

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

May 13 to May 20 , 2005 Volume 12, Issue 19

The **BONAIRE** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Bonaire Mothers and Children at the Divi Flamingo Mother's Day Brunch

Countdown



NAf30 for all shows

Tickets for the main concerts on sale at City Cafe, TCB, Kon Tiki Restaurant, Bongos Beach, Plaza Resort and the Bonaire Boekhandel and at the gates of the main concert



Denise Jannah

The headliner of the Harbour-town Jazz Festival is Denise Jannah. Read what the jazz world says about her:

"This woman can make you dream, cry, and fall in love. What more could you desire..." (*The Music Advocate*)

"Jannah's voice is fine-rich, certain and teeming with a candor undiminished by the artifice of record-making" (*Down Beat*)

She was almost everywhere in the landscape of jazz: at the international jazz festivals, touring around in the US, Europe and recently Israel. She started with the general repertoire of jazz and is now concentrating on her own compositions; her last CD, "*Gezongen Gedichten*" (Singing Poems) is a great hit. Listen to the voice of a great lady singer, born in Surinam, living in the Netherlands and with her heart in the world of jazz."

Here's some advance notice about the jazz festival. Events will begin May 17th and run through May 22nd.

To get in the right mood with music and prepare for Jazz Concert Week— have some food and drinks:

Tuesday, May 17: Jazz at **Donna's & Giorgio Restaurant**, Bonaire Jazz Trio, starting at 7 pm, reservations 717-3799

Wednesday, May 18: Jazz at "brand new" **Barracuda Club** at Sand Dollar, barbecue. Latin Quartet starting at 7 pm, reserve 717-3985

Thursday, May 19: Welcome concert at waterfront **Wilhelmina Plaza** downtown with Bonaire Jazz Platform: Concert and Jam Session with local musicians, X-Hale and Stingrays until late night! Food and drinks delivered by students of SGB high school, raising funds for their music education. 7 pm.

At the Festival: Latin and Caribbean Jazz is the main course—9 sessions in 3 days !

May 20:	5 pm	Sunset jazz at City Café . Bonaire Jazz Trio with guests
	7:30 pm	Main concert at Plaza Resort . Denise Jannah, Ced Ride, Cedric Dandare and Avila Blues Houseband
	11 pm	Late night Jazz at City Café . X Hale and jammers.
May 21:	5 pm	Sunset Jazz at City Café . Ced Ride, Avila Blues Houseband
	7:30 pm	Main concert at Bongos Beach . Cuban Express and X-Hale
	11 pm	Late night session at City Café . Cuban Express
	11 pm	Late night session at Karel's Bar . Stingrays
May 22:	11:30 am	Jazz brunch. Festival musicians at Rum Runners . Serving a special jazz menu: reservations 717-8290 / 717-2390
	5 pm	Main concert at Kon Tiki Beach Club with Freewinds Band featuring Stacey Francis, Delbert Bernabela Band

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



After 18 hours of intense negotiations, the **Jamaica Airline Pilots Association (JALPA) and the management of Air Jamaica last Thursday signed off on a three-year agreement** that will see pilots accepting a reduction in basic salaries and a cut in fringe benefits. Air Jamaica's management was seeking concessions of US\$12 million from its pilots, who had accounted for 30% of the airline's annual wage bill of US\$100 million. The wage agreement ends almost two years of negotiations between the pilots and the airline. A few of the details of the agreement include:

- 1) An increase in flying hours to 80 hours per month before pilots are paid overtime instead of after 72 hours.
- 2) Pilots will no longer receive overtime pay during vacation and sick leave.
- 3) Meal allowances per duty period will be reduced from US\$75 to US\$60 for North American and Caribbean flights and from US\$105 to US\$90 for UK flights.
- 4) Navigation pay has been reduced by 20%.

The Minister of Traffic and Transportation, Omayra Leeftang, hopes that the business agreement that KLM and Dutch Antillean Express (DAE) have entered would lead to the improvement of the service of DAE. "**The service they are giving now is not acceptable.** It even hinders the functioning of the government," said Leeftang.

Ministers and secretaries of state ex-

perience delays or cancellation of flights on a regular basis, which impedes their traveling to Willemstad. "We do need a back-up with a big carrier like KLM." Leeftang will soon discuss the service of the company with DAE management. According to her, we cannot even think about approving the expansion of the routes and the increase of the ticket fares. "This is impossible under the current circumstances."

KLM spokesperson, Bart Coster, indicated from Holland that the agreement between KLM and DAE is nothing other than a continuation of a cur-



rent agreement. "We will make sure that our flights connect on those of BonaireExpress. Actually, last week's agreement does not change anything."

► **Omayra Leeftang**, Antillean Minister of Transport and Communication (see previous item), who is spoken about in high places as Prime Minister material, **resigned her post** after her decision to appoint Franklin Sluis as Postmaster General was overruled. She later rescinded her resignation.

(Continued on page 3 and 4)

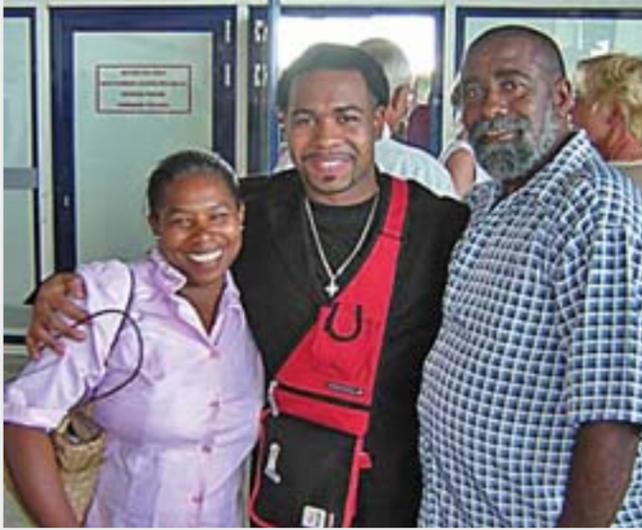
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► **Felix Torres**, a graduate of the SGB Chez Nous hotel school last yea, **returned home** after his one-year intern-chef program in Italy's Emilia Romagna region. He worked for nearly a year at a 1-Star Michelin Restaurant, "Il Girasole," in Rimini. His happy parents and teacher, Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn of SGB, were there to welcome Felix home. The Culinaire Foundation and NGO Platform grants help young Bonaire chefs build their careers through special training abroad that they couldn't otherwise afford.



► On Sunday, **US President George Bush and First Lady Laura Bush** were guests of **Holland's Queen Beatrix** at a commemoration of World War II dead at the American cemetery at Margraten, near Maastricht, in The Netherlands. The Dutch supported American involvement in Iraq and are one of America's staunchest allies.



Continued on page 4.

► **Last week American Eagle Airlines reported system wide traffic for April increased 26.1%** from April 2004, on a capacity increase of 22.9%. However, Executive Airlines, the company responsible for the Caaribbean route, **reported a decline of 12.7%** in traffic for the same period as its capacity dropped 4.6%.

► **The Customs Service of the Netherlands Antilles has a new head:** Julian Lopes Ramirez. Lopes Ramirez, who came from Tax Accountant's Bureau BAB, will be replacing Edsel Rosenda, who is retiring. Asked about his plans, Lopes Ramirez said he would continue the process to modernize the Customs Department on all islands, making it "more client-friendly."

► **On Tuesday, May 10, the Dutch Minister for the Netherlands Antilles, Alexander Pechtold arrived in Bonaire for a whirlwind eight-hour visit.** During his visit he spent time with both the ruling party and the opposition, businessmen's associations, center for the handicapped, visited Rincon and Antriol attractions, youth organizations and more.

► The Curaçao Island Government will provide **NAf25 million to finance the golf course** for the new Hyatt Hotel on Curaçao's southeast coast. This amount will come from the tax windfall of NAf200 million for the Antilles, of which Curaçao gets NAf150 million.

Santa Barbara plantation recently signed an agreement with the Hyatt hotel chain for the exploitation of the resort for 20 years. The construction costs of the 350-room hotel are estimated to be NAf170 million. The money is from an "Economic Participation Fund" for this and other tourist projects. The amounts involved give an indication of the cost of a large hotel and the incentive developers expect when they commit that much money.

► **In Curaçao the Caribbean Medic (Healthcare Partners Management) is planning a medical center with 10 super-modern dialysis machines in the Jacob Gelt Dekker-Instituut** to open in September. The center will be able to treat 20 patients per day. Since Bonaire has no dialysis center it will treat its patients as well. "The number of kidney patients has alarmingly increased in the past years. In 15 years the amount of dialysis-units increased from 8 to 28, and the amount of patients from 35 to almost 175. This amount will continue to grow in the coming years," said project coordinator Eliezer Naaman.

► **Rate hikes to consumers aren't the only way to pay for increased world fuel prices effect on power production costs.** Aqualetra, the electric power company for Curaçao, had a loss of NAf800.000 because of the rise in oil costs. They did not pass along the loss to its customers, even though the company had to pay the higher fuel prices. For the past two years Aqualetra had big profits, as much as NAf40 million. Electric rates in Curaçao, even

before Bonaire's recent 37% price hike, were significantly lower than Bonaire's.



► Last weekend Bonaire's **Rene Hakkenberg** was honored by Queen Beatrix by being **decorated with The Order of the Orange**. Rene is a familiar figure on the island having been a past manager of the salt works and is presently involved with programs for the island's youth as well as preservation of the environment.

► Thanks to some rain this last week we have been treated to one of Bonaire's spectacular free shows—the **blooming of the Kibrahacha trees**. The hillsides, especially those on the west coast, are dotted with bright splashes of yellow color. The trees only bloom after a period of drought followed by a rain. The blooms last only a day or two so look for them now!

► **Jaap Dekker, a very famous jazz pianist** of the 70s, was vacationing on the island. Last Monday night he gave patrons of Little Havana a rousing show. He was accompanied by drummers Dick van der Vaart and Chris Markos as well as harmonicist, Henk Roozendaal and a bass player from the Venezuelan band, "Consentido." Bonaireans are just warming up for the island's first Jazz Festival next week.



► **The Salsa Bar and Restaurant** will be opening on May 16, according to City Café owners. The restaurant will be upscale, we hear.

► **The little girl modeling the bathing suit** in the Benetton ad (on page 12) this week is three-year-old **Mikeely Obersi**.

► Venezuelan windsurfer Juan Marino plans to arrive in the afternoon on **Saturday May 14th on the windsurf board he sailed from Venezuela to Bonaire**. Taty and Tonky, will exchange flags with Juan Marino as a symbol of friendship. Then on to the celebration at **The Great Escape at 6 pm** for a big BBQ. □ L./G.D.

New Platform Board for Bonaire



Back: **Dennis Martines** President, *Armoede Topoverleg* (Poverty-A Top Concern), Platform Treasurer **Alan Gross**; Platform Director **Gilbert van Arneman**; outgoing Platform president **Edsel Winklaar**; new Platform President **James Finies**; Platform Director **Eithel Bernabella**. Front: Platform Staff Director **Pancho Cicilia**; Commissioner **Geraldine Dammers**; Platform Office Manager **Irene Winklaar**; **Janella Winklaar**; and Platform Director **Julita Winklaar**.

Members of the Board not pictured are: Secretary **Elsmarie Beukenboom**, **Tanneke Bartels**, **Godfried Clarinda**, **Anthony Cecilia**, **Ruthmila St. Jago** and **Jona Chirino**.

Last week a press conference was called to introduce the new NGO Platform Board. The NGO Platform of Bonaire is an Association of more than 60 local non-governmental organizations working for the improved welfare of the entire island. The Platform is made up eight sector representa-

tives plus three officers (President, Secretary and Treasurer). The officers serve as a daily board and are responsible for the operation of the NGO office and staff. All other issues are the responsibility of the full Platform. For more information check the website: www.ngobonaire.org. □*L.D.*

LETTERS: THE Op-Ed PAGE

Dear Editor:

There is something I do not understand. It has been claimed that more direct flights will not come to Bonaire unless there is a major name hotel. Assuming a major name does build here it will be large. About 500 rooms or more has been mentioned. To be profitable that hotel will need to see 400 people or more a week. If direct flights do come to Bonaire, who will be on those planes? It seems to me that it will be guests for that large hotel, and few if any other establishments will benefit. □

B.B.



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



The apartment accommodations built on the site of the Den Laman Restaurant is about to have a Grand Opening. It was built by local companies and labor.

Who Gets the Jobs?

Construction projects create jobs. New hotel rooms create jobs. Increased tourism creates jobs. All this is true but there are deeper issues to pursue: who will get all these new jobs? Will they go to local people or will the resorts import foreign workers and *stagieres* to fill them? Another question to ask is: will Bonaireans have a chance to get the higher-paying, management-level jobs or will they be considered only for the unskilled positions?

Let's start with construction.

If a "typical" Bonairean hotel were to be built it is fairly certain that local contractors would be able to bid for and win the contract, thus giving additional work to local labor and companies.

On the other hand, if a 500+ hotel is to be built at a cost of over US \$70-100 million, the financing banks will probably insist that the contract be tendered to one of the huge international building firms with a proven track record of similar projects.

These large, international contractors are very unlikely to hire many local workers in any but the lowest level positions and may even "ask" to bring in their own low-rate labor from other countries. These workers will likely come from poorer countries, as has happened in the past, and will send much of their earnings "home." Many won't want to leave after seeing the benefits of living in Bonaire -- who can blame them?

Thus the **greatest part of the construction funds will probably be paid to overseas accounts so that most of the construction money will have no important impact on the Bonairean economy.**

At the present time even local contractors are finding it necessary to request permits for more foreign workers just to meet the current demand for construction. Can Bonaire even supply the estimated 200-250 jobs such a project would require?

Even if required by contract to hire locals, would the large company simply "steal" the best workers from local contractors, forcing the local companies to bring in more foreign workers? As a Bonairean contractor recently said, "I can't find Bonaireans to fill the open jobs I have now. What will happen if a

really large project gets started?"

There are lots of questions to be answered but, unless the Island Government requires both local hiring and training programs, Bonaire will see its population increased by more poor laborers who will compete aggressively with local workers. This is not an idle thought but has been seen in every country where the need for foreign workers has exceeded the ability of the local labor pool to supply. Consider the Netherlands, Aruba, the USA, most of Western Europe and others.

But won't the hotels need workers?

If a truly five-star hotel with 500+ rooms is built here, it will require about 500 employees. How many of these "jobs" will go to the company's existing workforce from other locations who 'know the company system'? It is more than likely that all the higher-level, 'skilled' positions will be filled by immigrants.

And what about entry level positions? How many *stagieres* will be brought in who cost the employer almost nothing? These *stagieres* prevent local young people from gaining entry-level positions. But if Bonaireans are hired at any level, what sorts of training programs will be available to enable them to reach the ranks of management?

An even greater question is: can Bonaire even provide a staff this large without "raiding" existing hotels for their best employees? Just how "deep" is our labor pool? The recent (2004) study done by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) states that as of October 2004, Bonaire had a total of 456 people seeking work, or 8.9% of the work force.

From this we might conclude that a new hotel should be able to reduce these numbers dramatically. But, the fact is that, especially among the younger unemployed (25% of that age group), the skill levels are very low and they would, at best, be able to fill only the lowest level positions.

Immigration in other countries

Even the possibility of creating a few jobs sounds good at first until one looks at some statistics from a few other countries:

Aruba has been held up as a standard for Bonaire to meet. Per

Finding Balance for Bonaire Part 3



capita income is the highest of the ABC islands and growth has been tremendous. But, consider this quote from the *Aruba Times* in July 2004: "According to the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) a total of 12,700 new jobs were created from 1991 through the year 2000, **75% of which were fulfilled by immigrants.** At least 25% of the jobs on the island were occupied by immigrants in 1991, this percentage rose up to 40% in 2000." In addition, the IMF states that Aruba's growth "was highly labor intensive and **must rely on a continuous inflow of immigrant labor.**"

The US is perhaps the strongest labor market in the world but, as the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine reported in 1997, the influx of foreign labor damages the less educated (non-High School graduates) more than any other group. These native workers compete most directly with the foreign workers and, in fact, the earnings of the US workers in that group actually fell by about 5% over a 15-year period, a time when the US economy was booming.

The Netherlands has had an enormous influx of foreign workers (non-Dutch passport holders), and the pressure on lower level jobs has been intense. This has put great downward pressure on wages at the lower end of the labor market and many Antillean families in the Netherlands have felt the impact directly.

Immigration is not necessarily bad for a country. In fact it can have very positive economic effects in the long run if properly controlled and planned for. On the other hand, immigration -- especially as a significant percentage of the local population such as happened in Aruba -- can bring with it some serious problems.

A rapidly increasing population puts pressure on the island's infrastructure (water, electricity, roads, sanitation) as well as the educational system, housing market, public order, healthcare and, perhaps most significantly for Bonaire, on the local culture. What will happen to the fragile Bonaire culture when 50% of the island population is foreign born?

Most locations with high immigrant labor populations also report increases in illegals as well as legal immigrants. The ILO in its 2004 Caribbean Region Report states that 10-15% of immigrant workers stay on as illegals when their jobs are finished. Often entire families

are brought in by the workers, further stressing the local facilities.

Is Bonaire Ready?

Are we ready for this influx of more tourists and of foreign workers and their families?

- Can our already fragile electrical and water system support a rapid increase?
- Is our educational system prepared to absorb still more non-Dutch, non-Papiamentu speakers?
- Can our police force cope with the potentially higher crime rates that often are associated with immigrant workers and Illegals who tend to follow them? Both Aruba and St. Maarten have extensive 'illegal' problems since the demand for entry-level jobs far exceeds the supply of local labor.

Continued on page 7

- Does Bonaire have the housing stock to support these new arrivals? Will their impact be to drive up rents for local people?
- Bonaire has a remarkably good healthcare system, but is it adequate to absorb more foreign-speakers and their families?
- Finally, is Bonaire prepared -- or does it want -- to dramatically increase the numbers of non-Papiamentu speakers in the community? At the moment, Aruba has the lowest percentage of households who speak Papiamentu at home of all the ABCs: down to 69.4% in 2001 and certainly dropping as immigration from Latin America continues at high levels. What will be the cultural impact of reducing the portion of the community that uses the native language? How well will local traditions fare when confronted with foreign standards, mores and behaviors?

This article has raised many questions and answered few. The answers have to come from the Bonairean community and its leaders. By breaking the tradition of small hotels and inns and bringing in several large resort facilities, the first step has been taken on an un-planned journey. This may be the route most Bonaireans want to take. If so, that is fine. But this is not the route laid out in the existing plans (e.g. Pourier Report, TCB Vision and the 2003

(Continued on page 7)

Finding Balance (Continued from page 6)
DEZA document Government Business Development Guidelines).

Isn't it time to stop and get a sense of the needs and wants of the community? Isn't it time to either review the plans that already exist -- the path of low-rise, eco-friendly growth — and decide if a new plan is really needed? And make sure any new plan will benefit ALL Bonaireans long-term. If the entire community feels a new plan is needed, then one should be developed **before** large luxury resorts are lured to the island with free land and low taxes.

Do Bonaireans really know where this new, unplanned route will lead them? More tourism and more hotels might mean more jobs, but how many are for Bonaireans? More tourism and more hotels will put many other pressures on the community. Let's be sure that Bonaireans are the greatest beneficiaries of growth and not its victims. □ *Special to the Bonaire Reporter. -Contributors to this series are market research professionals*

Next week: A closer look at the Aruba model.

Copies of this article and the prior articles are available on the Bonaire Reporter Website. WWW. bonairereporter.com



These multi-story waterfront high rise apartments are nearly sold out and they haven't been completed yet. It was built by local companies and labor.



Awards for Bonaire Divers

Two Bonaire SCUBA divers recently were honored by REEF (The Reef Environmental Education Foundation, a grass-roots, non-profit organization of recreational divers who regularly conduct fish biodiversity and abundance surveys during their dives) for their contribution to the increase of knowledge about the marine environment.

REEF's mission, to educate and enlist divers in the conservation of marine habitats, is accomplished primarily through its Fish Survey Project. The Project was developed in 1990 with support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and guidance by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The REEF Fish Survey Project allows volunteer SCUBA divers and snorkelers to collect and report information on marine fish populations. The data are collected using a fun and easy standardized method, and are housed in a publicly-accessible database on REEF's Website. These data are used by a variety of resource agencies and researchers. **Now for the awards:**



REEF's first member of the Golden Hamlet Club, Linda Baker of Carib Inn, has just completed her 1,000th survey!

REEF Golden Hamlet Club's Inaugural Member - Linda Baker -

For many REEF surveyors, getting in a few dozen dives (and REEF surveys) each year is about all that their schedule allows. But for those fortunate few who live

near the water, work on the water, or manage to take multiple dive vacations each year, their REEF survey effort can build up pretty quickly. If you have taken a look at the most active REEF surveyors list lately, you know that dozens of our members have done over 100 surveys in their lifetime and that a pretty big handful of our members have conducted over 500 surveys! A few are even approaching 1,000 surveys. It is in honor of those contributing more than 1,000 surveys that REEF has created the Golden Hamlet Club. Congratulations to Linda Baker, who is our first member of this prestigious club. Members of the Golden Hamlet Club will be awarded a specially designed plaque, as well as being listed on a coordinating plaque at REEF Headquarters.

REEF is proud to award the first Golden Hamlet plaque to Linda, who has been a member and active surveyor since 2000. She lives in Bonaire and works as an instructor at the Carib Inn. Linda avidly conducts REEF surveys on most of her dives and teaches fish identification to many of her visitors. She is a member of REEF's Advanced Assessment Team and she has documented 301 species (all in Bonaire!). Linda's 1,000th survey was conducted on 12/20/2004 at Something Special in Bonaire. We extend a special thanks to Linda for her efforts and con-

gratulate her on being the inaugural member of the Golden Hamlet Club.

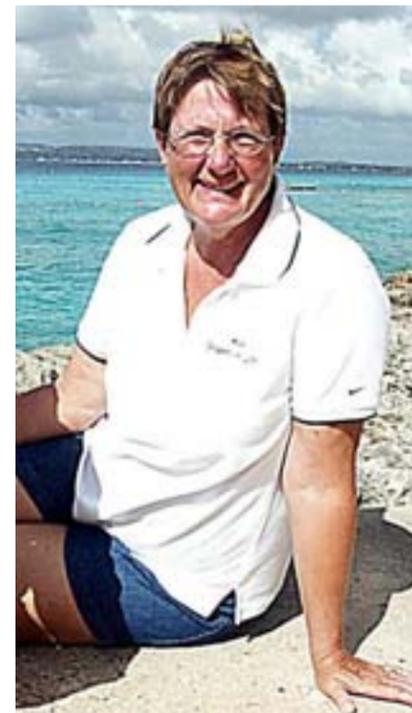
You can see Linda's effort and other top surveyors at: <http://www.reef.org/stats.htm>

2004 REEF Volunteer of the Year - Jessie Armacost -

REEF is very proud to award the 2004 Volunteer of the Year honor to Jessie Armacost. Jessie has been an active REEF member since 1999 and has completed over 500 surveys. Until recently, Jessie lived in Bonaire and was the coordinator for the Bonaire National Marine Park Volunteers.

She is an enthusiastic supporter of REEF and has done an incredible amount of work to generate a consistent stream of high quality data from Bonaire. She coordinated periodic fish identification training classes for the Bonaire Marine Park volunteer divers, as well as through many of the local dive shops. Through the years, Jessie's training introduced hundreds of local and visiting divers to the joy of fish watching, and she enabled seven local divers to progress up to REEF's Expert Level.

Jessie is a member of REEF's Advanced Assessment Team and she participated in, as well as helped coordinate, several of the REEF-Ocean Conservancy training workshops held throughout the Caribbean. She also served as a REEF representative during the annual Bonaire Dive Festival as well as the Great Annual Fish Count. The REEF staff and Board of Trustees extend a big thanks to Jessie and to the many other volunteers who help REEF achieve success. □ Reef Release



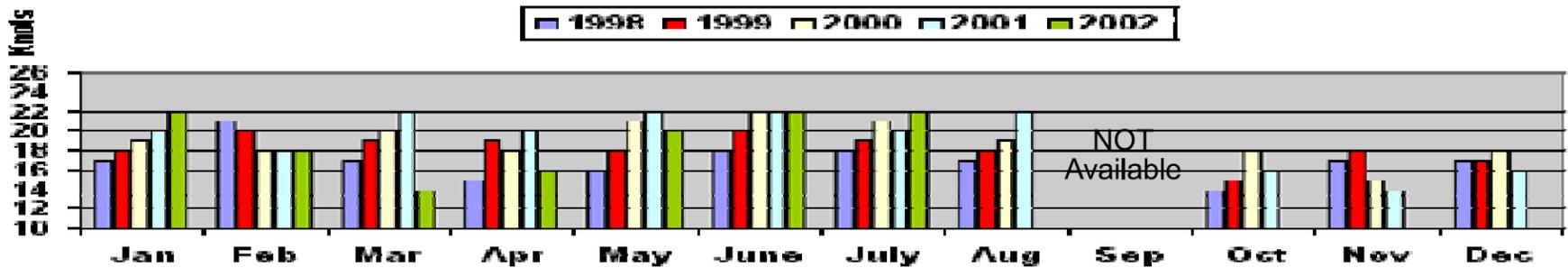
REEF's Volunteer of the Year - Jessie Armacost. Thanks to Jessie for all her hard work and dedication to REEF over the years!

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Andiamo	Gabrielle	Santa Maria
Andromeda	Galandriel	Sandpiper, USA
Adventure Quest	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Scintella
Angelos	Happy Ours	Sirius
Angie	Honalee, USA	Spetakke!\
Another World	Infinity	Starlight Dancer
Batje	Jan Gerardus	Stormbird
Beauty and the Beast	Kalaloo	Sylvia K
Bright Sea	Lava	Take It Easy
Brown Lady	L'Quila, BVI	Ti Amo, USA
Casse Tete	Luna C. USA	Tish
Camissa, Chan Is.	Lusistra	Tomorrow
Cape Kathryn	Maggi	Ulu Ulu, USA
Clemencia	Moon Rise	Ulysses
Coconut	Nails	Unicorn, Norway
Cocoti	Natural Selection	Varedhuni, Germany
Dauntless	Pishi Poko	Ya-T, BVI
Dragonfly	Pyewacket	Yanti Paratzi
Endangered Species	Rusty Bucket	Zahi, Malta
Felicity	Sabbatical	Zeelander
Flying Cloud, USA	Samba	

YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS PAGES

Monthly Average Wind Speed



Statistics favor good winds

Three Events In One

Get ready for Bonaire's THREE windsurf events in one:

1. Bonaire PWA King of the Caribbean Freestyle Event,
2. Amateur Freestyle Competition, and
3. Kids World Freestyle Championships.

From May 15 to the 22 Bonaire will host the 2005 Bonaire PWA World Freestyle Event, the "King of the Caribbean Pro-Am." This windsurf freestyle contest will attract world-class windsurfers from around the globe to compete for the \$65,000 purse.

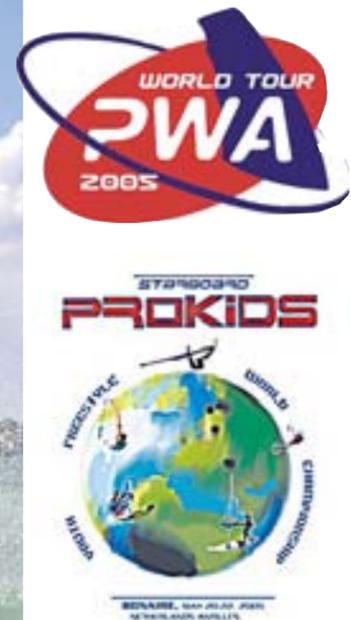
The "King of the Caribbean" Championship Finals will be the World Cup Premier event for the 2005 PWA World Tour. The event will include competitions for all levels: Professional Men, Professional Women, Amateurs, Novices and Juniors.

In addition to the competitions, there will be island-wide parties throughout the week as well as the food exposition, "A Taste of Bonaire."

Windsurfing competitions will be held at windy Sorobon Beach at Lac Bay. Cheer on the hometown boys. Bonaire is the home of the now fourth ranked PWA champion, Tonky Frans, as well as his brother Taty Frans, who is ranked fifth. □ Press Release



Windsurfing Action Now



Here's the schedule:

Saturday 14th May
18:00 - 22:00 Venezuela-Bonaire Windsurf Arrival of
Pre-event party
Live band
Great Escape Hotel
across from Belmar

Sunday 15th May
10:00 - 15:00 Registration pros and press Sorobon
16:00 - 18:00 Happy hour/ Cash bar
17:00 - 18:00 Press Conference
Kon Tiki - Lac Bay
18:30 - 19:00 Opening ceremony
19:00 - 21:00 Taste of Bonaire (\$3/NA/5) per plate
Wilhelmina Park

Monday 16th May
10:00 Windsurf competition Sorobon
21:00 - later Opening party Bonaire Windsurf Place

Tuesday 17th May
10:00 Windsurf competition Sorobon

Wednesday 18th May
10:00 Windsurf competition Sorobon
22:00 - 0:00 Live music City Café

Thursday 19th May
10:00 Windsurf competition
Place: Sorobon
13:00 - 15:00 Pro Kids and Amateurs registration
Place: Sorobon
19:00 Opening ceremony Pro Kids
Place: Coco's restaurant

Friday 20th May
10:00 Windsurf competition Pro Kids and Amateurs
Place: Sorobon
17:00 - 18:00 Happy hour
Place: Bongo's - Eden Beach Hotel

Saturday 21st May
10:00 Windsurf competition Pro Kids and Amateurs
Place: Sorobon
19:00 - 22:00 Rincon open air market
Place: Rincon (ride the Paradanda Bus)

Sunday 22nd May
10:00 Windsurf competition finals Pro Kids finals
18:00 - 19:00 Pro Kids & Amateurs Awards
Place: Sorobon
19:00 Beach Bash
Place: Bonaire Windsurf Place

Places To Be!

King of the Caribbean 2005

hosted by

Bonaire Windsurf Place

Monday 16th

BBQ (\$10) & Rum Punch Party

7:00 PM

Coco's

Wednesday 18th

PRO KIDS Opening Ceremony

DJ Robert & dancers

7:00 PM

City Café

Thursday 20th

Live Music by STING RAYS

10:00 PM

Bongo's

Friday 21st

Happy Hour

5:30-6:30 PM

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
5-13	4:12	1.9FT. 14:04	0.7FT. 60
5-14	5:00	1.8FT. 14:29	0.7FT. 51
5-15	5:42	1.7FT. 14:52	0.8FT. 42
5-16	6:24	1.6FT. 15:09	0.9FT. 35
5-17	3:19	1.4FT. 7:19 1.5FT. 15:11	0.9FT. 22:57 1.5FT. 32
5-18	4:49	1.3FT. 8:04 1.4FT. 14:57	1.0FT. 22:25 1.5FT. 35
5-19	6:03	1.2FT. 9:11 1.3FT. 14:32	1.0FT. 22:24 1.7FT. 44
5-20	7:14	1.1FT. 10:12 1.2FT. 14:08	1.0FT. 22:38 1.8FT. 56

Windsurfer Femke in Nevis Barracudas Compete

There aren't nearly as many female pro windsurfers, but Femke van der Valk is one of them. Although born in Holland she's made Bonaire her windsurfing home. Recently she was in Nevis, the former British island in the northeast Caribbean for a photo shoot. Here is what she wrote about her experience.



“Not many people have heard of Nevis. It is a small island located south of St. Martin, west of Antigua and only two miles away from St. Kitts. It's part of the nation of St. Kitts-Nevis. But even though it is small, there are about 11,245 people living on it.

Nevis is a volcanic island. It has a volcano covered in tropical rainforest right in the middle of the island. This volcano is called Nevis Peak and is 3,232' high.

Why did I go to Nevis? Well it actually wasn't my idea. *Men's Journal*, an adventurers' magazine from the States, was going to go to Nevis to do an article about windsurfing there.

They wanted to shoot pictures of a female windsurfer for the article. Because Nevis doesn't have any female windsurfers, Winston Crooke, a local windsurfing shop owner, decided to look for one somewhere else. Thanks to Ann Phelan, Bonaire's great supporter of female windsurfing, I got the opportunity to go. I heard about it on Monday April 18th and three days later I was on my way. When I arrived Winston was waiting for me at the airport.

The first day was sunny and I got to windsurf for about an hour before the wind died. The next day the photographers arrived. There was hardly any wind, but there was still some sun so we went out on the water for the first session. This was the first time I was part of a professional photo shoot, so at first I didn't even know where to look or how to smile. It was hard work standing on the board without wind for two and a half hours, but after a while I started feeling more comfortable.

The next day it was raining, and for as far as the eye could see there was a gray, dark, sad sky. The following day a little breeze came up in the afternoon so we spent three hours on the water. The photographers were almost sure they had the pictures they needed. That was a relief because the weather probably wasn't going to clear up and they had to leave at five o'clock in the morning the next day. Soon I was on my way back to Bonaire.”

□ Femke van der Valk, story and photo



The Bonairean Aquatics Club, “Barracudas,” swim team participated in the 6th Dutch Caribbean Invitational Swim Meet held in Curaçao April 29 through May 2. The Barracuda team was founded in September 2004, and this meet was their first competition outside of Bonaire. The Dutch Caribbean Invitational is organized by the *Nederlands Antilliaanse Zwembond* with teams from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten and Suriname. The meet was held at *Sentro Deportivo Korsow's* 50-meter swimming pool.

Fifteen members of the Barracuda team between ages of 7 and 13 swam in individual and relay events. Bonaire's young team's goals were to establish official individual times in as many events as possible, to gain competitive experience and to meet and learn from swimmers from other islands/countries. Results and photos from the Meet can be seen at www.sovasiento.com. The Barracuda team would like to thank NGO Platform Bonaire, Cargill Salt Bonaire, Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance (Antilles) and the parents of the swimmers for making the trip to the Dutch Caribbean meet possible. □ Valarie Stimson, story and photo

WOMBANIA⁶

Wombania is a comic strip about Chris, a single architect, and his brood of Wombies: Binky, Winky, Twink, and Fraz, who recently invaded both his home and life. Wombies are genetically-engineered super wombats, created by the late Dr. Franco, Chris's long-lost late uncle. As Chris was the only living relative, he took the Wombies under his wing to raise. Sometimes he wishes he hadn't, as living with a bunch of wayward Wombies can be challenging, even for an easy-going guy like Chris. Wombies live primarily on Wine Gums, Chocolate, and Spam® and are extremely trusting, loyal, and naive. Their natural curiosity and high-energy often lead to trouble as they try to adapt to the complex and often contradictory human world in which they now live.

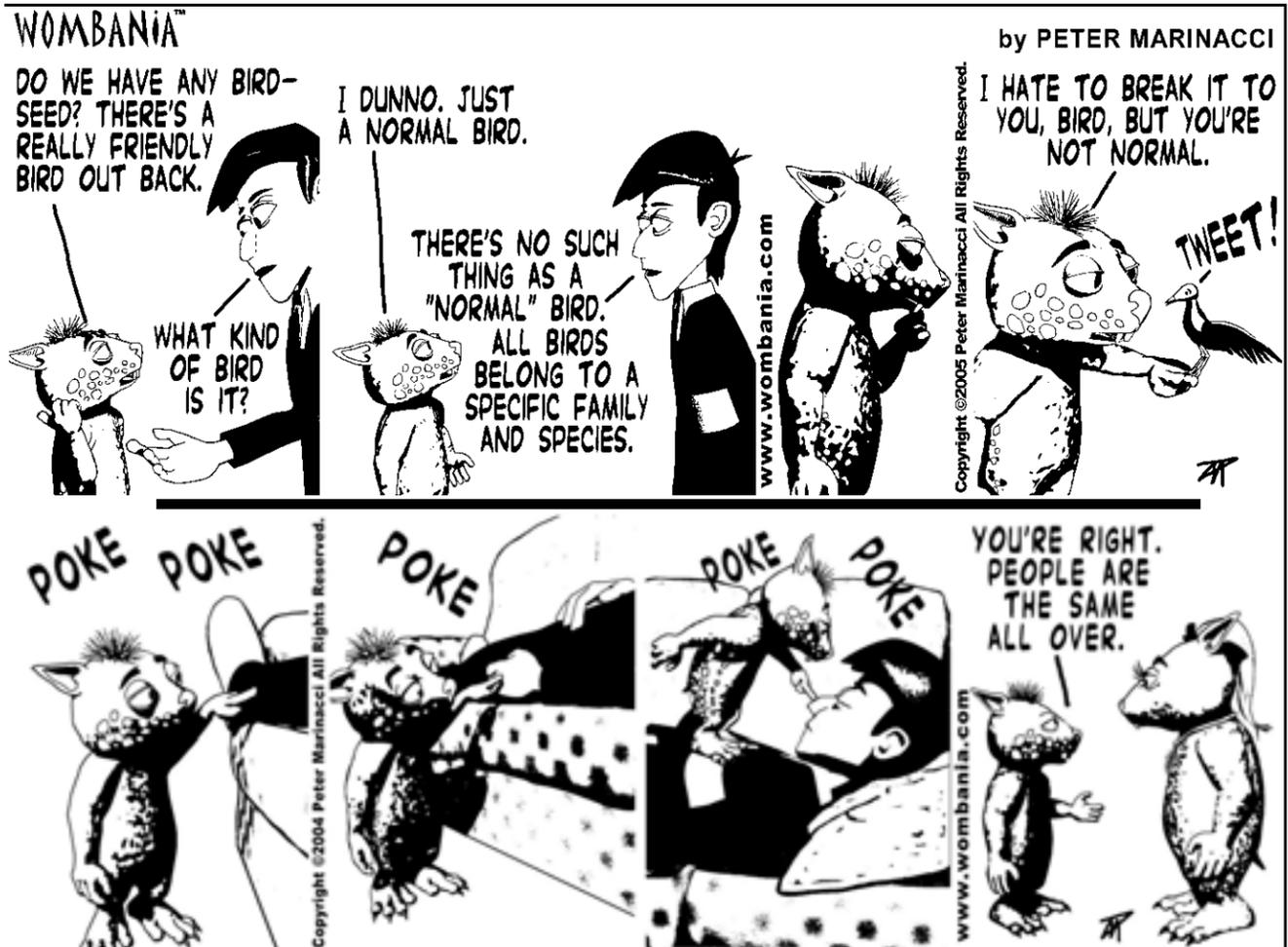
Binky is the resident rocket scientist, a genius whose high IQ and desire to be the first space-going Wombie results in big explosions and near disasters.

Winky is a bit neurotic and sometimes silly, but has a big heart and will do anything for a friend, especially **Twink** whom he secretly loves.

Twink is an artist and entrepreneur, and tries to keep the other Wombies in line with her maternal instincts and common sense.

Fraz is the youngest Wombie, an extreme sports enthusiast who struggles with both school and fitting in. □ *Peter Marinacci*

A new cartoon series for *The Bonaire Reporter*



PS The website www.wombania.com) includes The Wombat Information Center which has virtually everything you need to know about real Australian wombats. □

Let us know if you enjoy this cartoon. We will run it and look for reader reaction.

Picture Yourself with the Reporter The Netherlands

April 30th was the Queen's Official Birthday. In Holland, former Aruba resident Jan-Willem ter Mull and former Bonaire resident, Ester van der Hel-Boogaard, won the Prince Willem Alexander and Princess Maxima look-alike contest at the *Staatsloterij* show. After the show this picture with *The Bonaire Reporter* was taken. □



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. (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □

Pets of the Week

The photo of the three puppy sisters was taken by Bonaire Animal Shelter volunteer Edith Fox. The pups are being held by two young ladies who are working as trainees on the island and who dropped in to visit the Shelter recently. It seems that other people as well as our readers fell in love with these blue-eyed cuties. The pup on the far left, "Ann," has been adopted and will travel to Holland. "Angela," the one on the far right, is going to live in Switzerland with her new owner. The one in the middle, "Agnes," however, is still at the Shelter, waiting for just the right person to come and get her. It's not that difficult to adopt a pet from the Shelter and have it travel with you to your native country. Just call them at 717-4989 and find out how it's done. Cats also have been adopted and brought to their new owner's home country.



Lucky Pups "Ann," "Agnes" and "Angela"

Since the first of the year there have been 60 adoptions. People really appreciate getting a healthy dog or cat who has been checked out by the vet, given their shots and tests, worming, and sterilization – all for the price of the adoption fee. It's NA\$105 for dogs; NA\$75 for cats. The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □L.D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Avy Benhamron sent us this nice picture of the wedding of administrator Aniek Schouten and dive and language instructor and master free diver, Juan Pablo Campos Pardo. They were married on 05/05/05 in Merida, Venezuela. As Avy, to the left of the groom wrote, "Like you see....we didn't forget our *Bonaire Reporter*. It was lots of fun..." Congratulations to the happy couple. We wish them all the best and a lifetime of happiness. □G.D.

Readers are invited to send their photos of their anniversaries, engagements or weddings to The Reporter.

Bonaire Ambassadors



Helen and Gus Manasse, Adel and Irving Guller with Joanny Trinidad

To recognize the importance of repeat visitors the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) presents medals to visitors based on the number of consecutive years they have been visiting the island: a Bronze Medal for 10 to 15 years of visiting Bonaire, Silver Medal for 16 to 20 years and Gold Medal for 21+ consecutive years.

Helen and Gus Manasse have visited Bonaire for 30 years, and they now have the honor of receiving the Gold Ambassador Medal. Adel and Irving Guller also visited our island for 24 years, and so they, too receive the Gold!

Both couples continue to visit Bonaire for the fantastic underwater life, water sports, and the tropical climate. They have recommended to all their family and friends that they visit Bonaire. And when they are together at family gatherings, they share their experiences about Bonaire. Congratulations!

For more information on the Bonaire Ambassador Program and for a listing of all Bonaire Ambassadors visit <http://www.infobonaire.com/tcb/ambassador/>.

□ Joanny Trinidad

Biking For All

On Sunday, May 1st following Rincon Day, there was a bike tour in Rincon where everyone could participate. It is held to get young and old involved in a social and healthy get together. About 100 persons took part.

This event started last year in the mind of Rignald Anthony to especially honor our elder persons who are still traveling on their bikes, (mostly good vintage bicycles) and it was a big success.

The person who was honored last year was Papito Anthony, still biking in the streets in Rincon. This year it was Bibiano Janga who got the honor of being one of the oldest persons still biking.

There were several prizes this year: for the smallest kid on bike, (won by a two-year-old girl), the most creative bike, the nicest decorated bike, the most peculiar bike, a self made bike idea...and of course the oldest lady on her bike who was Nilda Anthony. This *Kareda di Baiskel di Antaño* will be held every year. For more information please call Rignald Anthony at 717-6123. □ Maria Koeks-SintJago



Bob Lassiter photo

Kids of all ages rode



Bob Lassiter photo

When driving and drinking are OK.

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BONAIRENET

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>

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

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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

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Marjolein Fonseca-Verhoef

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FOR SALE

Ex-rental SCUBA equipment from Cressi Sub and Tusa for sale at Buddy Dive Resort Dive Shop. Prices start as low as US\$20. Opening hours 8 am - 5 pm 7 days a week. Tel. 717-5080.

FOUND

Found: along the coast, keys connected on swimming belt. Info: 561-1101

WANTED

Scuba Vision is preparing for a new film production and is **looking for adult male actors** able to perform in front of a camera with a good voice to express emotions. It will be a short film, subject is still a secret, the acting will be very easy and the best performance will be used. For more information e-mail info@scubavision.info or call 786-2844

WANTED: Volunteers to index back issues of the *Bonaire Reporter* (English) and *Extra* (Papiamentu). Call George at 717-8988 or 786-6125.

PROPERTY, Sales & rentals

CARIBBEAN COURT APARTMENT FOR RENT- Large 118m² 1-bedroom apartment. Penthouse, fully furnished, large bedroom, loft style dining/living room area, fully equipped, 2 balconies, Air conditioning throughout, very breezy. NAf1100 per month, cable TV (with TV set) included, utilities extra. Contact Anja at Sunbelt 717-6560 or Catherine at 791-6777. Available June 1.

For Sale: Special Offer: Chalet in Valencia, Venezuela, in private zone. 1,000 sq. meters property, 1,000 sq. meters green zone. Chalet is 215 sq. meters. Built in 1999. Downstairs: living area with open, built-in kitchen, office, guest toilet, laundry. Upstairs: master bedroom with bath, terrace; 2 additional bedrooms, 1 bath. Many trees. Documents in order. **717-4111**

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. **May 20 until Jan. 8th.** info@pelicanreefbonaire.com or www.pelicanreefbonaire.com

DIVING with DEE She Spotted Spotted Morays on Sunday's Sunset Snorkel *

One of the things that first struck me about Bonaire was the numbers of spotted morays!

Most often, we'll see a moray at rest, in some sort of crevice on the reef. Since the moray isn't moving, it has to pump water over its gills to breathe, and the way it pumps the water is to open and close its mouth. An open mouth under these circumstances is necessary.

When the moray opens its mouth as much as possible, and holds that pose, it's making a strong defensive gesture:

"You're scaring me and I won't be responsible for my actions - these are the teeth I could bite you with!" (The eel is most likely to retreat, if there's somewhere for it to retreat to, but it could strike out with a quick bite and release.) Any fish - or diver -- who has caused the open-mouth defense is wise to back off until the eel resumes normal breathing.

Spotted morays are basically white with black or dark brown markings. Their bodies are scale-less, which enables them to glide through the reef backwards and forwards with equal ease. They have thin, sharp teeth and elongated jaws, which enable them to grasp fish. (Morays with shortened jaws and sturdier teeth, such as goldentail and chain morays, eat crabs and other crustaceans.) Spotted morays hunt actively at night, using their sinuous bodies to enter reef crevices and even sponge tubes, seeking sleeping fish. They don't need to see their prey, just touching it with their extended nostrils gives each moray the information it needs. When it scents prey, it darts forward and grabs the fish in its mouth, then - if necessary -- shifts the prey fish to swallow it headfirst.

A moray can swallow a laterally compressed (skinny) fish, like a French angel fish or blue tang, that is taller than the eel. The moray opens its mouth wide, engages its teeth in the prey, and crunches down. You know that bulbous shape just behind the eel's eyes? That's jaw muscle! Then the moray sort of bobs its head, grabbing the prey fish with a second set of teeth in its throat called a pharyngeal jaw. As the prey slides stomach-ward, the hinged middle row of teeth in the eel's upper jaw lie flat and enable the fish to be pulled down with the pharyngeal teeth. If a fish manages to move backwards, the hinged teeth straighten up and prevent escape.

* Try to say *three times, really fast.*



Morays are not venomous, by the way. Moray bites are said to be easily infected, but I never knew anyone to whom that happened.

When a moray swims along the reef in the daytime, its presence makes the fish nervous. Some potential prey fish, especially French angelfish, engage in a behavior I call the broadside flutter (for reasons about to become obvious) to protect themselves and evict the eel: they make themselves as tall as possible by extending their dorsal and ventral fins, and present themselves, fluttering, across the mouth of the eel. The fish is too tall and wide for the eel to grab in this position, and the fluttering is annoying, so the eel moves off.

Another thing that happens to a spotted moray moving along the reef is that cleaner gobies can't seem to resist scooting aboard the eel. The eel's skin twitches - the gobies must tickle -- but the cleaners continue their foraging undisturbed. Once in a while you'll see a cleaner goby swim into or out of a moray's gills.

One of the easiest and most rewarding ways to find a spotted moray requires you to be in the water in the late afternoon, say, between 4:30 and 6 pm, over a rubble or rock bottom. You can use scuba, but snorkeling works as well or better. Look around for a hunting party: a cluster of fish, usually including a bar jack, a coney or graysby or two, maybe even a trumpetfish, all looking downward, moving slowly along. Catch up with the hunting party, and you're likely to see that what they're all watching is an eel, most likely a spotted moray but possibly

(Continued on page 15)

Eagle Ray Channel

Catherine Salisbury Photo



Excavation before feeding

One of the great pleasures for scuba divers is the thrill of discovery. There is always the possibility of experiencing something new on every visit into the ocean. Every entry into this wondrous liquid environment gives us the chance of an unexpected encounter or new discovery. As avid explorers and students of nature, Barbara and I have learned to recognize that certain natural features hold more potential for these adventures. I am sure that the early explorers of our terrestrial environment felt the same excitement when they discovered the extraordinary features of our global geography.

The "Channel" is one of these special places.

On Bonaire, along the southern leeward coast, there is such a formation that separates the shallow shoreline fringing reef from a deeper seaward reef formation. At first glance the wide, soft, flat expanse of the white sand basin, like the shifting sand of the topside desert, seems to be void of life. Most divers quickly pass over this area on the way to the outer depths.

Closer inspection reveals an entire ecosystem flourishing on the bottom surface and under this layer of fine particle camouflage. As we reach the sand, the most visible inhabitants are dancing Garden Eels that retract into burrows when approached. They live in large colonies, move continuously in a graceful wave-like motion, and are extremely shy. Unattractive and cumbersome Sea Cucumbers are found cleaning the bottom surface of algae. Not so obvious are the Sand Dollar and the Six-Keyhole Sand Dollar. These creatures burrow beneath the sand during the daytime. You may see their fine short spines protruding above the surface of the sand. After nighttime foraging, Queen Conch, Milk Conch and Tritons leave telltale trails and bury themselves in the sand for a day of rest.

Larger predators visit the "Channel" and patrol for food day and night. The Common Octopus can be found out in the open but will usually be in a very smooth, pale skin phase to blend with the surrounding terrain. Mounds, littered with debris and open shells, mark a possible occupied octopus den. Southern Stingrays lie motionless on the bottom, covered with sand, their eyes watching for trouble. You will notice them by their rhythmic breathing displayed by the circular gill cover behind their protruding eyes.

The great Spotted Eagle Ray cruises above the sand in an endless search for its favorite food, the Queen Conch. Sighting these magnificent rays is always a special event. Observing them hunting is an awesome experience. Housed within their tapered snout are sonar-like sensors that detect living organisms beneath the sand surface.

Today we are watching three patrolling Eagle Rays from above. With a side-to-side search pattern every square yard (meter) is thoroughly covered. When an impulse is detected the ray instantly dives to the spot. To get a close-up view, we drop down to the sand and are eye to eye with this amazing predator. They are so intent in their purpose they tolerate our slow, careful approach and continue to feed. The Eagle Ray arches its back and, for leverage, extends the two claspers at the base of the tail, downward into the sand. They excavate the sand by flapping their powerful wings and, in unison, move the snout and head up and down, creating suction, to uncover the prey. The shell-crushing mouth makes short work of the mollusks' only defense. After the attack, the Eagle Ray rises from the bottom to resume the search, leaving behind a deep sand crater and numerous small scavengers attracted by the action. The trio of hunters continues their pursuit, often circling up and behind our motionless bodies and returning between us to the exact same hole for more tasty morsels.

This encounter gives us an opportunity to observe the behavior of an extraordinary creature that is more often sighted cruising in the blue water. The shy and wary Eagle Ray usually veers away when approached by divers. In the open sea, the Spotted Eagle Ray almost certainly detects our presence long before we see them. The impulses we emit may even give the ray a sensory overload compared to that of the Queen Conch. Perhaps that is the reason we usually see them off in the distance or after they have passed us. However, during the excavation phase of the feeding behavior they seem to be unaffected by our presence. Is their radar system shut down during this activity?

As always, the more information we gather, the more questions arise. We will continue our quest for exciting adventure and enjoyment in our adopted home beneath the sea. © Albert Bianculli

(Spotted Morays. Continued from page 14) a sharptailed eel or goldentail moray. As the eel moves through the crevices and tunnels of the bottom, it disturbs shrimp and other residents of the crevices, who move outward temporarily – and are then vulnerable to members of the hunting party.

The biggest spotted morays I've seen were a good five feet long, four to five inches deep from top to bottom, and very calm. I figure, they've seen it all and survived it all, and, at their size, what could be much of a threat?

The smallest spotted moray I've ever seen was smaller around than my thumb. Very little is known about moray spawnings; only a couple of species have been observed spawning, just a few times, when scientists were observing

other animals – so anything you've seen or photographed is information you need to share! The observed spawnings were at dusk. In one, the (presumed) male grabbed the (presumed) female with his teeth, around her head, and the two of them spiraled up to the surface, where they released gametes, separated, and returned to the bottom.

The fertilized eggs drift with plankton for about a week, then hatch and drift another week or 10 days, then the tiny baby morays settle to the bottom, living very unobtrusive lives until they achieve some size.

Morays are fun to look at and are rewarding photo subjects (they hold still). We can return the favor by not crowding them as we enjoy them.

□ Dee Scarr



Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her slide show "Touch the Sea" at Capt. Don's Habitat, Mondays, 8:30 pm.

EMERGENCY MESSAGE FROM DEE!

Last week I heard a piece of **misinformation** that I'd not heard before: someone at my slide show said they'd been told that when coral tentacles are withdrawn, we do not hurt the coral when we touch it.

THIS IS NOT TRUE, and it doesn't make sense:

When we make contact with a stony coral formation, the coral animals are injured because their flesh is sliced against their own extremely sharp skeleton. *This slicing occurs whether the coral animal's tentacles are extended or withdrawn.* In living coral, under all circumstances, the coral animal's flesh is only a few cell layers thick, resting gently on its sharp skeleton. Any contact we make is likely to cause significant injury to the coral animal, the only creature who builds the reefs where live the fishes and other creatures we all love to visit...

PLEASE help properly educate anyone who'd heard this **misinformation**. Thank you! □ Dee Scarr

Free Multi-Media Show Sundays

Bonaire Holiday Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat. Windjammer photos, old and new are featured. □

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The Realtor's Corner Getting the House Ready to Sell



When conversing with real estate agents you will often find that when they talk to you about buying real estate, they will refer to your purchase as a "home." Yet if you are selling property, they will often refer to it as a "house." There is a reason for this. Buying real estate is often an emotional decision, but when selling real estate you need to remove emotion from the equation.

You need to think of your house as a marketable commodity. Your goal is to get others to see your property as their potential home, not yours. If you do not consciously make this decision, you can inadvertently create a situation where it takes longer to sell.

The first step in getting your home ready to sell is to "de-personalize" it. If there are other homes for sale near your home, go visit them. It doesn't matter what size the home is. Often what you will find is a comparable home that anyone could live in -- with the emphasis on "anyone." It is anonymous. There may be a baseball glove in the boy's room, but no family photos on the walls. There may be "personality" - but no person.

The reason you want to make your home "anonymous" is because you want buyers to view it as **their** potential home. When a potential homebuyer sees your family photos hanging on the wall, it puts your own brand on the home and momentarily shatters their illusions about living in the house themselves.

Put away family photos, sports trophies, collectible items, knick-knacks and souvenirs. Put them in a box. Rent a storage area for a few months and put the box in the storage unit. Do not just put the box in the garage or a closet. Part of preparing a house for sale is to remove "clutter," and that is the next step in preparing your house for sale.

This is the hardest thing for most people to do because they are emotionally attached to everything in the house. After years of living in the same home, the homeowner may not see how clutter has collected. However, it does affect the way buyers see the home, even if you do not realize it. Clutter collects on shelves, counter tops, drawers, closets and garages. You want as much open clear space as possible, so every extra little thing needs to be cleared away. Take a step back and pretend you are a buyer. Let your realtor help point out areas of clutter, as long as you can accept their views without getting defensive.

□ Anna Kleimer

Anna Kleimer is with RE/MAX Paradise Homes. She and her husband, Art, owned and operated their real estate company in Vail, Colorado for 12 years. Working with buyers, she has an intuitive understanding of properties right for them - location, price range and amenities. You may call her at 717-7362 or 786-8607.



YOGA FOR YOU *Asana and Acceptance*

This week I would like to share with you an article on Asana and Acceptance by Nancy Gerstein.

Ms. Gerstein's teaching emphasis takes the ancient lessons of Yoga philosophy and integrates them into daily living. She believes that to live a more joyous life, yoga practice cannot end when we leave the classroom and tells her students to go out and live their yoga

The definition of Asana is a pose that is both comfortable and steady. To be fully present, to be exclusively alive to the now experience.

Learning to be present and participate in anything that is both steady and comfortable does not allow space for attachment such as self-judgment. When you live this way, you are practicing yoga- you are living thoroughly.

Many times in our practice, and in our lives, we respond from a place of judgment. 'I can't do this posture,' or 'everyone else is more flexible than me' or the popular 'this posture doesn't make any sense!'

Our practice is not to criticize yourself or anyone or anything during your practice. If you do, just notice it, check to see if your judgment is placed on your emotions, your body or your breath, and let it go.

Today if you find yourself forcing in asana, or in any other part of your life, ask yourself: is this in the spirit of the true practice of yoga?

When things are steady and comfortable, there is no forcing.

Wise Words

Don't worry about what anyone thinks.

Accept where you are this moment without striving, without comparing or judging.

Go where it feels best, where your energy flows best. Trust your ability to sense this.

If there's a place in your physical or emotional body that needs extra attention, invite that energy to surround that area of your life without judgment.

Be the change you wish to see in yourself.

Don and Desirée of "Yoga For You" offer classes from beginners to advanced. Call 717-2727 or 786-6416



Divi Flamingo Employee of the Quarter



Employee of the Quarter, Jenmarie Coffie, with colleagues

Jenmarie Coffie of the Food and Beverage Department, Restaurant, is the Divi Employee of the Quarter. Although Jenmarie hasn't been with the resort very long, her diligence, attitude and willingness to help have made her the winner. She received her award at a party for the Divi employees at the Chibi Chibi Restaurant last Wednesday. In addition to her award she received a NAf150 gift certificate to Warehouse Bonaire.

First Runner up was Eladia Engelhardt of the Accounting Office; Second Runner up was Candida Cicilia of the Food and Beverage Department, Kitchen. First and Second Runners up received gift certificates to Warehouse as well. Congratulations to all and thank you to Divi for taking the time to recognize their very valuable employees.

□L.D.



1st Runner up Eladia-Englehart



2nd Runner up Candida Cicilia

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

The Ring 2 (Naomi Watts)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

Miss Congeniality 2

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

Robots

THIS WEEK
May 15th to the 22nd - 3rd Annual King of the Caribbean at Lac Bay. Freestyle Windsurfing Competition Pro and amateur races in Lac Bay. The event will kick off the 2005 PWA Freestyle Tour. For info, see www.pwaworldtour.com or www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com More on page 9.

All that jazz. See schedule at right >

May 15-22 Bonaire Beach & Culture Week

COMING
Sunday, May 22—C-Run 2/4/5 km. 7:30 am. Sponsored by COM-CABON. More information call 717-8629, 780-7225.
Wednesday, May 25—Bonaire Culinary team serves "Competition" dinner, Blue Moon Restaurant, 7 pm. Donation: NAF50 includes 3-course meal, wine, taste of competition cocktails. Reservations: Laura at 717-8988, 791-7252 or Sara 786-9299
OCTOBER 2005
The International Bonaire Sailing Regatta October 9 – 15, 2005.

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

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

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

Friday -**Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 pm

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW
Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:

MISS CONGENIALITY 2
by John Pasquin, starring Sandra Bullock.

I love Sandra Bullock. She has the charm and the personality to make me smile at the stupidest stuff and she has a knack for making insanity absolutely adorable. There are lots of rather lame jokes in this movie, and watching the same stereotypical gay jokes in almost every American film is getting kind of annoying.

The film is very predictable, has a silly and thin plot but is entertaining nonetheless, most of all because of the above mentioned favorite girl-next-door, sister, girlfriend or wife. It takes an almost two-hour sit for a very short story, but plenty of time to drool over Sandra. □ *Dodo*

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 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 Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat.

Monday Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea slide experience (**back on May 16th**). Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30–9:30pm.

Wednesday (2nd and 4th) 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 Topsy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

Al-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.

JCI. First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire or formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza,

Kaya International, every other **Tuesday**, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every **2nd and 4th 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 9:30, Bus Tour at 10. Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.

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

MAY 20-21-22

Harbour Town Bonaire Jazz Festival 2005

3 MAIN CONCERTS FOR ONLY 30 NAF!

May Wilhelmina plein
19 Welcome concert
7:00 PM

May Plaza Resort
20 Denise Jannah, Ced Ride
7:30 PM Cedric Dandaré,
Avila Blues Houseband

May Bongo's Beach
21 Cuban Express
7:30 PM X-Hale

May Kontiki Beach Club
22 Freewinds Band
5:00 PM Stacey Francis
Delbert Bernabela Band

Sunset & late night sessions at City Café
Jazzbrunch Rum Runners 11:30 AM May 22

Also thanks to:
Toyota · Russel Insurance · Telbo · Benetton · Don Andres · BonaireNet · BonaireExpress · Bonaire Reporter · Omni Electronics · Plaza Resort Bonaire · City Café · Bongo's Beach · Kontiki Beach Club · TCB · Bonaire Jazz Foundation · Rum Runners · Budget

DINING GUIDE See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Brasserie Bonaire Royal Palm Galleries Kaya Grandi 26, Next to Re/Max, 717-4321	Low-Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday and Monday	Lots of parking in big mall lot The place for a Quick Lunch and a Cozy Dinner Breezy terrace with airco inside
Caribbean Club Bonaire On the Tourist Road, 2 mi. north of Town 717-7901	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Quiet country setting, lovely landscaping, friendly staff Happy Hour from 5-7 pm Gourmet chef creates unique daily specials
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar 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 highest standard of cuisine.
Crocantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes. 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.
Garden Café Kaya Grandi 59 717-3410	Moderate Monday-Friday, Lunch & Dinner Saturday, Dinner. Closed Sunday	Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties. Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and Latin Parilla
The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open 7 days	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Cuban Chef prepares Caribbean cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 am to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
The Last Bite Bakery 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 gourmet class items -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The Lost Penguin 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 Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! 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

APPLIANCES/ TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances. Fast service and in-store financing too.

BANKS

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.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

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

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.

Yellow Submarine—low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.

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.

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.

The Great Escape

Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, restaurant and bar.

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. 717-2345

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.

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient.

FedEx agent.

SPA—DAY SPA

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. 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*.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

Born on Bonaire....

Sister Magda Aura Crestian

“**H**elping people- that was something we grew up with. Our parents set an example, and from when we were very young we learned to share what we had with others. As I got older the idea became stronger that I wanted to help children who had less than we had, but I didn’t know how. I needed a group or an official body to realize my plans.

After I’d finished elementary school in Rincon, I went to Curaçao, to the St. Martinus Gesticht, a boarding school which belonged to the Congregation Sisters Franciscans from Rooszendaal. I saw the work the nuns were doing in the schools in the poorer districts in Curaçao and I thought, ‘That could be something for me. If I enter the convent I can accomplish what I want to do. I went to Holland to study to become a teacher at a domestic science school. While I was there I went to visit the sisters at the convent in Rooszendaal. We talked it over thoroughly, and they accepted me. It was 1959. I was the first and only one in the family to enter a convent.

Before I went to Holland I’d told my parents that I wanted to become a nun. My father had always said, ‘Your happiness comes first,’ but my mother was devastated because in those days the rules of the church were that once you enter the convent you would never be allowed to go home. I told my mom I would be back, but she didn’t believe me. Before I left I spoke to the bishop of the Antilles to tell him about my plans and ask if he could please speak with my mother. He did, and once I was in Holland we kept corresponding, and he would write me how my mom was doing. Of course I also wrote my mom, but she never answered.”

Sister Magda (68) - Aura Crestian - is a remarkable person; a vivacious spirit and a fast thinker, young at heart, very bright and with a great knowledge of human nature. She’s a tiny little woman, but once she starts talking, all her smiles and gestures, she unfolds a sturdy personality, solid, passionate and devoted when it comes to her work. Born in Rincon, she is one of the 11 children of Cornelis ‘Nechi’ Cristian and Maria Molina, who were hard working and successful self-made people devoted to their family and the Bonairean community. “When I left Bonaire, my mother wasn’t the only one who was heartbroken. All my brothers and sisters were very, very sad. One of my brothers, Diego, cried like a child and said, ‘I will never see my sister again and when I die, you won’t be there at my funeral.’ His wife was pregnant and he told me, ‘If it’s going to be a girl, I’ll call her Aura,’ and so it happened.

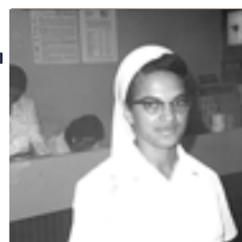
Well, I stayed in Holland for nine years. After eight years I got a Christmas card from my mother, printed in English with just her signature. It was a treasure and I kept it all my life. After that I didn’t hear from her again. One day, when I was still a novice, a priest came from Chile to tell us about the work he was doing there and how he wanted to build a school for the poor children in Santiago. He was looking for sisters who wanted to join him. I immediately thought, this is something for me! The mother superior at the time told me, ‘When you have taken your vows, you may study Spanish to go to Chile.’ But after I’d become a nun, a new mother superior was chosen, and she said, ‘You can’t go to Chile because they need you as the head of the domestic science school in Curaçao.’ I accepted because I’d taken the vow of obedience, but I kept on working very hard to get the money together for the school in Chile.

“We’re talking about people who are very poor..... no running water, no electricity...no roads. But these people might be poor material wise, but from the inside they are rich. There’s so much you can learn from them, to begin with, patience and solidarity. They share everything.”

I went to Curaçao in 1966. The first person I saw when I got off the plane was my mother! And the first thing she said was, ‘When are you coming home?’ She was a headstrong woman! Mother superior invited her to the convent to talk about the matter because I was still not allowed to go; however, the outcome of the conversation was... I could go to Bonaire – for one night! It was raining cats and dogs when I arrived. My father took me on a tour all over the island. The bishop passed by the house, and looking at the pouring rain he told my mom, ‘Bonaire has been blessed because your daughter came home!’ Then, finally, my mother accepted my decision. Over time the rules of the church changed and I could visit my parents regularly.

I stayed 10 years in Curaçao, then the same mother superior who had told me to go to Curaçao, came and asked me if I still wanted to go to Chile! I went in 1976 and I became the head of a high school with 1,800 students which belonged to our church in Santiago. I did that for 14 years. Then I went to the south, to the island of Chiloe, 18 hours traveling time from Santiago. There, in the little village of Dalcahue, where the people are really poor, we built a small convent and I lived there for eight years. As they couldn’t find a priest, the bishop named me responsible for the parish, so I did the Sunday service, weddings, baptizing and funerals and visited the sick. I did that for three years until they found a priest. Then I went back to teaching, but the people didn’t want to let go of me and said, ‘You know us; we want you to do our services!’ Once every two months I sail five hours by boat to islands that are even smaller, to a place called Metahue where we founded a mission post. We also take doctors, dentists and medical students because there is no medical care. We’re talking about people who are very poor. There’s no running water, no electricity and there are no roads. But these people might be poor material wise, but from the inside they are rich. There’s so much you can learn from them, to begin with, patience and solidarity. They share everything.

We talk about God, but they live God! If only we could have more sisters, we could live there! They don’t have to be nuns, I’m looking for women with a Catholic background, volunteers, who would like to come and help us for six months or longer. They have to pay their own passage. But food hardly costs anything, and housing is no problem. I lived on the main island till ’98, then I became Mother Superior of the congregation in Santiago and I had to go back, but now I chose to live in Dalcahue again. Life is so much nicer there! I’m still Mother Superior and so I’m traveling back and forth to Santiago at least once a month, but before I get there I visit a high school with 900 students we have in Chillan, 400 kilometers south of



Sister Magda 1967



Sister Magda 2005

Santiago. In total we have five schools, three from the congregation and two from the friars. I am the coordinator responsible of all those schools, in total 4,250 students. All schools are private; they belong to the congregation, but we get paid a fee for each child by the Chilean government.

My team is excellent. I’ve been very lucky with my choices. You can work as hard as you can, but you can’t do it alone, and you can’t be everywhere at the same time! Besides the teachers, we get help from many of our old students who have become professionals and who are now giving a couple of hours of their time every week to help these children.

In Chile I am the only Antillean sister; all the other ones are Chileans. But when I’m in Chile I feel I belong there, that I am from there and I’ve got my family there too as Sister Carmen’s family took me in as one of them.

Once a year I go to Holland for an annual meeting with the congregation and once every three years I have a two-month vacation which I always spend at home in Bonaire. When I’m here I feel I belong here. We are a very close-knit family and they call me for every little thing that’s going on. I’m the first one to hear the news, so I am still very much involved although I’m living far away from them. I am happy; I found what I was looking for and I did what I wanted to do: to take care of children who have less than we do and to make sure that they have the same chances as everyone else to make the best out of their lives.” □ *story and photo by Greta Kooistra*



Greta Kooistra

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

Security Plants

If you want to make sure no one is climbing over your walls, here are some options:

- The most well known is the good old **Bougainvillea** or **Trititaria**, especially the **B. spectabilis** types or the higher growing varieties which are the best. If they are pruned in the right way, they will be bushy and thick and full of spines or *picas*!
- Another good one, but not so well known, is the **Pandanus** or **Screwpine**. They get very thick tropical leaves and make a nice hedge. There are two good varieties full of spines, and their leaves are razor-sharp! The variegated type doesn't have spines, but it grows very nicely into a hedge. Be sure the plants have enough space as they can get very wide if you don't prune them.
- And the last one is also the nastiest: The **Reclinata datepalm** or **Phoenix reclinata**. This is a palm variety, but it grows as a bush with new ground sprouts all the time. Their thorns on the bottom of their long leaves are so sharp that you want to make sure you don't have to pass this hedge plant too often! But they are also really tropical, don't need a lot of water and don't get any diseases. I really like this plant.



Pandanus or Screwpine

So even though you want to plant a hedge for safety and security, they can be very nice.

Here is some advice for these types of plants.

- Always make sure that you have a view to the doors or windows. Don't close off your entire property because unexpected visitors can just enter your property and do whatever they want without being seen.
- Don't plant your new plants too close to a wall or fence because they should have some space and light to grow. At the beginning this will not be a problem, but most of the hedge plants do like light on every side.
- If you are building a house, during the early stages you can start planting a hedge because most of the time it will be far away from construction. You can save a lot of money by starting with small plants and letting them grow during the construction period. In this way, as soon as your new house is ready, you'll have a fully grown hedge with a lot of privacy.
- For those who can't wait, here is also good news. Most of the hedge plants can be bought in pretty big sizes, so you can have an instant hedge also.

Next time I will continue with some good tips on planting a hedge. □ *Ap van Eldik*

Ap van Eldik owns Green Label Landscaping which designs, constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. Two nurseries and a garden shop in Kralendijk carry terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410. NOW OPEN SATURDAYS, NON-STOP 9 TO 4.



Culinary Team Invites You to Dinner

Special Invitation

The Bonaire Culinary and Bartender Team invites you to a Tasting of their competition skills & masterpieces;
 Seating available May 25, 2005
 Place : Blue Moon Restaurant
 Time: 7 pm
 Donation is *only* NAf 50/pp
 Includes a 3-course meal plus samples of Competition Cocktails
 and, of course, wine (donated by the Bonaire Gift Shop)
 All proceeds go to the Bonaire Culinary Team
 call Laura at 717-8988 or 791-7252
 or Sara at 786-9299 for reservations □ *L.D.*

Super Training Session For Special Olympics Bonaire



Special Olympics Bonaire Bowling Team and Coaches

Last weekend Special Olympics Bonaire, together with sponsors and volunteers from Maduro & Curiel's Bank-Bonaire, organized a training session headed by MCB retiree, Gilbert Snijders. Mr Snijders, who flew from Curaçao courtesy of BonairExpress, is a prominent figure in the bowling world, being the President of COBOISCA (Bowling Confederation of the Caribbean Islands) and a Director of the WTBA AZ (World Tenpin Bowling Association American Zone). While the instructions did not take long, they produced immediate positive results. □ *Press release*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

How to Use Planet #4 to Find Planet #7 This Weekend

This weekend, Saturday and Sunday, the 14th and 15th and Monday the 16th you can use tiny planet #4 **Mars** to find planet #7 **Uranus** because Mars and Uranus will be huddling together for these three days, only one degree apart. But you'll have to get up with the chickens to see them.

This Saturday, May 14th around 4 am, face east where about 15 degrees above the horizon, which is about a fist and a half width holding your arm stretched out, you'll see a bright reddish orange light, our old friend tiny 4,000-mile-wide Mars, which is racing closer to us every day and which will be brighter than even the brightest stars in early November. And up to its left, little more than one degree away, which is about two full moon widths away, is the third largest planet 32,000-mile-wide, pale green Uranus, eight times the width of Mars.

But there is one catch. Unless you're in the Sky Park far away from lights under really dark skies you won't be able to see it with the naked eye. So how do you see Uranus? Simple. Get out a pair of binoculars or a small telescope. But don't be fooled by the star, **Lambda Aquarii**, which is also close to Mars and is brighter than Uranus. Now Mars is brighter than Uranus because it is only 120 million miles away from us this week whereas Uranus is almost 16 times farther away, almost 2 billion miles beyond.

In fact, Uranus is not generally considered to be one of the naked eye planets because for thousands of years it was so dim people thought it was just another star. Indeed it wasn't known to be a planet until Sir William Herschel discovered its true nature in 1781 when he saw its disk shape for the first time and which you can see in a small telescope.

But he didn't call it Uranus, he named it **Georgium Sidus**, George's star after George the Third of England, a monarch who was not terribly popular with the American colonists. Other European astronomers didn't much like British chauvinism so they renamed it Herschel after its discoverer. But finally a bunch of astronomers got together and decided that it should have a mythological name like the other planets. So it was named Uranus for the ancient pre-Zeus Greek god of the heavens and father of the Titans.

And we had no idea what it really looked like until we visited it with our **Voyager** spacecraft only 20 years ago in January 1986. When I was a kid, I was taught that Uranus has five moons, but we now know it has 27. And many of them have their names taken from Shakespeare and Alexander Pope. The two largest, **Titania** and **Oberon**, are from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," **Ariel** and **Miranda** from "The Tempest" and **Umbriel** from "The Rape of the Lock."

Now on Sunday morning, the 15th Mars and Uranus will be slightly closer and on Monday only a little bit farther apart. So if you're like most people and you've never seen the 7th planet live, get out your binoculars or a small telescope now because now is your chance! □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
May 13 to May 20, 2005
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Invite friends over. Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. Don't argue with family. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Red tape could be impossible to clear up this week. Your knowledge and good sense will help more than you think. Alienation may be the result of a misunderstanding. You are best to avoid joint ventures, and whatever you do, don't lend to friends or relatives. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Look into physical activities that will help get rid of some of that tension you may be feeling. Accept the inevitable. Travel opportunities look positive, but be cautious while driving. You will be moody and react poorly to issues concerning your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your partner could also use some time alone with you. Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. Listen to the problems of others and offer suggestions where possible. You could find yourself caught in a one sided relationship. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Focus your efforts on details, and keep to yourself in order to finish your work. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. Property investments should payoff. Try to include friends and relatives in your activities. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Deal with in-laws this week. Acknowledge your lover's needs. Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes. Passion will be your only answer. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. Much can be accomplished if you compromise. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Be careful not to take on other people's problems. You may find yourself in a financial bind. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You need to do something energetic and different. Use your innovative mind to surprise youngsters. You can make amends by taking them somewhere special. Rather than making a scene, communicate quietly about the way you feel. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. Channel your efforts into achieving your goals. This could be a difficult time to deal with coworkers. You will be ready to jump on anyone who gets in the way of your progress this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Take action. Balance is required if you want stability. A need to be in love may fool you. Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will inspire confidence in others. Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy don't make for a favorable time. Join groups of a humanitarian nature. You will have additional discipline that will aid you in your objectives. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Don't confide in anyone for the time being. Be discreet and don't present your ideas until you're certain that they're foolproof. When the work is done, they may serve you for a change. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. □