

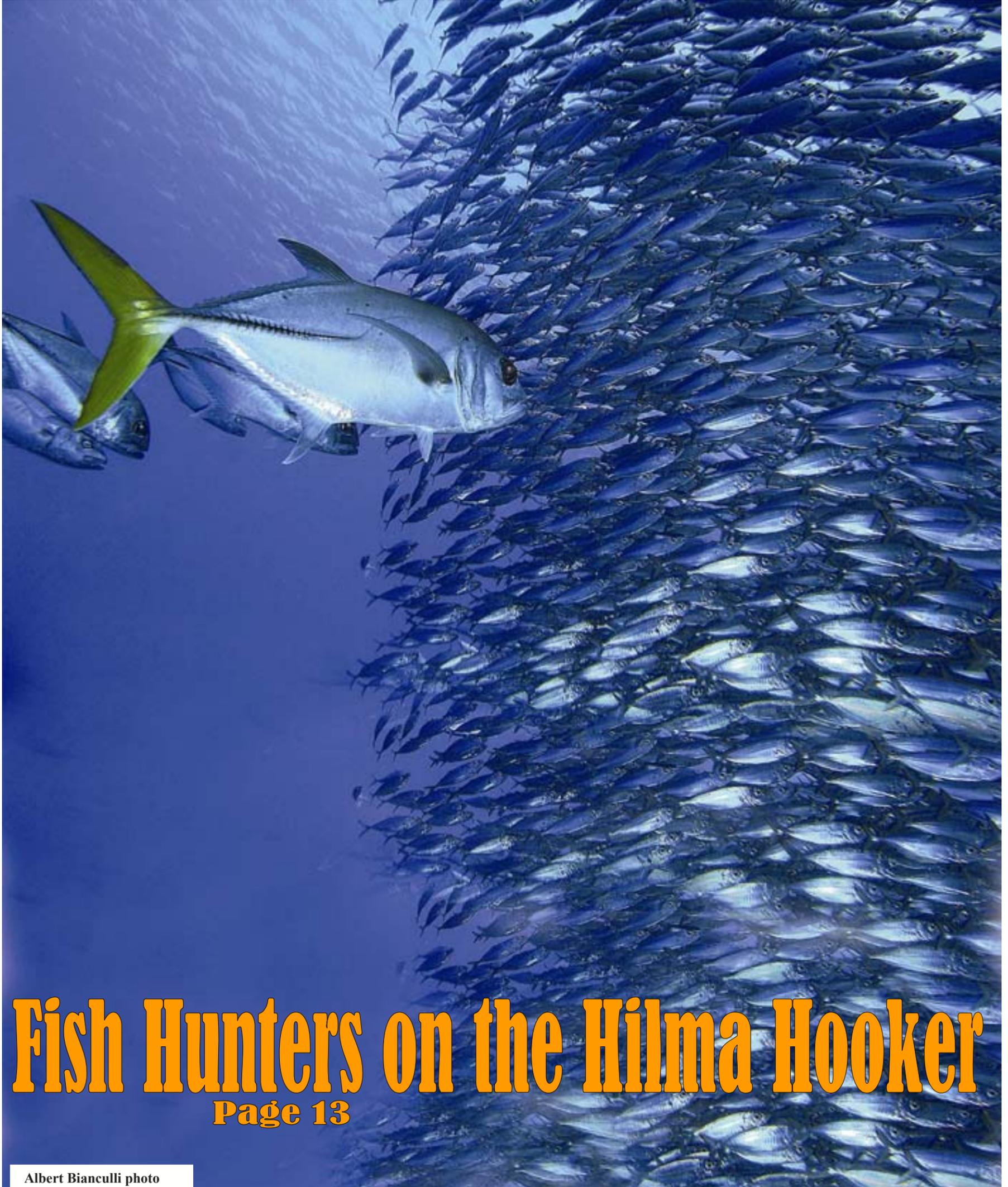
**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

April 7 to April 14, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 14

The REPORTER

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



Fish Hunters on the Hilma Hooker

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Albert Bianculli photo

Flotsam and Jetsam

The police reported that a robbery at Windsock Apartments has been solved. Arrested were two watchmen from the "Wowo di Bario" security organization who were supposed to be guarding the building. Recovered were two laptop computers and a video camera. Police also detained the buyer of the stolen goods.

Over the last two weeks the police have solved 34 cases of thefts from automobiles parked at dive sites and foiled a plan to hold up Richard's Restaurant. Eight persons were arrested, including three girls. The ages of those arrested ranged from 10 (!) years old to 20, with the majority being teenagers. The prime suspect is also suspected of intimate relations with a 13-year-old girl and is being kept in jail.

► **Members elected to Parliament in the general elections were sworn in at the end of March.** They included (in alphabetical order) Jopi Abraham (Bonaire), Maurice Adriaens and Anthony Godett (Curaçao), Ramonsito Booi and Anthony Nicolaas (Bonaire), Ray Hassell, Zita Jesus-Leito, Pedro Atacho, Jacqueline Spencer, Glenn Sulvaran, Mike Willem, Dudley Lucia and Faroe Metry (Curaçao), William Marlin and Frans Richardson (St. Maarten), Sandra Smith, Dwigno Puriel and Eugene Cleopa (Curaçao) and Julian Woodley (Statia).



St. Martin Herald photo

► **Last week Parliament agreed to a draft law that amends the pension regulations for members of parliament and ministers and raises their salaries.** The law also paves the way for Island Council members of Bonaire, Saba, Statia and St. Maarten to start receiving pensions via the Central Government. In general pensions can begin when the person reaches 60 and after serving 23 years 4 months as a civil servant.

► **Caribbean Star Airlines plans to start flights between Trinidad and Curaçao starting this June.** The company is planning to add Antigua, its home base, to the route in October. Caribbean Star will make its first flight from Port of Spain on June 15th. The company will fly daily with a 50-seat ATR. Caribbean Star already

► **Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines will have ships calling at Bonaire for the 2007/2008 season,** according to a press release from the TCB. The agreement to have the 2,034-passenger cruise ship *Summit* visit 10 times was firmed up at last month's Seatrade Conference. Princess Cruises, which began visits to Bonaire with the *Sea Princess* and *Crown Princess*, will continue calls next year, which may be Bonaire's biggest. TCB press release & photo



Bonaire contingent at the Seatrade Show

► **Curaçao's Hato Airport has a \$2 transit fee for passengers making connections there.** The Island Council of St. Maarten is set to approve a \$5 transit passenger fee at Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA) this week in addition to the existing departure fees of US \$30 for international flights and \$10 within the Netherlands Antilles (Curaçao, Saba and Statia). **Bonaire has no transit fee as yet.**

► **Caribbean Star Airlines plans to start flights between**



► **Trinidad and Curaçao starting this June.** The company is planning to add Antigua, its home base, to the route in October. Caribbean Star will make its first flight from Port of Spain on June 15th. The company will fly daily with a 50-seat ATR. Caribbean Star already

flies between all the English-speaking islands in the Eastern Caribbean.

► **Venezuela suspended its threat to restrict flights by US airlines** after the two governments agreed to hold talks to end a dispute over aviation rights, US Ambassador to Caracas William Brownfield said last Thursday.

Venezuela had threatened to suspend or limit flights by American Airlines, Continental Airlines and Delta Air Lines beginning March 30 if the US Federal Aviation Administration did not lift decade-old safety-based restrictions on Venezuelan airlines flying to US airports. The airline spat had tested fraying ties between Washington and the government of left-wing President Hugo Chavez.

► **Miami would be a memory, Bangkok a soggy shadow of its former self and the southern half of Bonaire**

(Continued on page 6)

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TOURIST TAX DEBATE CONTINUES

Dear Editor:

First of all, regarding the island tax, I'm not complaining for myself. I can easily afford the island tax. Nobody is saying there shouldn't be taxes. However, countries like Canada and America have many industries over which to spread their tax base.

As we all know, Bonaire has a very limited industrial base. Its main industry is tourism. We need to **attract** tourists and to remember we are in competition with other tourist destinations. **Taxes don't attract people, they repel them.** Having an island tax which targets the very population we are trying to attract makes no sense to me. If we ever decide we have too many tourists, and want to stop the influx, then an island tax would be a great idea.

What about the typical tourist who is not wealthy? That family works all year or many years to save its hard earned money in order to come to Bonaire on vacation with its two teenage children for a one-week dive trip. For the pleasure of that week they will have to pay \$300 in island tax and \$100 for diving tax. That family has just spent \$400 for nothing. I once gave an out-of-money tourist \$20 to cover their airport departure tax. I know other residents who have done the same. What will happen when they are out of money and have \$300 to pay?

Also, I understand there has been a change to make the tax \$10 per day to be fair to shorter term tourists. If this is so, what would happen to that same family of four who stay three weeks? Would they be paying an \$840 tax on departure? A surprise of this magnitude would create havoc.

The present system of taxing, with improved enforcement, is much better. If everyone must write on their immigration form where they are staying and how long, and if they are a paying guest, it should be easy for the government to track and ensure collections. Those private homes that engage in frequent rentals will also be trackable by virtue of their name and address showing up repeatedly on the immigration forms.

Seems to me another way for the government to get more tax money would be to bring a bunch of good Dutch tax people here for a year or so and clean up our past due annual island real estate and income taxes. Don't punish the poor vacationers (and the island's future) for the island's sins.

Laraine Katzev

TAX CHALLENGE

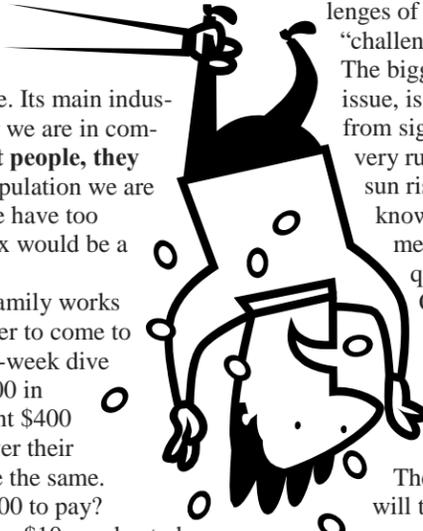
Dear Editor:

As a person who has written many articles for *The Reporter* regarding the challenges of air travel to Bonaire, I would like to comment on an additional "challenge" that has emerged: the proposed \$75 per person airport tax. The biggest problem, as Ms. Abby-Katzev pointed out in your March 17th issue, is one of "perception." Unless the Island is able to make it very clear, from signs at the airport to notices at hotels, the departing visitor is given a very rude awakening. For many of us, this occurs late at night or before the sun rises, which compounds the problem. Bonaire would quickly be known as the place that hammers you as you are doing your best to remember a pleasant vacation. Most other locations collect such taxes quietly, as you sleep, through your room, sales, and car rental tax. Compounding this "overt" tax vs. "covert" tax is the reason given for handling the Island tax this way: because there are those who escape the per-diem taxes by using private rentals, the only way to collect the taxes is by an all-inclusive airport tax. This then becomes a situation where the transgressions of a few people spoil a situation for many.

The second issue is collection: will the Island still ask for cash only, or will they allow credit cards? At present, even the \$20 tax, paid cash-only, represents a challenge to some travelers, who arrive at the airport with most of their money spent. My wife and I have helped fellow travelers out when they did not have the funds to cover themselves and their family. I can imagine a much greater problem if the tax goes to \$75 per person. And even if credit cards are useable, what happens if the phone lines are busy, or the credit card fails to go through? The departing passenger then has no choice but to miss his flight, and all the complications and costs that incurs.

Bonaire needs to improve, not diminish, its appeal to new tourists, if tourism is to remain an important component of our economy. Many current visitors vow to never return, due to the difficulty in getting here. Consider how many more will join with these former visitors when they are faced with the all-inclusive head tax upon their departure.

Gerry Clow "Bonaire Musing"



NEW BONAIRE TAX STRUCTURE FAQ
(Provided by Tourism Corporation Bonaire)
Frequently Asked Questions

I've heard that Bonaire is changing its tax structure. How will the new tax structure differ from the existing tax structure?

Under the existing tax structure people visiting Bonaire now pay an airport departure tax when departing the island (US\$20 per person if making an international departure), room tax to the hotel they are staying in (US\$6.50 per person, per night), and car rental tax to the agency they are renting their car from (US\$3.50 per car, per day). The new, simplified tax system will combine the airport departure tax, room tax, and car rental tax into one single tax, denominated as the "Island Tax" for non residents and departure tax for residents.

Why is the tax structure being changed?

The new tax structure is being implemented in order to enable the island to capture all taxes through collection at one point, providing a higher source of income for the island of Bonaire – capturing those not paying taxes through the previous structure, while at the same time providing the average visitor with a simpler and easier tax structure.

Who will be affected?

Anyone leaving Bonaire via the airport.

How will the new tax structure affect visitors?

The new structure will benefit visitors to Bonaire in two important ways – firstly this simpler system will mean just one tax to be paid upon departure from the island. Secondly and most importantly, in general the average person vacationing in Bonaire will pay less tax under the new structure, as Bonaire combines three taxes in one.

What exactly is the new structure?

The new tax structure divides visitors into two main categories: *residents* – resident of Bonaire and those born in the Netherlands Antilles (N.A.) and Aruba - and *non-residents* – those not born in the N.A. and Aruba.

Residents are further divided into three categories (1) children (ages 0-12), (2) people between the ages of 13 and 64, and (3) those 65 years of age and over.

Non-residents are divided into two categories (1) children (ages 0-12), and (2) adults (13 years and older).

What will be the tax for residents?

Residents between the ages of 13 and 64 who are traveling *within* the N.A. and Aruba will pay NAf 10 (US\$5.70). Residents between the ages of 13 and 64 traveling *outside* of the N.A. and Aruba will pay NAf 36 (US\$20).

If the Resident falls into the children or 65 and over categories, they will pay NAf5 (US\$2.85), if traveling *within* the N.A. and Aruba, and NAf18 (US\$10) if traveling *outside* the N.A. and Aruba.

What will the tax be for non-residents?

Non-resident adults traveling *within* the N.A. and Aruba will pay NAf27 (US\$15). Non-resident adults traveling *outside* of the N.A. and Aruba will pay NAf135 (US\$75).

Non-resident children (0-12 years of age) will pay NAf13.12 (US\$7.50) if traveling *within* the N.A. and Aruba, and NAf67.50 (US\$37.50) if traveling *outside* the N.A. and Aruba.

What if someone is passing through Bonaire – that is the person who is "in transit" in Bonaire?

The handling of these and other "special cases" is under review.

Where do I pay the new island tax?

The new Island Tax would be payable at the airport upon departure from the island either in cash, or with a debit or credit card. At time of payment visitors would have to prove their place of birth/nationality status, date of birth and destination after leaving Bonaire.



When will this new tax start?

On June 1st 2006.

Where can I obtain more information on the new tax structure?

US: 1-800-BONAIRE; Europe: 31-23-543-0704; South America: 58-212-953-4653
 Bonaire: 599-717-8322

Or visit www.InfoBonaire.com, Bonaire's official website for more information.

In summary:

Can you provide an example of how the new tax structure compares to the existing tax structure for a non-resident adult visiting Bonaire for vacation?

Residents: Residents of Bonaire & those born in the N.A. and Aruba	Traveling within N.A. and Aruba	Traveling outside N.A. and Aruba
Children (ages 0-12)	NAf5 (US\$2.86)	NAf18 (US\$10)
People between the ages of 13 and 64	NAf10 (US\$5.70)	NAf36 (US\$20)
Those 65 years of age and over	NAf5 (US\$2.86)	NAf18 (US\$10)
Non-Residents: People born outside of the N.A. and Aruba	Traveling within N.A. and Aruba	Traveling outside N.A. and Aruba
Children (ages 0-12)	NAf13.50 (US\$7.50)	NAf67.50 (US\$37.50)

The new, simplified tax system will combine the departure tax, room tax and car rental tax into one single tax that is payable upon departure.

Under the existing tax structure if two people from the US visit Bonaire, stay for seven nights and rent a car* they would pay:

US Visitor A (person renting the car)

- Departure Tax \$20 (p/p)
- Room Tax 7 nights \$6.50*7 \$45.50 (p/p / p/n)
- Car Rental Tax 7 days \$3.50*7 days \$24.50 (p/car p/day)

US Visitor B

- Departure Tax \$20 (p/p)
- Room Tax 7 nights \$6.50*7 \$45.50 (p/p / p/n)
- Total \$155.50**

Under the new simplified tax structure the total payment based on the above would be US\$75 per person = **US\$150**

* Data indicates that in general visitors from the US stay on average seven nights on Bonaire and rent a car while on island.

Under the existing tax structure if two people from Europe visit Bonaire, stay for 10 nights* and rent a car they would pay:

European Visitor A

- Departure Tax \$20 (p/p)
- Room Tax 10 nights \$6.50*10 \$65 (p/p / p/n)
- Car Rental Tax 11 days \$3.50*11days \$38.50 (p/car p/day)

European Visitor B

- Departure Tax \$20 (p/p)
- Room Tax 10 nights \$6.50*10 \$65 (p/p / p/n)
- Total \$208.50**

Under the new simplified tax structure the total payment based on the above would be US\$75 per person = **US\$150**

* Data indicates that in general visitors from the Europe stay on average 10 nights on Bonaire. TCB– Ronella Croes

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

would vanish beneath the waves if melting polar ice keeps fueling a faster-than-expected rise in sea levels, scientists reported in an issue of the journal *Science* focusing on global warming. Climate scientist Jonathan Overpeck of the University of Arizona reported that if global trends continue, Earth could ultimately see sea levels 20 feet (6 meters) higher than they are now. A similarly dramatic, and in some cases catastrophic, rise in ocean levels could happen by the year 2500, Overpeck said in a telephone interview, but he noted it could come sooner. A conservative estimate would call for sea level rises of 3 feet (1 meter) per century, he added.

► **Searching for Natalee Holloway:**

- Last week the Aruba Public Prosecutor confiscated the car of Deepak Kalpoe, a released suspect. He wants to use the car for the shooting of the 22-year-old TV program, *Opsporing Verzocht* (sort of "Holland's Most Wanted"), that will cover the Holloway case. Kalpoe's attorney, David Kock, has filed to block the move. "I was astonished, especially when I heard for what reason," said Kock. "They want to use Deepak's car and so give the program a reproduction that is as real as possible. You would think that the Prosecutor could rent a similar car or show a picture of it." The Prosecutor hopes the program will give the investigation a push. The show is set to air on Tuesday, April 11th, in Dutch with Papiamentu subtitles. During the program's run 30% of the cases featured were solved.

- In a recent interview with CBS TV, Aruba Chief of Police Gerold Dompig said he thought the three main suspects, Joran van der Sloot, Deepak and Satish Kalpoe, were not murderers. He suspects the three boys hid the body of Holloway, who possibly died from an overdose of alcohol and drugs. He thinks there was a second group of people involved with hiding the girl's remains. They must have helped with reburial of the body in a better location.

- Perhaps in conjunction with the TV show, Dutch police dogs and their guides searched for the missing girl last Wednesday in the sand hills near the California lighthouse and the Fish-

erman's Huts. American media sent several TV teams to Aruba to follow the searches first hand.

► **The restructuring of the Antillean Co-Financing Organization (AMFO), suspended in October 2005,**

should be completed by June, when another attempt to guarantee a professional distributing organization will be in place. In the interim, limited short-term funds will be made available for AMFO's overhead expenses and projects requiring continuity of financing. In the meantime, according to a press release, the Netherlands has been taking a number of measures to limit the damage to the NGO field and to keep poverty at bay. The suspension was based on the auditors' reports for 2004 that indicated that both AMFO and the NGO Platforms lacked properly functioning administrative and internal control procedures. The auditors did not find any actual cases of fraud or abuse. No figures were made available for comparison regarding misappropriation, waste and corruption in the system prior to the AMFO/NGO funding procedures.

► The Venezuelan Consul General in Curaçao, Lorenzo Angiolillo, has announced that **poor Antillean people can soon register at the consulate starting May 15 for free eye operations in Venezuela or Cuba.** It will be at the expense of the Venezuelan Government. The Venezuelan Government will also take care of the airfare and accommodations. It's calling the initiative *Misión Milagro* (Operation Miracle).

The Curaçao association of ophthalmologists is warning everybody who is considering this offer. Ophthalmologist Dr. Victor Wiedijk reacted on behalf of the association, saying that patients who want to accept the deal need to realize that they do not know where the surgery will take place, who is going to do it and whether the surgeons in question have any qualifications.

► "Working Together for Health," is the theme under which **World Health Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 7.** In a press release, the



► Last Friday, the new Commissioner in charge of the Economics Department (DEZA), Harlton (Onnie) Emerenciana, paid a visit to the office to get to know the employees and exchange ideas with the interim head of the department, Evy van Arneman. DEZA is a key player in the granting of business and other permits on Bonaire. In the photo are Commissioner Emerenciana and the staff. *DEZA press release and photo*



Central Government Information Service said this year's World Health Day would give "everyone an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable contribution to human health and development made by health workers."



► The front page of the Caribbean edition of Dutch newspaper, *De Telegraaf*, headlined on Wednesday, March 29, that **Venezuela was eyeing the Netherlands Antilles.** A member of the Dutch Parliament, Zsolt Szabo, was quoted as saying that Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez on various oc-

casions had made it clear that as soon as the Netherlands gave the Netherlands Antilles more freedom he would move on the islands.

There are no indications that Venezuela intends to invade the Dutch Kingdom, Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Ben Bot told reporters in Buenos Aires last week. He was reacting to reports that the Dutch Parliament feared Venezuela would invade the nearby Dutch Caribbean islands. "Venezuela is a neighboring country with whom we have had good relations for decades," he said. According to Bot, Venezuela had questions about the discussions on constitutional changes concerning to what extent the islands would remain within the Dutch Kingdom. Bot said Venezuela would rather have the Netherlands Antilles remain in the Kingdom, otherwise it would become uneasy about what could happen on the islands.

Continued on page 8

Ask the Dietitian

Wise Up About Bacteria

Prevent the unnecessary growth of bacteria that causes food poisoning.

Many people get food poisoning from the improper handling of food by those who don't follow the hygiene rules.

You can do a lot to prevent food poisoning. I'll give you some tips later, but first take this test below to see how you score on your food handling knowledge.

A Test:

What will you do.....?

1. If you want to store a pot of soup?

- a. I will put it in the fridge right after cooking.
- b. I will divide the soup into storage containers to let it cool down quickly, then store it in the fridge.
- c. I will leave it covered in the kitchen until it's cooled down, then store in the fridge

2. With your dish cloth?

- a. I will clean it every day.
- b. I will clean it once a week.
- c. I will clean it less often than once a week.

3. If you want to thaw meat from the freezer?

- a. I will leave it in the sink to defrost.
- b. I will thaw it in a microwave.
- c. I will thaw it in the fridge in a deep dish to catch the thawing liquid.

4. When adjusting the fridge temperature?

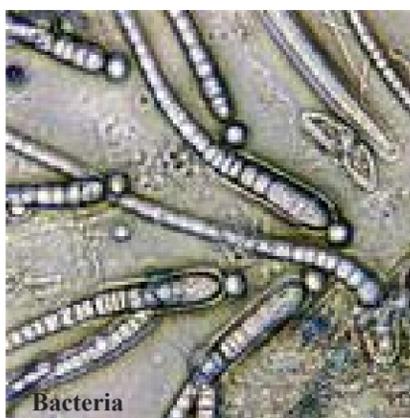
- a. My fridge temperature is between -2 and 0°C
- b. My fridge temperature is between 4 and 7°C
- c. My fridge temperature is between 7 and 10°C

5. If you handle raw meat with your bare hands while preparing food?

- a. I will wash my hands with cold water afterwards.
- b. I will wash my hands with warm water afterwards.
- c. I will wash my hands with warm water and disinfectant soap afterwards

6. With your cutting table and knife that you used for cutting raw meat?

- a. I will rinse them with cold water and put them with the dishes.
- b. I will wipe them off with a dish towel and use them again.



c. I will wash them immediately with hot water and disinfectant soap.

7. When buying food?

- a. I will buy food at several supermarkets and store cold products in the fridge immediately upon returning home.
- b. When buying food I will always bring a cool bag for meat (products), fish, dairy and deep frozen products and won't take too long before returning home to store immediately in the fridge

The correct answers are:
1b, 2a, 3b and c, 4b, 5c, 6c, 7b

Storing leftovers (questions 1, 3)

Cooling down leftovers should take place fast, by dividing a big portion into smaller portions or by placing the leftovers in a storage container in cold water while stirring the contents. Store covered within one hour in the fridge or freezer. Thaw frozen food in the fridge or the microwave.

Follow the storing instructions that appear on the labels of many foods.

Always look for the expiration date. All foods should have it.

Adequate storing of cold food, adequate and fast cooling down of food (question 4)

The ideal temperature of the fridge should be between 4 and 7°C. Buy a fridge thermometer if you don't have one and check the temperature regularly. An adequate temperature delays the growth of micro-organisms that cause food poisoning. Perishable food should be left out of the fridge for as short a period of time as possible.

Prevent cross-contamination (questions 5, 6)

Compared to cooked food, raw food contains lots more micro-organisms. High cooking temperatures (higher than 75°C) actually kills micro-organisms.

Cross-contamination means the transportation of micro-organisms from raw food to cooked, uncontaminated food. Cross-contamination can take place through unwashed hands or dirty kitchen tools. It can also occur when drying hands with a dirty dish towel.

Rules to prevent cross-contamination:

- Keep raw food separated from cooked food.
- Use clean dish cloths and dish towels,

cutting table and kitchen tools.

- Wash all kitchen tools used for raw food with hot water and disinfectant soap.

Wash hands and use clean towels

We always have lots of bacteria on our hands. Through our hands we transport bacteria from one food to another or to the kitchen tools, etc. So wash your hands regularly and for sure before preparing food and before eating. Wash your hands also after being in contact with raw food and after using the toilet. Hands should always be washed with soap and dried with a clean kitchen towel or paper towel.

The dish cloth can also be a source of bacteria and these bacteria can easily multiply in a moist cloth. So make sure you have a clean dish cloth daily.

Cold food should stay cool (question 7)

Buy cold food such as meat (products), dairy products, fish and deep frozen products on your final shopping stop and get them home as soon as possible, preferably in a cool bag. This way the food will stay cool and the microorganisms that cause food poisoning won't get a chance to grow. A.S.

Listen to Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Her patients win the "Battle of the Bulge" and become healthier. Write her at dietitan@bonairenews.com or call her at the Dept of Health Care 717-3737



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 6)

coral glimpses

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



Look at a brain coral head or a sheet coral. The polyps aren't as easy to distinguish as they are in the star corals, but a careful look will reveal the mouths of the polyps.

Photo credit Dee Scarr

► The St. Martin Veterinary and Hygiene Department last week **dumped about 400 bags of salt from Bonaire along the banks of St. Martin's Great Salt Pond** over the weekend to eliminate the conditions favorable to the breeding of midges (mosquito-like insects) that were tormenting local people. Reports are that it's working.

► Defense Minister Henk Kamp announced that a **top military delegation from Venezuela visited Curaçao** last Monday. The delegation consisted of three Venezuelan admirals. They met

with Dutch Royal Navy Commander Caribbean Area, Frank Sijtsma. One of the topics of discussion was the **big international military exercise in the area starting on May 23 and ending on June 15**. Five countries will take part and it will be bigger than in previous years. Venezuela will participate.

While in Bonaire Kamp spoke about the Coast Guard, which will have a new type of airplane next year, a Dash 8 from a Canadian commercial company, to replace the current Fokker 60. Kamp said Bonaire would also get a coast monitoring radar before the end of this year. The coastal areas around the island can be well guarded with this new system. He also met with Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé and UPB (green) party leader Ramonsito Booi.

► **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) anticipates a true growth of the gross domestic product of about 1.9% for the Antilles in 2006.** The growth in 2005 was 0.9%. This is stated in an IMF report which was published on the Internet. Inflation will probably be 2.8% this year. It was 3.1% in 2005. Cost-push pressures related to higher oil prices are expected to subside.

The predicted growth in 2006 is related to the tourism and the income tax reduction, but the IMF warns that the tourist market can fluctuate a lot and that there is no solution yet for achieving a balanced budget after the Antilles dissolve.

(Continued on page 9)

"Eksposishon" Pashon di Kristu

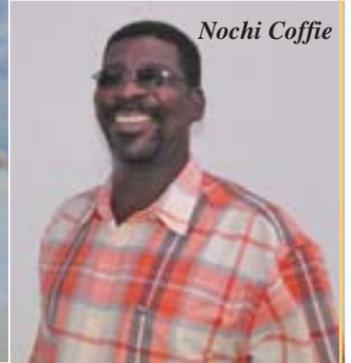
Passion of Christ Exposition



As part of Easter observances there will be an **art exposition in the St. Luis Beltran Church in Rincon** by two of Bonaire's superior artists, **Jua Guillermo and Nochi Coffie**.

The exposition opens on Thursday, April 13, at 6 pm and continues on the 14th at 2 pm (for the Stations of the Cross), the 15th at 10 pm for the Candle Lighting and closes at 9 am on Easter Sunday, April 16.

Nochi Coffie



(Continued from page 8)

► Harrold Vaseur, who headed the Cellular One service on Bonaire, is leading a **new CDMA Mobile phone company called MIO for Bonaire**. Cellular One phones were shut off and new, free phones are available to Cellular One customers at their downtown office. We'll bring you more details as soon as they are available.

► **Photo Tours Divers has moved their filling station to Port Bonaire Resort**, located across from the airport. At Port Bonaire, Photo Tours says they will be able to better serve all divers going to a dive site south of the airport or to the east coast. Nitrox in the "Nitrox 32 for free program" is also available there. Boat (s) will be leaving daily from Port Bonaire to Klein Bonaire or to other interesting sites. Photo Tours Port Bonaire will also offer all dive services. They invite you to have a look at their brand new dive shop. The filling station at Caribbean Court will be closed until further notice. Photo Tours Divers, together with Yellow Submarine, is a division of Dive Friends Bonaire.

► On Saturday, April 8, Yellow Submarine and NetTech will co-host an **underwater cleanup dive** along the shoreline. If you wish to participate, please meet at Yellow Submarine at 1 pm for a dive briefing and the dive. Participants reconvene after the dive at 5:30 pm for a pot-luck BBQ. Please bring a small item of food to share with your fellow divers.



► In 2007, the **Zambezi Lodge** may be Bonaire's newest "in" place to stay. Construction is continuing in

2006 with a planned opening next year. Nevertheless, their web site is already in place and is loaded with preliminary information. It will be continually updated with new information as it becomes available, as well as images of the construction of the resort. Check out www.zambezilodge.com for more details. Nick Davies, one of Bonaire's most experienced hotel managers, is in charge. APA will do the construction.



► **There's a new website for Bonaire lovers, BonaireStuff.com**, owned and operated by Caribbean Stuff, LLC, operated by Tracy and Mike Griffin with long time Bonaire residents, Jake and Linda Richter. There's an eclectic mix of products, from very practical items such as Paul Humann's and Ned Loach's fantastic *Reef Fish* book, Susan Porter's excellent *Bonaire Shore Diving Made Easy, 4th Edition*, and the phrasebook, *Getting Around the Island in Papiamentu*, to flamingo key chains, back scratchers, sunglasses, hats, a "Grow your own pet Flamingo" kit, Caribbean themed jewelry, "DooRag" products for snorkelers and divers, Bonaire DVDs, and Bonaire's famous salt for use in a relaxing bath.

► **This Sunday, April 9, don't miss the 28th Annual Kontest di Fli (Kite Contest)**. It starts in the morning and goes all day. You'll see some of the most incredible kites competing—with teams of families, kids, friends. It's great fun with music, food drinks and awards. It's at the big playing field behind Kooyman's. *G./L.D.*



Divi Flamingo's Carroll-Ann Soliano and Manager Sara Matera with Balashi Boys and Liz Rijna

► **Bonaire bartenders are excited about the first Balashi Bartenders competition**. So far 11 have signed up for the event which requires that the competing drinks contain Balashi beer. Balashi Boys, Fernando Kock and Clifton Jong, held their first work shop on Thursday, March 30. Competition will be held on Bonaire April 29, just before Rincon Day. Those interested in participating in this professional and fun competition should contact Liz Rijna, at the SGB or Albert Silie, from Balashi Bonaire. *Photo & story provided by Sara Matera*

Hans Hass at "Beneath the Sea"



Hans Hass with The Reporter

Dee Scarr found the recent "Beneath the Sea" Dive Show interesting and sent us a couple of wonderful photos of Hans Hass, Austrian

dive pioneer, and his wife Lotte (né Baierl). Hans first explored underwater



Hans Hass and Lotte in the 1940s

Draeger photos



Lotte Hass signs; Dee Scarr looks on. Dee Scarr photos

Bonaire in 1939. After World War II he returned for more adventures. When Dee asked them for a photo with *The Reporter* instead of just posing with the paper, they signed it. We will frame it in our office. Hans is now 87 years old. Hans and Lotte have been married for 56 years. *G.D.*

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

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
4-07	8:38	1.8FT. 16:57 0.8FT.	37
4-08	1:35	1.3FT. 1:42 1.3FT.	
	9:24	1.7FT. 17:20 0.9FT. 23:49 1.3FT.	40
4-09	3:46	1.3FT. 10:00 1.6FT. 17:31 1.0FT. 23:35 1.4FT.	47
4-10	5:08	1.3FT. 10:37 1.5FT. 17:29 1.1FT. 23:40 1.5FT.	55
4-11	6:27	1.2FT. 11:26 1.4FT. 17:05 1.1FT. 23:59 1.5FT.	63
4-12	0:11	1.6FT. 8:00 1.2FT. 12:09 1.3FT. 16:23 1.1FT.	70
4-13	0:39	1.7FT. 9:48 1.1FT. 13:48 1.2FT. 15:28 1.1FT.	76
4-14	1:09	1.8FT. 11:21 1.0FT.	81

A Week On Bonaire *by Wilna Groenenboom*



Giraffe Project

Art For Learning

Pelikaan School teacher Liesbeth Appel sent us some photos of her class making a giraffe as part of an art/learning project. All four classes at Pelikaan are doing art over a 10-week period to reinforce their lessons. Local artists have been invited to participate.

Rotarally Results

On Sunday, March 26, the Rotary Club of Bonaire held its 20th anniversary road rally, the Rotarally. It was a huge success won by Fred Timmerman and his partner, Eric. In second place was the Coffy Team; in third, the Wichers team. In total 57 cars participated.

After the expenses were paid, about NAf1.600 was collected and will be donated to the needy. The organizers and participants were very satisfied. Next year the Rotary Club plans to have two classes.



The finish of the Rotarally was at Jos'.

Band at Bongos

Last Saturday night the entertaining Dutch band, DeDijk, performed once again at Bongo's Beach to a huge (for Bonaire) crowd. It was their fourth appearance on the island. This time their appearance was part of a 12-day, 25th anniversary tour of Surinam, Curaçao and our island.

The band consists of: Huub van der Lubbe, vocals; Hans van Der Lubbe, bass guitar; Pim Kops, "piano"/keyboard; Antonie Broek, drums; Nico Arzbach, lead guitar; JB Meijers, guitar; Roland Brunt, saxophone; and MikeBooth on trumpet.



The Band at Bongos

Bonaire Sundog

Many people call it a "sundog," a 22° halo around the Sun. It looks like the Sun is being viewed through a large lens. In this case, however, there are actually millions of lenses: ice crystals in the upper atmosphere. Each crystal acts like a miniature lens, refracting sunlight into our view and creating this "perihelia," the technical term for sundogs. It appeared just after noon on Monday, March 27 and dissipated around 3 pm.

Stories & photos by Wilna Groenenboom (except for Pelikaan school which were by Liesbeth Appel)



A Sundog

Bonaire Ambassadors



Buddy Dive's Martin Cecilia, Steve, TCB's Ronella Croes, Heidi, Cactus Blue owners Corinna and Hagen, Buddy Dive head Marteen v.d. Valk

Steve and Heidi Polakoff have been visiting Bonaire for the last 25 years, returning again and again. Bonaire was their honeymoon destination in 1981 because of its reputation for great diving and fine weather. Steve and Heidi stayed at the old Bonaire Beach Hotel and finished their certification there. They returned to Bonaire when their daughter (now 21) was 9 months old with a babysitter. Both their children were certified for diving here.

The diving and weather remain fabulous, but what keeps them coming back

they say are the friendly people and the casual, laid-back atmosphere.

Their friends at the Cactus Blue Restaurant heard about the 25-year story and alerted the Tourism Corporation Bonaire. Cactus Blue co-owner, Corinna and colleagues arranged for a special gathering at Cactus Blue to honor the new Gold Ambassadors. Representatives from Buddy Dive Resort, where the couple is staying, also showed up.

Congratulations! *TCB release*

The Bonaire Gardner Change of the Seasons



Oleanders can be at their most beautiful right now.

I think everybody has noticed that, finally, the rainy season has stopped. Normally our rainy season continues to about February, but this year, even in March, we are having some nice showers. I, together with my colleagues, say "LET THEM KEEP COMING!"

So this article is about the change of the seasons. I've written many times about this before. Most people think we don't have seasons on Bonaire, but as you can see with a lot of big trees like the Neem and others they are losing a lot of leaves in this "dormant" period. Don't worry, this is just a protection provided by Mother Nature against the coming

winds and warmer temperatures. This is the time to start watering your plants again, or if you have an irrigation system, start checking it now!

The plants have been spoiled over the last months with all that nice rain so they will have to get used to the "normal" Bonairean weather again. This makes them a bit fragile, but with some extra water or even a bit of fertilizer they will be okay. Reduce the amount of water over the next weeks so they really get used to the coming hot months.

Also the rain has washed away a lot of soil from around the plants, so make

(Continued on page 14)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Double Lustrums (5-year Anniversaries)

Both the Lion's Den Restaurant and the tabloid edition of *The Bonaire Reporter* (originally begun as the *Port Call* in 1994) are celebrating their first lustrum (5 year anniversary) this week.



This is the first tabloid showing Lion's Den owner, Kirk Gosdan, welcoming his diners with a Piña Colada.



Here is Kirk today offering his most popular drink currently— Old Speckled Hen. (See his ad on page 3.)

Readers are invited to send their photos of their anniversaries, engagements or weddings 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. 8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoon 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

Refills! Do you have an empty 1.25 oz container of SeaGold, SeaDrops or a 2-oz. container of PSI 500 defog? Bring it in and the Carib Inn will fill for half the price of a new bottle!! You must have an original bottle though.

For Sale Daewoo Matiz 2002 +/- 30.000 km Airco, Radio, very good condition. First Owner, Call 717-5632

Picture Yourself In The Reporter

Uluru (Ayers Rock), Australia



Here's Diana Burger enjoying the sunset at Uluru (Ayers Rock), Australia with her copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. She and Marcel Rombouts visited Bonaire last August, kept a copy of *The Reporter* and took it with them on their next holiday.

They live in the Netherlands so you can imagine the big temperature difference when they returned from Australia last month.

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. BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN 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.)

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

FOR QUICK SALE: NAf 680 per item, or best offer.

12-ft. collapsible 3-seat 4-person dinghy, with polypropylene coral-proof hull, stows in 5-inches, great for fishing, towing, motoring, even sailing.

10-ft. Walker Bay sailing dinghy, complete & nearly new.

Trailer with hitch for transporting boats 14-ft. or less.

2.5 h.p. Johnson 2-cyl. outboard engine w/ tank.

Email Mac at macamal@mac.com, or phone 786-1119.

Boats for Sale



Hartley Rorc 39 Sailing Yacht for sale. Ferro-cement ocean cruiser in good shape with lots of equipment; new sails-2005, GPS, solar panel etc. Presently cruising the Netherlands Antilles. Asking price: \$35,000 US.

Please email : Hilde for more info e-mail: hmkvalhe@yahoo.com

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.

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.



Life & Death Drama on the Hilma Hooker

The silver-bodied Tarpon named "Quicksilver"



Ballet or Survival?

There is never a routine dive. On a personal level, after more than 5,700 open water dive experiences, I have learned to expect the unexpected. The ocean realm contains secrets beyond the limit of our imagination. Enter this liquid environment and your senses are overwhelmed by its beauty and diversity. Perhaps the mysteries beneath the surface are the "bait on the lure" that continues to entice us below.

Our Plan and Mission for Today

A return visit to the popular submerged wreck of the *William Express*, also known as the *Hilma Hooker*, intentionally sunk as an artificial reef off the south coast of Bonaire in 1984, will give Cathy, my dive partner, and me a chance to test some new camera gear. We plan to shoot photos of each other as we move through the cabin and engine room of the familiar shipwreck. It is an easy way to test the equipment as well as add perspective and establish good camera angles for future staged shooting with other divers. Each of us will serve as a focal point for the other. Maneuvering in and out of some confined spaces with the cameras and strobes will also determine what positions are possible and how to avoid raising clouds of silt and sediment.

OK! Let's Get Wet

After an easy beach entry (Bonaire is known as the best place for "shore diving" in the Caribbean - may I say the World?) we surface swim to the reef drop-off and descend to the shipwreck resting on her starboard side, 30 meters (98 feet) below in the sand channel separating the shoreline and second reef.

With clear water I can almost see the entire length of the 80 m (260 ft.) ship. We pass over the top of the port rail at amidships and head towards the forward cabin between the gaping cavities of the two massive cargo holds. At this point we are usually greeted by several large silver bodied Tarpon, two of them christened "Quicksilver" and "Chromium" in a previous episode, but today, none are present. A quick test firing of our cameras and strobes confirms that everything is working and, as we turn in toward the opening in the side of the crew's quarters, a movement near the stern catches my attention. The sight before us instantly changes our dive plan!

A Deadly Underwater Ballet

I vigorously bang on my air tank to alert Cathy who has started to enter the cabin. She turns around and follows my sightline toward the rear of the ship. In the distant haze, suspended alongside and above the steel hull is an enormous, undulating mass that appears to be a gigantic sea-jelly. As we cautiously approach, what we see shocks our senses, sends our breathing rate into high gear and will reward us with images we will never forget.

The mass is not a single organism but a huge cloud of millions of schooling, silver-sided baitfish, each one 15-20 cm (6-8 in.) long, densely packed into a massive amoeba-like ball, moving in unison and morphing into fantastic shapes around and above the shipwreck. We glance toward each other with wide eyes and smiles and somehow, in several seconds, with simple hand signals, change the plan and our respective roles, adjust



The author-photographer joins the ballet
Photo by Catherine Salisbury

the cameras and strobes and proceed to record the unfolding drama before us. Beams of sunlight spotlight the stage.

Choreographing the movements of the cast of this ballet, positioning themselves around the edges of the moving silver clad dancers, are a team of Horse Eye Jacks, several of our friendly Tarpon and "Fang," the Great Barracuda, who resides at the wreck. The patrolling Jacks seem to be in charge of the program and continually probe the crowded fish for weaknesses. As the ballet continues, I slowly enter the swirling school that casually opens its ranks and admits me into the center of the action. I am completely surrounded by the formation and have my own space within the mass of individuals. I continue to swim, sway and spin around in my role as "on-stage" photographer, astounded by the precision of the unified movement of each fish within the school, sometimes packed together with less than 1 cm (3/8 in.) between each other. All seems peaceful.

The Inevitable Attack ...or Is It?

Without warning, in a split second, everything changes. With a loud whoosh, a wave of water strikes my facemask, created by the instantaneous, oncoming rush of fleeing fish at twice the speed of the lightning strike of six hungry Jacks that penetrate the crowd. Exploding into a thousand silver shimmers, the schooling tactic pays off. There are no casualties that I can see, and within moments the mass of fish reorganize into their synchronized evasion ballet.

For eons the most striking and least understood social behavior among fishes has been schooling. Although thousands of individuals are moving simultane-

ously, there are no collisions and apparently no confusion. Using vision, otoliths ("inner ear stones") and lateral lines, each member of the school can maintain position and, as a group, can open a hole around an advancing predator, contract into tight balls or explode in all directions to avert capture.

Research has shown that successful schooling requires evidence of "mutual attraction," meaning that each fish must constantly adjust its speed and direction to match the other members of the school. They must also be polarized, facing in the same direction and maintain fixed distances from each other. These traits create the weaving, undulating flow of motion associated with the great mass. It appears that the job of the "raiding parties" is to try and create chaotic conditions and pandemonium within the school. However, further research indicates that each fish in the school can simultaneously accelerate in only a **50th of a second** from a standing start to a speed of up to **20 body lengths per second**. As we observed first hand, it seems that this ability to communicate and swiftly act and move in unison has overcome the threat from the predators. In the sea, social interaction and survival may be closely linked.

It appears that this group of Jacks is taking pleasure from the hunt and chase rather than attempting to kill and eat the dancers. The predators have divided their numbers during the "attack." The small group moved in while the larger group maintained positions outside the formation. Perhaps this is an advanced tactic by the predators looking for stragglers or a confused member of the school.

We will continue to enter this fascinat-

Albert Bianculli has been visiting Bonaire since 1970 and now lives on Bonaire full time. See his show every Sunday night at Captain Don's Habitat Aquarius Conference Room beginning at 8:30 pm. All images are original, un-retouched slides, shot on location and composed within the viewfinder.



(Bonaire Gardner. Continued from page 11)

sure your water gets to the right spot. For those areas where the rain has made the top-soil very hard you can rake or cultivate the soil around the plants to get some get extra moisture and extra air into your soil. Also you can add some good organic potting soil or mulch to help this process.

I know I have told you this before. It's not that I have a lack of topics! But this is just too important. We always try to update everybody as well as we can...so...Another not-so-nice part of the changing season is that a lot of plants have problems with the **mealy bugs or pies-pies**. Plants that have a big problem these days are the Bougainvillea and Crotons. Since they all have so much fresh green growth it makes it easy for the bugs to spread very fast. So most of the time spent on maintaining a garden these days is raking the leaves and taking care of the mealybugs, which is, as I wrote in my last articles, not very easy. Mostly our advice is when a Bougainvillea is a bit overgrown and infected with the *pies-pies*, cut it firmly back. Give it a chance and it will grow back in no time, this time hopefully without the bugs. Don't forget to rake most of the infected leaves as well. They can also spread the eggs of the bugs.

But apart from all of this, this is also the time of year that the Bougainvilleas and Oleanders are at their most beautiful and spread their abundance of flowers around! And that is what counts! *Ap van Eldik*

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

Pet of the Week

Now here's one of the most archetypal of cats – a gray striped tabby called “Roeky.” She's a “classic,” one who has endured throughout the ages and known for her fantastic mousing abilities. Roeky did have owners but they had to leave her when their life changed and they could no longer keep her. Roeky, however, despite the abandonment by her owners, has taken it all in stride and has gained a reputation of being easily adaptable. She's the kind of personality that can get by quite well as an “only” cat, but she's perfectly amenable to being part of a group of others. She's known as a very cool cat! Roeky is nearly three years old and seems to know what life is all about. She's had her shots, her tests, she's social...she's ready to go. Come meet her. Roeky is at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. *L.D.*



“Roeky”

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)
Final Destination
3 (Ryan Merriman)
Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
Big Momma's House 2

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
April: Curious George

THIS WEEK

Friday, April 7—World Health Day
Saturday, April 8- Quarterly Underwater Cleanup—meet at Yellow Sub at 1 pm. Potluck BBQ follows at 5:30pm.
Sunday, April 9 – Kite Contest (Kontest di Fli) All day, great fun, food, drinks, music – incredible kites – at the field behind Kooyman's.
Sunday, April 9– Opening of Fer and Rob de Wit Photo Exhibition at Plaza Resort. Open 5-8 pm, Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. Until May 14. Information call 717-5398.
Thursday, April 13 (6 pm)–Sunday, April 16- Passion of Christ Exposition by Bonaire Artists Jua Guillermo and Nochi Coffee. St. Luis Beltran Church, Rincon. See page 8.
April 13 – 17 – 4th Annual MCB Tennis Cup at Harbour Village Tennis Center 565-5225, 717-6907.
Friday, April 14–Good Friday—Banks and many stores closed
Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon. Great gift ideas—many “made on Bonaire.” See Cruise Ship Schedule above.

COMING

Easter Sunday, April 16–Bonairean Night at Divi Flamingo—with all the local specialties and live music—Tel. 717-8285, ext. 444
Monday, April 17—Easter Monday– Official Holiday, banks & many shops closed.
Saturday, April 22—Earth Day “What on Earth” activities, parade for children. Info 717-4593
Saturday, April 29 – Balashi Beer Bartenders' Competition – Divi Flamingo - See page 9
Sunday, April 30–Rincon Day, Queen's Birthday, Queen's Birthday Race, Windsurfing Race (Tolo), MCB 5 km, 17 km run
Friday, May 12 - Big party and show for 'mom' at Don Paranda, from 8:30 pm to 2 am, entrance Fl.35- Featuring Melania van der Veen, Boy Thode, Romeo Heye, Denis Cicilia, Wilbert Petronella and DJ HB Disco. To benefit the FKPD (Handicapped Foundation) Call 717-6210 for tickets.

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 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 Windsurf 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)

March through May 2006 Cruise Ship Schedule

Date	Ship	PAX	Arrive	Depart	Pier
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

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 (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 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— Call Roosje 786-7984
Volunteers to train children in sports. Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

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 Antriol, in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

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

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
Cactus Blue Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564	Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday	Trend setting décor and menu Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service
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.
Croccantino 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 David 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



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.

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 an 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. **Full digital services.**

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.

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

Jo-Anne Piar-Everts

“My parents were living in Curaçao where my father was working in supermarket management. They were both from Bonaire. My father was Eric Everts and my mom is Yolanda Nicolaas. I was born on Bonaire in 1974, but I grew up as an only child on Curaçao until my dad died when I was six. My mom and I came back to Bonaire to live with my grandparents, Goy and Chepa, in Nort di Salina, and my mother started working for General Store (now Kooyman’s).

As a child I wasn’t too aware of all these changes. I immediately found a friend, Nataly, and I felt at home right away. I went to Papa Cornes School and after that to SGB where I did HAVO. I didn’t have a clue what I wanted to study, but I certainly didn’t want to go to Holland. And I didn’t want to start just any study then have to change it again and build up a big debt. My mom said, ‘Why don’t you become a teacher? It’s good. You work half a day and you’re off half a day!’ Now I feel sorry I didn’t do it! At the time I thought I wouldn’t get along with children; I was very shy. So the logical choice was to go to VWO, an educational path that prepares you for university.

It gave me more time to think. I could have gone to Curaçao where I have an aunt, but I preferred to go to Aruba where I’d never been. My mother had family there and also a friend and so I moved in with them. I was 17, and I left my boyfriend, William “Willy” Piar, behind for the time being. He lived across the street from me. He was a nice boy and he still is! I found him handsome; we could really talk together; and he was a serious boy too.

Aruba was lovely. My mother’s friend had a daughter my age and we got along very well. I stayed for two years and finished VWO. Still I didn’t know what to do. I wanted to go back to Bonaire to see if I could find a job. I sent quite a few application letters to the banks in Bonaire and I got a positive answer from what was then the ABN Bank.

I came back June 1994. Willy was already working for the government as a sports leader for Indebon and I started working immediately for the ABN Bank as a cashier. It was great; I was very happy to be back. Via the bank I did several courses and worked in various departments. When the bank was taken over by RBTT I kept my position. Now I work with the commercial clients.

In 1996 Willy and I got married. While I was still on Aruba Willy had been busy

with the house, buying 100 blocks every month. We’d talked about how we wanted the house to be and he’d made all the sketches. Even before we got married we’d already started with the construction. Willy thought it would be better to get a bank mortgage on both salaries. We did and six months later the house was finished and we moved in October 1997.

In 1998 our son Daniel was born. It was beautiful; everyone was so happy! We were very lucky because Willy’s mom, Tecla, has always taken care of the children. If it weren’t for her they would have ended up in the crèche when they were still very little; I would have found that terrible. Daniel is seven now and our second son Elijah is four. Neither of them went to crèche until they were 18 months old. Still, Elijah is home with Tecla every afternoon because I think he’s too young to stay at Skol di Bario. It’s difficult on Bonaire because you only have two options. Either the children go to a babysitter’s or to the crèche, not like in Holland, I heard, where you can arrange things with your employer and for instance work fewer hours. Alas, the time I spend with my children is very little. In the morning we have to get them and ourselves ready to go. That’s no quality time. In the afternoon I see them from five to seven, and then they go to bed. That’s two hours per day!

“Another thing I worry about very much is that our elementary school system changed in 2002 and the instruction language switched from Dutch to Papiamentu.”

Another thing I worry about very much is that our elementary school system changed in 2002 and the instruction language switched from Dutch to Papiamentu. The children are no longer put together with others of the same age in one classroom. Now they’re divided into three cycles. The first is four school years (two years of kindergarten and first and second grade). Still, there are hardly any school materials available; the teachers are supposed to create lesson materials



Daniel and Elijah with their parents Willy and Jo-Anne

themselves as there are no school books available in Papiamentu. The children don’t get a report card so I don’t know how my son is doing and whether he knows what he’s supposed to know at his age. I sent a letter in which I expressed my concerns to the *extra* newspaper because I read in the *Amigoe* newspaper that in Curaçao the children who were up for the second cycle had to have an emergency course because their level of Dutch was insufficient and a big gap had occurred. It’s funny, but after my article in the *extra* people finally started talking.

The teachers say that the new system is good, only it hadn’t been worked out properly before it was put into practice. For four years we’ve gotten the same information about what they were doing with the children: the child is central - every child develops at its own level - and if a child is instructed in its own language it will pick up other languages much faster. Imagine! Almost four years have passed and nobody checked to see if the results were according to the expectations and wishes. So, now they’re going to hear from us because lots of parents are concerned because we don’t know anything. Somebody once told me that the things you don’t know can frighten you. I’m afraid because I don’t know if my son is getting a proper education! We need an evaluation of the system so we know the education situation on Bonaire.”

Jo-Anne Piar-Everts (31) is a very bright but quiet person. She’s patiently holding four-year old Elijah who fell asleep on her lap after her husband Willy left to attend a meeting. They’re just a lovely family: hard working people with two cute little boys.

“When I’m free I like to work on the family’s picture album which I keep like a diary. I also drew the pictures for a schoolbook made by Morella Wanner,

our boys’ godmother and an ex-schoolteacher. Another hobby of mine is being a leader in one of Awana’s clubs, a religious group that belongs to the International Bible Church. My grandmother, Cecilia Everts, likes to write poetry and books and she also likes to recite poems. My mother, who works at Centro nowadays, likes to do handicrafts and so do I. My dad loved to read, especially science fiction - and I love that too! Willie, who’s now a sports teacher at Papa Cornes School, is the one in the family who is crazy for music. He’s been the mixer for Magic Sounds and Elijah seems to take after him because he gets some buckets and some sticks and starts drumming! Daniel’s hobby is judo and he’s good. He’s got the yellow belt. Sometimes we go to the beach, but not very often. We do go for drives quite often and we get together with friends, like with my girlfriend Nataly. We’re still best friends!

The beauty of Bonaire is the tranquility. It’s quiet, lovely; not so many people living on top of each other, and the people are friendly. My grandmother has a kunuku and maybe, in time, we can get a part of it. We would like to build a little kunuku house there so we can go camping with the boys and grow our own watermelons and pumpkins. That would be fun! Yes, I will always stay here. Why not! When you think of other places that are at war or there’s poverty I think we’re blessed - I can’t imagine living anywhere else!”

Story and photo by Greta Kooistra

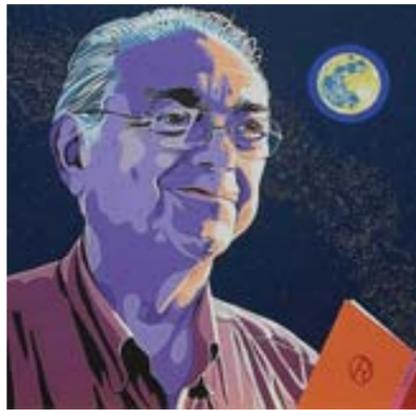


PORTRAITS OF BONAIRE

The Poet

The inaugural flight of BonairExel airlines takes off, with a Bonairean at the helm. A large crowd has gathered at Flamingo Airport. The people applaud and cheer, they are happy and proud: no longer dependent on DCA from Curaçao. That airline used to treat Bonaire as an afterthought, resulting in bad connections with other island in the Antilles.

After the first flight, for invited guests only, there is a large party and many speeches. Between the officials on the stage, a little to the side, stands a small man, obviously enjoying his 'finest hour' with a glimmer in his eyes. I keep an eye on him because later I want to talk to him about the continuation of the Bonairean brass band and fanfare, which he directs and for which I am treasurer -- and baritone sax player.



Raymundo Saleh

I congratulate Raymundo on the launch of our own Bonairean airline, and the first success of yet another project he took on and fought for, simply because he believed in it.

"Either you do something well, or you don't do it at all, Guus! That first flight gave me particular satisfaction because of the economic perspective: we take tourists from St Maarten, Aruba and Curaçao, islands which offer European and American tourists a much better 'airlift.' As you know, we rely on tourism for our economic well-being. So, if no big American carriers fly directly to Bonaire, we'll just have to pick our visitors up! From a social perspective this airline is also very important: DAE, as BonairExel is now called, provides an income for a hundred people. Lastly, there is the morale issue, the feeling we can accomplish something ourselves, a feeling we have missed for a long time. That may even be the most important aspect, for our development, for our future."

Raymundo Saleh was born on Bonaire just before the Second World War. His parents, Maronites from Lebanon, came to the Antilles on a sailing ship. His father set up a grocery trading company. Raymundo was 7 years old when his father passed away, leaving his mother with 12 children to take care of.

<i>"My mother was the sweetest woman tender, caring for us, her children she was above all so intensely faithful</i>	<i>My father was a big man very cordial and genial for us, his children he was the father who could do all."</i>
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After school, the children had to work in the shop -- the times were hard for the entire family. Later, Raymundo entered secondary school in Curaçao, and turned out to be one of the top students. He returned to Bonaire to take over his father's business.

But things took an unexpected turn. After a couple of years, he was offered a job at the Ontvangerkantoor, the tax collecting office in Bonaire. He worked hard and learned a lot, and after three years, when he was only 25 years old, he was promoted to Deputy Collector. Two years after that, Raymundo finished his in-house departmental training and became Representative of the island of Bonaire in the Antilles Parliament.

An even bigger surprise, most of all to Raymundo himself, came when he was appointed Lt. Governor of Bonaire. He was 32 by then, the youngest person to hold that title in the history of Bonaire and the entire Netherlands Antilles!

"Yes, it all did happen very quickly, didn't it. It was almost automatic; I never felt I had to push in any direction. Of course, I was young and ambitious, but still I was accepted by most of the older politicians. I was given a lot of space to work on some important accomplishments for our island: the foundation of Radio Netherlands, deepening the harbor and constructing a long pier there, a longer runway for the airport, the foundation of Bopec, an ultramodern telephone system for Telbo...!"

He shines with this, still modest, list he gives. He shines as he did when the first Bonair-Exel flight took off: "I did it, through perseverance and striking the iron while it was hot." As Lt. Governor he was given his power at his inauguration, but he also earned it through his forcefulness, charm, sagacity and modesty without any interest in personal gain. It gave him the wings to continue with other projects.

"But, I worked myself silly in those days. Every waking moment was spent working for the island, though I really liked what I did. I got involved in all sorts of aspects of island life- art, culture, health - you name it. These experiences have helped me a lot with all subsequent undertakings. After I stepped down from my Lt. Governor function, I was asked for all sorts of functions, but I never fell for just any one. I only accepted offers that enabled me to do something for the island, because I love it so much and I like to do my bit. It is of the utmost importance that we further our development, and that is what I'm doing it all for."

Raymundo Saleh can look back upon a successful career in public office. He knew how to get things done through his belief and ambition -- he still does. He is what the Germans call a 'Macher,' someone who is pragmatic, no-nonsense and results-driven. At the same time, he is just vain enough to enjoy a successful completion with a smile that says, We did that quite well, didn't we?

In all this work as manager and director, there is one aspect of his personality that remains invisible.

"Look at it this way: the business side, the professional side of my personality is the hardware; my interest in art and culture is the software. Professionally, you're working against deadlines for hard targets and ultimately the realization of some goal. In art, your goals are different: some form of reflection or self-checking, sometimes maybe a moral message, or

sometimes pure romanticism or nostalgia. This world envelops me when I am by myself, and usually comes to the fore in a moment of peace, when you detach yourself from your work. You take a break and all manner of thoughts drift up from within, thoughts I have committed to paper."

He seems continually busy, either with his hardware or his software. He wrote his first poetry lines, under the roof of a kunuku house, when he was just a small boy.

"I have been writing poetry since my early youth. It is waiting in folders, ready to be published. I've already started a foundation: Bonaire Art Editors. Sounds good, doesn't it! If I have more time, I would like to publish my work and that of others. There still is a lot of valuable material lying around in cupboards. It's a shame this hasn't seen the light of day yet."

After a visit to the Bonaire public library, I can second that claim: there is very little literary material in Papiamentu, specifically poetry. Just a few yellowed volumes lie on the shelves there, in peace, but forgotten.

We listen to some music from Raymundo's collection.

"I once tried learning to play the saxophone, but that was long ago and I didn't really have a knack for it. Maybe, with a little more time, I should come over and take some lessons with you!

"I always was partial to Cuban music. Even as a teenager, back in the 50s, I collected Daniel Santos and La Sonora Mantancera records. Mantancera was the orchestra that brought Celia Cruz to stardom; Tito Puente played with them as well. They were considered the Beatles of the Caribbean. If they came to play, the whole island was excited. I guess I have about a thousand recordings of them. They combined the traditional Cuban music with jazz influences beautifully. It swings, it's melodic, it's well-crafted. The lyrics are very philosophical sometimes, but can be really simple as well, like in a party song."

We play one record after the other and enjoy the music from Raymundo's childhood. For some reason, the music from your childhood stays close to you throughout your life.

"This is a very special recording. This song is called 'Bula Waya.' It was written during the Second World War by someone who was imprisoned in Bonaire. He wrote the lyrics on the back of this silver paper you find in cigarette packs. They were put to music by Pierre Laufer from Curaçao. When Daniel Santos played a concert there, he heard this song, and he liked it so much he recorded it under his own name. That version, 'Bula Waya' by the Daniel Santos Orchestra, sung in faultless Papiamentu, was played on Antilles radio stations every day and became a worldwide hit."

He gets us both excited the more he talks. Did the orchestra still exist? Could we get them for the Bonaire Jazz Festival this year? Could we, perhaps, record a new CD or a DVD of the performance, with all those beautiful songs from the 50s and 60s? Could something tangible be produced from that old feeling that was implanted in his youthful years?

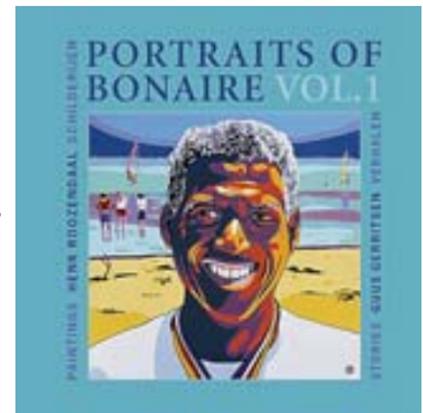
He reads one more poem, a poem that describes beautifully the nostalgia, the longing for something that is no more:

*The old place of yesteryear
the fresh sweet smell
that tickles me pleasantly
Oh how I wish I could
grasp all this
feel it close to me
and name it precisely*

Raymundo gives me the look that we've come to know, a mixture of modest pride and amazement at his own accomplishment: Not bad, eh?

Then the phone rings, and he apologizes, "I have to go to the airport. If I don't solve this problem, there won't be any DAE planes flying tomorrow!"

The hardware side takes precedence once more. The software stays behind, lying on his desk, waiting for a publisher. Story by Guus Gerritsen; Painting by Henk Rozendall



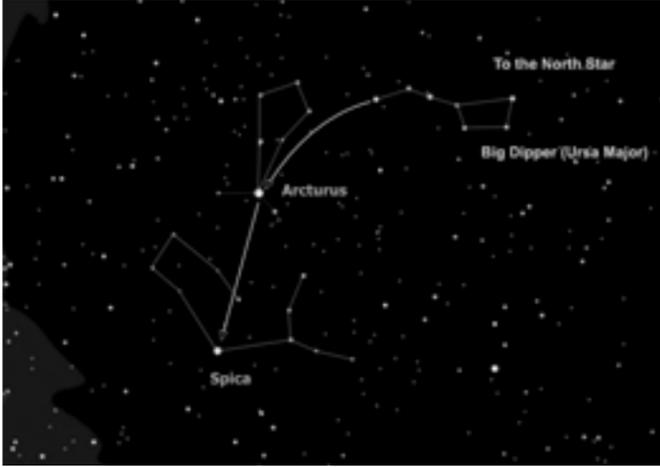


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Playing the Big Dipper Game

Every April I like to remind all star gazers how to play the old **Big Dipper** game because the Big Dipper in April is positioned in such a way that it gives relevance to an old folk saying and can be used to find two incredible stars high in the heavens.



Let me show you:

On any night in any April between the hours of 8 and 10 pm look due north where you'll see the Big Dipper almost directly above and just to the right of the **North Star**, its cup pointed down in such a way that if it were filled full of water, the water would be pouring out directly onto the ground below. This gives a celestial significance to that old saying, "April showers bring May flowers," because every April in early evening the biggest water dipper of the heavens is indeed pouring its imaginary water onto the **Earth** below. We always wish we had a little more rain in the Sky Park in April. But aside from the water pouring aspect of the Dipper at this season, we can use the three stars which make its handle as a finder to locate two stars of spring, which are absolutely wonderful and which are also high up in the heavens in April.

Simply draw an imaginary line through the handle of the Big Dipper and extend it in the same curve, or arc, as the handle, and you'll "arc" to the bright star **Arcturus**, the brightest star of **Bootes the Herdsman**. Then if you extend that curve, that arc, on from Arcturus you can "speed on" directly to **Spica**, the brightest star of **Virgo the Virgin**. Once again, using the handle and its curve, arc to Arcturus, then speed on to Spica. What could be easier? Now brighter Arcturus is relatively close, only 35 light years away, which means we see the light that left it 35 years ago in 1971. Spica, however, is almost 8 times farther away than Arcturus, 260 light years, which means we see the light that left it 260 years ago in 1746. Indeed, incredible as it seems, even though we rarely think about it when we look at the stars, we are really looking back in time whenever we star gaze. And how far back in time depends on how far away each star is.

So when I say that Arcturus is 35 light years away it really means that when you look at Arcturus this month you are seeing Arcturus not as it actually exists at the present but as it actually existed 35 years ago. And when you speed on to Spica and look at it this month you are in reality seeing Spica not as it exists now but as it actually existed 260 years ago, indeed, in 1746. Which inevitably leads one to the question, "Is it possible that we ever see stars now which are no longer in existence?" The answer is, yes indeed, although we're quite sure Arcturus and Spica are still there.

So some time this April between 8 and 10 pm play the Big Dipper game. Arc to 35-light-years-away Arcturus, then speed on to 260-light-years-away Spica. *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: April 2 to 8, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will be highly sensitive to comments made by your lover. Dazzle them with your intellectual conversation. Disruptions may set you back, but you're strong, and in the end the choices you make will be favorable. You must try to include your mate in your activities this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Try to keep your opinions to yourself. It's hard to stay mad if the object of the anger refuses to react. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Resist secret affairs that could be detrimental to your reputation. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Brunch, a long walk, or a quiet dinner will secure your position in the relationship. Don't let friends or relatives rule your life. Work quietly on your own. Your family may be feeling neglected and unloved. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Promote your ideas now. Things at work have been moving quickly and you may be feeling a little uncertain about the changes taking place. Limitations at work might set you back. Expect to have more people on your domestic scene. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You must consider yourself for a change. Opportunities for romance will flourish through travel. Travel will be exciting. Emotional up and downs have caused doubts in your personal life. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will meet a person who may turn out to be more than just a friend. Think twice before you speak. You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits. Avoid scandals of any sort. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your social activity should be conducive to finding love. In return, the satisfaction you get is enough for you. Try not to argue about trivial matters. Abstain from getting involved with married individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) It's time to reevaluate your motives. Try not to make waves. You will get great satisfaction from your efforts. Your courage and willpower will enable you to get rid of destructive habits as well. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You should expect to have changes in your home. Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. You may find that family members may not be too easy to get along with. Fitness or weight loss programs will help your self esteem. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) It's time to reevaluate your motives. You may find your self a bit frazzled if you allow someone to goad you into an unsavory debate. Intellectual stimulation is what you are looking for. Social events will lead to a strong and stable relationship. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try not to be overly generous. You need to take a long, hard look at yourself and your personal situation. You may find yourself changing crowds. Health problems may prevail if you haven't been getting enough rest. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your suggestions for fund raising events will be well received. Your energetic nature and ability to initiate projects will add to your popularity. Nagging has never been something that you could tolerate, and it's once again driving you into a lonely state of affairs. Your ability to deal with others will help you in getting the support you need. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.