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BONAIRE

March 24 to April 7, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 13

# The REPORTER

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## Gold for Bonaire

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Channethon Jansen, Denny Calcano, Minosca Mercera, Team Capt. Miguel Saragoza,  
(front) Coach Vladimir Gijsbertha

# Flotsam and Jetsam

The new members of the Central Government will be sworn in on Sunday, March 26, at 11 am. Members of Parliament will take their oaths one hour earlier, at 10 am. All 15 candidates for minister or state secretary were approved by the Netherlands Antilles security service, VNA, after a vigorous screening process. The cabinet is officially named "Cabinet De Jongh-Elhage." Bonaire's representatives in the Cabinet are State Secretary Alex Rosaria; State Secretary Hubert Martis and Minister of Economic Affairs Burney Elhage.

► On March 15 a delegation consisting of Reginald (Jonchi) Dortalina, Hubert (Ibi) Martis, Robert (Robby) de Jongh, Anthony Nicolaas (all of the UPB, green party) and Reynold (Nolly) Oleana (of the PDB, red party) participated in the Island Summit in St. Maarten to prepare for the upcoming Round Table Conference. A government press release reported that the delegation was satisfied with the results.

The Dutch Government was informed by letter that bilateral talks with the individual islands of the Netherlands Antilles should not replace a political summit originally set for later this month.

Bonaire's Commissioner Reginald Dortalina said his delegation had come to the summit with the island's position, to assume direct relations with the Netherlands, in mind. He said

"nothing" would stand in the way of arranging a new relationship for Bonaire (with Holland) but expressed the hope that all islands would come to a consensus where it concerned new relations in the Kingdom.

► Prior to the Summit, Commissioner Dortalina and Senator Ramonito Booi met with government officials in The Hague to discuss Bonaire's quest for direct ties with the Netherlands. **Dortalina said Bonaire had already "worked out most of the points"** in meetings with Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, Finance Minister Gerrit Zalm, Minister of Kingdom Relations Alexander Pechtold and other government officials.

However, the Netherlands isn't making any final agreements and keeps sending Bonaire back to the Netherlands Antilles, explained Dortalina. "We don't want to be pinned down on which island we will cooperate with. They (*The Netherlands*) want to force us to work with Curaçao. We say no. We voted for direct relations with the Netherlands, not Curaçao or the Kingdom (territories)," he said.

► **"It was an historical mistake to see the Netherlands Antilles as one country. They are six different entities,"** Minister of Kingdom Affairs Alexander Pechtold said last Thursday. His remarks were made when he received a document entitled



Photo: St. Martin Herald

*Commissioners Reginald Dortalina of Bonaire (L), Sarah Wescot-Williams of St. Maarten and Prime Minister Etienne Ys (R) sign the final agreement at the end of the two-day Antillean summit in St. Maarten that defined the Antilles' position for the upcoming Round Table Conference to discuss the future state structure of the Dutch Kingdom. The summit sent a strong message to the Netherlands, lamenting that country's unilateral decision to postpone the Round Table Conference originally planned for March 28.*

"Government in Balance," which suggested a number of ideas for governmental reforms.

Pechtold rejected the document's suggestion to make the Netherlands Antilles a Dutch province. He said, "The islands' citizens expressed their preferences via a referendum. I believe that their will must be respected." Pechtold continued, "A forced situation would be created if the Netherlands Antilles would be brought under Dutch government. Should the social benefits be equivalent to those in the Netherlands this would create mass

immigration from the other Caribbean islands to the Netherlands Antilles."

► **Bonaire residents having savings in 24 EU countries will have to pay a tax** on those savings if a bill currently under review by the Antilles parliament is passed. It is a consequence of the Guidelines on Savings Balances of the European Union (EU) with which, as part of the Netherlands, the Antilles has to observe. All EU countries, with the exception of Bel-

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(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2)  
gium, Luxembourg and Austria, will automatically give the information to the Antillean Internal Revenue Service. The US is not involved in the treaty as yet.



**Dick, van der Stratten, Domacassé**  
press release photo

► **Jan van der Straaten, the former head of the police in Aruba, has officially started as the new Police Chief in Bonaire.** Seen here between Antillean Justice Minister David Dick (L) and Bonaire's Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé, he said the structure must change, because at the moment "six officers are needed for every officer on the street." It was reported that one of his plans is to assign a specific police officer to each of Bonaire's barrios. The officer will have good connections with the residents and build an awareness of the neighborhood's problems. If there's a crime situation in the area the officer will call on other members of the force to assist. A similar approach is in use in Aruba.

► **Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) is indicating that they will soon expand regional operations using a 107-passenger Fokker 100 aircraft.** They are running ads for personnel trained to fly those aircraft.

Beside the flights between the ABC islands and St. Maarten, flown with ATR 42s, DAE will use them to fly to Valencia and Caracas. The Fokker, a plush aircraft compared to ATRs, will be used to fly to Bogotá, Colombia; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Port of Spain, Trinidad; and Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

► **DAE's terms of employment are not as favorable** as compared to what the now defunct Antilles-owned airlines offered. According to a published report in the *Amigoe* newspaper from a former DCA pilot, DCA paid about NAf14,000 per month. DAE offers a monthly salary of NAf7,700. Monthly salaries of US\$10,000 per month for pilots are usual in the Middle East and other countries.

► The trial of former directors of Air Holland, Cees van Dormael and Paul Gruythuysen, has begun in Rotterdam, Holland. **They are suspected of laundering more than 10 million guilders in drug money** through their support for Air Holland. Air Holland offered budget flights between the Antilles for around \$250. The Prosecution alleges that the drug money that was put into the company came from a Surinamese cartel that dealt in XTC tablets and cocaine. Millions were invested, but Air Holland went bankrupt in 2004. Edward Heerenveen, who worked for Air Holland Travel and is now trying to set

up Insul Air to compete with DAE on inter-island routes, is not and never has been suspected of involvement in Air Holland's illegal activities.



► **MCB (Bonaire) issued a sunny financial report for the last year.** The MCB Group consists of 18 companies operating onshore and international businesses based in Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and the Netherlands. During 2005, after transfer to the Reserve for General Banking Risks, the MCB Group made a **profit of NAf76 million after taxes** in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, which represents an increase of 14.1% over 2004. Bonaire was up 16%. At the end of this year the bank will celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

► On Tuesday, last week, the US government warned Venezuela that it would **suspend Venezuelan flights to the US** if Caracas carries out a threat to ban or restrict US carriers flying to Venezuela. Ties are already strained between Washington and left-wing President Hugo Chavez over his alliance with Cuba and his opposition to US free-market proposals in South America. The Venezuelan restrictions would trim flights by American Airlines and completely halt operations by Continental Airlines and Delta Air Lines, should they take effect.



*New Venezuelan flag*

► Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced additional **changes to his nation's flag last week**, a reform critics rejected as a personal whim of the leftist leader. The new flag features an eighth star and a white horse on the coat of arms galloping to the left instead of the right.



► Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology have released a study linking an **increase in the strength of hurricanes around the world to a global increase in sea surface temperature.** The new study strengthens the connection between the

## over story **Bonaire Student Chefs Win**

A big congratulations to Bonaire's high school culinary team which won the **Gold Medal for "Best Overall" and "Best Dessert"** in the second annual Student Culinary Competition among the Dutch Antilles islands (St. Maarten



*St. Maarten Governor Franklyn Richards presents the top award to our Bonaire chef team.*

International Culinary Students Competition 2006). The VSBO level students, led by teacher Vernon Martijn, got top prize two years in a row!

Team Captain Miguel Saragoza described his team's winning menu: Appetizer—Snapper on the Rocks; Main Course—Heavenly Pork; Dessert—Bonaire Light-house. "It was tough," he continued, "because we not only had to bring ingredients like funchi, sea salt, cocolishi and fresh basil from Bonaire, but we had to search out other ingredients on St. Martin like rice, red cabbage and vanilla beans!"

Other team members are Minosca Mercera, Denny Calcaño, Channethon Jansen. Team coach was Vladimir Gijsbertha.

The "Best Appetizer" was won by St. Martin; "Best Appetizer" won by the Saba Team 1. Silver medals were won by the St. Martin Team. Saba Teams 1 and 2 won Bronze.

Next year's competition is set for March 2007 in Aruba. Bonaire will be sending three teams: two from VSBO and one from SBO (a higher level). *L.D.*

increase in hurricane intensity and the increase in tropical sea surface temperature. It found that while factors such as wind shear do affect the intensity of individual storms or storm seasons, they don't account for the global 35-year increase in the number of the most intense hurricanes. More details available at [www.scienceexpress.org](http://www.scienceexpress.org).

► According to the Antillean Weather Service the dry season usually starts in February. **But this year the rain is hanging on into March.** The Weather Service blames this on the arrival of 'La Niña' that causes the sea to be cooler. Many locations on the island have experienced brief heavy rains with wind this month.

► Want to look your best and learn about the latest in nail artistry? Then take part in the Nails Workshop coming up on Sunday, April 2, in the



**Meeting Room of Divi Flamingo Hotel. During the day you will learn about innovative systems for the application of gel and acrylic coatings.** The cost of NAf250 includes lunch and a "kit." For more information call Alda Dirks at 785-6378 or email [pontomedical@carib-online.net](mailto:pontomedical@carib-online.net).



► **Mix Bluegrass music and authentic French cuisine and what do you get?** A big crowd. Locals and visitors alike crammed the porch of **Bistro di Paris** last Wednesday to watch a visiting family, with our own Sign Studio owner, **Rhonda Kossman**, as lead singer, and listen to lots of our favorite songs. The band, informally named

*Continued on page 9*

*(Continued on page 9)*

# LETTERS

## RESPONSE TO LARAINA ABBY-KATZEV'S LETTER ON TOURIST TAXES (BONAIRE REPORTER MARCH 17-24)

Dear Editor:

I read your letter to the editor regarding tourist taxes and found it very interesting and a little disturbing. I doubt very much that any tourist can claim to be "traumatized" by tourist taxes, but if they are then they likely to require psychiatric care and not a break in taxes (ironically which taxes often fund). Taxes are an important source of income for any society, and the fact is that if you can afford to travel then you can afford to pay the taxes requested by the country you are traveling to. As a Canadian citizen and resident who falls into a



*Kaya van Pothole*

high tax bracket and forever owes and pays taxes, I am extremely familiar with paying high taxes. In my province there is a 15% tax on almost everything you buy and a 7% tax on professional services. You cannot even die without paying taxes. However, I am also very grateful for the services which our tax dollars fund, such as universal health care, many other social services and infrastructure development and maintenance. In my opinion taxes serve to at least attempt to level the playing field and allow everyone to enjoy a minimum standard of quality of life. After all, isn't quality of life a cornerstone in the foundation of our very existence? Bonaire offers tourists more than just heat, grumpy old Dutch folks and coral. Stepping off the plane in Bonaire is like stepping into another universe, so why shouldn't Bonaire request tourists to pay for the privilege of enjoying paradise?

It is obvious that making a decent living in Bonaire is difficult for many residents. The roads are potholed, there are signs everywhere for business space to rent and it is quite obvious that many of the people with money are not from Bonaire (including yourself). I apologize if my words are insulting, but only selfish people with financial resources whine and moan about taxes, because they are the ones who have the money to spend and be taxed in the first place.

I agree that the government should not gouge tourists or the wealthier residents and part-time residents, but there is nothing wrong with levying taxes on those who can afford it. If tourists do not want to pay the taxes then let them go and sponge off some other version of paradise, because they are likely too cheap to spend much money in Bonaire in the first place. There are tourists who are more than happy to pay taxes to ensure that the quality of life of the guardians and residents of Bonaire are maintained at a level which is similar to our own. The next time that you are driving down Kaya van Pothole and break an axle, remind yourself that you are the author of your own trauma and misfortune,

*Firdaus Chinoy*

## A BETTER WAY TO RAISE MONEY

Dear Editor:

There has been much talk and correspondence on the Bonairean Governments attempts to "extort" money from tourists in an attempt to balance the books. Rather than killing the goose that lays the golden eggs, the solution to generate more money lies on our own doorstep.

Literally thousands of people on the island are working illegally. Why? Because of the ridiculous bureaucracy that is involved for non Bonaireans to live and work here. A work permit application can take as long as three months. During that time, the Government is missing out on valuable taxes while a willing worker sits at home awaiting the outcome. Even after such a wait, it is not unusual for an application to be denied, not because of the applicant's unsuitability but because an "I" was not dotted or a "T" went uncrossed. To start your own business is even more of a circus. After putting together a business plan and putting it forward to DEZA, it is not unusual to have to wait between 6 and 12 months. Even then, it is still possible that the application will be rejected. Again, during this time the Government is missing out on taxes. A lot of people do not go beyond the enquiry stage; hence, more potential money slips through Bonaire's fingers.



On an island desperate for money, with so many companies desperate for reliable, willing and competent staff, and so many would-be investors desperate to plough money into Bonaire, why must the Government strangle progress. Rather than going cap in hand every year to the Netherlands like a modern day Oliver Twist, or, scaring away tourists by imposing extortionate taxes, maybe it is time to streamline the immigration and employment system.

I would say this to the Government. If you don't want foreign workers or investors, then tell us straight. Don't take our money and effort just to turn us away at the end. There are thousands and thousands of guilders to be had if the Government would let those who want to work, work.

*Name Withheld by request*

## Government to Switch to Hybrid Vehicles

In line with the coming restriction on motor vehicles the Bonaire Island Government has announced all its newly purchased vehicles will be powered by gas-electric hybrid engines. There are several models to choose from, made by Honda and Toyota, which already have dealerships on Bonaire. To get a glimpse of the new cars check out the parking lot in front of the police station at 10 am on Saturday, April 1.

The benefits of greater operational economy and reduced pollution will serve as a model, as does the Bonaire National Marine Park for ecologically-minded Caribbean islands. The new WEB plant at BOPEC (see last week's *Reporter*) has already factored in the extra power needed to charge the car's batteries. A fast-charging station will be installed in Rincon for drivers who might want to run on battery back to Kralendijk. The station will be open for private drivers as well.

The Commissioner of the Environment has said that while the hybrids are a step forward, he himself will employ a more traditional form of Bonaire transportation, the donkey. *G.D.*



*Hybrid cars on display*



*The Commissioner inspecting a maishi field*

## Drastic Environmental Measures on Bonaire

Last month the governments of Aruba and Curaçao started negotiations with the US oil company, Valero, and the Venezuelan State oil company, PDVSA, to close the refineries on those islands. On April 1, the Island Board of Bonaire will also take a far reaching decision to protect Bonaire's environment. They include:

1. The BOPEC facility, which has been an eyesore for everybody loving Bonaire for its natural beauty, will be demolished after a settlement with PDVSA.

The company's proposal to sell the gasoline to the island at a 40% discount will be unanimously rejected by the Island Board. (PDVSA currently, through its US subsidiary, CITGO, is selling oil to families on the east coast of the US at this same discount)

The planned new large hotel with a hotel school will be built on the BOPEC site. The present mooring facilities will be transformed into an urgently needed new large marina.

2. The WEB plant in Hato will also be demolished and replaced by a new facility providing water and electricity solely generated by wind and solar energy.

3. Following the example of Bermuda, another prominent tourist island, the number of cars will be drastically reduced by limiting car ownership to one car per family and by the elimination of car rental companies on the island. This will allow the existing fine public transportation system to be further improved by the introduction of rickshaws (small vehicles pulled by one man, successfully used in many countries of the world).

After removing environmentally damaging material, oil and fuel, the superfluous cars will be dumped in the sea along the coast in order to form artificial reefs. If one of those large ships transporting new cars approaches the island attempting to land unauthorized cars, it will be sunk by the Royal Dutch Navy if it refuses to turn away. This operation will be executed in the framework of naval exercises to improve the readiness of the navy to destroy any enemy vessel close to our coast. This is in conformity with the recent pronouncement of Dutch Defense Minister Henk Kamp in this matter. *Jiri Lausman*



*The BOPEC transfer facility, soon only a memory*

## Practical Night-Diving Advice

Not many divers seem to know that night diving is different from diving during the day. Except for the fact that it is dark (of course!), for which you need a good diving lamp that is not only strong but will provide a good beam for at least 45 minutes, you also need a small diving lamp as a reserve. This is a good safety rule.

And, what this article is really about is, proper weighting! For a night dive you need two or four pounds more lead than you usually dive with.

Why? It is all about the influence of the moon on the ocean. You all know that the tide is influenced by the position of and distance between the moon, the earth and the sun. As the distance between moon and earth is less at night, the gravitational pull under the water will change because of the upward pull of the moon.

Therefore, divers need more lead to get down. We are sure that many divers who read this will say: "Ah, now I

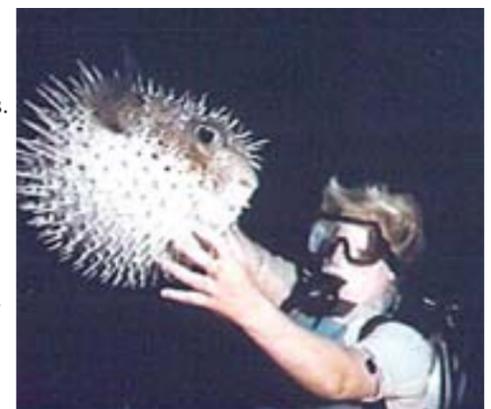


*Darkening the skin for a night dive eliminates annoying back-scatter from your dive light.*

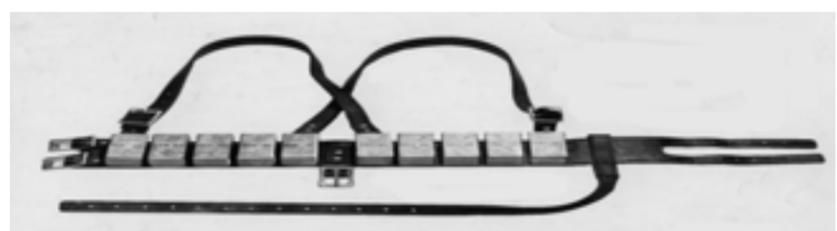
understand why those night dives are more difficult than daytime dives!"

Some more tips: before entering the water, talk to your buddy about signals. Some of them are different from those during the day: Making a circle with your lamp means 'OK'. Flashing it from the right to left and back in a stripe means 'not OK'. If you make hand signals, make them in the beam of the light! A free course in buoyancy control for night diving will be first offered at both Yellow Submarine and Carib Inn beginning on April 1, 2006.

Wishing you a beautiful night dive, and remember, the closer the moon, the more lead you need! *Ned W. and Renée*



*This overweighed night diver uses a handy puffer fish to help him ascend*



*the closer the moon, the more lead you need!*

## New Tax Collection System

In response to widespread criticism of the proposed new departure tax to be collected at the airport, the government is crafting a different scheme for meeting their two announced objectives: increasing tax revenues, while keeping to a minimum the work load required of the bureaucracy. The plan, effective on the first of April, will also put to use a well-tested Bonaire institution, the police roadblock.



According to the new system, whenever government coffers run low, the police will be instructed to set up random road blocks around the island. All motorists will be taxed on the spot, depending on the age of their vehicle, at the rates of NAf50 for older vehicles and NAf100 for newer models. The police will collect the money and hand over a preprinted receipt, on which they will write the tax payer's name and the date. Later, when people file their income tax returns or pay their property taxes, they can submit the receipts they accumulated during that year and get tax credits.

A government spokesperson (who asked not to be named) stated, "This will produce a big benefit for our tax payers. When the time comes to file, they will have already prepaid most of what they owe for the year." He went on to explain the plan. Although he admitted a few details have yet to be worked out, he said that solutions have been found to most of the anticipated problems.

"We are very concerned," he said, "about over collecting from some individuals who happen to get stopped too often, especially taxi and bus drivers. We are still determining what the upper limits will be for each category of vehicle, but whenever a motorist has collected receipts that exceed that limit, he will be able to go to the Ontvanger (Tax Collector), show his total receipts for the year, and get a cash refund for any payments over his limit."

"We have set the charge for tourists and other visitors to the island at NAf100 for each week, or partial week, they stay," he said. "When the police collect from tourists, they will give them a Claim for Repayment form along with their tax receipt. When visitors get home, all they have to do is complete and return the form, along with all the receipts they collected during their stay and, of course, legally notarized proof of how long they were on the island. Eventually their claims will get processed, and they will be mailed a refund for overpayments."

When asked what would happen if someone was stopped but did not have sufficient cash to pay the tax, the spokesperson said, "Oh, the usual

practice will be followed. The police will require them to leave their car at the roadblock. Later, when they have paid the tax at the Ontvanger, they can go to the police station with their receipt and reclaim their car keys."

"We really feel some creative thinking went into this plan," he continued. "The government will be able to raise large amounts of ready cash, quickly, while the burden placed on our bureaucracy will be minimal. The police will even be able to conduct their regular vehicle inspections while collecting the tax, so the inconveniences experienced by motorists will be minimal."

D.R.

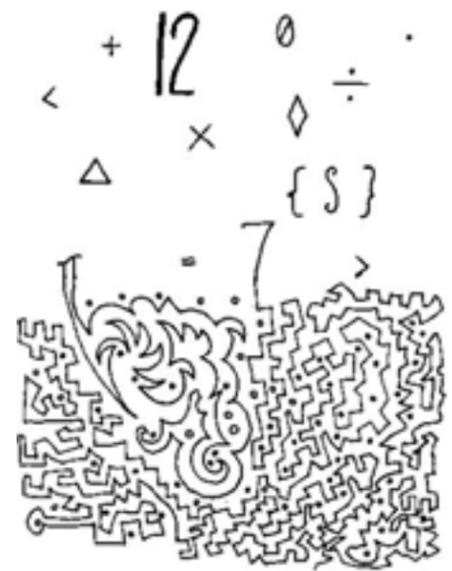
## Departure Tax Update

The new departure tax fee has now been narrowed down to two final ideas, one of which will be selected on April 1, 2016.

1). Anyone who arrives on an even numbered day will pay \$75 departure tax unless they were born on an odd numbered day of the year in a month that has an "R" in it. In that case, unless they are under 30 years old they will pay \$65 when accompanied by someone older that 47 years and they will then pay \$57.85 if the older person is paying the full \$75.

Those born on an even numbered day pay only \$50, unless pregnant, and they then will have to pay the full \$75 plus another \$75 unless accompanied by the responsible male. That male will pay 25% of the total \$150 plus the regular \$75 unless they fit one of the categories above. In that case they will pay \$55 plus another \$20 plus 5%. Children under 12 will not be allowed on Bonaire. Those over 120 years old can depart for free.

Those who have been to Bonaire already within a calendar year will pay 1/3 of what they had paid before plus



another 40% charge for being here.

2). Many have said fewer people will come to Bonaire, so the alternative is to charge \$1,500 per person departure tax. Then, if far fewer people do come to Bonaire, it won't hurt tax income. As always, Cruise Ship tourists do not have to pay anything and will be given \$20 upon arrival and \$15 upon departure. Rip M. Off

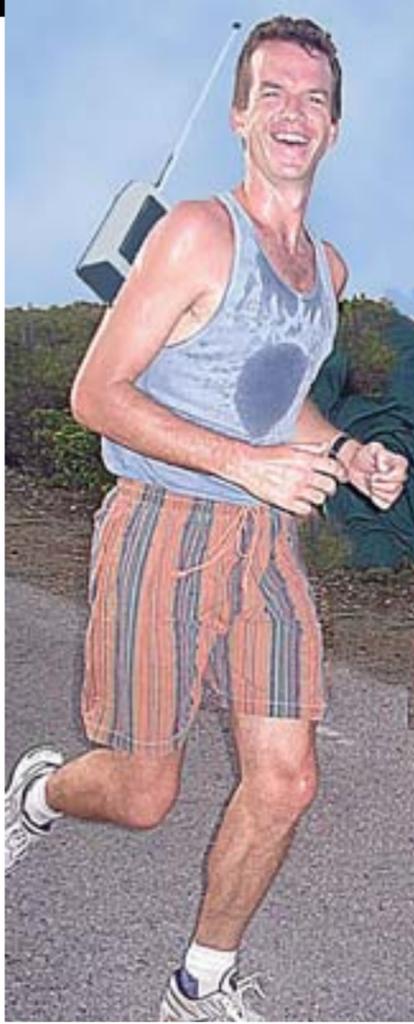
## STCB Directors to be Tracked



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, having successfully tracked numerous turtles with GPS transceivers, will now track itself. Beginning April 1, all STCB board members will be fitted with devices that will allow anyone with access to the World Wide Web to know their locations at all times. It is hoped that prospective donors to the sea turtle conservation projects will be encouraged to contribute because they can be assured of wholesome activities on the part of the people who will be disbursing their donations.

In the accompanying photos STCB President Imre Esser models two versions of the device. While both transceivers are waterproof to 33 meters, the first is for land use only (right photo). The second, affixed to a standard water polo cap, as shown (top photo), will have its antenna above the water level during normal swimming activities. As they are affixed to the turtles, the transceivers will be semi-permanently fibreglassed to the wearers. A six-month battery life is anticipated.

If STCB donations increase, STINAPA will consider a similar measure for its board. G.D.



## Peculiar Events at Boca Onima - Traced to Sand Mining



Imre's photo of an immediately endangered sea turtle

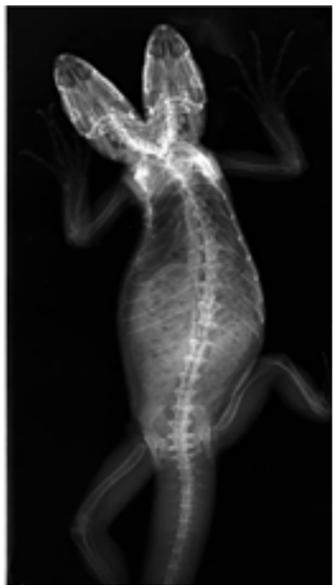


Mabeline holding the turtle

Imre Esser from Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire reports: "This is a picture that I took today at Boca Onima. Because the government allowed sand mining on that beach, the whole ecosystems has changed. STCB is faced with a new threat at that beach. Sea turtles are in serious danger!! Does this explain why some of those turtle satellite tags suddenly stop beeping...?"

As part of a follow-up by *The Reporter's* crack team of journalists, additional unusual creatures were discovered in the area, probably because of the same disturbances to the natural environment. Coordinator Mabeline Navidad rescued a two-headed turtle (see photo) which has already been adopted by Bonaire's new political party as its symbol.

An iguana, also with two heads, was found trying to dig a nest in the same area. The iguana was x-rayed (thank you, von Eggmundo Dental Clinic) to make sure it was not a hoax. As you can see from the x-ray it indeed was double headed G.D.



X-ray of the iguana

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)  
 "Bonaire Bluegrass," in addition to Rhonda, was composed of the Owens Family: Stuart, Cameron, Cathy, Andy and their friend 12-year old Cody McGuire.



► For Earth Day, Chris Marth and Florence Ditlow are developing a program called "What on Earth! For Kids" which is directed at children under 18. The core group is 15 scouts plus the 25-member marching band.

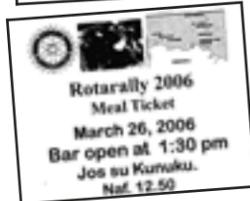
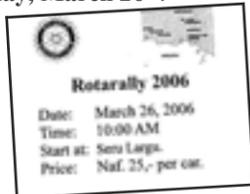
They will have a program from SELIBON, focusing on recycling, followed by an outing to collect trash. Then they will construct a costume of recyclable items. The wind-up, on April 22, will be a parade in the park. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. More sponsors are needed. Yellow submarine has already pledged a scuba package and *The Reporter* some movie passes. If you want to participate or can help with sponsorship contact Florence at 717-4593 or email Florence at fhummingbird@yahoo.com.

► Bonaire's winning Aquatics Club team, **The Barracudas**, have been invited to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Dutch Caribbean International Swim Meet in Curaçao beginning April 28 through May 1. Sponsors for some of the youngsters are needed. If you can help, call Asdrubal Marcano at 567-0576 or directly deposit into MCB account #101 1888-03, Bonaire Aquatics Club.

► Looking for dining out deals? At the relatively new **Cactus Blue restaurant** you can get **2 for 1 appetizers** (among the best on Bonaire) and if you are a big group in a party of 10, one eats free.

► The Bonaire Rotary Club's popular RotaRally road rally is coming up on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

This year will be its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and everyone on the island is invited to participate. It costs only NAf25 to enter your car. All proceeds go to charity. Lunch at the destination, Jos', will be available for NAf12,50. The RotaRally starts at 10 am at Seru Largu and it's recommended that the ticket be purchased prior to the event. The tickets can be bought from any member of the Rotary Club or from Arjen Botterop at 786-0251, Edwin Vrieswijk at 786-2005 or Jules van Dongen at 717-5877.



► More and more new development is happening north of the present hotel row. Following the announcement of the hotel school plan, Bonaire Caribbean Club owner, Ronald Gravestijn, announced an ambitious expansion of his resort. It will begin this year with the construction of a wedding village on the bluff overlooking the coast.

► Hats off to **Josan Construction** which sponsored the **Amboina Dolphins'** new uniforms. Julio Sanchez (center) performed the baptism. Thanks to Coach 'Cado' Alberto the Dolphins soccer team has become one of the best in the region and recently traveled to compete in Aruba, where they placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the region.



► Welcome to our newest advertiser- **Divi Divi Air**. "Divi Divi" has the reputation of being the most reliable connection between Bonaire and Curaçao. The small planes make you feel like you are being treated as an individual. The view from the plane can't be beat. Try them, call 09-888-1050 for a reservation and tell them *The Reporter* sent you. After all it's Divi Divi who flies *The Reporter* to Bonaire every week.

► Since there will be no issue of *The Reporter* next week in line with our policy of publishing four issues a month (March has five Fridays, so the last will be skipped) the annual April Fool stories are included in this issue.  
 G./L.D.



### coral glimpses

(a bit of information about corals presented each week by naturalist Dee Scarr)



The tissue of every coral polyp in a coral head is connected to all the polyps around it. Thus, the entire surface of a coral head is covered with living coral tissue. □

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

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF	DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
3-24	8:43	2.0FT.	53	3-31	2:25	1.8FT.	100
	17:24	0.8FT.			11:15	0.9FT.	
3-25	1:15	1.1FT.	62	4-01	3:26	1.8FT.	93
	9:38	1.9FT.			12:36	0.8FT.	
	17:46	0.9FT.		4-02	4:21	1.9FT.	83
3-26	3:03	1.1FT.	73		13:47	0.8FT.	
	10:25	1.8FT.		4-03	5:25	1.9FT.	71
3-27	4:29	1.1FT.	85		14:35	0.7FT.	
	11:24	1.7FT.		4-04	6:17	1.9FT.	58
	18:15	1.1FT.			15:23	0.7FT.	
3-28	5:59	1.1FT.	94	4-05	7:12	1.9FT.	47
	12:17	1.6FT.			16:00	0.7FT.	
3-29	0:45	1.6FT.	100	4-06	7:57	1.8FT.	39
	7:38	1.0FT.			16:29	0.8FT.	
	13:30	1.4FT.		4-07	8:38	1.8FT.	37
3-30	1:32	1.7FT.	102		16:57	0.8FT.	
	9:29	1.0FT.					
	14:57	1.3FT.					
	17:44	1.2FT.					

# SBO High School News



*Exploring caves*

Since 1999 vocational training has been given in the high school. Students are trained in administration, as assistants in elementary schools, schools for the disabled or handicapped persons, and to work with the elderly. Among the many different skills the students learn is how to organize activities on the island for others. But before they do that they must learn themselves what there is to do on the island. So Marianne Grutters, director of studies SPW (Social Pedagogic Work) contacted Papi Cicilia and Nochie Coffie of SKAL. Then the students did the follow up, with much of the telephone contact and organization done by Vilma Hernandez Matos. Other students participating were Zwendelien, Charlotte, Shermanta, Raidily, Jolanda, Roselle, Lizbeth and Zulay.

Their first activity was visiting the cave at Santa Barbara where they descended a six-meter stairway, then had to walk and later crawl into the depths of this very beautiful cave. Papi took time for them and explained a lot. For some students it was the first time that they'd been in a cave

Then they visited a stone quarry behind the airport where the girls took a bath in a small pond in an underground cave! Some girls had problems getting out because there was one stalactite that made it very difficult to pass without sucking in their bellies!



*After the cave exploration: the students with Papi Cicilia (center)*

The SPW 2.2 (second year) students started working on an "Easter Afternoon Party" for children from four to eight years to be held on the 8 of April in the Centro di Bario in Nikiboko from 3 to 6 pm. The students will entertain a group of 27 children with all kinds of activities like egg painting, an Easter play, a puppet theater play and throwing carrots into a hole in an egg-shaped board. Unfortunately, all the places have been taken

The students are: Silnanie, Alba, Inshindra, Dannia, Soullivienne, Janice, Edshorlina, Loraine and Patricia. *Story & Photos by Wilna Groenenboom*



*Getting ready for the Easter Party*

# "Starlight" Walk in Rincon

The moon was a little late in coming up last Friday night for Rincon's "Full Moon Walk," but it was a huge success nevertheless and a beautiful experience walking under the bright stars with the sounds of the sea in the background. The event was a fundraiser towards the cost of replacing the tower of the parish church which was hit by lightning last year.

One of the organizers, Edith Strauss-Mercera, a former Senator from Bonaire, reports that 55 children and 179 adults signed up. Walkers included groups like the *Pia Pia di Kunuku Bieu* and the scouts as well as groups of friends, most of whom made the 9.5 kilometer trek from the Catholic Church in Rincon, up the road towards Washington Park, a right turn on to the dirt road following the sea, then another right turn at the PIEDRA DI BONEIRU, and up and down on that dirt road to the main Rincon road. Shorter routes to the dam or to the



*Getting instructions at the start*



Cactus Club were set up for the 60 plussers and others who were daunted by the 9.5 k distance.

At stops along the way volunteers handed out water, drinks and fruit, and the route was marked by flaming torches, just so you didn't stray off the path. There were some weary walkers at the end, including Ms. Strauss-Mercera who made it the whole way with her two grandchildren, five and eight years old. Of course the kids were still full of high spirits and energy. Everyone was treated to two kinds of salad, orange juice and rolls. Very generous sponsors were Rum



*Enthusiastic Scouts are ready to roll*

Runners Restaurant, Den Laman Restaurant, La Portuguesa, Gregorio Gomez and Cultimara.

Ms. Strauss-Mercera says that more funds are needed for the tower rebuilding, so we can look forward to more fundraisers. *The Reporter* will keep you informed.



*L.D. Group Pia Pia di Kunuku Bieu from North Saliña*

# Kite Contest Coming

Don't miss Bonaire's Annual Kite Contest "Kontest di Fli" – Sunday, April 9 - at the field behind Kooyman's. This is the 28th consecutive one, sponsored by the Flamingo Book Store. It's an all-day event, starting around 9 am, and it's fun for everyone.

Contestants of all ages come from Bonaire, Aruba and Curaçao, and you'll see some of the most amazing kites. Prizes will be given for different categories: Biggest, Smallest, Most Beautiful, Most Strange and Most Original. Sometimes it takes a whole group of people to try and get a kite in the air. It's exciting, thrilling and often really funny. There will be food and drinks for sale and plenty of music.

The contest has been sponsored all these 28 years by the Flamingo Book Store on Kaya Grandi 19. You're welcome to enter: children – Naf3,50; adults, -NAf7,50. L.D.



Farid Ayubi last year at the Kontest di Fli

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Highest Point Party

A popular tradition in Bonaire is to have a party when the construction of a new house reaches its highest point. Last Friday a house being built by the Sanchez Brothers' Josan Construction Company topped out. The owners hosted a big rooftop party catered by Eddie's Gourmandise.



Readers are invited to send their photos of their anniversaries, engagements, weddings or other exciting events to *The Reporter*. The photo and text will be printed free of charge.

### 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. 8000m<sup>2</sup> 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](http://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/](http://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: Wooden, rotating CD Stands, holds about 300 CDS, FL 50.00, or best offer; HP 45 Black Printer Cartridges, 4 available, FL 40.00 each; Low Volume Dive Mask, FL 15.00; Miracle Cleaning Cloths, FL 8.00 for two; Hibachi Beach BBQ Grill, FL 15.00; Four Cushions for Outdoor Furniture, Hunter Green, excellent condition, FL 60.00; Mini Cuisinart Food Processor, with manual and all extra parts, FL 45.00; Slide Carousel, 80 slides, FL 5.00; Slide Carousel, 140 slides, FL 8.00; Four Drawer, Metal Lateral File Cabinet, Beige, FL 75.00; If interested in any of these items, call 717-2848.

For sale: Sky kennel for large dog, KLM-approved, size F, NAF 300, tel. 786-5582.

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

FOR SALE: Second Hand Dive Gear with 3-month unconditional repair war-

ranty: Cressi regulators, BCs, with and without computers. From \$200. WannaDive at City Café. Call 717-3531.

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

### Boat for Sale

Why expensively 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.



### Free

FREE Cabinet doors, white wood, 20 +/-, all sizes. 717-6862 or 791-6003

### Wanted

The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a Partner or Managing Editor

Join us to "Publish in Paradise." Working Partner or Managing Editor with journalism, writing/editing skills, business sense and energy desired.

Most important: Must Love Bonaire! Call The Reporter at 717-8988, 786-6518. Email qualifications to: search@bonairereporter.com

Wanted to buy: 4x4 vehicle in good condition. Jeep, SUV or pickup. Call The Reporter at 717-8988.

#### MOZAIK / MOSAIC workshop.

Iedere woensdagavond 19.30 - 21.30, andere avond of ochtend in overleg. Ook verkoop, 50 kleuren keramiek/glas tegels, tangen etc. Tel: 785-6670

Wanted: two-three bedroom house for doctoral students studying Bonaire's Loras. Minimum of 6 months. Call The Reporter at 717-8988.

#### Home-exchange with the Netherlands.

We are a family of 6 or 7. We offer a big house (11 rooms) in the centre of The Netherlands (near Utrecht) plus cars (seat 7 and 4). We are looking for a comfortable house (+ car) on Bonaire. e-mail: bob.smits@planet.nl

House-keeper for house and 3 dogs from June 9 till 24. Outlying house in kunuku. Own transportation and maximum presence wanted. Good reward! Please make an appointment, tel. 786-5591

#### Wanted: Diving Partner(s)

Allison Perry, a PhD student from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK, is here doing research until the end of May. She is carrying out underwater surveys to see how the number of corals and fish species depends on the area of reef surveyed, in order to better understand how many species might be lost in the future with the loss of reef area. This research is very important for the marine park. Allison needs to be diving 5 days per week (with 2 dives on most days) to complete her work, and is looking for buddies to accompany her. At a minimum, she needs someone to be within visible distance during dives, but if people are interested in helping with the actual fish and coral surveys, she would be very happy to have their help! If you are interested, please contact Ramon de Leon, Marine Park Manager 717-8444 or Allison (780-9809, email: a.perry@uea.ac.uk)



PORCH SALE Saturday, March 25, all day, starting at 8 am. Big variety of items for sale. Kaya Yuma #5, between Mentor and Centro di Bario, North Salina.

# DIVING with DEE Arrow Crabs

Think “crab” – and whatever you picture in your mind isn’t likely to look much like an arrow crab. Yet, when you think about it, the arrow crab has the two main characteristics of crabs: an exoskeleton and 10 legs (eight legs and two claws). The arrow crab’s official common name is Yellowline Arrow Crab, but since there isn’t any other type of arrow crab we drop the “Yellowline” part. Its scientific name is *Stenorhynchus seticornis*, which roughly translates to “narrow snout, bristled horn.”

What the arrow crab doesn’t seem to have are all the defense mechanisms that other crabs have. It doesn’t camouflage itself with sponges or algae like decorator crabs or sponge crabs. It doesn’t hide (well, okay, some arrow crabs hide, but many hang out in plain sight). It doesn’t scurry away when it sees you.

## Why not?

One answer is that the arrow crab must not be a very rewarding prey animal. After all, it’s so skinny there’s not much room for muscles inside its shell!

Equally important is the arrow crab’s choice of abode. For the past decade or so, arrow crabs on Bonaire have been living in the company of anemones, primarily ringed anemones. The stinging defense of the anemones themselves may discourage some potential arrow crab predators.

In addition, on Bonaire the ringed anemones are almost always the resi-

dence of one or more ghost cleaner shrimp. The anemones are visited frequently by fishes – sometimes predator fishes – for cleaning. These clients have a strong instinct against eating when at a cleaner station, and that may work out very nicely for arrow crabs.

The arrow crabs have even used this inhibition for their own benefit – by becoming cleaner animals themselves! Yes, friends and neighbors, arrow crabs have, within the last 25 years or less, been experimenting with cleaning activities. I’ve been a beneficiary of this myself, but it was still a bit of a surprise: as I held my hand in position for the ghost cleaners, an arrow crab reached over with one of its long claws, scraped some skin from my finger and ate it!

Imagine the first time this happened: the arrow crab would have been hanging out near the anemone for protection. A client pulled into the cleaner station – with a lovely, succulent parasite right there on the arrow crab’s side of its body. The arrow crab plucked off the parasite, and – a new career was born.

Shrimp who have evolved to clean have white antennae, which they wave and wriggle in order to advertise their services. Arrow crabs haven’t evolved to clean, so they don’t have white whiskers – but that doesn’t matter since they have cleaner shrimp doing their advertising for them. The ghost shrimp advertise, the anemone protects and the arrow crab is available to take advantage.



*Yellowline Arrow Crab (Stenorhynchus seticornis)*

Arrow crab cleaning behavior isn’t just occurring on Bonaire, though; it has been reported throughout the Caribbean area.

## Why now?

One very obvious reason is that it’s only since 1983 or so that arrow crabs have been hanging around in anemones. Before that time, their favorite hangouts were the longspined sea urchins, but in 1983 a fatal disease attacked longspined urchins from as far north as Georgia, all across the Caribbean, to as far south as Brazil. The disease swept through Bonaire in less than a week, killing more than 90% of our longspined urchins, and probably struck in other places just as quickly. Suddenly, arrow crabs were looking for new places to hang out – and those busy anemones were obviously allur-

ing.

Only in the last couple of years have longspined urchin populations grown to anything near their former numbers. We’ll see arrow crabs hanging around urchins again soon, but I suspect they’ll be young ones for whom the urchin is a first home; the crabs with anemones will probably stay there.

But as the urchins come back and the arrow crabs spread out, and you’re seeing more and more of them, spend a little time watching what they’re doing. Like yellowtail snappers, arrow crabs are the opportunists of their type. What else will they be learning to do?

*Story & Photo by 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.*



# Pet of the Week

This great dog, called "Wayabuza," was found in the playground of an elementary school. She was in heat and was being pursued by a mob of male dogs. Some men working at the school took pity on her, captured her and brought her into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. What a relief for her! She got her name, "Wayabuza," from her saviors who said she was running so fast to escape the male dogs that it reminded them of "the Wayabuza, the fastest motorcycle in the world!" This lovely young dog will be sterilized this week and will be ready for adoption. She's been examined by the vet, has had her tests, been wormed and has had her shots. The adoption fee of NAf105 includes all that as well as her sterilization.



*"Wayabuza"*

Sad to say, if this wonderful dog had been neutered in the first place she wouldn't have had to run from gangs of male dogs.

The animal population continues to explode. Each year all over the world millions of unwanted pets are born and most are treated like "living garbage" and disposed of. The obvious reason why spaying and neutering is so critical is to prevent unwanted, accidental pregnancies. And it's good for the community too because homeless pets often create serious problems. They destroy property, spread disease and cost a lot of money to control. It's an agonizing job to have to euthanize animals because of irresponsible breeding.

The Shelter has a "Sterilization Fund," and they can help. If you know someone who has a dog that is running free and it isn't sterilized, tell them about the Shelter program. The Fund is sponsored by donations and has done a monumental job already of sterilizing dogs on the island. If you'd like to contribute, you may, via MCB Account #10616410, "Sterilization Fund," or via Support Bonaire. Website: [www.supportbonaire.org](http://www.supportbonaire.org). Those funds will go only towards sterilization.

**So far this year there have been 35 adoptions** from the Shelter. People know it's the island's best place to find healthy and sociable pets. *L.D.*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show  
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

### Firewall (Harrison Ford)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

### The Pink Panther An Academy Award Winner

Kaya Prinses Marie  
Behind Exito Bakery  
Tel. 717-2400  
Tickets - Naf14 (incl. Tax)

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
THURS THRU SUN  
2 MOVIES 7 & 9 PM  
MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8 PM

SATURDAY 4 PM  
March: Bambi II  
April: Curious George

### THESE TWO WEEKS

**Saturday, March 25 – Monthly Flea Market at the Parke Publico – 3 to 8 pm.**

Held every last Saturday of the month. Anything to sell? For registration and booth-reservation please contact Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225 or 7176907.

**Sunday March 26—Bonairean Night** with all the local specialties and more, Divi Flamingo. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

**Sunday, March 26 - Rota Rally – Rotary Club Car Rally** – sign up now 786-0251, 786-2005, 717-5877 – See page 6

**Sunday, April 2—Nail Design Workshop**—Divi Flamingo Meeting Room, 9 am-5 pm—See page 13

**Sunday April 2—Bonairean Night** with all the local specialties and more, Divi Flamingo. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

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

### COMING

**Sunday, April 9 – Kite Contest (Kontest di Fli)** All day, Great fun, food, drinks, music – incredible kites – See page 12

**Saturday, April 8-** The next Quarterly Underwater Cleanup will meet at Yellow Sub at 1 pm. Potluck BBQ follows at 5:30pm.

**April 13 – 17 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual MCB Tennis Cup** at Harbour Village Tennis Center 565-5225, 717-6907.

**Friday, April 14—Good Friday**—Banks and many stores closed

**Easter Sunday, April 16—Bonairean Night** with all the local specialties and live music – Divi Flamingo

**Saturday, April 22—Earth Day “What on Earth”** activities, parade for children. Info 717-4593—see page 9

**Saturday, April 29 – Balashi Beer Bartenders’ Competition** – Divi Flamingo - See page 3

**Sunday, April 30—Rincon Day, Queen’s Birthday, Queen’s Birthday Race, Windsurfing Race (Tolo), MCB 5 km, 17 km run**

### REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

HH 2 for 1 (on ALL beverages) from 5-

7pm, Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar  
HH—5:30-6:30, Buddy Dive  
HH 5 to 7 pm, Cactus Blue (except Sunday)  
2 for 1 appetizer with every entrée, Cactus Blue

Divi Flamingo Casino is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm– 4 am; Sun. 7 pm– 3 am.

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

### Saturdays

**Grill Night on the Beach, Buddy Dive Rincon Marshé—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  
**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 information.

**Wine Tasting at AWC’s warehouse,** 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Great wines - Naf2,50 a glass.

**All You Can Eat BBQ at Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm, Naf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444 .

### Sundays

**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

### Mondays

**Caribbean Night, live local music**– Buddy Dive.

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

**Kriyoyo Night BBQ Buffet** featuring Chef Gibi and Los Princes Mariachi, Golden Reef Inn . Band 7 pm, BBQ at 7:30 pm. Reservations \$20, walk ins \$25. Drinks available for purchase. Call 717-5759 or email info@goldenreeffinn.com

### Tuesdays

**Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers”** 5-7 pm Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar

**Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine,** 5-7pm, Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar

**Buy a Bucket of Beer & get free chicken wings,** 5 to 7 pm, Cactus Blue

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

**Yoga Classes**—Tel. 786-6416 (None in April)

### Wednesdays

**Open Mike Night with Moogie,** 7 to 9 pm, Cactus Blue

**Live music by Flamingo Rockers** Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar 5-6:30 pm

**Live music by Flamingo Rockers** The Wind-surf Place at Sorobon 7:30- 9:30 pm

**Movie Night at Buddy Dive**

**Yoga Classes**—Tel. 786-6416 (None in April)

### Thursdays

**Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers”** 5-7pm-Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar

### Fridays

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

**Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers”** Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar – 5-7 pm

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

**Manager’s Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, Divi Flamingo, 5-7 pm

**Manager’s Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort,** 5:30-6:30 pm, followed by **All You Can Eat BBQ**

**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

**Yoga Classes**—Tel. 786-6416 (None in April)

### 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.

### March through May 2006 Cruise Ship Schedule

Date	Ship	PAX	Arrive	Depart	Pier
28 MAR TUE	RIJNDAM	1258	09:00	18:00	SOUTH
04 APR TUE	SEA PRINCESS	1950	12:00	19:00	SOUTH
04 APR TUE	AIDA VITA	1260	13:00	20:00	NORTH
11 APR TUE	RIJNDAM	1258	09:00	18:00	SOUTH
01 MAY MON	PRINSENDAM	793	08:00	18:00	SOUTH
02 MAY TUE	SEA PRINCESS	1950	12:00	19:00	SOUTH

**Monday- Dee Scarr’s Touch the Sea slide Show** at Captain Don’s Habitat, 8:30 pm Call 717-8290 for info. (No show March 27.)

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

**Wednesday –Buddy Dive Cocktail 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 786-7984

### 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.** Wilhelmnaplein. 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 Antril, 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
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Cactus Blue</b> Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564	Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Trend setting décor and menu</b> Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and turquoise sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the <b>highest standard of cuisine.</b>
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	<b>Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight!</b> 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.
<b>The Great Escape</b> EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Breakfast every day; Lunch, Dinner Tues-Sun.	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof.</b> Cuban cuisine. New kitchen. New cook Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> <b>Home Delivery or Take Out</b> 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner until 6 pm Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side <b>Caribbean-style bistro</b> owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111

# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## ART

**Richter Art**— By Jake and Linda: Digital paintings, Giclees on canvas, limited edition and open prints.

## 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.

**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.

**WannaDive** - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

## FITNESS

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

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

## FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

**The Plantation** Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.

## 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. Incredible selection of pots.

## GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

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

## HOTELS

**The Great Escape** Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, 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.

## 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

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. **Now-full digital services.**

## 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:** Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them for sale.

**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.**

## SILKSCREEN, EMBROIDERY

**CesMar**—Local company offers top quality, fast service for monogramming, silk screening, embroidery.

## SUPERMARKETS

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

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

## 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.

## 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/WOMEN:**  
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.  
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518

# Born on Bonaire

## Ryan Englehardt

“I always wanted to work in an office, sitting inside in the airco; that seemed really attractive to me! I went to SGB high school to study ETAO, where they prepare you to work in hotels and restaurants. After that I did MAVO. My first job was at Harbour Village where I worked at the front desk for only a month to replace someone and after that they asked me if I wanted to work behind the bar. From that moment on I’ve worked in the restaurant business and I’ve been doing that for 18 years now.

I like it a lot. I like to prepare the drinks, talk to people. There’s always time to chat and I speak four languages so I can talk to nearly everyone. You get to know so many people from all different cultures and you learn about the way they live in other countries, and I tell them about how we live here, about our beaches and the dive sites. I used to dive too, I got my certificate at Bon Bini Divers with Susan Davis 15 years ago, but I haven’t been diving for a long time because I don’t like it anymore and also my ear has been bothering me.

I was born here in Bonaire at the hospital. My father was Frank Engelhardt from Playa Pabou and my mother was Maria Beacinta Boezem from Nort di Salinja. I have a sister, Justra, who’s living in Holland, working at a school where she’s doing the administration. She has a 15-year-old daughter called Maria. My brother Steven died here on Bonaire three years ago of a heart attack, at the age of 33, after he’d been living in Holland for 10 years.

I had a very good childhood. My parents weren’t very strict; they were quiet people. My dad was a fisherman and he took me out to sea many times. My mother worked in the kitchen of Divi Flamingo doing the dishes. My father passed away 10 years ago, and my mother died five years ago. Ever since then my sister has been asking me to come to live with her in Holland, but I don’t want to; I like it here.

After Harbour Village I worked at Coral Regency (later called Lion’s Dive, now Buddy Dive) and then at Capt. Don’s Habitat, and for the last three years I’ve been working at City Café, the last year only in the daytime. I don’t like to work at night anymore; I prefer to have the evenings off.

I like Bonaire because it’s quiet; I don’t need any more than this. I’ve been

on vacations to Venezuela, Curaçao, Santo Domingo and Aruba, and it’s great to be there for a while, but to live I like a tranquil place. Many of my friends left for Holland years ago, but lately quite a few have come back because life with the euro has become too expensive. They like being back, but they get bored too as they say, ‘There’s nothing to do on the island.’

When I’m free I go to visit my aunts, my mother’s sisters, who are living close to me in Nort di Salinja. It’s a very quiet and cozy area, different from Playa because if I need anything or I have a problem, people are always there to help me and they also look after my house when I am not there. In Playa they don’t do those things. In Nort di Salinja it’s more like family.

---

“For me the most important thing in life is family, and also I am always trying to help people and people help me too. You see, to me that’s the real beauty of Bonaire: Its people....”

---

My grandmother, ‘Chepa’ Boezem, lived here too. She was of Indian descent and she had very long black hair. She passed away when she was 96; that was three years ago. It was a big blow to me because I loved her a lot. She liked the kitchen very much and knew how to prepare different krioyo dishes like *kadushi* - a soup made from cactus - *yambo*, *kabes ku igra* - a dish made from the head and liver of a goat - and iguana soup and stew. I always cook for myself too - easy food - like chicken in red wine, shrimp in garlic sauce, and I can make a very good rice dish like *nasi goring*.” *He smiles:* “Maybe I’ll open my own restaurant some day - but - not yet!”



Ryan Englehardt

*Ryan Engelhardt (33) is a sweet person. He’s gracious, elegant and patient; he has a very attractive personality, he’s just real cute.*

“Americans are my best customers, but lately we’re getting good Dutch people too. I always get good tips. I am friendly with the people and I’ve got tons of patience - maybe too much I think sometimes - but I never think someone’s a bore or a nuisance. I talk to the people and somehow they change during the conversation, and by the time they’re leaving they’re in a good mood, making jokes. That’s the good thing about my job - I can make people happy! Many times I get invited by tourists to go out for dinner, and I do accept their invitation, and they often bring me presents when they return. At the opening nights of other restaurants I’m often asked by the owners to help them out. I’ve helped Miriam and Martin at KonTiki when there were the jazz events every first Sunday of the month, and it was fun. Sometimes I help at Buddy Dive when they need someone. I helped Joyce at the opening of La Guernica and also I helped out Orlando and Ana at the opening of Zatará, the red café.

Some years ago when Queen Beatrix was visiting Bonaire I served her a private lunch at Karpata. At the time I was working at Harbour Village and they’d asked me because I was one of the best waiters on the island. All together we were six waiters, eight people in the kitchen and three bartenders. We were all dressed for the occasion in black and white with white gloves and a black cum-

merbund. It was in the afternoon and it was very hot at Karpata but the Queen was very nice, a very nice lady, quiet.

I myself like to go out for dinner, and I try all the restaurants. I love to eat and I don’t get fat! Before I used to party a lot, but those were the old days... I’ve become very quiet. I don’t have a car. When I go somewhere I walk. I like to walk, but when I need it there’s always a friend to give me a ride.

To me Bonaire is still the same as it was when I was a kid, but there are a few things I would like to change. There should be more things for children to do; I see many children roaming the streets after school and also I see many children not going to school at all. And another thing is that the old people are going through hard times because the old people’s pension is too little and everything has gone up, especially the utility bills. And when they have no family living here it gets really difficult for them to make ends meet. For me the most important thing in life is family, and also I am always trying to help people and people help me too. You see, to me that’s the real beauty of Bonaire: Its people....” *story and photo by Greta Kooistra*



# Aruba Day Celebration

Last Saturday Aruba Day was celebrated on Bonaire. The close ties between the islands was confirmed by a big turnout. The Aruba Club on Bonaire extended their annual activities to the parking lot at the Stadium and included other nationalities which showed up to offer the foods of their country. Above is the Surinamese contingent which dished up great culinary treats like bami and curry. A fire dance was performed... to the beat of American country music! Bonairean



Surinamese stand: Rosita Paiman, Amina Karto, Amina Kromodimedjo

resident Buchi Kan Anthony was honored for valued contributions to Aruba. L.D.



Fire dancer Edward Santaris

# Picture Yourself In The Reporter

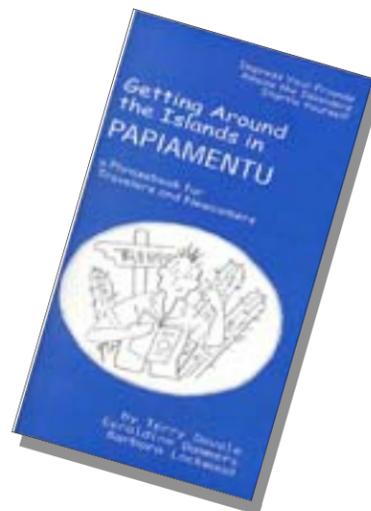


## Bark Lake, Quebec, Canada

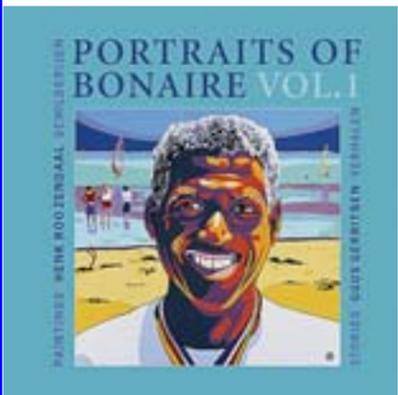
David van der Walde writes, "Here are some of your subscribers enjoying *The Bonaire Reporter* at Bark Lake, Quebec, Canada. That's me and Jan Van der Walde in the boat with Vincent van der Walde in the kayak. Ayo.

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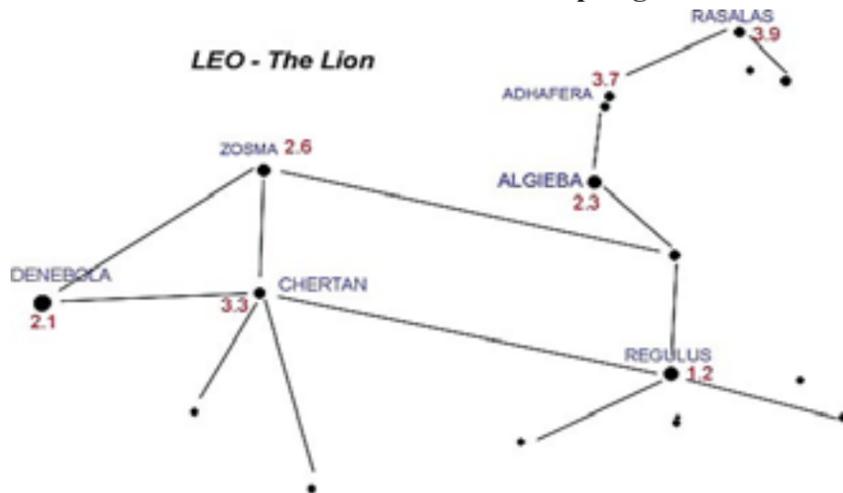
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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## Leo the Lion Chases Orion Out of Springtime Skies



It's that time of year again when the Sky Park night skies almost shout, "Spring is here," because **Leo the Lion** is chasing **Orion** and replacing him as the major constellation of the new season.

Now most of you know that Orion the Hunter is winter's most famous star pattern. Indeed if you go outside in early evening in December Orion is climbing up the southeastern skies as a celestial announcement of the imminent arrival of winter. And in January and February when winter is coldest Orion reaches his highest point in the heavens in early evening, almost bragging that he is master of the season. But then things begin to change because all through March Orion slowly relinquishes his high flying position in early evening, and by the beginning of April he's tipped over on his side in the southwest, almost hanging on to the sky for dear life. And it is this position of Orion in the southwest heavens in early evening that always tells us that winter is soon coming to an end.

And although I am always sad to see Orion's bright stars go, nevertheless a much bigger, although less bright, constellation takes his place almost overhead in early evening, Leo the Lion, roaring that he is master now and that he and he alone dominates spring's skies. In fact if you go out any night in late March or April in early evening you will see Leo casually reclining almost overhead, very self assured that winter and Orion will soon be completely gone. Now Leo is usually depicted as reclining in a kind of sphinx position like the ancient Egyptians depicted him. His head and forequarters are indicated by a backward question mark with the bright, blue-white star **Regulus** marking his heart. His rear is marked by a triangle of stars with Leo's second brightest star, **Denebola**. In ancient times lions were often associated with royalty; in fact Leo's brightest star Regulus means "The Little King."

But little it is not. Some latest measurements indicate that it is more than one and a half times the diameter of our almost-one-million-mile-wide Sun. But because it is a much hotter star it is 140 times brighter. And because it is a whopping 80 light years away, when we look up at Regulus this spring we see the light that left it 80 years ago. But Regulus' second brightest star also outdoes our Sun. Even though it is closer, 40 light years away, it is almost twice as wide as our Sun, and also being hotter makes it 20 times brighter! Which means that if we moved either Denebola or Regulus as close to **Earth** as our **Sun** is we'd all be crispy critters. So, welcome in springtime the cosmic way. Simply go outside any night in late March and April, look toward the southwest where you'll see Orion on his way out, and then look almost overhead where you'll see Leo the Lion, king of springtime skies. *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: March 19 to 26, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't press your luck with your loved ones. You are best to stick to yourself this week. Try to be precise in your communications. Travel may change your attitudes with regard to your philosophy. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You are best to stick to yourself this week. Do not yield to children or relatives when they really don't deserve it. Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted. Lack of funds may add stress to your already uncertain situation. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) If you keep busy you won't feel the personal pressures you are going through. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. Your ability to talk circles around your colleagues will help you forge ahead in the workforce. Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You can elaborate on your creative ideas and get involved in groups that relate to the arts. You may find that your generosity has been taken for granted. Not everyone will be pleased with your plans. Try to channel your energy into physical work. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you. You should consider submitting some of your written work for publication. A new you could help your attitude. Take matters in hand when it comes to dealing with clients or colleagues. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Get the whole family involved in a worthwhile cause or cultural event. Concentrate on spending quality time with children. Don't do something silly just to get back at your mate. Opportunities to get together with people in powerful positions could help you get ahead. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) This will not be the time to lend money to friends or family. Exhaustion combined with overindulgence could result in minor health problems. Try to communicate if you wish to help. Travel could include delays and other minor problems. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can open up to your mate and let them know what you expect out of this relationship. Do not jump to conclusions concerning your romantic partner. Have some fun, but draw the line if someone tries to fast talk their way into your heart. You would be wise to socialize with as many people as possible. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may find that someone you live with is not too happy, but you can't really do anything about that right now. Travel will enhance romance and adventure. Romance can surface if you get into some of those fitness programs you've been putting off. Your outgoing nature might work against you this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may have difficulties while traveling or problems dealing with close friends or relatives. Difficulties with children will surface if you try to break a promise you made. Physical limitations are possible if you aren't careful. Don't be afraid of opposition; your suggestions are valid. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) There may be opportunities to attend social functions that are linked to work. Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment. Don't let friends or relatives make you feel guilty if you're not able to attend one of their affairs. Take a trip or just spend some quality time with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Limitations at work might set you back. Underhandedness will affect your reputation. Children may be less than honest with you. You may blow situations out of proportion when dealing with the one you love. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

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