

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

January 27 to February 3, 2006 *Volume 13, Issue 5*

The REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: reporter@bonairenews.com • 717-8988 | **SINCE 1994**



**Governor's New Year
Party in Rincon**

In Flotsam, page 7

Flotsam and Jetsam



W eekly NON-STOP DIRECT FLIGHTS from Ft. Lauderdale (FLL), Florida, to Bonaire will begin Saturday, February 18. Reservations will be accepted starting Wednesday, January 25. Check the website <http://www.bonairedirect.com/> for more information as it becomes available. As we go to press information about the flights is being published. Some fares are: \$399 plus \$25 departure tax, round trip special for the first two flights (book before 4 February 2006.) The first flight to FLL is only \$99 one way BON-FLL including an in-flight meal, free non-alcoholic beverage service, alcoholic beverages at additional cost. Flight times soon to be available. More details at website: <http://www.bonairedirect.com/> or email: info@bonairedirect.com; phone # US: 1-866-DIVE BON in Bonaire: 599-717-8558

Flights will use Caribbean Sun



Flight's modern Boeing 737s. CSF planes have 3x3 seating in one class. The airline is known for its charters from NY to Florida destinations. Ft. Lauderdale is a terrific location for use as a hub to Bonaire. Several transnational discount airlines like Jet Blue,

Spirit and Southwest fly to most US cities from Ft. Lauderdale. The realization of the flight connection is mainly due to the perseverance of Liz Ginocchio, of Golden Reef Inn, and her associates. Liz was voted Person of the Year by BONHATA (see item further on in Flotsam and Jetsam).

► **Peruvian authorities suspended operations of the state-owned airline, TANS Peru**, last week after a series of serious events that have put safety in danger, an official said Saturday. On August 23, a TANS flight crashed in the jungle city of Pucallpa, 305 miles northeast of the capital, Lima. That was followed by an incident a month and a half ago when a TANS plane had an emergency in Cuzco. It lost an engine. There are many Peruvians working in Bonaire, especially in the building trades.

► Starting on Thursday, 6 pm, the eve of the Parliamentary elections of January 27, **a ban lasting until 6 am Saturday, January 28, will be placed on the sale of alcoholic beverages.** Bars selling only alcohol will be closed; restaurants may stay open but not serve alcohol. However, as an exception, alcoholic beverages may be served to tourists, but only in their hotel rooms, and to passengers leaving the island via boat or plane, but only on presentation of a



boarding pass. Orphaline Saleh, President, Bonaire Banker's Association, reports that in connection with upcoming elections, the local banks will be open from 8 am to 12 noon on Friday, January 27th, and closed in the afternoon.

► Last week The Bank of the Netherlands Antilles **announced that the 100-guilder and 50-guilder 2003 series counterfeit bills that**



were discovered in circulation are of inferior quality. They say that in daylight one can clearly tell the real ones from the counterfeit ones. The golden foil has been glued to the counterfeit bill and it has also a brighter golden sheen. The counterfeit bills do not have the black wavy pattern that normally runs over the golden foil. Another difference with the real bills is that the counterfeit ones do not have the shadow watermark. Real bank notes have the following authenticity marks:

- They contain a shadow watermark, the logo of the Central Bank, which can be seen by holding the bill against the light. The watermark can also be checked by putting a piece of thin paper over the watermark and color the area with a soft pencil. This should trace the outline of the watermark. If it doesn't, it means that the bill is counterfeit.
- The characters N and A on a real bill should accurately line up.

- A tactile layer of ink is put on several places on the front side of a real bill.
- Tiny black fiber is inserted in the paper of a real bill. Some are plainly visible and some are only visible under ultra-violet light.

The police arrested two men for using counterfeit 100-guilder bills to pay for drinks and last week somebody tried to cash four bills at a local bank.

► **Government health insurance rules were changed with the New Year.** The maximum gross monthly salary to qualify for health coverage from the Social Insurance Bank (SVB) was increased to NAf4.036,50 effective January 1. The weekly limit is NAf931,50, up from NAf900.90. The accident insurance premium is between 0.5 and 5%, depending on the risk category, to be paid solely by the employer. The health insurance premium for employees and their families is 12.5%, of which 8.3% is for the employer and 2.1% for both the worker and government. Bonaire has universal health insurance for its workers.

The old age pension (AOV) premium is 10%, of which 5.5% is for the employer and 4.5% for the worker. The general widow's and orphan's pension (AWW) has a 1% premium, of which employer and worker each pay half. This year the wage ceiling for AOV and AWW premiums has been set at NAf4.838/month.

The AOV pension maximum payout has also been adjusted to match the increased cost of living.

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Published **weekly**. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising in The Bonaire Reporter**, phone (599) 717-8988, 786-6518, fax 717-8988, E-mail to: **Reporter@bonairenews.com** **The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

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Production: Barbara Lockwood

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

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

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► **The Dutch armed forces are planning a large scale military exercise around Curaçao.** Air, sea and land forces will be involved. Sources inside the navy are talking about the biggest exercise ever held here. Reason for the size and location of the exercise is last year's increased tension between Venezuela and the US; the US has already confirmed that it will participate. France, Great Britain and Venezuela have been invited. The exercise will be called Caribbean Lion.

► The Antillean Foreign Relations Bureau (DBB) **warned travelers to Venezuela to take extra safety measures.**

These include not traveling with jewelry, electronics or large amounts of money and using only reliable taxis (either black Ford Explorers with yellow stickers or white taxis with yellow and black stripes on the side.)

After an overpass collapse on the freeway an old road in bad repair to the capital is being used instead. It takes about four hours to drive from the airport to the city over this unsafe highway, and from 9 pm to 5 am it is only open to heavy traffic. This means that if, due to delays, travelers arrive in Maiquetia airport after 6 pm they will have to postpone the drive to Caracas until the next day. The advice is to fly to Valencia and continue to Caracas from this city as domestic flights land at another airport.

► PDVSA, the Venezuelan nationalized oil company, is hoping to turn Venezuela into the country with the most crude oil reserves in the world, surpassing even Saudi Arabia. Over the last few years, the Venezuelan petroleum industry has been trying to increase its crude oil production since it is estimated that Venezuela's crude oil reserves could be greater than 77 billion barrels.

Asdrubal Chavez, PDVSA's internal director, announced that by 2012 PDVSA will have 58 tankers in its fleet. These tankers will carry 45% of the petroleum exported by Venezuela.

Asdrubal said that PDVSA will use its plants in Aruba, Bonaire, and Isla in Curaçao as distribution centers to distant markets such as China and India. These centers have deep-water terminals that are compatible with tankers that have the capacity of holding 2 million barrels of oil.

► **Still another search for the body of Natalee Holloway** was conducted again in the dunes near the lighthouse in Aruba. A large group of police officers searched the area for almost an entire morning, but nothing was found. Also last week Dr. Phil featured the case on his TV show for the third time. Pandering to US press, Aruba spokesperson Steve Cohen, at a press conference last week at Caribbean Marketplace, said Aruba is hoping to bring the three suspects in the Natalee Holloway disappearance case to justice by June of this year.

Cohen, who addressed the media together with Aruba's Tourism Minister

Edison Briesen, insisted that Aruba was not considering the suspects guilty before they were proven guilty. He said that with the case out of the way, Aruba would be able to focus on its US \$160 million investment in the tourism sector.

Cohen said the case was far from closed. "Fifty members of the Aruba police searched the dunes for forensic evidence that will allow us to bring a strong case against these boys."



► **As a solution to the ever increasing "donkey problem" in Rincon,** starting on February 1, the group, *Rincon Ban P'e Solushon* (Rincon, let's find a solution), together with the Plataforma Rincon will begin a roundup of the donkeys in the Rincon area, especially near the roads. They will be placed in the Donkeys Help Park run by Marina Melis near the airport temporarily, until a donkey park can be constructed in Rincon.

The "donkey problem" has been under discussion for the last 10 years due to the increasing number of accidents between cars and donkeys on the road, which culminated in a death of an auto passenger last year. For more information call Roosje Vinck cell. 568-5838.



► Coach and founder of the Amboina Dolphins Football (soccer) Teams, Ricardo "Cado" Alberto, reports that on February 24 there will be a radiothon in Wilhelmina Park from 6 pm to midnight for the Amboina Dolphins by Radio Digital, 91.1, to raise funds to send the teams to international competitions. Adding their enthusiastic energy and great music will be Glenn I Su Geng and the Foyan Boyz.

The Amboina Dolphin team has been a wonderful success story. Beginning with only a handful of kids it's grown



Coach and Amboina Dolphins founder Ricardo "Cado" Alberto

and given its young members a healthy outlet into sports and friendly competition.

On July 28 the "U-13" (12 to 13 years) team will compete with Colombia, Venezuela and Curacao in Valencia, Venezuela. On August 1 all the teams will be competing.

The kids can really use your help, both financially and with volunteers. If you can assist, call Ricardo Alberto at 785-3449.

► Congratulations to one of our favorite restaurants, **The Lost Penguin.** In a readers' survey by *All at Sea*, a Caribbean



yachting newspaper, **The Lost Pen-**

guin won the Number 4 position for the Best Cheeseburger in the Caribbean. They were beaten only by restaurants on the much more visited northern Caribbean islands. Try one at the Penguin yourself. They're open every day except Tuesday and Wednesday, from 8 am to 6 pm. The Penguin is across the street from the Maduro & Curiels Bank in Playa.

► The *Salba Nos Lora* (Save our Parrots) Foundation, Scouting Bonaire, STINAPA, and



DROB will hold the **annual counting of the endangered Lora this Saturday, January 28.** Dozens of volunteers will help count Loras all around the island early in the morning.

The Bonairean Lora is a parrot species that is found only on our island. This rare bird is threatened with extinction. According to last year's count, only 300 to 400 Loras were still living in the wild. A campaign to protect the Lora has been conducted for several years. "*Nos Lora ta nos orguyo, salb'e!*" (The Lora is our pride, save him) is the slogan of the campaign. It is not allowed to disrupt the nests, to catch Loras, to sell or kill Loras. There is a fine of NAf1.000 per Lora when this law is violated. All the birds in captivity in Bonaire, about 600, are registered. Counting Loras must be very unique and precise. The people who

Continued on page 5.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)

do the counting are spread all over the island where the Loras roost. From this roosting area, the volunteers count the birds that fly up. The counting takes place at a set time early in the morning. By everybody doing the counting at the exact same time, it prevents the birds being counted more than once. Roosting places are trees or rock faces where the Loras gather to spend the night. Last year the volunteers counted Loras at about 20 roosting places. As not all the roosting places are known, the result of the counting is less accurate. **The Salba Nos Lora foundation is asking the population of Bonaire to help identify roosting places by telling the foundation where they are; contact Salba Nos Lora (562-1000), STINAPA (717-8444) or DROB (717-8130).**

We are a sponsor of



(Continued on page 6)

OP ED PAGE—LETTERS & OPINIONS

ISSUES TO CONSIDER ON THE ROAD TOWARDS A NEW BONAIRE

Dear Editor:

Before long the Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist as a country and in her place two new "Lands" will emerge, to wit, Curaçao and St. Martin. The remaining islands will be swept together in a heap and become "Kingdom Islands," whatever this may imply. I know what it should imply: trustworthy administration, legal certainty and proper legislation. The latter is liable to some improvement for there are things grossly amiss with some of our laws and we hope that Minister Alexander Pechtold will pay the necessary attention to the problem so that they will not be continued in the new political constellation. (Mr. Pechtold is the present Dutch Minister of Overseas Territories).

Just as in the Netherlands, persons from 14 years of age are required to carry some identification. Failing to do so a fine of €50 is levied in the Netherlands. In our country it is a fine of NAf1.500, which is a month's income for many people or even more. If you cannot or do not pay this fine you will be jailed for 6 months. Should it happen to you again the fine will be NAf3.000 or you will go to jail for a year. This kind of punishment is outrageous; it should never be more than NAf50.

There is a law saying that when you submit a petition or a notice of objection to the government and you have not received an answer within a certain period

(six weeks or so) you may assume that your request or objection has not been honored (the procedure euphemistically being named "fictitious refusal"), and the same goes for your appeal, if you should have the courage to still lodge an appeal. The day on which this provision became law, the Netherlands Antilles ceased to be a constitutional state and from that day on the citizen is at the mercy of its civil servants. (I do not know how this worked out in practice).

In its place a law should be made that says that whoever submits a petition or notice of objection is entitled to an answer within a certain period (six weeks or so). Refusal must be substantiated and a failure to answer in time means that the request or objection has been granted.

Finally, the police are permitted to search the house of any citizen, even when there is not any suspicion of anything against him. It is even permitted when the inhabitant of the house is not at home. You come home, see that the place is a mess. Burglars! you think and call the police. Sorry, they say, it was only us. Again, we do not know how this works out in practice, but the fact that it is permitted may give us citizens the feeling of living in a police state instead of in a constitutional democracy.

There may be more defective legislation I do not know about, but for the time being Minister Pechtold has a lot of useful work ahead of him.

G.Vellinga

OPINION

Elections 2006

This Friday, January 27, voters on Bonaire will elect three members to Parliament. The Netherlands Antilles Parliament, sitting in Curaçao, is the legislative branch of the government for all five islands. It is an historic election, for it will be the last parliamentary poll for the Antillean country founded 51 years ago. If plans follow the present schedule, in 2007 the Antilles will no longer be governed centrally. Voters on four of the five islands, including Bonaire, opted for changes that preclude central administration. Bonaire chose by almost 2 to 1 to go for a direct link with Holland. The process of negotiation for that link is a major election issue.

If history repeats itself voters will elect each of Bonaire's major parties, the Patriots (UPB-green) and the Democrats (PDB-red), to one seat. The third seat is the one that will indicate the mood of the Bonaire electorate: the PDB's call for deliberation and preservation of Bonaire's "old ways" or the UPB's rush to union with Holland and the economic opportunities it promises. If you are a Dutch citizen and have lived in Bonaire long enough to qualify to vote, be sure to take the time to do so on Friday. Your vote makes a difference. G.D.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 5)

► **Jazz news**

-On February 12 there will be another **Jazz Brunch** at the **Den Laman** restaurant. Put that date on your calendar because you will also get details about the upcoming Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival. Check www.bonairejazz.com for the latest update. It already looks fine!

-On February 14 there will be another special **Jazz Event** at **Croc-cantino** restaurant. Invited are Konkie Halmeyer, a famous steel pan player and Uti Grigorio (his bass man) to play with local jazz musicians. Konkie will play Latin jazz and also some real Antillean works. Konkie Halmeyer is one of the featuring artists in the 2006 Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival.

► The Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) held its **annual award party** at the Plaza Resort last Saturday. The following were honored for their achievements in 2005: **BONHATA 2005 AWARDS**

RECIPIENTS

1. Person of the Year
Liz Ginocchio
2. Property of the Year (over 20 rooms or units)
Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino
3. Property of the Year (under 20 rooms or units)
Golden Reef Inn
4. Allied Member of the Year
Budget Rent A Car

5. Supervisor of the Year
Maria Winklaar - Budget Rent A Car
6. Employee of the Year
Sharon Richardson - Bonaire Air Services
7. Dive Operation of the Year
Photo Tours Divers/Yellow Submarine
8. Green Award
no selection
9. Good Samaritan Award
Jack Chalk
10. Excursion Operator of the Year
Bonaire Tours & Vacations
11. F & B Excellence Award
Rum Runners Restaurant

► **For divers seeking a great bargain: Carib Inn will be selling its rental regulators. These are Scubapro Mk 2 Plus with an R190 2nd stage.** All regulators are completely taken apart, thoroughly cleaned and all o-rings, filters and seats replaced with new. Price includes combo gauge, octopus and inflator hose. For information call 717-8819; 8 am to 5 pm.

► **Bonaire Windsurf Place is offering a Kids Windsurfing Camp next summer** for children ages 7 – 14 in three, one-week sessions from July 17 - August 3. Kids Camp includes four days, with four hours of training per day, a 6 pm BBQ-video night on Wednesday, T-shirt and certificate. The price is \$399 + 5% tax per person. To book contact Ann Phelan at ann@bonairewindsurfing.com or call Bonaire Pros at 800-748-8733.



Marisella Croes and Laraine Katzev

► **Rotary Club of Bonaire's first female acting President, Marisella Croes, hosted Registered Nurse and Nutritionist Laraine Katzev** to the Club to speak on Nutrition and Health. Proven analysis of statistics shows a direct link between what we eat and how we act. This is especially important in youth development and school problems with students. Facts are available upon request.

► **Youngsters from the Optimist and Sunfish Sailing clubs will be leaving Bonaire on the M/V Mermaid this Thursday, January 26, to participate in the Curaçao Regatta** in Spanish Water. Ten kids (ages 10 to 12) will sail the Optimists; seven (ages 13 to 18) will sail the Sunfish. Sipke Stapert, Bonaire's top Sunfish sailor, who's also been coaching the young sailors, will compete in the adult Sunfish category. There's a new class of boat, the "Splash," (a cross between an

Optimist and a Sunfish) which has become very popular, especially in Curaçao and two of Bonaire's young sailors will compete in that class.

► **Here's Charlton Thomas, the guy who's running Karnaval this year.** The effervescent and popular Charlton, who works for the Government, plans all of their special activities and occasions.



► As we go to press we received a copy of a letter sent by the Bonaire Nature Alliance



Sorobon Beach detail

(*Aliansa di Naturelesa*) to the Island Government expressing its concern about **four proposed projects which directly threaten the environment:**

- A container port at Karpata –Is directly adjacent to the Marine Reserve and threatening to marine life.
- A 120-room resort at Sorobon, Would be disastrous to the man-

(Continued on page 7)

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 6) groves.

- Filling in Salinja Vlijt across from Harbour Village would expose the corals on the west side of Bonaire to silting.
- Construction at “Chogogo” at the red salt pan. A planned residence and nightclub would be a threat to the flamingoes nesting nearby. The Nature Alliance encourages the government to curtail these plans and follow its own previously approved environmental guidelines.

► **COVER STORY :** *The Governor’s Annual New Years Party*

Every year the Governor of the island throws a New Year’s party and all the inhabitants of Bonaire are invited. Normally it’s at the Governor’s House, but starting with this year’s party it was decided to hold the event in a different barrio each year. Last Friday evening Governor Hubert Domacassé and his wife Lena hosted a festive gathering at the Centro di Bario in Rincon, and despite the threatening rain, a big crowd, mostly from Rincon, turned out. A few scenes from the evening are on our cover this week.



► *The Bonaire Reporter* wishes to correct a typographical error in its interview report with Parliamentary

coral shorts

(a bit of information about corals designed for Flotsam & Jetsam by naturalist Dee Scarr)



► A coral polyp (the living coral animal) is only three to four cell layers thick. To create a model of coral tissue against its own skeleton, take a wet tissue and drape it across a bare razor blade. Check out the maze coral above.

candidate, **Jopie Abraham**. The word **not** was inadvertently omitted. The corrected text, near the end of the article, should read: “.....and undoubtedly beneficial for the Dutch to have a territory with a Dutch judicial system in this area. Together with Holland we have to make sure that Bonaire will **NOT** have an economic growth like St. Martin and Aruba, but we have to take care that Bonaire will keep its own identity and that it will experience a steady balanced growth that’s not just the dive industry.” We sincerely apologize for any problems caused by our error. *G./L.D.*

Youth Tennis



All winners

The first round of the RBTT Youth Tennis Ranking for 2006 is complete. Around 50 children took part. After the official opening at the Harbour Village Tennis Center on Sunday prizes were awarded by RBTT Bonaire Manager Sherwin Pourier joined by Tennis Director, Elisabeth Vos.

Results for the end of the first round:

E-class: Yannick Finies beat Kendra Domacasse 10-6, 10-4

D-class: Sucarla Ellis beat Max Maartense 4-0

C2-class: Nigel Tromp beat Marjn van Erp 6-5

C1-class: Paola Valerio beat Samara Ellis 6-5

B-class: Arnd Chirino beat Philip Winkel 4-3;4-3

A-class: Gino Meeuwsen beat Paulo Allee 4-3;4-0

The second round will take place on February 11 and 12. The schedule for Saturday, February 11 is: A: 9 am / E: 9:30 am / B: 10:30 am / C1: 1 pm / C2: 2 pm / D: 5 pm. *Press Release Photo & Story*

Take the (Kite) Bus



Kiteboarders fly at sunset



The kite bus can be found at the end of the rainbow or at Atlantis Beach.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

| DATE | TIME | HEIGHT | COEF |
|------|-------|--------|------|
| 1-27 | 11:02 | 2.2FT. | 77 |
| 1-28 | 11:46 | 2.2FT. | 88 |
| 1-29 | 12:30 | 2.1FT. | 97 |
| 1-30 | 13:24 | 2.0FT. | 102 |
| 1-31 | 14:12 | 1.8FT. | 102 |
| 2-01 | 5:12 | 1.3FT. | 99 |
| 2-02 | 5:53 | 1.4FT. | 91 |
| 2-03 | 6:29 | 1.6FT. | 81 |

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Alter Ego | Flying Cloud, USA | Paranda |
| Angie | Freestyle | Pishi Porko |
| Annka | | Samba |
| Attitude | Galandriel | Sandpiper, USA |
| Augustin | Goril Two | Scintella |
| | Guaicamar I, Ven. | Sirius |
| Bacchinal | | Songster |
| Blue Moon | Honalee USA | Summer Breeze |
| Bright Sea | Il Songo | Sunny Side |
| | Kari Bella | Sovran |
| Camissa, Chan Is. | | Spart I vento |
| Carumba | Maggi | Sun Ra |
| Casa del Mar | Mahureva | Syjoli |
| Cape Kathryn | Marive | Sylvia K |
| Churumrel | Mia | |
| | Miss Astor | Ta B |
| Delphinus | Monja | Ti Amo |
| Destiny | | |
| | Natural Selection | Ulu Ulu, USA |
| Eagle's Wing | Okeanis | Unicorn, Norway |
| Eclipse | Okura | Varedhuni, Ger. |
| Endorphin | One Way Wind | Ya-T, BVI |
| Explorer | Orino | Yanti Paratzi |
| | | Zahi, Malta |

Kiteboarding Bonaire (www.kiteboardingbonaire.com) held a party and BBQ for friends and sponsors of the "Kite Bus" on Sunday, January 20th at Atlantis Beach.

Kiteboarding Bonaire sponsored this party in order to show off the recently renovated kite bus and its "billboards" which have recently been added to the bus. Roan Jaspars, the owner of Kiteboarding Bonaire, said "We wanted to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for helping us promote Kiteboarding on Bonaire."

Kiteboarding conditions were perfect throughout the day, and visitors had plenty of chances to see the types of jumps and tricks that kite boarders are known for. Kiteboarding Bonaire instructors Kent Kuné and Stephan Zaat showed off their tricks along with many of Bonaire's male and female

kiteboarders.

SGB teacher Jeroen Roevros made an amazing jump, remaining for over 12 seconds in the air, which is almost a world's record!

Kiteboarding is the world's fastest growing water sport. Watching the kiteboarders flip and fly can make sitting on the beach very entertaining. You can find Kite boarders at Atlantis Beach almost every day when there is wind.

For more information about Kiteboarding Bonaire or to arrange a lesson call 786-6138 or e-mail roan@kiteboardingbonaire.com.

Press release photos & story

Bonaire's Own TV Reality Series

Wowo Riba Boneiru

(Eye on Bonaire)

Bonaire now has its own TV adventure series, *Wowo Riba Boneiru* (Eye On Bonaire). The first episode of the new program will be broadcast on Flamingo TV, Channel 11, in weekly half hour episodes starting next Monday, January 30th at 6:30 pm.



The show will focus on subjects that give local people as well as foreign residents a chance to share their dreams, activities and future.

The show is produced by Bonaire resident, Hendrik Wuyts, the founder of Scuba Vision and an award-winning film maker.

The first episode will feature the JI-WIRI pre-school and its principal Esmeralda Peters. Esmeralda has found a perfect balance between education and play for children between the ages of two and four years old. Her school has been caring for and preparing young children for further education for 21 years.

This program focuses on the views of the principal, teachers and parents involved with the Amboina school. It will show the children's daily activities such as singing, reading, painting and playing.

Other shows will highlight Bonaire culture, education, sports and environment. Already planned are the SGB High School exhibition at Artebon (now Kas di Arte), kiteboarding and more.

Hendrik Wuyts, the producer, remem-



bers the days on Bonaire when all business worked together to create a better social environment. Today this is fast disappearing. He suggests that this new TV show can be used to deliver inspirational messages from businesses, organizations, sports and other activities. If you are involved in something that would benefit from having a video EYE on you in a half-hour TV show, contact Wuyts. He's sending a call to everyone who can relate to the topic of the series and who are helping the people of the island to let him film their activity and produce a half hour TV program about it. Depending on the subject and their business this service is offered free.



The program is still in need of sponsors. All who agree with his vision are invited to contact him. The show will start on January 30 and continue each Monday evening for the month of February. *Wowo Riba Boneiru* can be seen on TV 11. For more information call Hendrik Wuyts at 717-2844 or 786-2844, e-mail : info@scubavision.info

Press Release photos & story

A visit to UniCollege Bonaire:

The Story of Brida Manuel



UniCollege students experiencing loss of vision

Last Monday, the 16th of January, the students of UniCollege Bonaire were visited by Mrs. Elka Coffi and Mrs. Brida Manuel. This visit was part of the current theme the students are studying, Perception (*Waarnemen in Dutch*), one of the human senses. Mrs. Elka Coffi is the head of the Foundation for the Blind on Bonaire (in Papiamentu *Fundashon Boneriano pa Siegonan*). Mrs. Brida Manuel is visually handicapped. She was on hand to tell the students what it's like to live with the handicap.

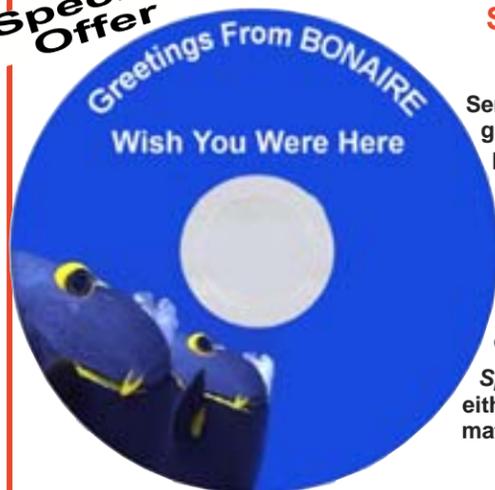
The students wrote to *The Reporter*:

"We had to prepare ourselves by doing many exercises. Some consisted of simulating blindness, so that we could have an idea of what it is like to be blind. We also had to draw out blueprints of the school in which we had to indicate the places where it would be difficult for the blind people to get around. At the end of this subject we have to write a report for Inge (our teacher), and give her answer to the question; 'Can blind students attend UniCollege Bonaire?'"

Mrs. Elka Coffi told the UniCollege students about the foundation for the blind that was established in 1975. She also told about the different activities this foundation organizes. For these activities, the clients are picked up with the foundation's bus every Wednesday to gather in the 'Kai' Mimina' Center. The gatherings are in 'Kai' Mimina', because unfortunately, the foundation doesn't have its own building yet.

Mrs. Brida Manuel discussed about her visual handicap, the causes and the consequences. The students explained, 'We really liked that she, in spite of her visual handicap, can still do many things, like art, a little house keeping and even working with the computer. She also likes to dance, sing and act. Mrs. Brida is a very optimistic person, at the end of her visit she told us that she would advise all of the blind and the visually handicapped people of Bonaire to not isolate themselves, but just enjoy life the way it is! You can do more than you think.' The students appreciated the visit of Mrs. Coffi and Mrs. Manuel. It helped them in their studies of the senses." *Derek Aranguren, Rocca Chin-On, Danny Gerharts and Jeff Marshall*

Special Offer



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E-mail: INFO@SCUBAVISION.INFO

Only 8 days before the Special Olympics Walk-A-Thon

Sunday, February 5.



You can walk in a group

The Fourth Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon will be on Sunday, February 5. No matter who you are you're welcome to join the groups and individuals who will be walking, biking, roller blade-ing, whatever, from the Slave Huts to the Pasa Dia in Rincon. "No matter whether it be rain or shine, the Walk-a-Thon will go on," says Special Olympics Bonaire National Director Roosje v.d.Hoek.

Groups are forming to do the walk together. People from Selibon, North Saliña, Ennia and even groups from Curaçao will be adding their energies. There will be a group from Special Olympics Bonaire as well as Special Olympics Aruba, which has been coming for the last two years. As well, a seven-person walking group from Curaçao and Bonaire's Kunuku Bieu will be joining the crowd. **And even if you don't want to make the trek yourself you can be a sponsor of one of the groups or just buy a ticket and watch from the sidelines.**

Tickets are only NAf25 and it all goes to a good cause, sending our Special Olympic athletes to compete in international games.

"How To" for Participants

Everyone meets at the Slave Huts in the southern part of the island at 5 am, where the 30-kilometer walk begins. You may leave your car at the Stadium in Playa and take the FKPD bus which leaves at **4:30 am Sharp** to take you to the Slave

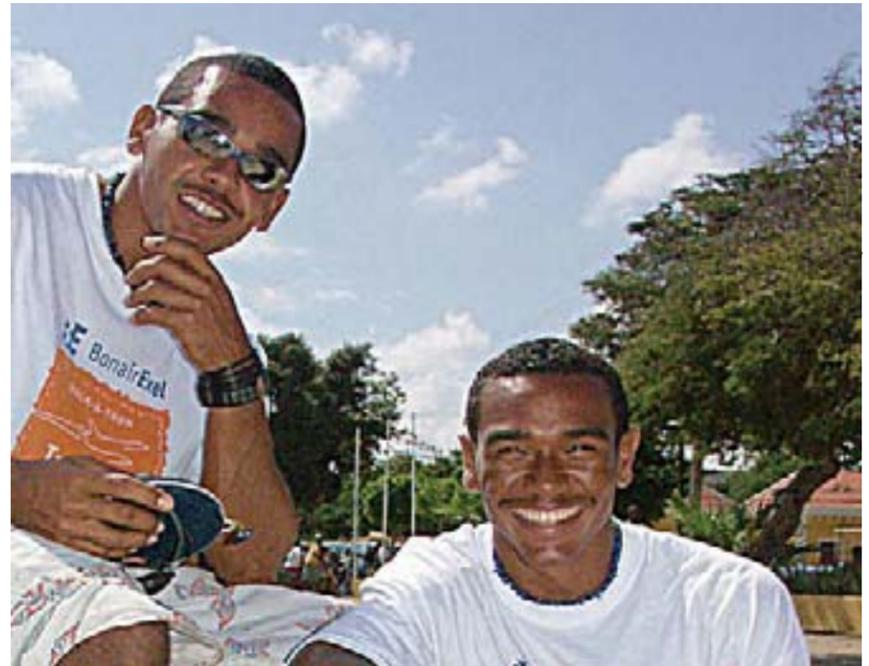
Huts starting area. It's a wonderfully quiet time before sunrise as you traverse the coastline. Birds will begin to awaken and you'll witness the sunrise. At the end, you'll be able to get a ride back to your car from the Pasa Dia in Rincon. Those who did the trip on bikes can get their

bike transported back to the Stadium. Along the route there will be refreshment stops every five kilometers where you'll be offered water, Gatorade, oranges and plenty of encouragement. The Red Cross will be on the road to make sure everyone is okay, and pick up trucks will be patrolling to give a lift to the tired ones. At the Pasa Dia you'll get a certificate and a delicious hot meal and drink and time to re-hash the day.

For your NAf25 you get: a free Walk-a-Thon Tee shirt, canvas carrying bag,

Get Your Ticket Now- Only NAf25

Includes a T-shirt, canvas carrying bag, water bottle and a meal at the end



Tonky and Taty walked. You should too

water bottle and a hot meal at the end.

Get your tickets at TCB (717-8322), Croccantino Restaurant (717-5025), Chat 'n' Browse, Obersi Electronics, (Xerox), Bowling di Danilo or from any Special Olympics board member (see list on this page). Or email

info@specialolympicsbonaire.org.

Present your ticket and pick up your gift bag at City Café/Hotel Rocheline in the lobby on Friday, February 3 from 4 to 7 pm, or Saturday, February 4 from 10 am to 4 pm. See you there!
L.D.

Some Recommendations From the Pros Who've Done It

Don't wear new shoes. Make sure yours are broken in already. For long distance running or walking you should wear shoes a half to one size larger than you normally wear. Put baby powder on your feet. Then put Vaseline on your toes where you might have chafing. Bring along flip flops to change into if you can no longer wear your shoes.



National Director - Roosje v.d.Hoek
President - Lupe Uranie
Treasurer/Secy - Claire Sealy
Director, Special Events - Onnie Emerenciana
Head of Coaches - Chio Semeleer
Public Relations - Rooje v.d. Hoek
Board Members: Michael Gaynor, Aura Kock, Brenda Tjie Tjoe

Generous Sponsors 2006:

Title sponsor - Maduro Curiel's Bank Bonaire Also, Ennia Insurance, J. C. Herrera, Flamingo Communications, City Café/Hotel Rocheline, The Bonaire Reporter, Dutch Antillean Express (DAE), ReMax Real Estate

More Walk-A-Thon



Rudsel and Bòi walked. Will you?

Can't Do The Route? You Can Still Help...

Good news for those readers who would like to support the Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon with a donation of NAf25 (or more) but cannot possibly join the event on February 5, due to its being a rather physically demanding event.

One of our contributors, the mysterious "Islander," who published in *The Reporter* some 45 of his gripping island stories, has compiled these stories into a handsomely printed and produced book in a limited private edition, under the title, "*Samosir*." (Samosir is the name of the only island in the world, about the size of Bonaire, that is not mentioned on any of the world's maritime maps. The book explains why.)

"Islander" (a.k.a. Co de Konig) has donated 100 copies of "*Samosir*" to the

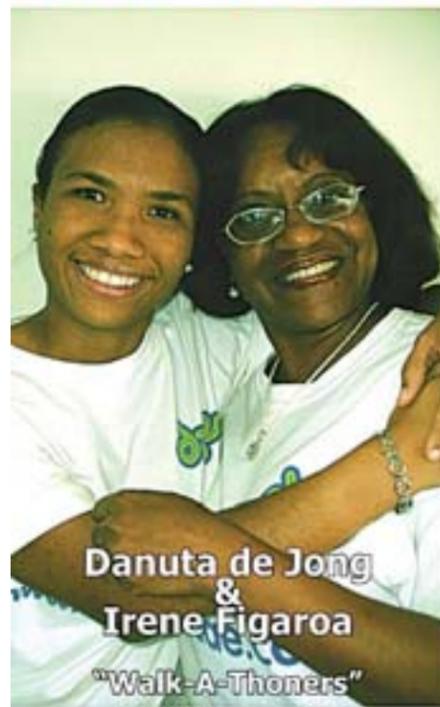


Bòi Antoin and Co de Konig



Special Olympics committee. Anyone making a donation of NAf25 (preferably more) will receive a free copy of the book, signed and numbered, at Croccantino Restaurant or Little Havana (during business hours). The donation may be made online by sending an e-mail to specialolympics@bonairenews.com. A copy of the book will be mailed to the donor. The 75 copies will be available straightaway to the first comers. The last 25 will be assigned by lottery should there be more than 100 donors interested in the Islander's stories. C.dK.

WALK-A-THON 2006



Danuta de Jong & Irene Figaroa "Walk-A-Thoners"

These two wonderful ladies have shown for two years in a row now that determination and a clear goal can get you wherever you want.

Danuta and Irene are not only colleagues but also very good friends. They decided in 2004 when BonairExel sponsored the Walk-A-Thon, that they would make their employer proud by walking the whole 30K.

It was a challenge, since the ladies haven't really trained for it. But they hung in there when it got tough, and believe that it did. Especially when it rained so hard that their sneakers got soaking wet and they had to walk on several blisters.

Last year they decided to walk the whole 30K again and made it almost crawling 😊 to Pasa Dia Karinjol!

But these ladies are tough and even though last year "We were like mummies the next day"; they are planning to walk this year the same!

Danuta and Irene are an inspiration to us because they decided to walk for a good cause and didn't give up until reaching their goal!

We're proud of you ladies!

Walk-A-Thon tickets are available through: all Special Olympics board members and coaches

Croccantino Restaurant
Chat & Browse
and T.C.B. office

Special Olympics
BONAIRE
DUTCH CARIBBEAN



4th Annual Walk-A-Thon Special Olympics Bonaire

Date: February 5, 2006
Place: White Slave Huts
Departure: 5:00 AM
Finish: FKPD in Rincon
Price: Naf. 25.= per person
(includes t-shirt, meal and some sponsor give aways)

**Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— They are still free
Got something to buy or sell?**

**REACH MORE READERS than any other WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
by advertising in THE BONAIRE REPORTER**

**Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):
FREE FREE FREE FREE**

**Commercial Ads only NAf0.70 per word, per week.
Free adds run for 2 weeks.
Call or fax 717-8988 or email ads@bonairereporter.com**

JANART GALLERY

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

BONAIRENET

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

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). **Phone: 786-0956**

Bonaire Images

Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lover's Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com

LUNCH TO GO

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

SALT TREASURES BONAIRE

100% natural body salts "Scrub Me"
100% natural Bath Salts available at Chat-n-Browse, KonTiki and Jewel of Bonaire or call 786-6416 for more information.

JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/

MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?

**Make it more livable from the start.
FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS**

Also interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive.
Call Donna at 785-9332.

For Sale

For Sale- 21" TV/VCR Quasar, TV works great, but not VCR. Call for more info. 100 naf 717-6862

SCUBAPRO Twin Jet fins extra large, used once. Listed at \$179-; Sacrifice \$90-
Leave message for B. Olla at 717-8738 for call back.

Digital Camera SONY DSC-W7 & Underwater Housing! Very fast, 7.2 Megapixel, 2,5"LCD display! **Call 780-9795**

For sale: waterski bindings for combo ski's. Size 38 to 46 (Eur.) New, Complete with mounting material. NAf 100/pair. **Tel. 786-5591**

For Sale: SEAT Ibiza Car, 1997, in very good condition!! CD-player, electrical opening roof, 140.000 km, NAf 8500,-
Great deal! **Call Justine 564-9577**

For Sale: Ultra Classic Yoga Mats. Color: Black Price: NAf60. **Call 786-6416**

LADA NIVA (jeep) for sale 1991-4X4 drive 1.6 Cyl. 95.000km NAf5.400 **717-2844 or 786-2844**

Wanted

The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a Partner

Join us to "Publish in Paradise." **Working partner** with journalism writing/editing skills, business sense and energy desired. Call *The Reporter* at 717-8988, 786-6518. Email qualifications to: search@bonairereporter.com



20-year old Belgian student looking for a job to live and work on Bonaire for about a year, or maybe longer. Preferably in the hospitality sector because I already have experience in that sector. dominickgeentjens@hotmail.com (0032)(3) 322-7636.

Help! **We are looking for a new home for our 1-year old 'Vledder'.** She's a very cute, half-sized, black, white and brown, loyal, loving and friendly Bonairean dog. She would like a nice owner who already has a dog, because she is used to having a playmate. **Please call 564-9577**

land 2009 M² Private property incl. building permission Tel.: 717 2023 Cell :785 0918

For Sale: Modern house Santa Barbara Visit : www.posada-bonaire.com Tel.: 717 2023 Cell : 785 0918

Spacious family home in Belnem for rent. 3 bedrooms (1 w/ airco, 2 w/ fans), 1 guestroom, Living, open kitchen, 2 porches, 2 bathrooms, big yard. Furnished, per March 1st. **Call 717-6907 or 565-5225.** 1 month deposit, 1 year contract, option to renew, rent NAf 1850 per month, (excl. water & electr.)

Boats for Sale



Why import a sail boat when you can own a fast Regatta winner built right here? Classic 21' Bonaire Sail Fishing boat recently refurbished is for sale for NAf14,000 (\$8,000)
Call George 786-6125/717-8988.

Property

PRIME CENTRAL OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT 87 M². (THREE SEPARATE OFFICES) EQUIPPED WITH AIR-CONDITION UNITS. MONTHLY RENTAL ONLY 1500. naf. For more information Vicky 7861592/ Fax 717 3324

For Sale : Washikemba Kunuku



Multi family Yard Sale, Saturday 28 January, 8am-2pm, Harbour Village Tennis Center

Anything to sell ? Call Elisabeth to reserve a spot for you: **565-5225.** Children's games, BBQ, bar, everybody welcome.

Balashi Beach Bar Opens at Divi

It's the newest attraction at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort – the Balashi Bar. Last Friday was its inaugural opening with live music from the Flamingo Rockers and a star-studded cast of attendees from top government officials to other movers and shakers from the island. The very casual and well stocked bar was the brainchild of the soon to be ex-Manager of Divi, Martin van Wijk.



Divi Interim Manager Martin van Wijk and new Divi Manager Sara Matera cut the ribbon



Balashi Beer is on draft, but they serve all kinds of other beers like Amstel Bright, Polar, Heineken and mixed drinks too. And they offer snacks. The Balashi Beach Bar is open every day from 8 am to 8 pm. L.D.

The crowd filled the pier



“The Balashi Boys” Theo Croes (l) and Albert Silie (r) with Divi General Manager Sara Matera, Tico from Extra and Interim Manager Martin van Wijk

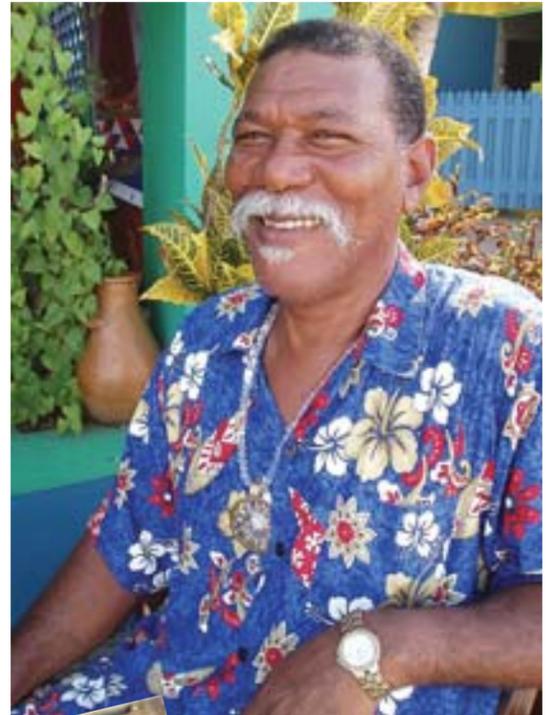
Erwin LaCruz – Artist in Residence

“He’s a man with life experiences and a gentle touch of spirituality,” says a good friend of artist Erwin LaCruz. “He has the power to create his own creations!”

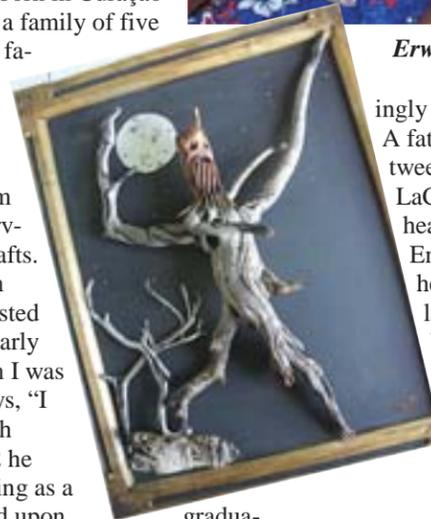
His creations come from being inspired by a piece of old wood, a rock, some coral. Gentle and soft spoken, Erwin explains his passion. “I get inspiration from a piece of wood. It stays in my garden until it tells me to make something from it.” Sometimes that “something” becomes an animal, a person. He continues, “When I want to do it, I do it. It’s a drive; something that pushes you. And I make the time for it.”

Erwin was born in Curaçao in 1943, into a family of five children. His father was always creating – painting, making furniture from stone and carving, doing crafts. Young Erwin wasn’t interested in art in his early days. “When I was a kid,” he says, “I was busy with goats.” At 12 he started studying as a machinist and upon graduation, began working for Shell Oil in Curaçao. That became his career - as an instrument technician for 33 years. After he retired from Shell he came to Bonaire in 1995 and began working for San Francisco Hospital in the Technical Maintenance Department for five years. That was his second retirement.

Fifteen years ago he felt the call to create. He started painting, then, inspired by the materials themselves and using his machinist skills, he started carving stones and cactus and other natural woods and polishing donkey bones. His sculptures tell a story - sometimes humorous, sometimes it’s a spiritual message, always it’s an emergence of a new creation out of a seem-



Erwin LaCruz



ingly simple item.

A father of seven children between the ages of 27 and 40, LaCruz is a Reiki Master and healer and a natural musician. Encouraged by many people he’s now selling some of his lamps and sculptures. Stop by and meet him at his home at Kaya Apura #1 in Tera Kora, Tel. 786-9521. L.D.

Picture Yourself In The Reporter

Here's Rudy Dovale with a *Bonaire Reporter* at the annual reunion of his old US Army 16th Cavalry Regiment. They fought for General George S. Patton's Third Army in World War II. This year the reunion was held in Ft. Knox, Kentucky, with the regiment's active soldiers. Here Rudy and his wife, Jackie, are pictured alongside an Abrams tank. They suggested that the regiment hold its next reunion in Bonaire.



Picture Yourself 2005 Prize Award



The winners of the 2005 "Picture Yourself" contest, Bonairean residents Andy and Lee Uhr receive their prize of a *Bonaire Reporter* "night on the town" from Reporter Editor Laura DeSalvo. The winning entry of an Indonesian royal cremation is at the right



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 2006 photos are eligible.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

King Kong
(Naomi Watts)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
The Chronicles Of Narnia

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)
Children under 12 - NAf12

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
CLOSED MONDAY TUESDAY
AND WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM
Chicken Little/ Zathura

THIS WEEK

Friday, January 27 – Elections – No alcoholic beverages served from Thursday, 6 pm, to Saturday, 6 am. Banks open 8 am to noon Friday, closed Friday afternoon.

Saturday, January 28 - Lora Count—see Flotsam & Jetsam for details

Saturday, January 28 – Bonaire Lions Club-Comcabon Run – Children: 1,5, 2, 4, 5 km. Men & Women – open category (5 km). Sign up 3:30 to 5 pm. Race starts 5:30 pm, at the Stadium. Info Ronald at 785-3902

Sunday, January 29 - Bonairean Night Buffet with typical Bonairean dishes, live kriollo music and folkloric dance performances. Come and enjoy authentic Bonairean dishes in a typical Bonairean atmosphere at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino- 6 to 9 p.m., NAf35, - including a welcome drink. Kids up to 12 years, pay their age in dollars. For reservations call 717 8285, ext. 444. (1st & last Sundays of the month)

Now through February 9 - Catherine Salisbury's underwater photo exhibit, "Magical Encounters" at Cinnamon Art Gallery, Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, off Kaya Grandi, behind Banco di Caribe.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon. See Schedule above.

COMING UP

Sunday, January 29th -Darts at City Cafe starting around 7.00.

Monday, January 30 -Seth Gaaikema One man Show- Plaza resort, 8:30 pm. Tickets NAf40

Sunday, February 5 – Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon. See pages 10 & 11

Sunday, February 5 - Opening of the Kas di Arte – Artist Ronald Verhoeven, 5 – 8 pm, Artistic and Cultural Formation, Kaya J.N.E. Craane 34 (boulevard).

Hours during the exhibition: Monday-Friday 10 am to noon, 2 to 5 pm.

Saturday, February 11 - Guest Artist Opening at Cinnamon Art Gallery; brightly colored fabric paintings and found wood-art by Brigitte Kley. Exhibit runs through March 23.

Sunday, February 12 – Jazz Brunch at Den Laman

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon. See Cruise Ship Schedule on this page.

REGULAR EVENTS

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
Saturday—Mountain Bike Ride— Everyone welcome. It's free. Bring a bike and your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel Angel Brito leads the pack. Telephone him at 785-0767 for more information.

Saturday -Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse, 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Great wines - NAf2,50 a glass.

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, 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.

Every Tuesday Night @ 6:30pm - BonaireTalker Dinner/Gathering at Gibi's, known for great local food. Call Gibi at 567-0655 for details, or visit www.BonaireTalk.com, and search for "Gibi."

Friday-Swim lessons for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sorobon from 1330 to 1630

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

Friday- 5-7 pm Social Event at JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7. Meet artist Janice Huckaby and Larry of Larry's Wildside Diving. New original paintings of Bonaire and diver stories of the East Coast every week

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday -Yoga Classes—Tel. 786-6416

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.

Daily - 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 Slides 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 Show at Captain Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm Call 717-8290 for info

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

Wednesday -Buddy Dive Cocktail

January & February 2006 Cruise Ship Schedule

| Date | Ship | PAX | Arrive | Depart | Pier |
|------------|--------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 31 JAN TUE | RIJNDAM | 1258 | 0900 | 18:00 | SOUTH |
| 07 FEB TUE | SEA PRINCESS | 1950 | 12:00 | 19:00 | SOUTH |
| 07 FEB TUE | AIDA VITA | 1260 | 13:00 | 20:00 | NORTH |
| 14 FEB TUE | RIJNDAM | 1258 | 09:00 | 18:00 | SOUTH |
| 20 FEB MON | SEA PRINCESS | 1950 | 12:00 | 19:00 | SOUTH |
| 21 FEB TUE | AIDA VITA | 1260 | 13:00 | 20:00 | SOUTH |
| 27 FEB MON | ARCADIA | 1550 | 08:00 | 18:00 | SOUTH |

Karnaval 2006 Schedule:

- Feb 4 - Carnival--Tumba Festival
- Feb 17 - Carnival--Youth Parade Rincon
- Feb 18 - Carnival--Youth Parade Playa (Kralendijk)
- Feb 25 - Carnival--Adult Parade Rincon
- Feb 26 - Carnival--Adult Parade Playa (Kralendijk)
- Feb 27 - Carnival--Farewell Youth Parade
- Feb 28 - Carnival--Farewell Adult Parade
- TBA - 5km Run, 8:00 am, Sponsor: PA & Associates

Video Show by Martin Cecilia pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Kriyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

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

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.

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 - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank. 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, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. 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 welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate

House', above Restaurant Zeezicht. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 7117
The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451;

Valrie@telbonet.an
Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery. 717-7103.

Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) -717-4303.

Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

Special Olympics - Contact Roosje 717-4685, 566-4685

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Send event info to:
The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

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. 538 | 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 |
| 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 | Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight! Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes with authentic ingredients. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too. |
| The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488 | Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Breakfast every day; Lunch, Dinner Tues-Sun. | Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Cuban cuisine. New kitchen. New cook 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 until 6 pm 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. 780-1111 | 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



| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>ART GALLERY Cinnamon Art Gallery non-profit gallery for local artists has continuous shows. Each month a new artist is featured. Stop by. Free entry.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BEAUTY PARLOR Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION APA Construction are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine) -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.</p> <p>WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.</p> <p>EXTERMINATOR Professional Pest Control is at your service. Get rid of all the pests that invade your home and garden. Experienced and reliable.</p> <p>FITNESS Bonfysio offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.</p> <p>Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.</p> <p>FURNITURE The Plantation Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Great Escape Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Nature Exploration Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapeling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 717-4555 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com</p> <p>PHOTO FINISHING Paradise Photo in the Galeries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . Now-full digital services.</p> <p>REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.</p> <p>Re/Max Paradise Homes: Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them for sale.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>REPAIRS Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345</p> | <p>RESORTS & ACTIVITIES Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.</p> <p>RETAIL Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.</p> <p>SECURITY Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.</p> <p>SHIPPING Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. FedEx agent.</p> <p>SUPERMARKETS Visit Warehouse Bonaire to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.</p> <p>VACATION CLUB Lower the cost of vacationing in Bonaire and other places. Visit Perfect Holiday Solutions to discover how you can get discounts and more.</p> <p>WATER TAXI Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the <i>Kantika di Amor</i> or <i>Skiffy</i>. Hotel pickup.</p> <p>WINDSURFING The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>YOGA Yoga For You. Join certified instructors Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.</p> <p>ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN: Put your ad in <i>The Bonaire Reporter</i>. Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518</p> |
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On the Island Since...

1995

Sipke Stapert and Dianir Stapert Rivas-Torres

“I’d been to the Antilles before because when I was one we moved from Holland to Curaçao; my father worked as a professional diver with the marines. We stayed for seven years and I grew up by the sea. Back in Holland I finished elementary school, went to VWO, then I had to make a choice what to study. I applied for eight different studies and was accepted by all and chose the sports academy. I went to Aruba as an intern; then in the service I did officer’s training. It was very interesting; nice detachments in Martinique, Belize, St. Martin and the States. I left my resumes on the islands. We had a great time and I got to explore the Caribbean a bit more.

The moment I left Aruba I was offered a three-year contract for SGB (high school) in Bonaire as a physical education teacher, but in my relationship at the time it wasn’t an option, so I went back to Holland. Later I got another offer from SGB, then I accepted. I knew Bonaire: everything was familiar; it was like coming home - the culture, the temperature and especially the smells - the smell of fish, of wet piers and the earth after it rained. When I smell something it’s like I get hit - it brings back memories very vividly. We arrived and two days later I started working.

Nine years ago - my previous relationship had ended - I met my future wife, Dianir Stapert Rivas-Torres, in Caracas’ Maiquetia Airport.” *They were married during Regatta last year, October 11, Dianir’s birthday as well as Sipke’s mother’s birthday.* “We sat in the same waiting area; we boarded the same plane; and we got seats next to each other - butterflies all over! For over a year we traveled back and forth all the time. I think Dianir came eight times to Bonaire and I traveled at least 14 times to Merida, where she lived with her parents, and I became part of her family.”

His face shines with happiness; he is very cute. Sipke Stapert (38) and his beautiful wife Dianir (40) make a wonderful couple. They are great artists and their work shows devotion and love, perfection and patience and a beautiful imagination, but also they have great knowledge; they’re true artisans.

“I was living with my parents,” *Dianir says*, “In South America if you’re not married you stay with your parents all their life. You only have one life and you have to enjoy your family. I had a workshop and was making ceramics, selling my pieces to shops and restaurants all over Venezuela.

When I met Sipke at the airport the first thing I noticed were his legs... he’s got

great legs! I have the habit of talking like a parrot - it’s always that way when I meet people - it makes me happy - and we started talking. So we exchanged phone numbers. When he gave me his I only saw four numbers. I thought, how ridiculous - this man with his four numbers - does he really believe I’ll go for that? I didn’t know Bonaire’s numbers had only four digits at that time!”

“The nicest thing was,” *Sipke says*, “when she came to Bonaire it was at night and she thought, seeing all the lights, ‘What a big island!’ So the next day we drove around and she asked, ‘When are we going to the city?’ Then I had to say, ‘This is the city!’” *Dianir makes a funny face.* “In Venezuela we spend hours and hours looking at leaves for the ceramic prints, getting inspiration from nature, and he taught my grandparents who live in a house 2,500 meters up in the Andes mountains to look at things differently. They would randomly kill all the insects they’d see, but Sipke would catch a beautiful grasshopper, put it in a jar and show it to my grandfather, and over the years my grandfather’s attitude changed. He still kills certain insects, but only when they come into the house. Now the whole family is into nature! I saw my four year old niece walking through the garden with solemn steps, her hands on her back, peering at a butterfly, and I asked her, ‘What are you doing?’ She answered, ‘I am looking!’ *She laughs.*

“We sat in the same waiting area; we boarded the same plane; and we got seats next to each other - butterflies all over!”

Also Sipke had to get used to certain things, like our Christmas Eve. Apparently in Holland it’s customary for Christmas dinner to be served at six o’clock sharp. The first Christmas Eve he spent with us we went to visit all our family members, and everyone offered traditional Christmas dishes. At the first relative’s he ate like a horse. Then we still had to visit all the others and have the official Christmas dinner at Midnight! It was a culture shock for him! We come from different countries and we are different, but... opposites attract! I am lazy; I am a chicken and I like to talk!”

“She’s funny,” *Sipke says*. “She can make very funny faces and we feel good together; we can be ourselves.” “He is a



Dianir and Sipke

non-materialistic man, he likes to live his life and he doesn’t want more and more,” *Dianir says pensively.* “He is a man with good feelings and he’s honest and he always treats me well, and until today he loves me and I love him.”

“In 1999 Dianir came to live here. November 17th that year we were in Puerto Rico where I was competing in a sailing event. Everything was closed and boarded up and everybody was waiting for Hurricane Lenny. We didn’t know that Bonaire got quite a bit of swell. I was working as a dive instructor for Sand Dollar and when a friend picked us up at the airport he said, ‘You don’t have a job anymore - the dive shop is gone!’ We immediately went to see; it was Midnight - he was right! Sand Dollar continued, working from containers, but it was a very strange homecoming.”

“I’d started slowly with ceramics,” *Dianir says.* “Not many people were doing it; the one I know is Marie Therese Verhoef, and her work is beautiful, she’s a real artist. At first I had to find out many things like where to get the materials and what would sell. Sipke photographed and positively identified 381 fish species from the 420 that are in the sea around the island. We made them in ceramic and I used them in wind chimes, but it turned out to be too much work for the amount of money. Now we put the hand painted ceramic fish in a driftwood frame and it’s more like a unique piece. When I came here Sipke started helping me out and it turned out he was talented and more artistic than I am. He can do anything with glass, with shells, with seeds, with wood and wood chips; we have the whole ‘east coast’ lying alongside the house. He’s also a perfectionist and that means it’s never good enough, but... we have to live too... I think in that sense I am better. I don’t think you

have to be rich to be happy, but I like the comfort of living in a clean house.”

“We also lived in the States for six months,” *Sipke says.* “I got a contract as a kayak instructor with the kayak center in Rhode Island where I gave sea kayak courses at a pretty high entry level. We took a lot of different courses there, like glass working, wood turning and silver metal working. Now I am back with SGB as a physical education teacher. I want to do a thousand things... like moving to New Zealand, picking up a study about nature conservation, wood turning...”

“I can’t move to New Zealand,” *Dianir says and her face turns sad.* “If I go there I would never see my family again. We’re saving to go and see it, but I can’t live that far from my family. I came here because I fell in love with Sipke. The island was so empty and I felt upset, but I’d always wanted to live in an open place as I come from the mountains, and the sea is so beautiful. Now I’ve gotten used to living here.”

“One of the nicest things was that last year the wind dropped quite a few times,” *Sipke says*, “and it let us make a kayak trip together around Klein Bonaire. Even though,” *he smiles*, “Dianir was taught by her parents that ‘when the water comes to your knees, it’s getting dangerous,’ she came with me. It was so beautiful; we saw turtles and a Portuguese Man of War with the fish that lives in it. The water was like glass. You could see everything. We stopped at ‘No Name’ and it rained with a rainbow. If you like open spaces it doesn’t get any better - I was so happy that day.” *Story and photo by Greta*



Dogs of Little Havana



Piek holding Meija

Featuring jazz riffs from John Coltrane and Miles Davis and complete with Caribbean views and breezes is an oasis for the street dogs of Kralendijk sponsored by Piek and her husband Anton. The Little Havana Jazz Club is no ordinary bar. It's got a funky, comfortable ambience that keeps bringing back regular customers and attracting new ones. And the dogs who frequent the club are a big part of that atmosphere. As I sit here watching the sunset once again, I am reminded of San Francisco Beat-poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti who wrote, "the dog trots freely in the street," as two of the regular Bonairean dogs sidle up for their "happy hour."

In business for one and a half years, Anton and Piek immediately welcomed abandoned and abused street dogs for a

"rest-stop" at Little Havana. As Piek remembers, "Instead of abuse in the streets, they came for food, security, affection, and a sense of belonging."



The missing Harry

The ever-present food and water bowls fit right in with the worn leather couch, the dual turntables playing classic jazz, and the retro 1950s Cuban Caribbean design. Perhaps a nice addition to the walls would be the popular, velvet kitsch painting of dogs drinking, smoking, and playing pool in a bar.

From the very first skinny dog Piek and Anton befriended, there has been a steady flow of canine visitors. And not only would Piek and Anton provide food and water but also veterinary care, collars, and names. Piek points out, "Give a name and they're not anonymous anymore." Two of

Pet of the Week

Meet Marlis Tiepel from Leiden, Holland, who's now working at the Bonaire Animal Shelter with Jurrie Mellema. An avid animal lover who always had dogs, Marlis was an anthropology major in college. Her working career was with the government in Holland in the economics department. She's been on the island for the last two years and when she heard from Michelle Pachaian that she'd be leaving her position at the Shelter, Marlis jumped at the chance to take the job. Why? "Because I took pity on the dogs running loose on the island and I think somebody has to take care of them! I really enjoy working with the dogs and cats, especially when they get adopted." Welcome, Marlis!



Marlis with "Judith"

Marlis is holding "Judith," who might be described as a long legged "beagle" type dog.

She was born last summer and was brought into the Shelter by her owner who moved to Curaçao. She's a very sweet and mellow pup and, as you can see, very cuddly too. She's had her vet exam, tests, shots and neutering and is ready to go to a loving and appreciative home.

The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. It's THE place to go for the healthiest, happiest, and most well adjusted and social pets on the island. L.D.

those dogs named by Piek have the kind of love story that often has a bar as a backdrop: Meija (Girlie) and Harry. Adopted and spayed by Piek, Meija has become the alpha female of the bar, hanging out there at night and visiting the restaurant next door in the afternoon. Another stray with short, stubby legs visited one day and fell in love with Meija. Dubbed Harry, this dog would not allow any other male dogs to get near his Meija. And when Harry lost his teeth, Piek began feeding him soft food so he could eat more easily. Sadly though, in the past few months Harry has disappeared, and Meija, Piek, and the regular dog-lover customers all miss him.

It's amazing how many of the customers of Little Havana greet the dogs warmly as if they were old friends. Piek tells the story of how one KLM

flight attendant even brought a special cream to treat a sore on one of the regular dogs. Fortunately the number of stray, abandoned dogs has decreased since Piek and Anton opened the doors of the bar, but now the word has gotten out to dogs with owners in the neighborhood who stop by "not for food but for companionship, maybe even the music," says Piek. At that moment, Meija jumped up on the leather couch for a snooze, secure in the company of the jazz-loving humans who surrounded her, and the mood was complete.

p.s. If anyone sees Harry, please send him "home;" Little Havana is just not the same without him. *Pauline E. Kayes*

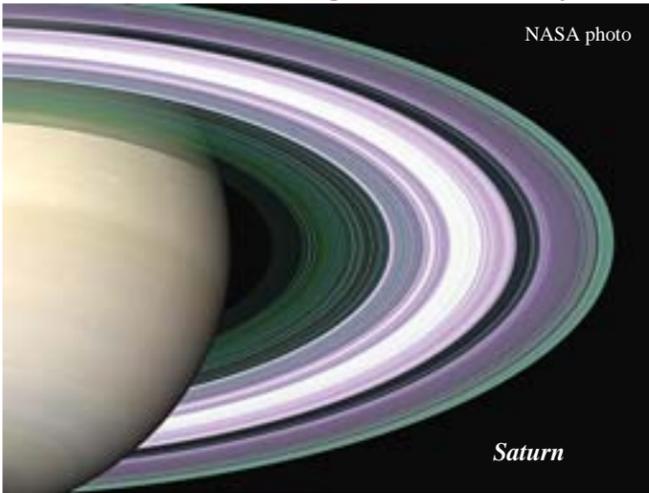


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Saturn at Its Closest, Biggest and Brightest for the Entire Year This Week!

The most beautiful planet in our solar system, planet #6, **Saturn**, is at **opposition** this week, which means it's at its closest, biggest and brightest for



NASA photo

Saturn

the entire year. So if you got a telescope for Christmas now is the time to get it out because even the smallest telescope will show Saturn at its best.

In the early evening this Friday January 27th face east when Saturn is officially at opposition. Opposition simply means that Saturn is directly opposite the **Sun** as seen from **Earth**. Whenever a planet is at opposition it is always at its brightest and closest to Earth. And if you think about it for a minute, if a planet is directly opposite the Sun then it should be visible in the sky all the hours the Sun is not, and indeed such is the case. In fact, this week, as the Sun sets in the west Saturn will rise in the east and slowly travel higher and higher until it reaches its highest point at Midnight, Bonaire Sky Park Time. After which it will slowly descend hour after hour and will set in the west just as the Sun rises in the east. But to see Saturn well I would suggest you wait a couple of hours after sunset until it's high up enough off the horizon to clear all trees and buildings.

Now while you're out there you'll notice that Saturn is surrounded by some of winter's brightest stars: the stars of **Orion**, plus the brightest star visible in the sky, **Sirius**, which marks the eye of Orion's dog. And directly above Saturn the two bright stars of **Gemini - Castor** and **Pollux**. This Friday the 27th when Saturn is at its closest, it will be only 755 million miles away, which is super close for Saturn because it can be as far away from us as 945 million miles.

Now we always hear that Saturn is the second largest planet, 75,000 miles wide, second to **Jupiter**, which is 88,000 miles wide. But that's true if you count only the body of Saturn. In fact if you count the distance from one edge of its ring system to the other you will find that it is 176,000 miles wide, exactly twice the diameter of Jupiter. That means we could fit two Jupiters side by side across the rings of Saturn. Wow! Saturn is wonderful but weird. In fact it is less dense than water. So theoretically if we could find a bathtub big enough, Saturn would actually float, and hopefully not leave a ring around the cosmos.

Through even the smallest telescope you can see Saturn's largest moon **Titan** which we visited last year and found to be covered with bizarre chemical lakes. It is the second largest moon in our solar system with only Jupiter's **Ganymede** topping it. In fact it is actually larger than the planet **Mercury**. Wow again!

So get out this week and next a couple of hours after it gets dark, look east and directly below the twins you'll see my favorite planet of them all, at least for viewing. (I'm not ready to pack my bags yet.) Enjoy the cosmic lord of the rings.

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: **January 22 to 28, 2006**

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Get involved in activities that will be fun for the whole family. Don't confide in anyone for the time being. You need to challenge yourself. You can dazzle members of the opposite sex with your quick wit and aggressive charm. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Take care of chores that have been hanging over your head. Don't hesitate to take short trips. You can meet new and exciting friends who will provide mental stimulation. They may cost you dearly. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Be professional, and you will advance much more quickly. You could overreact to emotional situations regarding your relationship. You will learn a great deal from people with different cultural backgrounds. Minor accidents could occur if you don't take precautions. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Lay your cards on the table regarding your personal direction. You should channel your efforts into getting rid of bad habits. Take time to do some writing, whether it's correspondence, poetry, or keeping a journal. Try not to hang out with coworkers if you wish to avoid problems later. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Put all your energy into moneymaking ventures. Difficulties with your mate may lead to isolation. Children could cost you more than you can afford. Your attitude could be up and down like a yo-yo. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You should be trying to clear up legal contracts that have been pending. Be careful not to show your temper when dealing with the boss. Proceed with caution if operating equipment or vehicles. Your tendency to dramatize may be a little much for your partner to take constantly. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Travel will also entice you. You may be uncertain about some of your coworkers and your boss. You will have splendid suggestions for fund raising events. You will have no trouble getting things to fall into place. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Make changes to your living quarters that will please the whole family. You may find that purchases or entertainment could be expensive. You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. Don't be afraid to lay your cards on the table. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Try not to let relatives or friends cause any friction with your mate. Hold on; your time will come. You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits. You've been in a rut and you need to do something that will help you break the pattern you've fallen into. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You'll be prone to tears if your mate is harsh with you this week. Put aside any decisions concerning your position at work. Confusion could result when communicating with others. You may be frazzled this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) A new relationship can be yours if you get out with friends. Expect your workload to be heavy. Social events will be rewarding. You'll have problems with authority figures if you don't play by the rules. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. You can get the attention of important individuals but it might not be the time to get them to help or to back your ideas. New love connections can be made through group associations. Don't let children or elders put demands on your time. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.