

**It's
still
Free!**

BONAIRE

April 6 to April 13, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 14

The REPORTER

PO Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 786-6125/6518

SINCE 1994



Kontest di Fli

Kites over Bonaire

Page 13

Wilna Gronenenboom photo

Flotsam and Jetsam

The Reporter begins its articles leading up to the April 20 Island Council elections this week with the first interview with the wife of one of the leading political parties (page 21) and a guest editorial examining the environmental plank in the platforms of the two front running parties (page 8). In upcoming weeks there will be interviews of the other top candidates' wives and more commentary. Readers are invited to participate.



► In response to the soaring fuel prices, **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has increased its fuel surcharge by 5 Euro (about NA\$12) to 55 Euro per stretch** on long-haul (intercontinental) flights. This increase will be applicable also on tickets issued in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. In the last couple of months this surcharge was reduced on a number of occasions. The surcharge has also gone up on flights within Europe.

► Two weeks ago **the DAE airline began flying to Caracas**. The Caracas flight is twice a day during the week from Curaçao and once a day on Saturday and Sunday. The flight will have "seamless connections" with DAE's Aruba and Bonaire flights.

► Ever wonder how much it costs to run a medium size passenger jet?

Sprint Airlines, one of America's fastest growing low-cost airlines, figures it's **\$10,000 to \$12,000 per day**. In the past Bonaire officials were courting Florida-based



Atom bomb to the industry?

Spirit to fly to Bonaire. Spirit just added flights to Aruba. Spirit says it will add 12 more destinations in 2007.

Spirit, classifying itself as an "ultra

low-cost carrier," said it lowered its fares by as much as 40% in March, but as of June 20 will begin charging passengers from **\$5 to \$10 apiece** for their first two checked bags and \$1 for juice, soda, coffee and tea. The fee will be jump to \$100 for a third checked bag. The checked bag fees are separate from excess weight fees for checked bags weighing more than 50 pounds. If successful this will be an "atom bomb" to the industry said an aviation insider.

► **From March 20-24 officials of the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) monitored security arrangements at Bonaire's Flamingo Airport.** Airport operations, catering, cargo and other operations were scrutinized to ensure they met the regulations involving airport security.

According to an airport press release the results were *hopi positive* (most positive) and the TSA officials were *hopi satisfecho* (very satisfied).



From the right: Robby Sint Jago, Bonaire Assistant Harbormaster, Sr. Meijer from Maduro Shipping, and reps of Celebrity Cruises TCB Photo

► There is a lot of (cruise ship) interest in Bonaire, says Tourism Corporation Director Ronella Croes. "We noticed that during the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention. We had a stand there and a bigger delegation was present; a more active approach."

Based on this interest it was estimated that **91,000** cruise tourists will visit Bonaire in the 2006/2007 season, and about **156,000** in 2007/2008. Bonaire received 40,000 to 50,000 cruise tourists in the past top years, about the same number as fly-in visitors.

Croes says that the product Bonaire

offers, the need for new islands on the cruise ships routes, TCB's good support and the Harbor Office's service to the cruise ship companies have played an important part in this growth.

TCB also conducted a survey that indicated that **the average cruise ship tourist spends \$50 to \$100 in Bonaire**. "Cruise tourism has direct revenue for several sectors in our economy. A fee per passenger will be introduced next season. This means extra income for the island," she added.

► **We have received several reports that there is significantly increased interest in Bonaire from Dutch buyers searching for a second home.**

There was a considerable presence of Bonaire realtors and developers at the recent Utrecht Home Show. It seems that with the prospect of closer links with the mother country, Dutch buyers are more comfortable with the prospect of living abroad. A survey taken at the show indicated that half of the persons attending would consider relocation outside of The Netherlands.

► **On Monday, March 19, the Customs Service's only boat was set afire by unknown persons while on a trailer at the Harbour Village Marina** awaiting repairs and was a total loss. The Central Government has been asked to provide funds for a new boat.

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)



BVO photo

The STCB showed the State Secretary around Lac Bay (Gov. Domacassé at right)



Antilles Press photo

Anke Bijleveld-Schouten and Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage

► Last week Bonaire hosted the new State Secretary for Antillean Affairs, **Anke Bijleveld-Schouten**, who will be responsible for the Bonaire's transition from an Antillean territory to a Dutch municipality. She participated in numerous meetings with government officials about the new state structure, environmental organizations and social organizations.

As the photos show she had a full agenda and met with everyone from the Prime Minister to the sea turtles.

► In a joint press release the governments of the Netherlands Antilles and the Consul General of the US to the Netherlands Antilles announced that **diplomatic notes have been exchanged that bring into force the tax information exchange agreement between the Netherlands Antilles and the US. The Agreement was effective on March 22, 2007.**

The tax information exchange agreement exemplifies the close and long-standing relationship between the Netherlands Antilles and the US. Alex Rosaria, the State Secretary of the Netherlands Antilles, said, "With the signing of these tax information agreements we have made another step forward in our joint efforts to implement the principles

of transparency and our commitment to high international standards regarding the global financial markets. These tax information agreements are important instruments to counter the abuse of the financial system such as tax fraud, money laundering and the financing of terrorism."

► **Wondering where the new Bonaire Reporter office is?** Sam Williams, who is studying Bonaire's loras, reports that, according to his GPS, it is at latitude 12° 11.281 North and longitude 68° 14.809 West. You might also say it's a kunuku about 3 km east of the Rincon road in the Bolivia Plantation.

(Continued on page 4)

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know... that there are more fish on reefs with mangroves nearby than reefs with no mangroves nearby?

Scientists have believed this for a long while, but it was finally investigated and found to be true (article in *Nature* magazine, Mumby, et al., 2004). Many of you are familiar with the importance of mangroves, but many of you are not and are wondering what all the fuss is about.

First of all, mangroves are trees that grow in or near saltwater. They have all sorts of adaptations that allow them to tolerate salt, unlike most flowering plants. In a nutshell, mangroves are important because they: protect the shoreline from storms; protect the reefs from sediments and nutrients that heavy rains bring from land; serve as habitat for many juvenile reef fish; have very high species diversity; are very productive; are becoming more important for tourism in the form of kayak and snorkel tours; provide habitat for many bird species; are also an excellent place for boaters to tie up to during hurricanes (perhaps not so much here, but very much so in other locations); and I could go on and on. Bonaire doesn't have extensive mangrove systems and so all the more important to protect what we have. □ *Story & Photo by Caren Eckrich*



Mangrove Seedling

Caren Eckrich teaches Coral Reef Ecology and Scientific Diving to American University students at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. She's also the Director of Sea & Discover, a marine education center offering interactive learning programs to kids and adults. You can reach her at 717-5322 □ .



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)



Landfill on fire SELIBON photo

► SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management company, issued a **release apologizing for the smoke coming from the landfill off Lagoen Road**. While there is no danger from the fire to the surrounding neighborhood, they acknowledged that the smoke was a bother. The fire appeared to be deliberately set by persons unknown. At press time there was no sign of more smoke.



► Visiting tourist Paul Rueckert gave us this photo of **the wind generator at Sorobon being dismantled**. It has been on the spot for about 10 years and never functioned. It is to be replaced soon with a much more powerful wind turbine.

► The Social Services Department (SASO) reminds interested parties that the **PP cards issued to low income people require renewal now**. All cards expired on March 31. Cards are still available until April 5 from 8 am to noon at SASO offices at Kaya Italia 18, Playa Pariba.

Recently it was alleged that PP card privileges were being used by residents of SABEDECO, one of Bonaire's most upscale neighborhoods.

► **The Foundation that assists persons with disabilities, the FKPD, is planning a big Mother's Day fund raising party at Don Paranda**. It's on Friday, May 11, beginning at 8 pm. Three musical groups and a dance group will entertain and bar, snacks and salad are included in the NA/50 price. Tickets are now available from FKPD staff and at Angelo's and the Bonaire Bookstore in downtown Kralendijk. We will continue to remind readers of this event on the Happenings page.

► If you are using a first stage from a scuba regulator to fill flat tires, like many people on Bonaire do, and do not have a 2nd stage attached, it is possible, if the first stage fails, **to have the hose explode**. Carib Inn has a limited number of pressure relief valves at \$10 each to protect both you and the hose. These are small and simply screw into one of the LP ports on the first stage. Carib Inn, just south of the Divi resort, is open from 8 am to 5 pm every day.

► Last Friday the Board of **Foundation Bo Mes Nego-shi** met at Salsa restaurant with Mr. Fedde Pronk, Managing Director of Rabo-Bank Heerenveen, The Netherlands, who is a Board member of the Hessel De Vries Foundation.



Mr. Pronk presented the Bonaire's BNM foundation a check of Euro 25.000 (NA/59.000) from his foundation. These funds will be used for the good work the BMN Foundation does helping Bonaire's micro-entrepreneurs.

► **After riots broke out last week in Curaçao's Bon Futuro prison, management invoked emergency measures**. It applies to all the cell blocks, but in cell blocks 5 and 6 the prisoners are not allowed to air, and they eat in their cells, said prison warden Bartholomeus Andrea. The measures will last for three days but can be extended by Justice Minister David Dick. The reason for the riots was the decision of the prison management to confiscate 38 laptops after they learned that a video clip of the prisoners, created within the walls of Bon Futuro by the prisoners, was published on the Internet. **The prisoners demanded their laptops back and started a protest**.

During the protest, the prisoners of block 2 broke doors and started fires. The anti-riot squad of the prison used teargas to suppress the riots. Pepper spray had to be used the next day to keep the prisoners in special cells under control.

Officials said that the laptops will not be returned to the prisoners. The warden says that the prisoners have abused his confidence, while the Minister said that under these circumstances, laptops will no longer be tolerated in prison. **He also said he's going to investigate how the prisoners had access to wireless Internet**.



Chanelle Jansen from the Sabana neighborhood, aged two, was the youngest participant of the bicycle tour, organized last Sunday by the Sports Department of the Bonairean Police. Chanelle was accompanied by her parents. (Photo: J@n Brouwer)

► On Sunday, April 1, the SoDePo (Sosiedat Deportivo Polisial) organized a **bicycle trip (Paseo riba baiskel) in and around the city of Kralendijk**. Some 40 bike riders joined the event. Food and drinks were supplied by the organization. The oldest participant was aged 68, the youngest was only two. She sat on the carrier of her father's bicycle. A dog also joined the event. He did the distance on foot.



After new paint job

Wilna Groenenboom photos

► On Sunday, March 18, Kaya Korona was closed to all traffic from 8 am to 2 pm so De Maan Schilders (Moon Painters) could paint new zebra crossing stripes on the road. **After just two weeks the stripes are disappearing**. De Maan Schilders is taking all responsibility and is investigating what went wrong.



Just two weeks later



Denice Boelen-Keller is congratulated by Governor Domacassé

► Recently **Denice Boelen-Keller was sworn in as an auxiliary policewoman in the service of the environmental NGO, STINAPA, the organization that runs the Bonaire National Marine Park and the Washington-Slagbaai National Park**.

She is the first female Assistant Ranger and has had experience in the Antillean Coast Guard. We wish her success in enforcing Bonaire's environmental protection laws.

► Due to logistical problems the Bonaire National Marine Park **postponed the next round of the Nutrient Monitoring Program** until the end of April. The fifth round will take place from Tuesday April 24 to Saturday April 29.

► **The Aquaspeed Windsurfing Club celebrated its 20th Anniversary** by racing from Lac Bay around the southern tip of Bonaire to Kralendijk. Nine sailors including veterans Elvis Martinus and Patun Saragoza participated. Freestyle superstar Taty Frans finished first in about 45 minutes. Following him was Jaeger Sint Jago. In third was Choko Frans, Taty's young brother. Elvis Mar-

tinus started the race but came home in the chase boat. He said, "I took my rod and reel on my board. I did get one strike of a wahoo, but I lost it, so no new (speed) record was set."



► Don't miss **this Saturday's (April 7) festive Rincon Marshe**. It starts at 8 am with stands set up selling fresh produce, arts and crafts, local foods and drinks. Special guests *bou di ramada* (on the porch) at 10 am are musicians Jon Hilgers and Martina Gerling, winners of this year's DuoFest. And join the historical guided tours of central Rincon too.

► **On April 30 Bonaire celebrates the "Dia di Rincon" (Rincon Day)**, also known elsewhere in the Dutch Kingdom as the Queen's Birthday. Dive Friends Bonaire has some very special activities to commemorate the event beginning with a 9am departure for a two-tank boat dive for the price of a one-tank boat dive. Return about 1 pm, some free time will be provided so divers can relax and have lunch. At 4 pm, those who wish to travel to Rincon to experience the culture, food, and drinks that will be plentiful in the

(Continued on page 5)

BONAIRE The **REPORTER** has moved!

The Bonaire Reporter has moved its headquarters to the Bolivia plantation area of Bonaire. Latitude 12° 11.281 North
Longitude 68° 14.809 West

The new address is Bonaire Reporter, Kunuku Shimaruku, P.O. Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. (AN)

The telephone numbers are: 786-6518 and 786-6125.
Backup numbers are: 796-6125, 790-6518 and 790-8988
Email and website remain the same:

reporter@bonairenews.com



► **Richandro Emerenciana (first) and Timothy Bissessar (runner up) were selected** by a jury consisting of Johanetta Brouwer, Guno Gerling, Jeanne Emers and Maritsa Silberie to represent Bonaire in the UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris, France, later this year. Gabriela Marchena and Ronald Coffy also participated in the competition. The photo shows the four youngsters, the jury and Education Commissioner Geraldine Dammers, and Bonaire UNESCO representative Jeaninne Wong Loi Sing.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)

streets of the village, can meet at Dive Friends where two vehicles will be ready to leave for Rincon. There, everyone will be able to enjoy the dancing, music, ethnic foods, and other refreshments well into the night, when the entire village of Rincon turns into one huge street fair. A small fee will be charged to offset the cost of drinks for the group.

► Very appropriate for this Holy Week and upcoming Easter: Movieland will be showing Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ" this Thursday and Friday April 5

and 6 at 6 pm.

► For those who didn't realize that the story in the last edition of *The Reporter*, page 4 (reporting that the paper had been secretly sold) was an **April Fool joke** played on the Publisher, Editor and our readers by the Layout Department can rest easy. **Nothing has changed.** □ G./L.D



The four finalists receive their prize from Rico Martis of Digicel SKAL photo

► **The finalists in the Art of Speech (Arte di Palabra) 2007** in Papiamentu were held in mid-March at Jong Bonaire. The competitors spoke from their hearts and were most articulate. **Bernice Ramos** recited an original poem; **Thiase Theodora** another poem; **Gavianca Frans** told a story; and **Bernaisha Ramos** an original story. **Gavianca Frans was declared the overall winner.**

Fire Brigade Visits the SGB High School



On Friday, March 23, a crew of the Kralendijk fire department, supervised by Mr. Frans Francees, visited SGB with a big fire truck. They were invited as part of the TKL3D and TKL4D chemistry classes to give a demonstration of combustion. The students had learned that there are three important conditions for combustion: fuel, oxygen and heat (also called the ignition temperature).

First the firemen explained how to handle different kinds of fires and how to extinguish them. For example when a house is on fire, the fire can best be extinguished with water in order to lower the temperature of the burning parts of the house (the fuel). When the fuel is cooled down enough, the fire will be stopped eventually. It is a different story when one is dealing with gasoline/oil types of combustion, for instance when a frying pan is on fire. Trying to extinguish the fire with water only makes it worse and the opposite will occur.

It will give rise to giant flames that can reach the ceiling and could result in the house completely burning down. Just cutting off the supply of oxygen by putting the lid on the frying pan can extinguish the fire. This was demonstrated by the Playa firemen, setting a barrel with a mixture of oil and gasoline on fire and then extinguishing it in two different ways. First, foaming water was put into the barrel to cut off the air supply. The same result was achieved by suffocating the fire with a carbon dioxide extinguisher.

At the end there was lot of opportunity for the students to ask questions and to be shown different firefighting equipment like the breathing mask.

The students found the two hour demonstration very interesting and useful. Chemistry teacher William Pot organized the visit. □ *Story & photo by Wilna Groenenboom*

STRAIGHT TALK

It's all about dating, love, sex, friendship, and marriage - so let's talk. Email (betty@bonairenews.com) your relationship questions to my attention. reporter@bonairenews.com.



Betty Wills

Question from: Doubting man friend

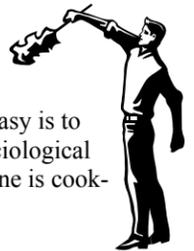
Dear Betty, I read your advice about dating, and I have a difficult problem: Here comes this pretty girl asking me for sex. She knows that I as a bachelor have several women friends because she comes with her young friends often enough in my big yard to play with the swing and the hammock in the shade and cool breeze under the big old tamarind tree. I told her go find a boy her own age, but she said she tried some of the boys and they don't know how to have sex at all, she wants a man with experience. Normally developed she said she is 17 going 18, but I have my doubts. She keeps trying to arouse me with her husky voice and sexy moves although I think she is not even half my age. I am 32. She has seen the condoms next to my bed when she goes to the bathroom and she knows that I did my vasectomy, some time ago I explained her and her friends all they need to know about family planning. Now I fear she will get pregnant or worse when she goes with any young boy if I don't give it to her. She is eager, curious and naturally ready for sex. What shall I do? What is the age of consent in the Caribbean? Nature does not ask for age when the girl wants it. What can stop her?

ANSWER: Just say "no", then take two aspirins and a cold shower to reduce swelling. You'll be just fine. It appears you recognize the girl is an adolescent, but you sound a bit confused over your responsibilities. To begin, having a vasectomy doesn't make you personally responsible for controlling the world's population, nor is it your moral or social obligation to provide sex to adolescents or naive young girls who try to seduce you, regardless of whether or not you use condoms, and practice safe sex.

Sex is best served when shared between two people in love, and it deserves reverence and respect. Granted, humans are "naturally ready for sex" as soon as they reach puberty, but that doesn't mean you must act on it. Dying also comes naturally, but most would rather mature first.

JOKE OF THE DAY

Ask any man, and he will tell you that any woman's ultimate fantasy is to have two men at once. While this has been verified by a recent sociological study, it appears that most men do not realize that in this fantasy, one is cooking and the other is cleaning. □ *BW*



Picture Yourself With The Reporter Berlin, Germany

Long time Bonaire visitors, Marina and Reinhard Kowalke, sent this photo to us months ago to wish us a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in Papiamentu from Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. They are holding *The Reporter* issue honouring them as Bonaire Ambassadors sent by Bob and Annemieke of Tropicana Apartments where they stay. □

Send in YOUR picture today.



Pet of the Week

Here's a happy pair: Amber, a volunteer at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, with a very contented dog, "Queenie." One of the reasons the volunteers are so important is to play with and "socialize" the cats and dogs. And if you wonder whether it's appreciated just take a look at the expression on Queenie's face!

Queenie is about eight months old. She's smart; she's energetic and she just loves attention. She was brought into the Shelter because her owner couldn't look after her any more. Now Queenie is looking forward to a new master or mistress who has time for her. With the right training she will learn quickly and make a fine watch dog too. She's a dog you can have fun with. As are all the other pets at the Shelter, Queenie has been examined by the vet, is in excellent health, had had her tests and shots and is ready to go. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989. □ LD



Amber and "Queenie"



A series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brower, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

The Big Blue Buggy

Claus' sky blue sprayed buggy can often be seen parked along the Julio Abrahams Boulevard, just opposite The Old Inn restaurant. Claus H. Neumann is the owner of The Old Inn, the Tropical Inn hotel and the recently opened Tropical Divers.

Claus is a passionate man: he loves diving, he loves the island of Bonaire and he loves his Porsche powered blue painted buggy. "I bought this fun car on our island. The chassis they used to build this buggy is from a 1967 VW Käfer (First lesson in German: VW Käfer, pronunciation as: Vow Way Kay Fur/jb) They had to cut the chassis into two and shorten it to fit the fiberglass body. My buggy is powered by a two-liter, air-cooled, four-stroke, four-cylinder boxer engine. In an earlier life this engine powered a Volkswagen-Porsche 914, that typical low rectangular shaped two seater with the targa top, built in the 70s. My Porsche engine is specially tuned and fitted with two huge carburetors, producing over 200 horsepower. Of course this car has rear wheel traction. The light alloy rims are fitted with 275/16R15 inch XP2000 General tires to cope with the power plant. This car is really fun to drive. I love the open air feeling and the freedom of this car. I really enjoy the sound produced by the four independent exhausts. This is a very basic car. No roof, no doors, just one window, no comfort at all!"

On Bonaire, Claus' buggy is one out of, maybe, five. There is another blue one, and a red one has been spotted. One buggy is "under construction" at the SGB high school. Claus' buggy is a real eye



The B-1730 registered blue buggy, owned by Claus Neumann. Within a few weeks the car will change colors. The new color will be "diving yellow."

Photo by: J@n Brower

catcher, fitted with an impressive spoiler, a custom made state of the art aluminum fuel tank, fat tires, funny winking original Porsche head lamps and an attractive mermaid sprayed on the front.

The Porsche power has always been in the family. Claus' father and brother also owned Porsches. And even Claus' Harley Davidson, a Dyna Superglide built in 1994 and fitted with a 1340 V-twin evolution engine, was remodeled by... Porsche!

Within a few weeks the blue thunder will be re-sprayed. The new color will be diving yellow, of course. The car will carry the logo of Tropical Divers. The ever lasting car will continue his life as a rolling billboard. □ J@n Brower

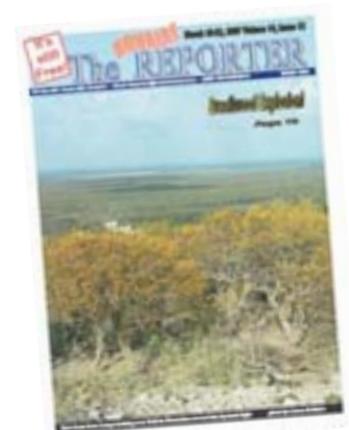
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Especially valuable if you own or plan to buy property on Bonaire





Oceanfront hotel construction, particularly on an island without beaches, like Bonaire, results inevitably in serious damage to the surrounding coral reef. It is impossible to prevent this damage, and in this editorial I hope to show a direct correlation between the hotel construction and the reef health.

It is disappointing that the detailed Pourier Commission Report of 1992, which has been a crucial instrument for forming the Bonaire development policy, is being practically ignored by the leaders of the both current main political forces on our island – UPB and ADB, which, in spite of all their differences, are united in their conviction that the construction of new hotels will be beneficial to our island. According to the Pourier Commission Report: **The local government’s task is to protect Bonaire’s unique environment, mainly its 52 km long coral reef.** Although the ADB Action Program 2007 speaks also about the environment protection, you will not find the word “reef” in it. The report emphasizes that an overwhelming majority of Bonaire’s inhabitants take the presence of the reef for granted, not realizing its importance for the island.

However, the foreign investors and tourists must become aware of the enormous value of the reef which is increasing every day. A considerable reimbursement can be asked for the opportunity to enjoy this environment product in proportion to the government efforts to protect it. The report goes even so far as to recommend a limitation of hotel rooms and diving. In no case, must mass tourism be promoted. Fortunately, the absence of beaches on Bonaire is the best guarantee against mass tourism. The report concludes that **in case the reef is seriously damaged or disappears completely, it will inevitably mean the end of tourism on Bonaire.**

During the current election campaign, UPB is already recruiting Latin American labor for realization of its plans for hotel construction, as can be seen in a following report on the Internet (translated from the Dutch and abbreviated):

03/17/2007: “Booi is Looking for Construction Workers”



Meeting with Latinos at the UPB HQ UPB photo

“Last week, the UPB’s leader Ramonsito Booi met with a large group of Spanish-speaking immigrants in the Antriol neighborhood center. The meeting was organized to interest the foreigners in temporary work in the construction sector. The additional foreign employees are necessary because **in the near future the construction of a number of hotel projects will be started.** The purpose is to register the interested persons in a databank so that they can be recruited from abroad at the given time.”

As far as the word “temporary” is concerned, thousands of workers, living already long years on Aruba, came there only for temporary work.

The opposition leader, ADB’s Jopie Abraham, emphasized that the “registration” is not an action of the government but of the UPB because the registration would take place in the UPB party Headquarters and not in a government office.

It is clear that, **without any development plan for Bonaire (!!!)**, UPB has firmly decided to start the construction soon of a “number of hotels.” Till now we have heard only about the Divi Sunset all-inclusive and about a hotel school without any indication where this school is planned to be built. In my opinion, in case the government really starts the construction of other hotels besides the Sunset Divi, the construction of the Esmeralda Hotel on the south coast, shown, must be completed. In its present condition it is an eyesore to everybody. However, without any doubt, when completed, this very well and tastefully designed hotel building on an ideal location can become the most beautiful resort on the island!

The fact that **ADB has the same erroneous ideas about new hotel construction like UPB** is clear from the following statement in the “ADB Action Program 2007,” Chapter 4, Economic Development, 4.1. Tourism (translated from the Dutch): “Action Point 4: **Expansion of the number of hotel rooms through bringing in the international hotel chains** with emphasis on ecotourism and ‘convention’ tourism.”



The unfinished Esmeralda Hotel on Bonaire’s southeast coast photo by Jiri Lausman

If the leaders of the UPB and ADB took time to compare all advantages with disadvantages of the new hotel construction for the Bonairean people, they would discover that the whole effort will bring more problems than benefits. It seems that both party leaders have closed eyes, not seeing that the current economy of Bonaire already now, before the planned influx of foreigners in connection with the construction and operation of the new hotels, depends in its main sectors - construction, tourism and hotel industry - for its main part on foreigners who just came to ease “temporarily” the local labor shortage. Besides the often mentioned problems (pressure on infrastructure, housing, schools, medical facilities and others), the influx of Spanish speaking immigrants will undercut the importance of Papiamentu like it is currently happening on Aruba where Spanish is becoming the No.1 language on the island. The effect will be much greater on Bonaire with its only about 10,000 Papiamentu speaking persons.

One of the few advantages of the hotel construction could be the received taxes (in case the government will be so wise not to grant any tax holiday to the foreign hotel chains). A limited number of local managers in lower positions will, like on Aruba, get an opportunity to work in the new hotels. The top management will always stay in the hands of foreigners (and the profits will be transferred abroad) and the overwhelming majority of the operating staff will be from various Latin American countries.

Even if, according to the ideas of the UPB and ADB, the hotel construction would bring some advantages for the island, **there is no doubt that it will bring serious damage to our coral reef, Bonaire’s main asset.** A necessity for every new, high standard hotel to be built on Bonaire is a good sandy beach. Although it will be an extremely costly operation to construct such a beach, it is, according to my own professional experience, technically feasible. Many thousands of cubic meters of sand, dredged from the sea bottom, far from Bonaire, can be brought in and spread in a layer of sufficient width and thickness on the coast in front of the planned hotels in order to create an artificial beach. Unfortunately, after a shorter or longer time period, nature restores its original balance, taking the sand away by wave action and sea current. In order to maintain the beach, a so-called beach nourishment must be executed regularly. It seems that the designers of the mentioned Esmeralda hotel had this fact in mind by creating a sheltered lagoon in front of the hotel, instead of constructing a beach directly on the exposed coast. You don’t have to be a marine biologist to realize that, not only during the beach construction but also during the subsequent beach nourishment, loose, fine sand particles, suspended in the sea water, form a sedimentary layer on the coral reef. It inevitably leads to its death, certainly in the section adjacent to the new beach.

The government should also not underestimate the possible actions of environmental groups which can prevent an artificial beach construction like happened on Curaçao in 1993, where a joint effort of Reef Care, *Defensa Ambiental*, *Amigu di Tera* and *Pro Monumento Foundation*, all fiercely opposing such a project, succeeded in halting the work on the beach and in a definitive abandonment of the Marichi hotel plans. The hotel chain started a procedure against the island government which finally had to pay to it an amount of many millions for damages caused by not fulfilling its commitment (For details see my article “Broken Promises can be Expensive” in the October 7, 2005, issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*). □ *Jiri Lausman*

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Bonaire Windsurfer Reports

EFPT Toro Andaluz 2007

After about four months of lots of training time in Turkey with no competition at all, the time finally arrived to hit the European Freestyle Pro Tour (EFPT) again.

The European Freestyle Pro Tour kicked off in the southeast part of Europe in Spain, Andalucia-Tarifa, known as pretty warm, windy and the windsurfing capital of Europe. For many years people have traveled to this windy spot to practice windsurfing. And yes, they still do today. Back then it hosted many windsurfing championship events.

My sail sponsor's factory is also located there. Actually it was a good time to visit for some testing and work on some new development skills and designs for our slalom and freestyle sails. The freeride sails and the wave sails have won several magazine tests and so did the freestyle and the slalom sails, and things are just getting better and better at The Loft owned by Monty Splinder, one of the most experienced sail makers you can find nowadays. (For more info surf to www.loftsails.com)

This year is the second year that we had the first EFPT stop in Tarifa. All the riders were happy to meet each other again. Everybody was super excited to battle out for the first points at this event. Again we had some new entrees on the EFPT which is very positive and I am sure more will follow in the next events.



Ruben awaiting the award ceremony



Ruben executing a "Willyskipper" move
photos by Marci / courtesy The Loft

Day 1

Skippers meeting at 10 o'clock and the conditions did not look too promising for this day.

Wind from the right (Poniente) 7-10 knots and sunny clear skies. The start was postponed every hour until the end of the day. It was a super relaxing day for all of us. Some of the riders even organized a happy hour at the end of the day where we all sat down and chatted about our win-

ter trips and off season experiences.

Day 2

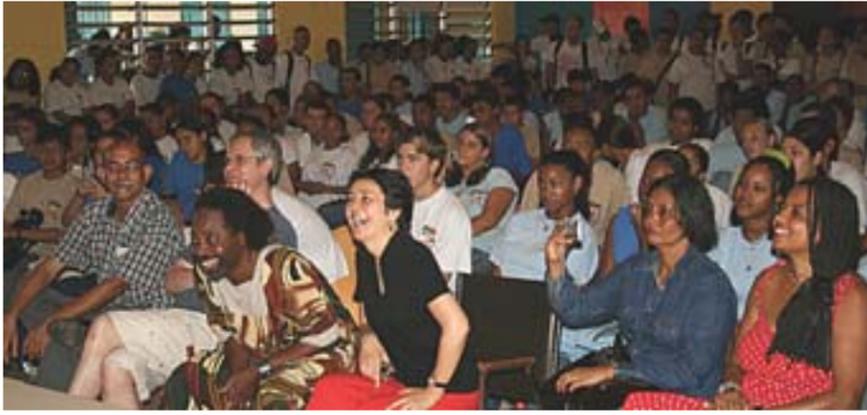
Started off in the morning with a mellow breeze which did not look too good for the day. The sky was partly cloudy and temperature was a bit chilly.

Everybody took it easy. After lunch time the sky started to clear up and the wind started to kick in. Some guys went out to

(Continued on page 17)

Crossing the Seas

Krusa Laman —The International Literature Festival of Sint Maarten, Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao



At the performance: (L to R): Hubert Vis, Ton van de Langkruis (director Winternachten), Roland Colastica, Wilma Scheffers (editor Winternachten) and on the extreme right, Jackie Bernabela

This third edition of the International Literature Festival, *Krusa Laman*, is a celebration of languages. *Winternachten*, which organizes it, is an annual literature festival in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Since 1995 the central aim of the festival is to encourage the development of intercultural relations between the historically related countries: Indonesia, South Africa, Aruba, The Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and The Netherlands. It brings together writers, poets, storytellers and musicians from these six historically related countries. The group of artists traveled from Sint Maarten, Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. Nukila Amal from

Indonesia and Jit Narain of Suriname performed together with local writers and musicians on each island. All writers read in their mother tongue while their texts were simultaneously projected in the local language: English or Papiamentu.

The poetry, prose and stories on Bonaire were performed by Babeba Baderoon (South Africa), Frans Booi, Monica Clarinda, Annie Francees (Bonaire) and Ramsey Nasr (Netherlands/Morocco)

Crossing the Seas is organized by *Winternachten* (Winternights) in co-operation with Zeus Foundation, the island Government of Sint Maarten, and Philipsburg

Jubilee Library (Sint Maarten) Fundashon pa Plannificashon di Idioma and Roland Colastica (Curaçao), Bibliotheca Nacional Aruba and Wim Rutgers (Aruba), Kas di Arte and SKAL (Bonaire)

The artists landed on Bonaire on March 26 and were welcomed by a group of students from the SGB VWO 4 and Havo 4. The evening at Kas di Arte began with a performance of the musical group, Glenn i su Geng. The evening's presentation was hosted by Roland Colastica and Jacky Bernabela.

A star of the show, popular singer Izaline Calister, was accompanied by Ed Verhoeff on guitar and Pernell Saturnino. □ *Photos & story by Wilna Groenenboom*



Izaline Calister performing

"Crossing the Seas," as seen by an SGB high school student

On the 26th of March we went to welcome the writers for the third Crossing the Seas festival. They were Ramsey Nasr from The Netherlands; local writers Monica Clarinda, Annie Francees and Frans Booi from The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba; Jit Narain Baldewsignh from Surinam; Nukila Amal from Indonesia; Gabeba Badroon from South Africa; and local singer Izaline Calister from Curaçao. They were welcomed by the HAVO 4 and VWO 4 classes of the SGB high school and Dutch teacher Helen Chan. I welcomed them with a short poem, then after we all went our separate ways.

On the 27th the writers came to the SGB high school for a special presentation with

MCs Hipolita Stein, Lujairo Gomez and Laurensz Hauer. The writers gave a short presentation of their work and Izaline sang two songs in Papiamentu. Then the writers were led to separate classrooms so that the students could have sessions with them and ask questions.

I led Mr. Jit Narain Baldewsignh to a classroom where we (four different groups from different classes) could ask him questions for a special project that Miss Chang had given us. He read a few pieces from one of his books and explained some of his poems.

On the 28th I and my group members, Dariza Jansen and Judeska Ricardo, gave our presentations of how we found the Crossing of the Seas and our session with Mr. Jit Narain and a little about his work. We found the festival to be great, fun, and cool and we got to know a lot about Jit Narain. We even got his autograph.

I would really like to be a part of this festival again in 2009. □ *Gideon Williams*

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Kas di Hadrey Antique Living Houses of Bonaire Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage

by Wilna Groenenboom



Located in Rincon on the corner of Kaya Rincon and Kaya Commerce, this beautiful old house, a *Kas di Hadrey* (house with porch), can be recognized by the rain gutter around the house and the roof decorations (*dakpoppen*) on the saddle roof (*dak di hefe*). This is the first house in Rincon in this series. At the moment it's not inhabited, but because it has so many interesting details it's impossible to ignore and not write about it. The house needs some massive restoration before people can live in it again; probably this will happen in the course of this year.

The house catches our attention by its central place in the heart of Rincon at Plaza Commerce, across from the post office, literally a part of the Rincon Marshé every first Saturday of the month.

As usual, determining the right age of a house is difficult. The first record appears with the selling of the property on August 27, 1868. "By decision of the Government of Curaçao" the ground was sold to Theodorus Mool. In 1915 the house built on the property was sold to Lourens Frederik Simon van der Dijs.



In 1926 Johannes Vindicianus Schermer (b. 1878) and his wife Maria Pitronella Ellis



(b. 1879) bought the house and rented it out until 1934. For a period it even served as a government office where civil marriages took place. In 1934 their eldest son, Johannes Facundo Schermer (b.1903) married Antonia Ulpiana Martinus (b.1912) and they moved into the house. They had five children: John Gerard, Richard Patricio, Maria Ana, Emma Atanasia and Antonio Humercindo. Because of an old Bonairean Catholic tradition, each of the children's second names was that of the saint's on the day they were born. The names could be found in the Bristol Almanac which was part of nearly every Bonairean household. On their 25th wedding anniversary the Schermer family had this photo (above) taken in Curaçao.

There are two main buildings and a barn on the property. On the Kaya Commerce side is a "façade" of a small wooden building (*Kas di tabla*). Emma Schermer knows that it was always there so it must be more than 70 years old. Throughout its life the

Kas di tabla has housed a medical practice, health center, hairdresser, policeman's home, a *toko* or mini market, and most recently a kind of storehouse of one of the Schermer sons who was an electrician. In the façade we see holes where a little roof on the street side used to be.

On the right side of the house there was a storehouse and a garage where they parked their Willys, a car made in Canada, imported from the US, one of the first cars in Rincon. In the storehouse was produce from their *kunukus*: goat meat, goat skin, dried watapana fruits, aloe, corn, pumpkins, watermelons and beans - which were sold in the *Kas di tabla* - not only for the local market but also for Curaçao.

From this income, combined with Johannes Facundo Schermer's salary as a lighthouse keeper they could pay for their five children to go to school in Curaçao. In those days there was no secondary education in Bonaire.



This is, in many ways, an unusual *Kas di Hadrey*; its porch (*hadrey*) is at the back of the house rather than the front. It also has very beautiful white braces (decorations) above each shuttered window and door, which is also very unusual (photo middle and right above). These braces also appear on the wall of Johannes Facundo Scher-

mer's parental home in Rincon on Kaya Kontento where he grew up and on a house on the seaside of Playa Pabou in Kralendijk, Kaya J.N.E. Craane.

The five half pillars on the façade of the main house define each window and door.

But perhaps the most interesting feature is the stone structure on the outside walls on the left side of the main house. This section is younger than the rest; it wasn't built of coral like the main house but was made from cement. Each layer of this "cement stone" was made in a form like they use today. Each form is one foot high. To construct a two-meter wall you will need seven forms. Afterwards the walls were decorated with a fake stone pattern made with a metal form with a certain relief on it. A small layer of cement was put in the form and placed on the wall. The wall of the Protestant Congregation of Bonaire on the Kaminda la Union 43 was built the same way but with a different pattern (photo under the *Kas di tabla*).

This side of the house is designed in a "cubistic" style. Above the shutters we see only a horizontal decoration; the white braces are missing. The chimney has a simple cubistic look. And behind the checkered window (photo right below) is the kitchen.

Because of all these different and unusual details, this house is like a diamond in the heart of Rincon, and because of its dignity and worth, in my opinion it should be placed on the list of architectural monuments of Bonaire. □Story & photos by Wilna Groenenboom

Wilna Groenenboom is an artist and photographer who teaches art at the SGB high school



COVER
STORY

Kontest di Fli



Dragonfly kite



Memories of Willemstad



*Overcast skies,
but brisk winds*

Bonaire's 29th Kontest di Fli (kite contest) took place last Sunday at the field behind Kooymans'. Every year it's been sponsored by Iris Semeleer of the Flamingo Bookstore on Kaya Grandi and every year it's a huge success. Families, friends and all kinds of groups get

together to build the most amazing kites, and often it takes a whole crowd to launch them. It's a wonderful, wholesome atmosphere. Groups of families and friends set up with chairs and tables, food and drink coolers, and have a social good time while watching the spirited competitions.

Competitors came from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Thanks to the organizers, especially to Iris Semeleer of the Flamingo Book Store, and to all the sponsors without whom the event wouldn't have happened. □L.D.

A Shrink Studies SCUBA

Easter

www.DivePsych.com

Easter Underwater

According to my dive buddy Bob Mankoff, there are few proofs of the existence of God greater than the beauty and intricacy of the coral reef. For Christians, the Easter holiday brings to mind some non-traditional symbols of the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, which can be viewed underwater by scuba divers.

The soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. They clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, and began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! They smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. When they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him. (Mark 15:16-20; King James Version)



Crown-of-Thorns Sea Star
Copyright 2001-2006 John G. Shedd

The Legend of the Sand Dollar

There's a pretty little legend
That I would like to tell
Of the birth and death of Jesus
Found in this lowly shell.
If you examine closely,
You'll see that you find here
Four nail holes and a fifth one



Made by a Roman's spear.
On one side the Easter lily,
Its center is the star,
That appeared unto the shepherds
And led them from afar.



The Christmas poinsettia,
Etched on the other side
Reminds us of His birthday,
Our happy Christmastide.
Now break the center open,
And here you will release
The five white doves awaiting
To spread Good will and peace.

This simple little symbol,
Christ left for you and me
To help us spread His Gospel
Through all eternity.

David F. Colvard, M.D., is a private psychiatrist and clinical investigator in Raleigh NC, and a divemaster. He hosts the website www.DivePsych.com which provides evidence-based information for divers on psychological and stress factors in scuba divers. □



PASEN, or PAAS MAANDAG
(Easter Monday)
The Monday after Easter



David of Team Colvard holding an underwater Easter egg collection bag following an underwater Easter egg hunt at Dive Inn

In a more secular vein Paas Maandag, or Easter Monday, is a holiday for both Dutch children and adults who celebrate the occasion with many kinds of egg games. *Eierrapen*, or hunting for colored eggs hidden by their elders in house or garden, is a favorite pastime of the younger children, while *eiertikken*, or hitting together hard-boiled Easter eggs, is the day's real sport for boys and girls of all ages." □ *David Colvard, M.D.*

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

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Ht.</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Ht.</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Ht.</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Ht.</u> | <u>COEF</u> |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 4-04 | 1:57 | 1.7FT. | 12:22 | 1.0FT. | | | | | 77 |
| 4-04 | 1:57 | 1.7FT. | 12:22 | 1.0FT. | | | | | 77 |
| 4-05 | 2:37 | 1.8FT. | 13:22 | 0.9FT. | | | | | 75 |
| 4-06 | 3:22 | 1.8FT. | 14:04 | 0.8FT. | | | | | 72 |
| 4-07 | 4:07 | 1.8FT. | 14:37 | 0.8FT. | | | | | 67 |
| 4-08 | 5:03 | 1.9FT. | 15:12 | 0.8FT. | | | | | 61 |
| 4-09 | 5:54 | 1.9FT. | 15:42 | 0.8FT. | | | | | 54 |
| 4-10 | 6:49 | 1.9FT. | 16:04 | 0.8FT. | | | | | 48 |
| 4-11 | 7:44 | 1.8FT. | 16:21 | 0.9FT. | | | | | 45 |
| 4-12 | 0:45 | 1.2FT. | 8:34 | 1.8FT. | 16:33 | 0.9FT. | 22:44 | 1.3FT. | 49 |
| 4-13 | 2:43 | 1.2FT. | 9:32 | 1.7FT. | 16:40 | 1.0FT. | 22:28 | 1.4FT. | 58 |
| 4-14 | 4:17 | 1.1FT. | 10:23 | 1.6FT. | 16:41 | 1.1FT. | 22:42 | 1.5FT. | 70 |

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(Windsurf Reports. Continued from page 9)

try out the conditions and it seemed to be getting better and better. The event organizers and judges got ready and fixed up the competition area. At the same time I was being interviewed by the EFPT Tour Manager. See www.efpt.net/news: Black Pearl interviewed - another nickname invented by the EFPT crew.

After I finished my interview I went to the beach to check out the elimination ladder because the wind was kicking in. I was automatically advanced through the first round to the next round because of a good seeding this year. So I had to wait a little bit longer before I could start.

Finally my heat arrived and I was facing Fabian Webber from Germany (G-999); the wind was not super strong. I used my Reptile-Mast Python in my Loft 360Free 5.2 on the I-style 104liter board, one of my favorite combinations. I performed a smooth routine and tried to impress the judges more.

I took the victory over Mr. Webber and moved on to the next round facing another German trickster Norman Gunzlein (G-186) this time. I tried to pull out more technical maneuvers, but I was struggling a bit because of the wavy conditions here in Tarifa. Norman took the win and moved on to the next round, the quarter finals, leaving me stuck in 5th position on the single elimination ladder.

The final heats were sailed at a very high level, with the surprising performance of Polish Champion Jakub Kosmowski (POL-288) who is definitely hungry for the title this year. But Andre Paskowski (G-2) kept it on the safe side and completed more moves than his Polish opponent. It was a day full of freestyle action at the Tore de La Pena camping event site. It was followed by an invitational party downtown.

Day 3

A relaxing morning and the wind was not enough to start the double elimination.

After lunch time the wind started to pick up a little bit, but the event organizer decided to run a super session for the media and press. The guys were showing off some of their best moves on 5.7 and 6.0 square meter sails. In the late afternoon the award ceremony was held on the beach, followed by a little celebration and happy hour.

Final results of the EFPT Toro Andaluz 2007 :

- 1 Andre Paskowski (G-2, F2/North)
- 2 Jakub Kosmowski (Pol-288, Tabou/Gaastra)
- 3 Cheo Diaz (V-34, Fanatic/North)
- 4 Norman Gunzlein (G-186, JP/Pryde)
- 5 Ruben Petrisie (NB-50, Exocet/Loft)

Next up is the first Slalom event of the Euro Cup down in the south of France, Leucate. This will be my first slalom event after I stopped back around 2002. Now I am getting back into it. This season I will compete in some slalom and freestyle events around Europe.

Slalom Racing is where different rounds of eight sailors start together, cruising through the start line at the same time. Slalom racing can have different course formats. Nowadays the downwind slalom format is mostly used. Sailors have to turn/jibe around four marks (buoys) and the four fastest ones who make it to the finish line advance to the next round until we have the final of eight winners.

Thanks for reading. Look out for the next one. □

Ruben Petrisie, NB-50. Sponsored by Exocet, The Loft, Reptile-Masts, Gsport, Camaro

The Reporter is still FREE for our island readers

Keep it that way by shopping and dining with our advertisers.

Be sure to say, "The Reporter sent me."

Concert For BJJ Youth Care



BJZ, *Bonairiaanse Jeugd zorg* (Bonaire Youth care) had a fundraising concert aboard the cruise ship *Freewinds*. BJJ is the organization which oversees needs of children ages 6-13, similar to SEBIKI for ages 0-6 and Jong Bonaire for 12-18 year olds.

Traditional Bonairean costumes, instruments and musical folklore filled the stage when the first performers, SEBARI, a group of 17 colorfully dressed children and young adults from *Sentro di Bario Rincon*, started singing. Their delightful music explains why they won at the Krioyo Festival and even performed for Queen Beatrix. These musicians are not only talented, they are motivated. They want to get their own sound equipment and make a CD.

The next group, Duo Shining Stars, Gilberto Martis and Syphard Willem, may only be 16 and 17 years old, but their voices are full-

grown. These talented young artists began performing when they were very young. They were awarded first finalists at the recent Duo Fest and Their wish is to promote Bonaire internationally and to become professional musicians.

"Freddy G.," a surprise guest brought in by Shirley Martis of the *èxtra* newspaper, kept the audience in high gear. He lives in Holland, but he has a very special Bonaire connection: he married the daughter of Mrs. Cecilia "Chichi" Evertsz, a well-known poetess on Bonaire. "Freddy G" and his group spirited the audience to participation in his gospel songs.

For Jon Hilgers, teacher at SGB, a wish has come true! "This is so great! It's the first time I've gotten to perform my compositions with a professional band!" He and Duo Lotus partner, Martina Gerling, were winners at the DuoFest where she was the youngest performer. They will also attend the Caribbean Gospel Festival in Curaçao this May. Dressed in white and wearing their signature straw hats, they serenaded the audience with their winning song, "Silent Place," after beginning their set with the beautiful, "When I Change into a Star." Throughout the concert, MC Lupe Uranie energized the cheering audience.

Besides the talented performers and *Freewinds* personnel, many people and businesses contributed to this successful fundraiser for BJJ. A big "thank you" goes out to sponsors Scarlet's Flower Shop, Donna & Giorgio's, *èxtra* newspa-

per, Movie-land, MCB bank, Sedrebo bus, and Insel Air.

"I am very happy with the concert," exclaimed Suitberta Romero, BJJ coordinator who organized the event. "I had hoped the audience would enjoy our music and they loved it! Tonight we raised almost NAf4.000 for our activities. We do get some money from the government, but we have to fund raise the rest."

□ Barbara Bianculli

About BJJ

BJZ's job is to stimulate, motivate, and educate youngsters between the ages of 6-13 years. Right now, Suitberta and her administrator, Irene Winklaar, do the work, but in April a much needed addition will start. Mientje Ietswaart will join the BJJ and coordinate activities like Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, School Vacation Week and others.



BJZ has presented sexual education courses to some 6-11 year olds. Many parents are pleased to have this as an opening for discussions with their children. In September 2006, BJJ and GVI (*Guia di Famia*) sponsored "E Herencia" ("The Legacy"), an educational

musical comedy performed by a group from Aruba. Children from the elementary schools came to watch this performance and to learn the ways of avoiding sexual abuse. They memorized a great song about saying "No!" running away, and telling a trusted adult. Many children still sing this song and remember the lesson.

Sometimes BJJ works directly with the children, but other times they assist adults. Suitberta Romero envisions BJJ as an information center for parents or others who work with children. BJJ also adapts existing training programs for parents to enhance and support them in the education of the children. BJJ has a website for information and an email for *preguntanan* (questions) about raising and educating a child. One initiative, a website link to FAQs should assist people in getting help. □ Barbara Bianculli

Visit www.bonjeugd.org or email info@bonjeugd.org

Or go to Bonairiaanse Jeugd zorg on Kaya Nikiboko 79B, 717-7316

DO YOU SUDOKU?

Sudoku means “the digits must remain single” in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site www.Sudoku.shack.com.

□ Supplied by *Molly Kearney* (who has to solve all the puzzles first)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | 7 | | | 5 | 1 | 8 | |
| 9 | | | 4 | | | | 2 | |
| | | 6 | 9 | 7 | | 5 | | |
| | | 8 | 6 | | 1 | | 4 | |
| | 2 | 3 | | 8 | | 7 | 9 | |
| | 5 | | | | 2 | 3 | | |
| | | 9 | | 5 | 7 | 8 | | |
| | 6 | | | | 9 | | | 3 |
| | 7 | 2 | 3 | | | 9 | 5 | |

Complete solution on page 23.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Ghost Rider
(Nicolas Cage)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
The Number 23
(Jim Carrey)

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

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

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

SATURDAY 4 PM
March: Charlotte's Web

THIS WEEK

April 5 - 9 - MCB International Tennis Tournament - See this page.

Friday, April 6 - Good Friday

Saturday, April 7 - Big Rincon Marshe, 8am-4 pm, in the center of Rincon—stands selling fresh produce, gifts & crafts, local foods & drinks. 10 am- "Bou di Ramada" with special guests, musicians Martina Gerling & Jon Hilgers, winners of DuoFest. Historical guided tours of central Rincon. Don't miss it!

Saturday, April 7 - Mountain Bike Tour, 4 pm. Meet at Bonaire Wellness Center, Eden Beach, NAf15

Sunday, April 8 - Easter

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon: Tuesday, April 10-*Lily Marlene, Sea Princess*; Thursday, April 12 - *Silver Wind*.

COMING

Friday, April 20 - Dutch Dixies at Buddy Dive Resort to benefit the Bonaire Rotary Club. 6:30-8 pm
Sunday, April 22 - Earth Day

Saturday, April 28 - World Tai Chi Qigong Day

April 30 - Rincon Day - One of Bonaire's biggest parties!

Friday, May 11 - Mother's Day fund raising party at Don Paranda for the FKPD (foundation that assists persons with disabilities) 8 pm. Three musical groups and a dance group will entertain. Bar, snacks and salad are included in the NAf50 price. Tickets available from FKPD staff, at Angelo's and the Bonaire Bookstore in downtown Kralendijk.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon: Wednesday, May 2 - *Crown Princess* (last ship of the season)

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30
- HH **Cactus Blue** (except Sun.) 5-6
- 2 for 1 appetizers with entrée 6-7, **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.

- By appointment - **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

- **Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Steak Night On the Beach** (a la carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10 pm

- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon. **Extra big Marshé 1st Saturday of the month, 6 am-2 pm.**

- **All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

- **Bike Trips**—Meet at Eden Beach Activity Center 4 pm. Free. Helmets mandatory. 785-0767

- **Wine Tasting** at AWC's warehouse, **2nd Saturday of the month**, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.

- **Flea Market every first Saturday of the month** from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm

Mondays

- **Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10**. **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-9:30 pm
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

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

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

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

- **Caribbean Gas Training free** "Beyond Gravity - An Evening with DIR," 6 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure 786-5073.

Wednesdays

- **Open Mike Night** with Moogie, 7-9, **Cactus Blue**... usually a real blast

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

- **Beach BBQ 7-10 & Live music by Flamingo Rockers -The Windsurf Place** at Sorobon-Reserve. 717-5091, 717-2288

- **Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10 pm

Thursdays

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

- **"Admiral's Hour" for yachtsmen and others**, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

- **Buddy's Bingo Show - Buddy Dive Resort**, 8-9:30 pm

Fridays

- **Mixed Level Yoga** 8:30am, **Buddy Dive** 786-6416

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7-10 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 Sunrise Pool-bar and Sportsclub, for children 0-18.

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

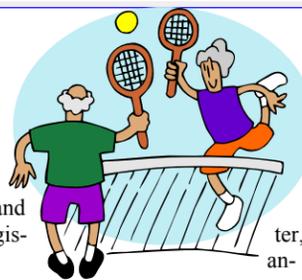
- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm) & All-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- "Discover Our Diversity" slide

MCB Tennis Tournament for All

Bonaire will be the host of the Annual MCB International Tennis Tournament from April 5 to April 9. This is the fifth anniversary of this popular tournament, which started in 2003. The tournament has grown rapidly, becoming the largest tennis tournament to be held on Bonaire. Participants come from Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, US and Europe. Curaçao A-Class players have already started to register while the Aruba Racquet Club and Aruba Champs have also announced their participation.



The categories are:

Men's: Single A, B, C, doubles A, B, C;

Female: Single A, B, C, doubles A, B, C and Mixed Doubles A, B, C.

The A-Class category is open for juniors as well as 40+.

B-class will be split in 18+ and 40+. C-class category is for 18+, 40+ i 50+. Registration forms are available at MCB (Bonaire) branches and at the Harbour Village Tennis Center from Mrs. Elisabeth Vos, tournament director, Tel. 700-8282 or 565-5225. Registration fee is US\$30 for one category and US\$40 for participation in 2 categories. The tournament is open to the public.

The schedule is:

Thursday, April 5: registration 5 pm and Opening Ceremonies 6:30 pm, after which the matches will start and continue until approximately midnight.

Friday, April 6, until Sunday, April 8: Matches start at 8 am until around midnight.

Monday, April 9: Continuation of matches from 8 am until finals. Prize ceremony will be approximately at 5 pm.

In addition to the matches, participants can enjoy special activities, such as Friday night BBQ (tickets \$10 for non-participants) and dinner buffet Sunday with DJ entertainment. Local musicians will provide entertainment throughout the weekend. Visitors can purchase local food at the site for lunch and dinner, and there is also a bar.

A special invitation goes out to tennis aficionados to come watch the matches, which are guaranteed to be of high standard judging by the level of the participants, especially the men's A-Class.

The tournament's title sponsor is local bank Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. Co-sponsors are Littman's, Budget Car Rental, Heineken, Telbo, Jibe City, Babolat, Harbour Village Beach Club, Gatorade and Tennisschool Sport Bonaire. The venue is the Harbour Village Tennis Center, Bonaire. □ Elisabeth Vos

show-pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 7 pm, 717-5080
Monday—**Dee Scarr's "Touch the Sea"** Slide Show, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. Call 717-8290.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays—**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Buddy Dive Resort (717-3802) at 7:00pm. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at the Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8817) at 7:00pm.

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

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

Cancer Survivor Support Group Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the FORMA 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 Zeezicht Restaurant. 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; Valarie@telbonet.an

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 Claire 717-8290

Volunteers to train children in sports. Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.

Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English on Sundays 10 am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am.

Children's club Saturday 5 pm in Kralendijk. Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.

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 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30am. 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

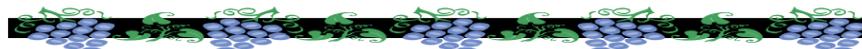
Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

| RESTAURANT | PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN | FEATURES |
|--|---|--|
| Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront | Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm. | Extensive snack/salad/burger. Menu available daily from noon. |
| Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538 | Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm | Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights: Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10.-); Wed. - Caribbean Night A la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7-1- pm) |
| Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrót 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070 | Moderate Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 pm | 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 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 | Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75. |
| The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488 | Moderate Breakfast Sandwich Lunch 10 am-12 noon | Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Breakfast Buffet 7:30-10 am every day Super beer selection—Happy hours 5 to 7 daily. |
| The Last Bite Bakery Kaya Grandi 70 717-3293 | Low-Moderate Open Tuesday through Saturday 7:30am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-2pm | NAf10 take out lunch every day - main dish with 2 side dishes. Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna. |
| Papaya Moon Cantina Downtown— Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025 | Moderate Open everyday except Tuesday For Dinner | Margaritas a Specialty 2 for 1 Happy Hour 6-7:30 Incredible Mexican Cuisine |
| Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrót 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 780-1111 |
| Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant At the lighthouse, Harbour Village Marina 717-7725 | Moderate Lunch Tuesday-Friday Dinner Tuesday-Sunday | Authentic Argentinean Cuisine Owned and operated by the Pablo Palacios Family from Argentina The beef is here and more. |
| The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all. | Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily, | A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the Wednesday Beach BBQ. |

SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air. Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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

BANKS

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

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

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

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 Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly 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

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

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

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

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

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

HOTELS

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

NATURE EXPLORATION

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/abseiling and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 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.**

PHOTO SERVICES

Capture Photo at the Divi Flamingo. Photo classes, camera rental, digital processing, all state of the art!

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's most experienced 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 to sell fast.

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.

Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.

The Touch Skin & Body—Birkenstock shoes for men and women. New styles

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.**

SUPERMARKETS

Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

WATER TAXI

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

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

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Candidates' Wives Speak

Marisol Cleopatra Petra Dirksz-Winklaar

Beginning this week are interviews of the woman behind the man of the party leaders of Bonaire's three contending parties: PRO headed by Benito Dirksz; UPB, led by Ramonsito Booi and the PDB's Jopie Abraham.

All the women will be asked similar questions. Elections take place following the publication of the last interview.

Born April 27th, 1975.

Religion: Catholic.

Education: MBO (Middle Professional Education) accountancy employee.

Career: "I moved with my parents from Bonaire to Holland in 1977 when I was two. During my school years I worked all kinds of jobs; I delivered newspapers and I also cleaned buildings. I came back to Bonaire alone in 1994 when I was 19 and started working for Playa Trading. Then I worked for a construction company, and by the end of 1995 I began working for Special Security Services as a clerk and I am still working there. When Benito isn't here, I am the manager."

Relationship with Benito Dirksz since: "Eleven and a half years and coming April 19th we'll be married for 10 years."

What made you fall for him? "He has tons of energy and shows a lot of interest. He's also a man of detail and little attentions like sending flowers now and then or calling: "I was thinking of you..."

What do you think made him fall for you? "I never really thought about that... One time he told me: "When I got to know you better, I wanted to go on with you."

Children: "I have three children; Bernadette, better known as Beneatha, is eight years old and she is mentally handicapped. Then there is Benedict who's going to be seven this month and Elijah who's going to be two in May."

How much are you involved in your husband's political work? "I am present everywhere; I organize meetings, gatherings - I mostly do the organizing part of the party."

What is to you the most important issue on PRO's party program? "The new structure we're heading for - a direct tie with Holland - is no problem for me, but the negotiations should be done well. There has to be a balance and everyone should be able to live with it."

What does the island mean to you? "Peace and tranquility. In spite of the fact that we're leading a hectic life here nevertheless it's so much quieter compared to Holland or the US."

What would you like to change? "There should be more activities for children, for youth, something like Jong Bonaire, but accessible for everyone. And more education possibilities. I think it's time they should change the government. Further, I don't think Bonaire should change so much."

What would you not like to change? "I don't want the traffic to increase. I certainly would not want us to be driving here in a year or two, bumper to bumper, like

they do on St. Martin. And another thing I would not want to change is the free access the people have to their beaches, to the sea."

What's your opinion about the situation of the Bonairean women? "They should become more emancipated; they're too dependent on their man. I can take myself as an example. Sometimes I have to ask Benito five times before he does a certain thing, but by that time I've done it already myself. The Bonairean women should be more in control and stand up for themselves more often and when violence is used against them, they should report it."

What's the most important thing in your life? "My children."

How do you see your future? "Since Benito has taken the first step, I think we'll be staying in the political arena and personally I would like to become more professional in the security field. All in all, I see it rosy."

How do you see the island's future? "I don't know what the future looks like; we don't know what's waiting for us after all

"What's your opinion about the situation of the Bonairean women?"

"They should become more emancipated; they're too dependent on their man."

these reorganizations."

What's the best thing you want to see when Holland takes over? "That welfare facilities and social laws on the island will be improved."

And the worst thing in your opinion? "When tax laws will be interpreted the same way as they are in Holland. In that case I fear everything that's going to happen. Also I am afraid they will introduce the EURO the same way they did in Holland - what used to cost one guilder suddenly became one EURO but one's monthly salary of 2.000 guilders was all of a sudden worth half."

What's your strongest point? "I am a go-getter. I don't give up and when I've set myself a goal, I'll reach it, whatever it costs. Sometimes Benito is annoyed by it, but that's his problem."

What's your husband strongest point? "He's a go-getter. He goes for the full 100%. He doesn't give up easily."

How do you spend your time together?

"If we are home together by coincidence, we watch a movie or we're busy with the children. Sometimes we go out for dinner or we just don't do a thing, but those are rare moments, especially now."

Do you have girlfriends of whom you know that they are not voting for your husband? "Yes, I've got one; her father is Papy Cicilia."

What's the influence of the negative sides of your husband's work on your life?

"Your private life is put under a microscope and is being discussed in public. That's the most annoying thing about sharing your life with a political figure."

How do you see life? "Life in itself is a wonderful thing, but you have to learn how to fill in your time and also you have to make time for yourself."

What do you think about the situation of youth on Bonaire? "It's alarming; so many kids who don't finish their education, teenager pregnancies, criminal youth, broken families, mothers who have to take care of the children all alone and while they are working all day long nobody is looking after the children. I think the main thing they're missing is, first of all, their parent's guidance and after that guidance at school. There used to be social control, but not anymore. There should be well-trained professionals who know how to handle youngsters at the *sentros di bario* and more facilities for youth to go to and it should be subsidized by the government."

What does your own life look like?

"Now it's very busy. I have three small children and I'm working full-time at SSS. I am on the board of the athletics federation and I'm on the board of FUDEBO (a foundation that's going to produce school materials in Papiamentu for Bonaire in the future). I am in the parent's council of Kristu Bon Wardador elementary school and I represent the parents in the education platform."

How important is the environment to you? "Important; especially here on this little island. I really admire what SELI-BON is doing on Bonaire and I also think their campaign to make the people aware to keep the island clean is very good."

What do you think about development and growth? "The island could grow a bit more, but 20,000 people would be the maximum for me. I would like to see more work possibilities, but factories for instance would also bring pollution and I don't want to go that far. The more pollution, the more corals will die and then we won't be a diver's paradise anymore."

How do you feel about foreigners liv-



Marisol Dirksz-Winklaar and Benedict

ing here? "I have no comment about foreigners and *makambas* (Dutch people) as long as they stick to the rules. Some *makambas*, especially those who come with their pockets full of money, like to belittle the Bonaireans. Until now I personally never experienced that with Americans."

What do you think about the situation of the elderly? "Some live in a deplorable situation. We need more homes for the elderly. And how can someone live on NA/550 per month, what is supposed to be the old age pension? No, the care for the elderly people should be strongly improved."

What is the Bonairean identity? "Real Bonaireans are humble people, but there aren't that many anymore. The true Bonairean is very hospitable. They're not envious, and there's no neighbor rivalry like on Curaçao."

What responsibilities do parents have towards their children? "They have to feed them, dress them and give them the right norms and values. You have to give them lots of love and attention and make sure they get a good education."

What would you like to have become? "A singer, if... I would have had a good voice! Benito always says that if I would have to make a living as a singer I would starve to death!"

How do you cope with the fact that your husband is a public figure? "I am used to it."

What are your hobbies? "I like to read, to swim and to sing even though it's out of tune!"

What does friendship mean to you? "Friendship means that I can trust someone blindly, through thick and thin."

What was the best time you ever had with your husband? "A cruise we went on. We've gone twice, but once it was just the two of us and that was fun."

Does your husband give you the space to do



Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

DIVING with DEE "Just" a Snorkeler



It is much easier to take photographs when on scuba than when snorkeling, at least for me. This young spotted moray is being cleaned by a shrimp on his underside.

I enjoy talking to the people who come to my slide shows, and of course we often talk about marine animals. One thing I've noticed: if people are not scuba divers, they almost always describe themselves as "just snorkelers." And they always act a little sheepish, as if they expect me to think less of them because they're merely snorkelers, not scuba divers.

At first I didn't understand why they thought I'd think less of them if they were "just" snorkelers, but since I began swimming using mask and snorkel but not fins three or four times a week, the answer became clear. On the dock, me in bathing suit and with mask and snorkel, the divers in wetsuits and with all their gear, the divers almost always treated me like they'd treat, say, a seven year old. As they discussed what they'd seen, a polite one might ask me, "Did you have a nice snorkel?"

Heh heh. Twice in the last six months,

I've seen a stingray as I swam on the surface. One was a spotted eagle ray, foraging in the shallow sand not far from the mooring at Cliff, completely undisturbed by my presence. The other, a Southern stingray, was near town. It swam from the shallows to the dropoff, passing no more than 15' behind two scuba divers – who never saw it, and never looked up to see me excitedly gesturing. Oh yes Ma'am, I had a very nice snorkel!

From the surface with my mask and snorkel, I once saw a gray snapper zoom up and gobble down a sergeant-major. I've watched a batfish stalk prey. Sea turtles are unconcerned by my presence, as are spawning parrotfish and wrasses. The surface is the perfect vantage point from which to watch a school of mas bangu (bigeye scad) flow around a gang of horse-eye jacks.

In water too shallow for a person wearing a tank, I've had tarpon brush up against my fingers, and watched mating

octopuses (in the interest of science, of course). Once I saw two chain morays pulling on opposite sides of a dead fish, like puppies with a rope toy.

Just because I saw these things snorkeling doesn't mean that I wouldn't have seen some of them if I was diving, of course. But on scuba you're down there with most of the creatures, close to the reef. The two divers the stingray passed behind were just below the dropoff, and the ray was

swimming close to the bottom, inshore of the dropoff. Even if the divers had looked toward the ray, the reef would have blocked their view of it until it came to the dropoff. From the surface I saw it all.

On the other hand, sometimes it's much better to be on scuba and closer to the reef. I sure don't have the breath-holding skill to be a cleaner station client (always being careful not to make contact with the reef at all) when I'm snorkeling! It's easier for me to do fish or coral bleaching surveys when I'm scuba diving. And swimming through tight schools of scad, with them all around you, is wonderful in a different way from when they're below you.

Last month I met Fred Calhoun, a gentleman from Massachusetts who reminds me very much of Captain Don Stewart. Fred tells his students, "It's not how deep you dive that makes you a good diver, it's how often you dive."

About critter watching, I'd paraphrase Fred and say, "It's not that you watch underwater animals, it's how much time you spend watching". And then I'd add, "It's also nice to watch from different perspec-



I noticed this little eel peeking out of a bottom crevice in about 10' of water. Turns out it's a color variation of the goldentail moray. I snorkeled down to get the photo, which meant I approached from above, which is disconcerting for morays; that's why the eel is mostly in the crevice.

tives." Scientists have been studying tropical rain forests from the ground for decades but are delighted to have come up with ways to observe forest animals from the treetops. As scuba divers, we should appreciate how easy it is for us to get that perspective!

So feel sorry for the people who are "just" snorkelers in the same way you feel sorry for those who are "just" scuba divers – because neither can see the underwater world from the other's perspective. Rather than being one or the other, expand your horizons and appreciate both.* □ *Story & photo by Dee Scarr*

* As I wrote this last paragraph, I thought about all the places I've been – in the Caribbean and the Pacific -- where the scuba diving is fine but the shallow waters are relatively barren, or where the waters are too rough for comfortable snorkeling. We are fortunate to enjoy Bonaire's healthy reefs and protected shorelines! □

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





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

The Goddess of Love Visits the Seven Sisters

On Wednesday evening April 11th the planet named for the Roman goddess of love, will pay a very close visit to one of the loveliest star clusters of them all, **The Pleiades, the Seven Sisters.** And you can start watching them get closer each night beginning this weekend. Let me show you.



The Pleiades

This Saturday April 7th, about one hour after sunset

face west where you will see super bright 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**, aptly named for the goddess of love because it is the brightest and most beautiful of all the naked-eye planets. It's the brightest because in addition to it's being so close it is the most reflective of all the planets because it is enshrouded in a perpetual cloud cover which acts like a gigantic mirror reflecting sunlight back to **Earth**. But besides being beautiful to the naked eye, if you have a small telescope you will notice that Venus appears to go through phases just like our Moon.

But something special has been added this Saturday because if you have fairly dark skies you will see a tiny cluster of stars called The Seven Sisters, although most people can only count six with the naked eye. Some people think this cluster looks like a tiny dipper or a cluster of grapes, but in western tradition they are known as the **seven daughters of Atlas** who ride across the sky on the shoulder of **Taurus the Bull** and whose bright red eye, **Aldebaran**, can be seen up and to their left. Now on Saturday the sisters will be only five degrees away from Venus. On Wednesday night the 11th, they will be at their very closest, only two and a half degrees or five full **Moons** apart, which astronomically speaking is close!

And good luck abounds because if you're clouded out on Wednesday, on Thursday they'll still be only two and 3/4 degrees apart. And on Friday the 13th, only three degrees apart. But the best night is Wednesday night! And to add to your viewing pleasure also use a pair of binoculars because you'll be able to see a lot more than seven sisters here. In fact we now know there are really about 100 stars here in a sphere 14 light years in diameter, 400 light years away, wow! Unlike our five-billion-year-old **Sun** these stars are extremely young, only 70 million years old. That means they were born only five million years before the dinosaurs got wiped out by a giant asteroid. So get out this weekend and start watching Venus and the Seven Sisters as they move closer and closer to each other each night.

And now if you want to be underwhelmed by a full Moon: the full Moon on Tuesday night next week will be the farthest and thus the smallest and least bright full Moon of the entire year. In fact it will be 252,481 miles away from Earth at 5 am, which is over 30,000 miles farther away than the closest full Moon of the year on October 26th. Even so it will still be pretty bright. Finally, please note that on Easter Sunday morning April 8th, people attending sunrise services will see a beautiful **gibbous Moon** forming a wonderful triangle with **Jupiter** and **Antares**. □

Jack Horkheimer

DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

And the solution is: (puzzle and directions on page 18)

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THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, April 1 to Saturday, April 7

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You have your own family to consider as well. Go after your professional goals. You can make money through your own creative efforts. Your temper could be short if someone criticizes your efforts. You can make major decisions regarding your professional direction. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You have a real need to be vocal. Try not to use emotional blackmail; it will only make matters worse. You probably aren't getting straight answers to your questions. Problems with fire, gas, or oil may cause disruptions and annoyances. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You may have the opportunity to get involved in some interesting conversations. Try to address the real issues in order to turn things around. You will have to be careful not to let others find out about your intentions. There could be opposition or temper tantrums on the home front. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Stress may cause minor health ailments. Do things that involve children. You may be emotionally unstable if you let someone you care about get away with verbal abuse. You may need to make a choice. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your mate, however, may not be too pleased with you. Get down to business. You've been in a rut and you need to do something that will help you break the pattern you've fallen into. Don't overextend yourself in the process. You need to take a good look at all sides of an issue before making a decision. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Take a short business trip if possible. Property purchases should be on your mind. Romantic opportunities will be plentiful if you go out with friends. Moves or the possibility of having someone different living with you may be difficult at first. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. Secret affairs may be tempting. Upgrading at this point is not a bad plan. Losses are likely if you have left your financial affairs in other people's hands. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You must make sure that all your personal documents are in order. You have the ability to motivate others. Look into joining groups that can give you hands-on advice about business. You'll look guilty if you don't lay your cards on the table. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require. You will be emotional about your personal life. You are best to tuck your money away where no one will be able to touch it, including yourself. Family outings or a quiet stroll through the park will lead to stimulating conversation and a closer bond. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Opportunities for financial gains through investments and games of chance are likely. You have more energy than the rest of the people you live with anyway. A change in position could be better than you thought. Catch up on overdue phone calls and correspondence. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will be able to work in fine detail and present the best possible proposal. Relatives will not agree with the way you are dealing with your personal problems. You're best not to get involved in joint financial ventures. Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Take care of any medical problems if they've been troubling you. You can work in conjunction with those in the know in order to get to the bottom of any pending issue. You're best to channel your energy into work. Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable and confused. Your lucky day this week will be Friday. □