **Mars**. And when it's at its largest it would stretch all the way to **Jupiter**. Wow! So there you have it: a cosmic jewel of a star, Sirius; exquisite "Lord of the Rings," Saturn; and Betelgeuse, the biggest cosmic valentine you'll ever give, a giant red star slowly beating like a heavenly heart for your sweetheart. Is this a romantic cosmos or what? □ *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:  
February 11-18, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Put your efforts into moneymaking ventures. This is probably causing upset and confusion on the home front. Drastic changes regarding your personal attitude are evident. Problems with in-laws or relatives may be more damaging than you realize. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You can meet new and exciting friends who will provide mental stimulation. Romance will develop through work related activities. Your determination and sheer desire to do your own thing will be successful. Your sensitivity toward those you love will capture their hearts. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Expand your knowledge and sign up for courses and seminars. Don't overspend to impress others. You will easily blow situations out of proportion. Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Emotional upset at work will set you back. You can learn valuable information if you listen and observe what others are doing and saying. Use your high energy and dynamic approach to win favors from superiors. Travel will be exciting. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Spend time getting to know each other. Although up setting, changes in your domestic situation will be favorable. Relatives will be cordial. You'll have amazing ideas, but superiors may try to block your attempts at implementing them. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects. Use some diplomacy to get your point across delicately. Travel will be in your best interest regardless of whether it is business or pleasure. Expect some flak. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Efforts made to improve yourself will turn out to your satisfaction. Plan your social events carefully. Don't get intimately involved with a co-worker. Your fun loving approach will be admired and appreciated by others. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will be able to work with fine detail this week. Opportunities for travel and socializing are evident. You may need the space, but you need the extra cash more. Try not to spend too much on children or entertainment. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Pleasure trips or friendly get-togethers will be satisfying and intellectually stimulating. You should not get involved in joint ventures. Sit back. You will have good ideas for home improvement projects. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will find yourself tied to the phone. Try to be reasonable. Your courage and willpower will enable you to get rid of destructive habits as well. Family responsibilities are escalating. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) It will do you some good. Try not to lend or borrow money this week. You'll be an emotional basket case this week. Don't take any comments too seriously. You may want to make drastic changes concerning your personal partner. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family if you have a big project to finish in your domestic environment. You may find that you are a little lucky this week. Strong willpower will come to your rescue. Just be yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. □