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The REPORTER

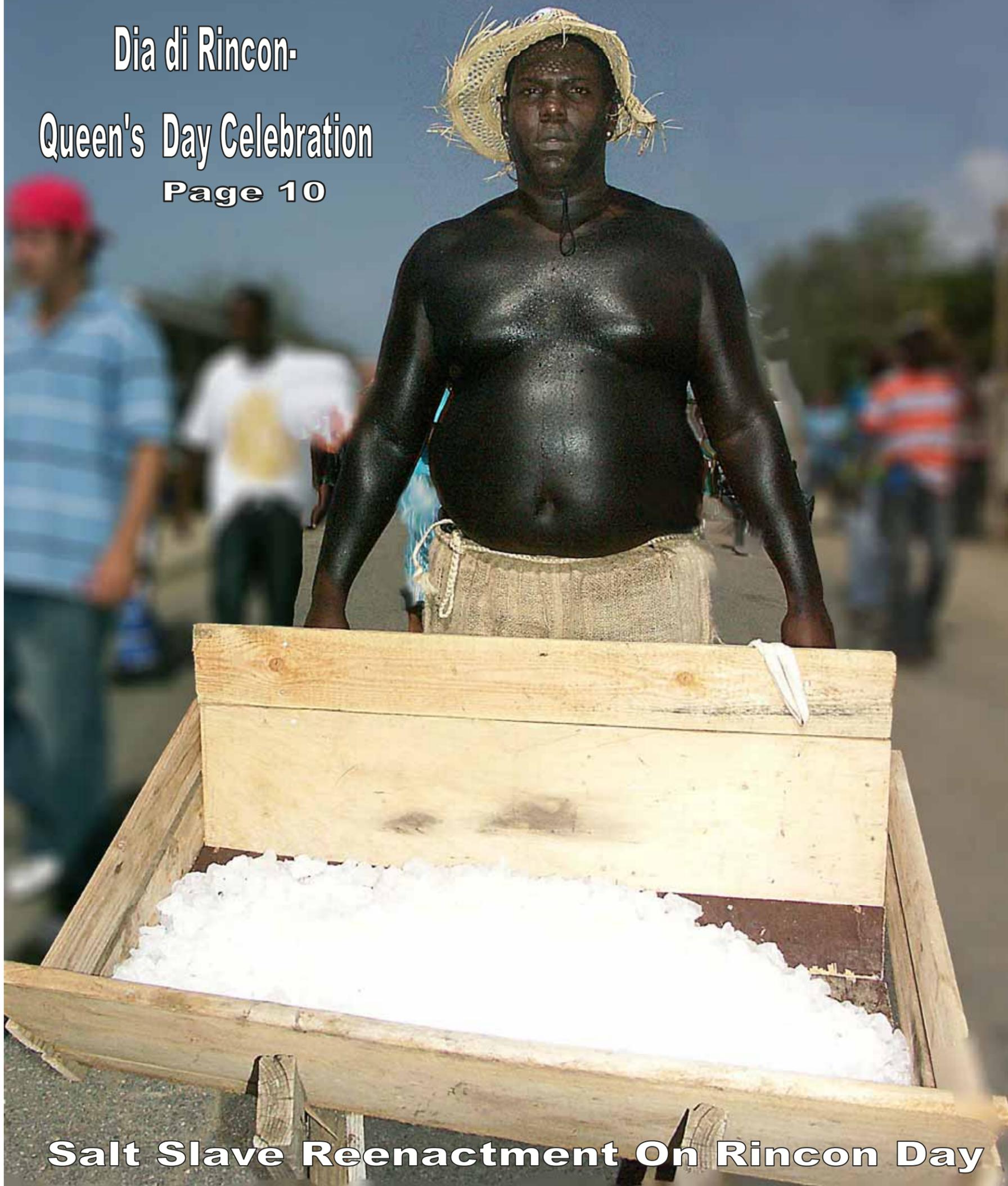
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Dia di Rincon-

Queen's Day Celebration

Page 10



Salt Slave Reenactment On Rincon Day

The Dutch Transport Minister, Camiel Eurlings, calculates that it will take "at least 20 million euro" (57 million guilders) to repair Bonaire's worn-out Flamingo Airport runway. Because the Antillean Central Government does not have the money for this, the Netherlands is willing to pay: "so that Bonaire can glow at the start."

Readers may recall that Bonairean drivers suffered with poorly maintained roads for years because highway funds and other monies were diverted to extend and resurface the airport runway to accommodate KLM jets. Those flights sparked an economic rebirth on the island that continues to grow.

Since Bonaire is going to be the responsibility of the Netherlands, the airport must comply with European standards, which are much stricter than the ICAO standards.

The worldwide civil aviation authority recently conducted an audit on all the airports within the Dutch Kingdom and said that the Antillean airports are "just within standards."

"Regarding the condition of the airport in Bonaire, there is no reason to panic. There is no acute danger, only overdue maintenance. The runway needs heavy renovations and the people of Bonaire need a vital airport," concluded Eurlings.

► "Flamingo Airport's management is currently in the process of drawing up a master plan to comply with all international requirements," says Richard Hart, director of the Bonaire Holding Company which controls the airport.

There are three important projects planned: maintenance of the runway, moving the fire station near the middle of the runway, and purchasing two push backs for aircrafts. "We are working very hard to make sure Flamingo Airport is safe



Flamingo Airport runway
Extra photo

and this way, welcome the aircraft that come to Bonaire and contribute to the growth of the tourism of the island."

► Flamingo Airport registered a more than a 10% increase in passengers in the first quarter of this year. March was a record month. The increase has a lot to do with Delta and Continental Airlines. Compared to the same period last year also the local passengers increased by 10.6%. International traffic increased 8.8%.

► Rocketing fuel prices hit air travelers a bit more this week. KLM has announced it will up the fuel supplement two euros to 31 euros for flights within Europe. The fees for intercontinental flights, including flights to the Antilles, will increase by 10 euros to 98 euros.

► Dutch charter airline, Arkefly, will land twice a week in Bonaire with its Boeing 767-330ER, en route to Curaçao on Thursday and Saturday.

► Last month's flight cancellations by American Airlines are likely to spread to other US airlines in the weeks ahead as US Government regulators step up a by-the-book review of carriers' compliance with maintenance and safety orders issued in recent years. American Eagle flies daily to Bonaire. However, its propjets have not been cited for maintenance problems.

► The long awaited merger

Mother's Day 2008 will be celebrated on Sunday May 11, in Bonaire and 70 other countries around the world. Mother's Day honors all mothers and expresses gratitude for the hardships they bear in bringing up a child. Most countries including Bonaire celebrate Mothers Day on the second Sunday of May. Mother's Day came into being due to the efforts made by female rights activists, Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis. The resolution dedicating Mother's Day was signed by US President Woodrow Wilson on May 8, 1914. However, the tradition of honoring mothers goes back to the days of Egyptian pharaohs. Anne Morrow Lindbergh, the well known author wrote, "By and large, mothers and housewives are the only workers who do not have regular time off." So be sure to remember Mom on her day.



of Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines has been announced in an all-stock deal valued at \$17.7 billion. The airlines said the deal would take as long as a year to be finalized, including regulatory approvals. The new airline will be called Delta. Delta flies weekly to Bonaire from Atlanta.

French-Dutch airlines operator, Air France-KLM, said in a statement it would be pleased with a Delta-Northwest tie-up, which would strengthen its partnerships on the transatlantic market. Air France has a transatlantic joint venture with Delta, and Dutch-based KLM has a similar arrangement with Northwest.

► Houston-based Continental Airlines lost \$80 million in the first quarter. The airline also says it will take 14 older 737-300 planes out of service between September and April. Continental flies weekly to Bonaire from Houston and Newark.

► Dutch advisors made proposals last week regarding placement of the BES islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) in the Charter of the Kingdom, discussed division of territorial waters and outlined the future judicial system.

Representatives of Bonaire and Saba met with seven Dutch technicians in the board room of St. Marteen's Princess Juliana Air-

port. No agreements were made because the BES islands wanted their own legal experts to study the proposal on placement in the Charter of the Kingdom as well as some of the other elements. Commissioner Burney Elhage attended for Bonaire.

Besides making a special provision for the BES islands in Article 1 of the Charter of the Kingdom, it's also possible for the BES islands to fall under Article 134 of the Dutch Constitution which regulates public entities.

The islands also received information about the future judicial system for the BES islands including the make-up of the police force, prosecutor's office, prison and overall maintenance of law and order.

► Health Commissioner Boy Clarendra says that health insurance is one of the most important subjects



that need to be discussed as the BES islands move to direct ties with The Netherlands. It's proposed to have just one type of insurance for all the inhabitants of the BES islands instead of the different existing types of health insurance, like SVB, BZV, and FZOG that now exist. The Dutch have come with a

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CLEAR BLUE WATER NEWS

Earth Day Clean-Up

Algae Growth Continues

The consensus of all the recent revelations by visiting marine biologists and on-island experts is "The activities of human habitation on the land has the greatest impact on the coral reef surrounding Bonaire."

The shallow water reef that has attracted shore divers to Bonaire for the past 40 to 50 years forms a relatively narrow band around the island, like a colorful ribbon around the neck of a pretty girl. The reef starts about 100 meters (330 feet) from shore, slopes downward at a 45 degree angle and is less than 50 meters (165 feet) wide. The release of large quantities of untreated waste water into the sea from the populated areas of the island onto this narrow band of live coral fuels the rapid and prolific growth of algae that is covering the living coral and choking it to death.

The Evidence

The reports from our volunteers who clean and record the data each week and the accompanying photos are clear indicators of this devastating process. Here are more observations concerning the algae growth from several volunteers who visit their assigned "Rainbow Sensor Site" each week to clean and retrieve the data.

This Issue's Reports:

Thursday, April 24, 2008 - Site#9 - We spent a long time cleaning the



line and sensors. We have been noticing that the algae that is growing on the line is getting harder to rub off. It likes to live in the twists of the rope. I wish I had a dental pick to clean the twist.

Algae Growth: about 1 cm of algae on the 5m sensors and surprisingly 3 cm long on the line with soft red growths that measured 2cm long. The bottles had some green algae circles, but the longer algae growth was where the three bottles are attached which have white crusty circles which were hard to remove. The sensors at the bottom had 3mm crusty white circles which I picked off. There was a thicker heavy coating of red and brown algae along the whole line.

Cassandra and Franklin Neal

Wednesday, April 23, 2008 - Site #8- Algae Growth: heavy long hair

on sensors with the amount of hair decreasing at middle array and further decreasing at the top array. Length of hairy algae was the same at all levels. Calcareous growth not seen on sensors; not much on bottles
Joanie Fitterling

The 10-year-long LMSP project is entirely funded by private donations from concerned and interested individuals and carried out by dedicated research volunteers on the island. Additional full time, on-island volunteers are needed at this time to help to continue the project. If you are interested in diving and collecting the electronic data from our shore based sites please contact Albert Bianculli at 791-2214 for more details. The task takes about 20 minutes and then you can continue your dive. All your air is supplied by Yellow Sub/Dive Friends Bonaire at no charge. ■ Press release

Money is needed to continue this project. Donations accepted by Support Bonaire (US tax deductible) or you are invited to directly deposit your donation to SEA MONITOR Foundation accounts: Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) USD Account # 116.735.09 NA Account # 116.736.07 SWIFT TRANSFER: MCBKANCUBON



Marine Park ranger and volunteers taking away the trash from Klein Bonaire

As in past years, STCB, in collaboration with STINAPA, organized a beach clean-up during the Earth Day celebration. This year it was decided to prepare the beaches on Klein Bonaire for a good start of the 2008 sea turtle nesting season which begins in May.

On Sunday, April 20, a beach clean-up was conducted successfully on Klein Bonaire which is Bonaire's most important hawksbill and loggerhead nesting beach. Maintaining unobstructed access to beaches for egg laying female turtles is extremely important to the survival of these endangered animals.

A total of 90 volunteers participated during this clean-up and 105 bags of trash were collected and sorted for further

classification and analysis. Volunteers were mainly residents from the island, with a large group of teenagers from Jong Bonaire participating with two of their youth leaders. The Coast Guard was also part of this clean-up. Another group, with the CIEE Research Station Bonaire, was in charge of classifying and documenting the collected trash. Results from the data collected will be posted when available, and this information can be a good tool to determine the origin of this inadequately disposed garbage on Bonaire.

STCB would like to thank the staff from STINAPA, Coast Guard, SELIBON, Jong Bonaire, Kantika di Amor, and all the volunteers who participated in this clean-up. ■ Story & photo by Mabel Nava

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from page 2) proposition that the islands will have to review and comment on to arrive at a solution.

► **The island territory of Bonaire is not budgeting money for the SVB-insured persons who need to go abroad for medical treatment.** These costs previously were covered by BZV and the Government of Bonaire.

According to Health Commissioner Clarenda, the Island executive Council (BC) has given that responsibility back to the Central Government. SVB informed the BC this week that the Public Health Minister has agreed that SVB itself will defray the expenses of the SVB-insured persons who need treatments abroad within limits. They will only treat the requests submitted on April 1st and later. There are no arrangements yet for requests submitted before April 1st.

► **St. Maarten and Curaçao are considering abandoning the process of attaining country status together.** Antilles Prime Minister De Jongh-Elhage said that while the Central Government and Curaçao were ready to continue with the constitutional change process already underway, St. Maarten had indicated that the topic of **corporate governance** created an impasse for the island territory.

Corporate governance is a term which refers to the way in which government-owned companies (like WEB, TELBO, TCB...) are run, supervised and accounted for. Bonaire has a long history of using such companies for creative financing, by-passing usual island budget procedures.

► **The Central Government reported a deficit of NAf 1.3 billion** in the first draft report of the committee for division of assets and liabilities, which was presented to Parliament last Tuesday. The report, which is not yet completed, also stated that the Netherlands Antilles had NAf 1.4 billion in assets and NAf 2.8 billion in debts as of December 31, 2005.

► **According to the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS), in the past 12 months overall prices increased 1.9%.**

Minimum wages for domestic services increased 1.9%, the prices for home furnishings and household goods rose 1.3%. Food jumped 1%, especially dairy products (4.8%), cooking fat (3.2%), and meat and fish (1.4%). The price of other food products increased by 0.1 to 1.1%; however, the price of ready-made meals dropped 0.2%.

The prices for alcoholic beverages and cigarettes increased 0.5%, transportation and com-

munication 0.5%, living costs 0.4%, clothing and shoes 0.2%, water 1.0%, and recreation and development dropped by 0.1%.

► **Prices of essentials like fuel and food are rising around the world. Small island economies that totally depend on imports tend to feel the effects even more. Despite the small inflation numbers reported by the CBS, consumers can plainly see that prices have jumped 15 to 25% in recent months.** Based on world economic forecasts, this trend is expected to continue.

Food prices are spurred by increased demand in emerging markets like China and India, competition with bio-fuels, high oil prices and market speculation and the rise in the value of the euro which has resulted in higher prices of European products. The cost of dairy products, flour and rice especially has been going up. Rice and flour prices in most countries around the world have more than doubled in the last year. A barrel of crude oil on Wednesday cost \$119. The price per barrel has gone up \$57 since the start of this year. *By Suzanne Koelega*

► **One result of the economic situation survey conducted in December 2007 was that faith in the economy of Bonaire is up.** This eighth economic survey surveyed all companies with 10



D. Lensink photo

► Two weekends ago a small delegation under the guidance of Sensei Peter Silberie (left) traveled to Curaçao to participate in the **first karate competition of the year** organized by CuKarBo. Sixty-eight high-level competitors participated.

Unfortunately, interruptions and power outages kept some of the Bonaire team members from completing their events because they had to catch their flight back to Bonaire. Sensei Silberie was disappointed but nevertheless the team conducted themselves well. **Amber Lensink** (right) took first place and a gold medal in her class and **Everone Vruta** (left) a bronze. (Press release)

or more employees. Companies with fewer than 10 employees were sampled. Below some results of the opinion questions:

► **Confidence in the economy has risen from 28 to 36%.** 50% indicated that their confidence remained the same, and 14% said it has diminished (the lowest percentage ever).

► **More than 59% of the companies think the situation will get better.** But this is 10 points lower than the previous period of June 2007. About 16% (was 10%) of the entrepreneurs be-

lieve the economic future will worsen.

► **The Dutch National Ombudsman dr. Alex F.M. Breninkmeijer, will be visiting the Netherlands Antilles next week.** During his tour of the islands the National Ombudsman



(Continued on page 9)

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Profiles: Susie Stanhope - Making Dreams Come True

When you meet Susie, a yacht skipper for 21 years and visitor to Bonaire, you can't help but be impressed by her dynamic personality. She radiates aliveness in a powerful way. This first impression gets even more confirmed when she starts telling her life story.

Born in England, where she was an art teacher for troubled children for 27 years, she sailed in many regattas and did yacht deliveries during the school vacations. It was on her 36 ft. Sparkman & Stephens yacht that she passed through Bonaire for the first time some five years ago. She went on to Aruba, Curacao, then Trinidad and Venezuela. But the first impression that Bonaire made on her stuck really deep.

She left her teaching job in Cornwall to fulfill her sailing dream. She raced across the Atlantic on a Challenge yacht after being hit by a hurricane in the Bay of Biscay. She landed in St. Lucia and fell in love with the Caribbean, feeling at home with the slower pace of life after coming from Cornwall. Returning to the UK she bought *Wishful Thinking* with the aim of sailing her own boat across the Atlantic. After a two-year period of preparation in Cornwall, during which she supplemented her teaching earnings by teaching belly dancing and

working on the water taxi in Fowey, she left the UK in 2000.

She uses the traditional navigation systems like the sextant as well as GPS. She uses celestial navigation and never uses the auto helm unless there is an emergency.

After her first visit to Bonaire five years ago, she dreamt of returning, passing through on the way to Aruba and then back to Trinidad, then Venezuela. She did return to Bonaire in 2006 to spend more time here, Her two dogs, Shuby and Max, have been her constant companions for many years. Blancu, her Bonaire cat, joined them later.

Bonaire felt like she was coming home, from the very beginning, because she met so many local people who made her feel very special and welcome. Alberto from Vespucci's restaurant became one of her first and dearest friends. Marciel, the shoemaker from Uruguay, and his family invited her for her first Christmas celebration on Bonaire. She met so many lovely people who were instrumental in making her feel at home, she encountered so much friendliness, that giving something back to the community in return was a natural reaction for her.

She became involved in the Maria Hoppner Home. Susie organized several fundraising events and started to work with the boys from the ages seven to 17. She

gave them art classes, and with the help of fellow cruisers and Captain Kirsten on the Sea Cow, arranged a trip for the children to Klein Bonaire, where they were taught to swim and snorkel. Kite making was another project which was very successful. She got the other cruisers to help with safety boats for the Jong Bonaire eco swim to Klein Bonaire and back.

"..she supplemented her teaching earnings by teaching belly dancing and working on the water taxi.."

In the meantime her father in England had fallen ill and she had to travel back and forth to England frequently. She started teaching the junior sailors on Friday afternoons. This became the Bonaire Sailing School Association for children aged seven to 11. Sponsors like Caribbean Homes donated two sunfishes. Other sponsors made the purchase of the 16-boat fleet possible as well. She works together with Arti de Vries, a dedicated volunteer, and Tino Thielman, the fiberglass man, who is indispensable as well. She organized a grand fundraising at Vespucci's a while ago and helped raise over NAF 5.0000 for new equipment, especially a new engine for the safety boat.

Susie also takes care of the cruisers. Newcomers are always invited

by her for a tour around the island in her jeep. On Thursdays she organizes the Admiral's Hour for sailors in Vespucci's Restaurant, a chance for them to meet and exchange information on sailing, on Bonaire, or on upcoming trips. She simply loves to be of service and announces events to the cruisers on the VHF radio most mornings. In between all her activities she still manages to clean the beach in Playa right in front of the boats that are anchored there.

Last year she sailed in the Bonaire Regatta with two local crew members, Nicolas and Nicolas and they finished second. She feels extremely privileged by the invitation of Caribbean Laundry during the last Karneval to join them as the only non-local participant during the parade.

If she were 10 years older and allowed to stay she would never leave Bonaire. But there is a new adventure waiting for her: a brand new boat is almost finished and waiting back in England to be sailed by her. She feels pretty much torn about this new plan. Leaving Bonaire will be the hardest thing to do. She will miss so many of her friends: Carlos from Surinam, Elvis at Sorobon and his



Susie Stanhope

world champion windsurfers, Jopie her dance partner, Patrice, Funchi and his Sunday lunches at his kunuku, Michael from Chat 'n Browse, but especially all the children at the Maria Hoppner Home and her junior sailors of course. The list goes on and on. "It breaks my heart to leave my beloved Bonaire," she sighs. But I am sure that she will be greatly missed by Bonaire as well. Thanks for your dedication and contributions to the island, Susie, and have a wonderful, adventurous and safe journey! ■

Story & photo by Louise Rood



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Going On NOW! Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival

Last week Earth Day (22nd May) marked the beginning of the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival. This celebration of Bonaire's birds lasts for a month with many exciting events planned for the coming weeks:



- 30th April – Exhibition of Lora Art Competition and Prize giving 1300hrs, at Dia di Rincon
- 3rd May – Lora Art Auction of prize winning artwork to raise funds for *Salba Nos Lora* and Movie showing "Amore" (parrot love), 7pm Captain Don's Habitat
- 11th May – Yellow Oriole/Troupial count, 7-9am!
- 14th May – Talk Captain Don's Habitat 7:30
- 21st May – Talk and festival, Captain Don's Habitat 7:30pm



Yellow Oriole

Do you see Yellow Orioles? 2008

On Bonaire we have much to celebrate as Bonaire's birdlife is in many ways unique. Typical West Indian species such as the Pearly eyed Thrasher and Caribbean Elaenia mix with species more commonly associated with the South American Mainland such as the Bare-eyed Pigeon and Troupial. One bird we are fortunate to have is the Yellow Oriole. The Yellow Oriole we see on Bonaire is found on the ABC islands and nowhere else!

Last year a survey took place to find out more about the Yellow Orioles that live here.

Over 40 people took part and the data collected forms a base-



Troupial

line to which future surveys can be compared. As well as collecting data on the Yellow Oriole the organisers also want to collect data on the Troupial. The Troupial is a close relative of the Yellow Oriole but only arrived on Bonaire in the early 70s. Since it arrived the Troupial has flourished and it's possible that its success may be making things difficult for other birds on the island, such as the Yellow Oriole. However, it's important to stress that until sufficient data is collected we won't know whether this is the case or not.

This is why the organisers are asking everyone to spend a couple of hours on the morning of the 11th May watching out for Yellow Orioles and Troupials

and to let us know what they see. It would be especially great to have the people who participated last year to count again in the same places. This way we'll start to build up a really detailed picture of what's going on. The data collected can also be used to find out about the habitat preferences of the two species and help predict how they might be affected by increasing development on the island.

Getting involved

The count is simple.

Step 1) Choose a place to conduct your count. This could be your garden or any other place you'd like to spend a couple of hours.

Step 2) Make sure you know how to recognise a Yellow Oriole and a Troupial (see "How to tell the difference between a Yellow Oriole and Troupial").

Step 3) Record the highest number of Yellow Oriole and Troupial you see at any one time, between the hours of 7 and 9am on the morning of Sunday 11th May.

Step 4) Call STINAPA (717-8444) on Monday and tell them what you have seen. We need to know three things: 1) your location, 2) the maximum numbers you have seen and 3) if you regularly put food out in your garden.

Step 5) Have fun and enjoy looking out for Bonaire's most beautiful birds!

How to tell the difference between an Oriole and a Troupial

The Troupial and Oriole are definitely two of the most colourful birds on the island. They are cousins but easy to tell apart if you know what to look and listen for. The Troupial is a bright orange bird with black wings and a black head and a flash of white on the wings. It can often be heard calling early in the morning and has a loud melodic song.

The Oriole is more subtle in colour than the Troupial but is still striking with its bright yellow body and head. It has a black tail and wings and a black throat patch. Some people have suggested that the Oriole's call is similar to the sound of rusty door hinges, but I have only heard a pleasant melodious song from an Oriole! It is soft in volume and is often structured in a pattern of trios, like 'chit chit chit'. However, it is not common to hear the Oriole's song at all in Bonaire. ■

Sam Williams



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BONAIREAN VOICES

Activities (Part 2)

In Part 1 in the last edition of *The Reporter* we talked about how “60 plussers” (people 60 years and older) and housewives can entertain themselves, to show how people of all ages can entertain themselves, even our youth.

Have you heard about the young people in Belnem who organized a “Get to Know Your Island Tour” last year? Most of the participants were Belnem youths. I had an interview with one of the organizers. He is only 19 years old and likes to be involved in all kind of organizations.

During vacation times, he explained, he and other friends like to make plans for the group of Belnem young people who have all grown up together in the same neighborhood and who usually meet during their vacation periods. “We have people,” he said, “who are always ready to help our youngsters, like George Nicolaas. To keep kids off the streets he lets us play soccer in the sport complex hall.

“Most of us belong to the Bonaire Flight Simulator Group under the supervision of Franklin Antoin Jr. as our coach. We simulate a control tower with the money that we collect among us, to buy some materials to fix up the place that’s on the way to the Donkey Sanctuary. We learn skills on different kind of aircrafts. We

bring our chips and drinks and spend our time learning how to manage airplanes.

Most of us are still studying in Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba, but we’re always in contact. During the Christmas holidays we celebrate as a group with a big dinner party. This way we get to know each other more and build up our friendships.

I always feel motivated to do more for myself and others around me. I made the ads for Telbo when they introduced ADSL, and I’m making ads now for Caribbean Homes. I encourage all young people to come forward into our community. They shouldn’t feel afraid and should have an open mind. They should make their own choices for the best and think positively. Sometimes things can go wrong, but we have to analyze what went wrong and learn how to do it better the next time. Remember, every fall can build you up and make you stronger for the next time.”

Another experience we heard is from a young man who just turned 18 and was our King of the Carnival Tumba in 2007. He said, “My aunt and my father made a good impression on me. They loved music and all kinds of dance, especially our folkloric dance. Because of that I started joining dancing groups, but then I stopped when I realized I liked music and singing better. I participated in the *Kanto Krioyo* competition, song festivals and our *Tumba* competition. I like soccer too and



Bonaire youngsters (Hoben di Bon Kurason) and advisors who are involved in radio show production.

my cousin and I belong to a soccer team. I like to be involved in sports, singing, drama, comedy, bands and dance groups. In each organization you can give a helping hand. I learn from each of these groups and when the time is right I will have my own organization. Of course you can’t neglect your studies; they represent your future. Nothing is too difficult; you just have to trust in yourself and have a little faith in what you want to do and accomplish in life. Always try to do

something for yourself and for your community. You won’t be sorry.”

If every neighborhood had positive young people like this it would make a great difference on Bonaire. ■

Siomara E. Albertus

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email reporter@bonairenews.com.



			
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Pets of The Week

The Bonaire Animal Shelter is bursting at the seams right now with puppies and kittens. "So many are coming in every day," says Shelter Manager Monique Degenaar. "They're very cute and very healthy. We're happy to get them and we encourage people to bring in their unwanted puppies and kittens – no questions asked!" Some of these pets have been brought in by good Samaritans who have found the little animals dumped by the side of the road or even at the landfill

Seeing these large numbers of kittens and puppies makes one realize how important the Shelter Sterilization Plan is because the Shelter can accommodate just so many pets and do try to find good homes, but sometimes it becomes an insurmountable task – there are just too many. When people bring in their litters of pups and kittens the Shelter staff encourages them to bring in the mother so that she can become sterilized. The Sterilization Fund has been set up to pay for this service for those people who cannot afford it. For every animal that is sterilized an untold



Co-Manager of the Shelter, Monique Degenaar, poses with some of the very cuddly kittens

number of unwanted offspring can be avoided.

If you know someone who has a pet that is giving birth time after time, tell them that they may come to the Shelter for help.

Please, if you can help at all, donate to the "Sterilization Fund," MCB Account #10616410. The money goes only for sterilizations.

Use your credit card to donate through Support Bonaire, WWW.supportbonaire.org The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 8



Teen Shelter volunteer Joyce Hacken with a lap full of puppies. Joyce's mom also volunteers

am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989. Website: WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.org

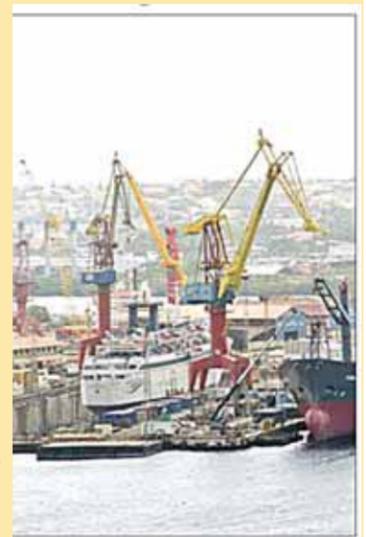
■ L.D.



Taxi 7 driver Farid Ayubi found these pups abandoned at the Landfill (dump)

ASBESTOS DANGER

The *St. Maarten Herald* reported that during repair work on the cruise ship *Freewinds*, blue asbestos was released and was carried in the ship's ventilation system. The refurbishing and repair work involved removing the ceiling and paneling. The *Freewinds* calls regularly at Bonaire and many island residents go aboard for various events.



Freewinds hauled out at the CDM drydock.

The *Freewinds* captain did not report this while *Freewinds* personnel were working on the ship at the Mathey wharf in Curaçao. The Curaçao Drydock Company (CDM), where the ship was later taken for haul out, heard from the marine surveyor of the presence of asbestos on the ship.

It now has to be determined how the asbestos dust, which has been proven to cause lung cancer, can safely be removed from the ship. The CDM has stopped all work on the ship. It was sealed and isolated. Experts plan to investigate and measure the presence of asbestos dust in the hull and surrounding areas.

Samples taken from the paneling last week by inspectors were sent to the Netherlands. Results of testing showed that they contained significant amounts of

blue asbestos. After an extraordinary meeting, the Curaçao Executive Council decided to inform the public about the incident to avoid rumors and panic.

CDM personnel had to be informed via the media because it was impossible to gather all the workers Friday evening to personally give them the information.

he presence of asbestos aboard the *Freewinds* has long been published on Scientologist exposé websites. ■

St Maarten Daily Herald



Klinika Veterinario Bonaire Animal Hospital Dierenkliniek

Dierenartsen team:
Drs. Arie Binksmā
Drs. Hans & ETTY Lambeek
Drs. Seib Fietsma
Drs. Ytzen v.d. Werf

Kaminda Lagun 24A, Tel 717-4255

Next to the Animal Shelter
Banda di Dierenaisel
Naast het Dierenaisel



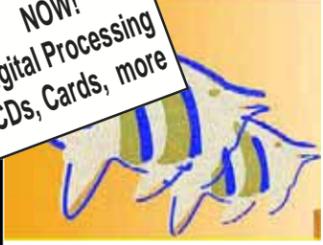
The clinic is open from:
Klinika ta habri di:
De kliniek is geopend van:

8:00---12:00
13:30---15:00

Consulting Hours	Monday, Wednesday and Friday 13:30-14:30 Tuesday, Thursday 17:00-17:30; Saturday 11.00-12.00 or by appointment every day available 24 hours a day, including weekends: Tel. 790-6001
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Spreekuur:	maandag, woensdag en vrijdag 13:30-14:30 dinsdag en donderdag 17:00-17:30; zaterdag 11.00-12.00 of volgens afspraak elke dag 24 uur per dag bereikbaar, ook in het weekend: Tel. 790-6001

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Flotsam & Jetsam (Conti. from pg. 4) especially wants to provide information with regard to the right of complaint and to exchange views on this subject with authorities and other interested parties on the spot.

He will pay a visit to Bonaire next Tuesday. He plans to talk about the right of complaint with the Lieutenant Governor and Executive Council as well as the opposition parties. *The Reporter* plans a story on his visit in the next issue.

In the Netherlands citizens can file government-related or other complaints with the National Ombudsman. After review the Ombudsman can express an opinion with no binding effect, adding a recommendation, if applicable. As a result of the Ombudsman's authority and the quality of the investigation, practically all recommendations are adopted, and governments usually take appropriate action. In 2007 the National Ombudsman received 13,242 complaints.

► **Selibon started major cleanups about one month ago in Rincon, not only for the Dia di Rincon celebration, but also to eliminate the many illegal refuse dumps.** After the intensive cleanup, Selibon handed out letters to all the residents and businesses of Rincon informing them of the rules in connection with household refuse dumping. This week, Selibon will have signs put up at a number of strategic locations where it is illegal to dump garbage. The environmental police will check on a daily basis and Selibon also requests the residents of Rincon to keep an eye on the situation so that Rincon can stay clean. The environmental police have already received many tips of illegal dumping.

► **A team of six officials of the Economic Affairs Service (Deza) and the waste management company, Selibon, started to inspect the businesses with an alcohol and "hospitality" license.** The government and Selibon observed that several businesses are not complying with the rules laid down in their permit and in the Island Waste Ordinance. These two documents say that businesses that serve alcohol and food must have sufficient garbage containers and that these businesses must make sure that the garbage is deposited only into the containers and that the containers be emptied on a regular basis. These license holders must also keep an area 25 meters around their establishment clean.

► **AMFO is providing NAF 135,000 a year to help Bonaire's cultural centerpiece open-air museum, Mangazina**



Mangazina di Rei

di Rei. Much of the funds will be used to develop tropical horticulture expertise among the island's young people. Heleen Christiaan, who studied the subject in Holland, will lead the project. The funds cover project costs to train 10 youngsters for a year.

► **Hooray for the Bonaire Lions Club** who donated NAF 5.000 to the **Foundation for the Blind and Hard of Hearing.** It is one of the more deserving charitable foundations on the island. For help, information or to make a donation visit their office next to Dr. Dorvil's practice in Tera Cora, on Kaya Mgr. Nieurwindt, Monday through Friday from 9 to 11 am, or call 717-5761, 717-8171 or 785-0518.

► **A jury system should be introduced for serious criminal cases to reduce the gap between the public and the judiciary,** says Wouter van den Bergh, deputy president of the Amsterdam court, in the *NRC Handelsblad* newspaper.

"The Netherlands is just about the only western democracy in which citizens are not involved in the judicial system," stated Van den Bergh. Special expertise is not necessary to determine whether a suspect is guilty, and sentencing could also be left to a jury, he adds. In July 2007, Minister of Justice Ernst Hirsch Ballin dismissed a similar call for the jury system in the Netherlands.



► **Curaçoean Churandy Martina is heading for the Olympic Games in Pe-king.** During his first appearance on the home track of the University of Texas in El Paso, the sprinter from Curaçao noted record times on the 100 and 200 meters. With 10.00 seconds on the 100 meters, he nibbled 0.04 seconds off his personal record time and he also set a new Antillean record on the 200 meters with 20.17 seconds. His time also meant the best seasonal time. Finishing second to Martina in El Paso was his countryman, Brian Mariano. This year

no Bonaireans are participating. Bonaire's Patun Sagoza competed in the windsurfing events in a couple of past Olympic competitions.



Baby flamingo

► **Be on the lookout for baby flamingoes** wandering on the roads or circling aimlessly offshore. They have been blown from the nesting area and will die unless returned there. Capture them by enveloping them with a large cloth. Be gentle, they cannot hurt you. Take them to Marlis Sail & Canvas on Kaya Gob. Debrot 18. Tel. 717-7741.

► Regular readers of *The Bonaire Reporter* know that this newspaper believes that **fixed large billboards are an insult to Bonaire's environment and should be removed.** However, the **new-style mobile billboard used by Caribbean Homes and Best Buddies and Pearls are attractive,** get the message across in style, can be located where people gather and most of all respect the environment.

► A reliable source told us that the **Capriccio Italian Restaurant has taken all reef fish OFF its menu.** It still serves delicious pelagic fish like dorado (mahimahi), tuna and wahoo, etc... but no snapper, grouper or related species. Hopefully all Bonaire restaurants will follow their example and stop serving reef fish. Recent *Reporter* stories have told of a drop in reef fish populations including parrotfish due to over-fishing.

► **Mother's Day is next weekend.**

Perhaps the store with the widest selection of time saving quality household appliances is City Shop. Check their ad on page 5 and pass by. Tell them *The Reporter* sent you.

► Because DeStad Printing in Curaçao was closed for the Queen's Day/Labor Day holiday,

***The Bonaire Reporter* could not be printed until Saturday, May 3.** Delivery to your favorite pickup point will be made over the weekend, or on Monday, May 5 when businesses will re-open.

► Thanks for reading *The Reporter* ■ G/L.D.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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. Answer on page 12. Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney (who solves all the puzzles first.)

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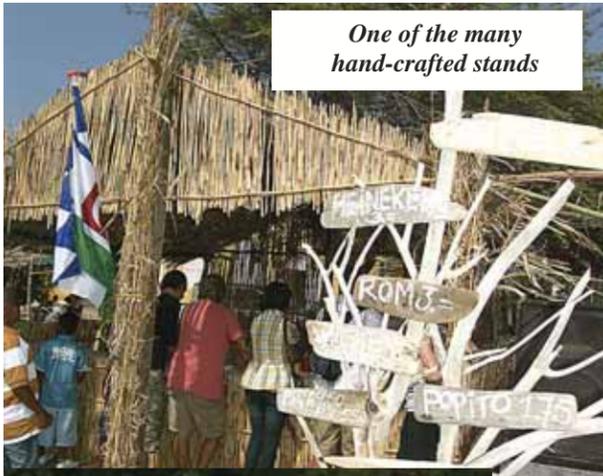
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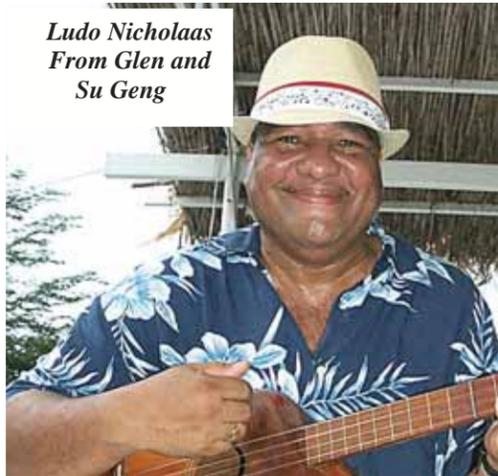
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Rincon Day / Queen's Day Celebration



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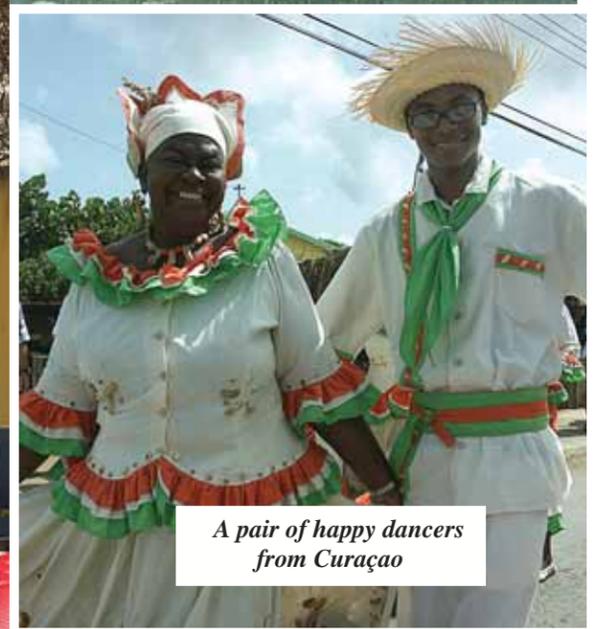
Marchers in Rincon Flag colors



The lora (Bonaire parrot) study team took honors in the Playa-Rincon 10 mile run.



The LVV had Bonaire grown produce on display



A pair of happy dancers from Curaçao

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Decorated by the Queen

Five Bonaire residents received royal decorations this year to help mark the occasion of the Queen's Official Birthday, April 30. They were honored for their valuable contributions to the island's community and other outstanding achievements.

Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé, Queen Beatrix's representative on Bonaire, made the awards at a reception at his residence in Playa last Friday, May 25. Honored were:

tone was set for Bonaire becoming an environmental tourist destination, something that continues today. Together with Ebo Domacassé he began Bonaire's annual Regatta in 1968. He established Capt. Don's Habitat in 1976, the headquarters for "Diving Freedom." In 2005 he set up the Accolade Foundation to recognize those persons and organizations who are dedicated to protecting the environment, both above and below the water.

jobs transporting water and kerosene on her head. But even at a young age she always found time to promote cultural and folkloric activities in Rincon such as the fiestas of Simadan, San Juan and San Pedro. She's worked with the elderly and formed the folkloric group, *Nos Kosecha* in 1977, whose members are 70 years and above. Although she cannot read or write she sings "songs from her head, from memory. Singing and music have always been her love and she was the inspiration for forming the musical group, *Foyan Boyz*.

Sister Virginia worked in Curaçao and Bonaire as a school teacher. She was head of the Orkidia school for 25 years. She's worked as a volunteer with many different groups: at *Villa Antonia* and *Fundashon Cocari* for the elderly, as well as with young people. She visits the elderly in their homes, collected money for food, gives catechism lessons in elementary schools and has been a director of *Fundashon Mariadal*.

especially in the field of tourism and in the culinary department of the SGB Hotel School where she organized culinary competitions with schools in the other Antillean islands. She was the guiding force in setting up a student exchange agreement with a culinary school in Italy so that Bonairean students can study in Italy. She's supported Bonaire's professional chef teams who compete in Caribbean wide culinary Olympics, "The Taste of the Caribbean." She's closely involved in the Rotary Club's "Breakfast in Schools" project.



Captain Donal Stewart, a Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau

Captain Don is Bonaire's diving pioneer. Because of him the



Margaritha Flora Martis-Frans, a Member in the Order of Oranje-Nassau

At 12 years of age Margarita started working in the aloe fields in Washington plantation and had



Ignacia Monica Bernabela (Sister Virginia), a Member in the Order of Oranje-Nassau



Sara Ann Matera, a Member in the Order of Oranje-Nassau
Sara has raised the level of the food and beverage (*Horeca*) sector in Bonaire, starting with the training of her own employees. She is known for her enormous input and perseverance in projects for the youth in Bonaire,



Rijnaldo Timp, a Member in the Order of Oranje-Nassau
Mr. Timp has spent his life as a Kadaster (land registry office) of
(Continued on page 18)

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DINING GUIDE

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.	On the beach Extensive snack/salad/burger menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant, Buddy's Pool Bar Sea Side 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; Mon. - "Dive and Dine;" Wed. - "Live Cooking by the Chefs;" Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30-6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$19.50 (7-10 pm)
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28,50 or \$16.
Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm Great value anytime.
Hilltop Restaurant At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 780-1111

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

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

BOOKS and TOYS

At last, a real book and toy store on Bonaire, Addos, in downtown Kralendijk sell books in three languages and has a variety of quality toys.

CELLULAR SERVICE

Mio offers by far the clearest, most phone reliable signal on the island. And their personnel are trained and friendly. Check out their unlimited calling plan.

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.

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

FITNESS

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FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

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RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

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RETAIL

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

WINES

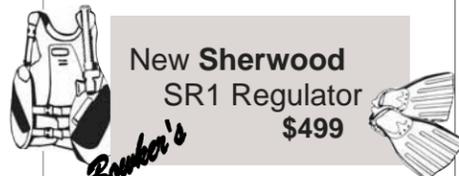
Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Monday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.

Fortnightly Advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter are included in the guides. Free!

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SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 9

947 528 136
326 719 845
581 634 297
719 863 452
862 945 713
453 172 689
198 257 364
235 486 971
674 391 528



Letters to the Editor

Paradise Lost
Bureaucratic Euthanasia
Finder Needed

Paradise Lost

Dear Editor:

On my return and third trip to Bonaire in March, I was very disturbed to find that Dutch developers had come in and practically taken over the island in their greedy way. I was saddened to see it was fast losing the uniqueness and laid back quietness that I had fallen in love with nine years ago. When I wasn't visiting, I felt a longing to be there; a kind of homesick feeling. That all but disappeared on this last visit. I really hope that everyone living on the island will try and band together and keep the rich from getting richer at the expense of the beauty of a true paradise island: BONAIRE!

Susan Morrison

Bureaucratic Euthanasia

To the Editor :

An addition to the news that the SVB health insurer must pay DAE airlines a payment a week in advance:

*Not only does DAE demand payment (through the SVB) a week in advance, it may take the SVB as many as four days to get your application processed because the processing is done in Curaçao! If you don't get your SVB voucher in time, you have to pay the fare yourself. If you cannot pay, you have to postpone your visit to the specialist or have your operation done later. Or just die, if it was urgent. Cause of death in that case: "bureaucratic

euthanasia" *

Ger Vellinga

Finder Needed

Dear Editor:

I am Renee from Renee Snorkel Trips.

During the last six months, the house where I lived was broken into four times. All the things that I need to make a living had been stolen.

This includes (3) Dell laptops, 24 pairs of fins, 24 masks and snorkels and 32 dive lights.

The fins are closed fins of black rubber and the mask and snorkels are various colors. The dive lights are yellow, green and black. Four of the masks are my own prescription lens masks.

These items were packed up in a red mesh bag with "Renee" on it, a blue mesh bag with a pink and white stripe and a solid red bag. All of these bags were made by Marlis (Canvas) and have her logo on them. There is also a yellow mesh bag and a grey one with green handles.

If anyone finds any of these items, can you please drop them off at Sand Dollar Grocery located on Kaya Debrot in South Hato. If you can leave your phone number with the items, and they are actually my items, you will receive a finder's fee.

I also want to thank all of the persons who have helped me during this time.

Thank you,

Renee

Earth Day Walk



Following this year's Earth Day slogan, "Think, feel, take action and change," Stinapa organized a free nature walk through the beautiful hills surrounding Rincon last Sunday. Soldachi Tours' Maria Koeks and her staff led the walk which lasted about two and a half hours and included a wonderful natural fruit "breakfast."

Join the Choir



Kreator Christmas photo

Rhonda Bennett wrote us that Bonaire's fine choir, Kreator, is having a membership drive. To join or find out more contact john@kreatorbonaire.com



Hair Affair

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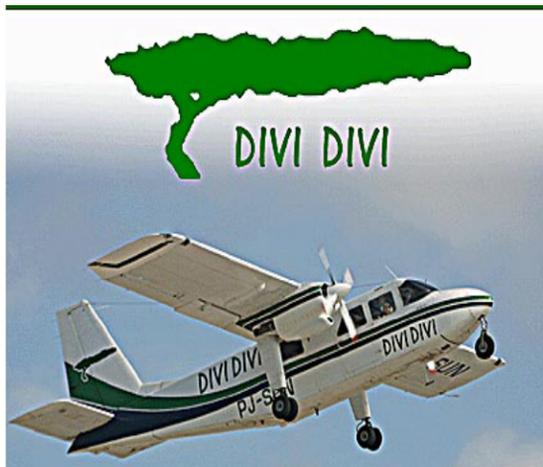
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Tel: 717-6773
Fax: 717-7854

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
5-02	5:48	1.1FT.	10:23	1.3FT.	15:10	1.1FT.	22:33	1.7FT.	66
5-03	7:08	1.0FT.	11:44	1.2FT.	15:01	1.1FT.	23:04	1.9FT.	79
5-04	8:24	0.9FT.	23:49	2.0FT.					90
5-05	0:27	2.0FT.	9:44	0.8FT.					98
5-06	1:15	2.1FT.	10:48	0.7FT.					100
5-07	2:07	2.1FT.	11:50	0.6FT.					100
5-08	3:06	2.1FT.	12:38	0.6FT.					98
5-09	4:03	2.0FT.	13:27	0.6FT.					90
5-10	5:08	1.9FT.	14:04	0.7FT.					79
5-11	6:07	1.8FT.	14:35	0.7FT.					66
5-12	1:23	1.4FT.	7:11	1.7FT.	15:04	0.8FT.	22:44	1.4FT.	55
5-13	3:24	1.3FT.	8:06	1.5FT.	15:21	0.9FT.	22:11	1.5FT.	48
5-14	4:44	1.2FT.	9:06	1.4FT.	15:22	1.0FT.	22:14	1.6FT.	48
5-15	6:04	1.1FT.	10:05	1.3FT.	14:56	1.1FT.	22:28	1.7FT.	52
5-16	7:22	1.0FT.	11:23	1.1FT.	13:54	1.1FT.	22:49	1.8FT.	59

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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Non-Business Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):
Free ads run up to one month.

Commercial Ads only NAf1 per word, for each two-week issue.
Call 790-6518 or 790-6125 or email info@bonairereporter.com

JANART GALLERY

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

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The leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>

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Bonaire Images

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

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The Island you love could use your help! Support Bonaire, Inc. provides support to Bonaire's non-profits. To learn more about making a US tax deductible donation visit www.supportbonaire.org and help make a difference!



Are you interested in Dutch conversation lessons? For information please call: 786-2499



Private yoga classes, call Louise 717- 7021 or 700-9422.



CLASSES in silversmithing, stonemasonry and the art of beading. Call Louise at 717-7021 or 700-9422.



Exterior Maintenance

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516-1070

Email [windowwizardbonaire@hotmail.com](mailto>windowwizardbonaire@hotmail.com)

Ta Buska - Wanted Un dushi kas pa hur =a nice rental house. Minimum 3 bedrooms/ please email: ericgietman@gmail.com

Two teachers with their two daughters, are looking for a 3-bedroom house to rent for NAf 1200,-. Please call 717-2912.

New house for Sale, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms; Large lot (Belnem); Price: US \$ 280.000 Contact owner: 540-0153

Large House for rent [4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms] Tel: 717-8603

FOR SALE: 2/3 bedroom 2 bath house Hato area, \$270,000 Looking for a quick cash sale only. Interested parties only. No agents. Call 717-5736

Lots and lots of great ladies' clothes from America size M. New and pre-owned- jeans, shirts, t's , business suit, etc. All for NAf 150. call JP 780-9904

FOR SALE:
OUTBOARD MOTOR 1998- 40 hp Yamaha Enduro with electric starter. NAf2.500

FOR SALE: YANMAR DIESEL OUTBOARD MOTOR 27 hp. Fantastic for fishermen and people out to sea for long periods. Needs to be fixed -piston ring issue. NAf 3.000

FOR SALE: DUARRY BRIO 620 RESCUE BOAT 6 meter semi-rigid. Needs work as the inflatable part has leaks. The V-shaped hull is manufactured with fire retardant polyester reinforced with fiber of 20 mm. thick. This high performance boat, once repaired will sell for 15,000 euros. NAf 3.000

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Call 786-3336 for serious inquiries or by email at cathsalis@aol.com

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For Sale:

2x TV-ophangbeugel Nafl 50,=
3x Luxaflex / lamellen Nafl 25,=
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Draaibare stoel Nafl 35,=
Phone: 786-5136

The Animal Shelter can use more items to sell on the monthly flea market in Parke Publico Bonairiano? Call 787-0466

The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a Managing Editor. Must be able to deal with deadlines, staff issues, have strong computer skills and possess strong English language ability. Experience Required. This is a part-time position. Call George at 790-8988 if interested and qualified.

Have a story idea? The Reporter pays the going rate for stories and photos. Call 790-8988 if interested in joining our team.

Want to sell something? Need something? Find something or someone? Use the Bonaire Reporter Classified Ads. Non-commercial ads are free. Commercial ads are inexpensive. Call :786-6125 or 790-6518.

Jody's Fashion

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Looking for: Page 327/8 2nd edition Paul Humann-Ned deLoach Reef Fish ID book, just call me at 795 3456, thank you!

Bonaire is getting more visitors.

Let them know about your business or restaurant with an ad in this newspaper.

Call 786-6125 or 790-6518
For information

Give Me 5 Awards



One of the top employee recognition programs on Bonaire is Divi Flamingo's "Give Me 5" Awards. Divi guests select those employees giving them exceptional service and then Divi rewards the employee with \$5 per vote! On Thursday, April 17, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino held its first quarter's 2008 "Give Me 5" awards. Alvin Clemencia, above, (Dive), Orlando Thomas (Dive), Nel Nicolaas (F&B) and Arelis Koeks (HK) were the top winners.

Selimah Agostien (Rooms Division Manager) presented the prizes to 33 exceptional employees. ■ Press release.

Artist Aysla Ten Holt Exhibits at Kas di Arte

Aysla Ten Holt, a highly reserved and fiercely independent painter and healer lives in a secluded village, Tera Cora, on Curaçao. Ten Holt is a Reiki Master, Yoga therapist, Art practitioner and poet.



She describes her work as a somewhat melancholic expressionism with a bit of added abstraction. She puts herself into her art very personally and with highly emotional dramatic images - with spiritual enlightenment that reflects the Caribbean experience. Aysla spent time in Holland mixing with the local art crowd, schools and university. When realizing she knew more and needed more inspiration she came back to Dutch Antilles, to again be inspired by the Caribbean.

During the 80s she lived on Bonaire because of her love for the island, staying here for many years working with kids and Bonaire artists and having exhibitions. It was she who did the coral stones of flamingoes on the sidewalks of Kaya Grandi.

As well as her painting and writing she dedicates herself to giving classes in art, handicrafts and flowing Yoga therapy.

Her website: www.asylatenholt.com
Aysla Ten Holt's Exhibition, "Remembering Bonaire from the 80s," opens at the Kas di Arte on Saturday, May 3, at 6 pm. The Exhibition will continue until Sunday, May 18. Open hours are from 9 am to noon and 4 to 8 pm. ■

L.D.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter Banff, Alberta, Canada | Easter time, Aarlanderveen, Holland



Peter and Liz Archer write, "We have just visited Bonaire and we always enjoy reading *The Reporter* to catch up on the island news. This time we took a copy home with us to the Canadian Rocky Mountains. This was the weather when we arrived home on April 20th. Thought your readers might like to see some snow!"



Jan Blonk from Hato sent us this photo taken on Easter in Aarlanderveen, The Netherlands. Jan is the founder of the Blonk Boatyard next to WEB which has been since sold. Jan is the builder of those lovely diesel-powered motorboats that are for rent on Bonaire

The Reporter is trying to reduce its backlog of "Picture Yourself" photos by printing multiples each edition, so keep sending them in. Just be patient.

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com.

Bubbles from the Biologist

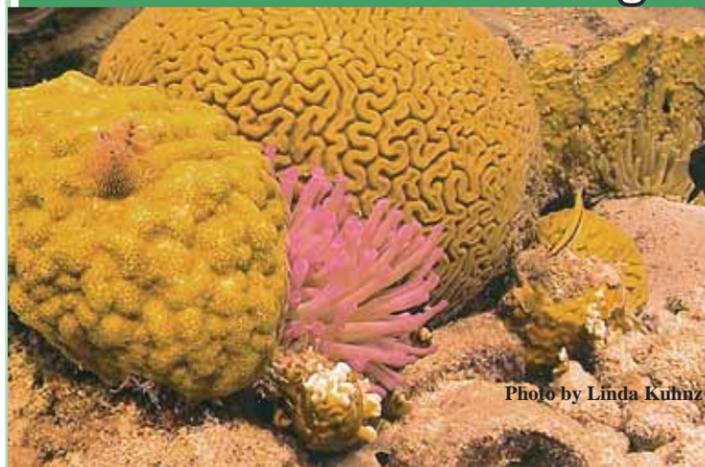


Photo by Linda Kuhuz

Did You Know...

That the same coral that we admire as we swim over the reefs can also be used to help broken bones heal quickly and cleanly? A product of coral, Hydroxyapatite (HA), is used to fuse bones and fibrous tissue back together after a fracture. The similarity of coral's rigid, webbed structure to actual bone allows the compound to assimilate into the patient's body. This use of HA to fill the voids caused by a fracture eliminates the need for patients to donate bone from other parts of their body causing extra trauma. Other coral compounds are currently being studied for possibly containing anti-tumor and anti-HIV properties. As we continue to discover new wonders from the depths of the sea, we must stop and appreciate its generosity. If we do not take the time and the effort to conserve its power, who knows what medical miracles we might lose? ■ *Jillian Coddington*

Jillian Coddington attends UC Berkeley and is majoring in Integrative Biology. She is in Bonaire for the semester studying Tropical Marine Ecology and Conservation at CIEE Research Station Bonaire (www.cieebonaire.org).



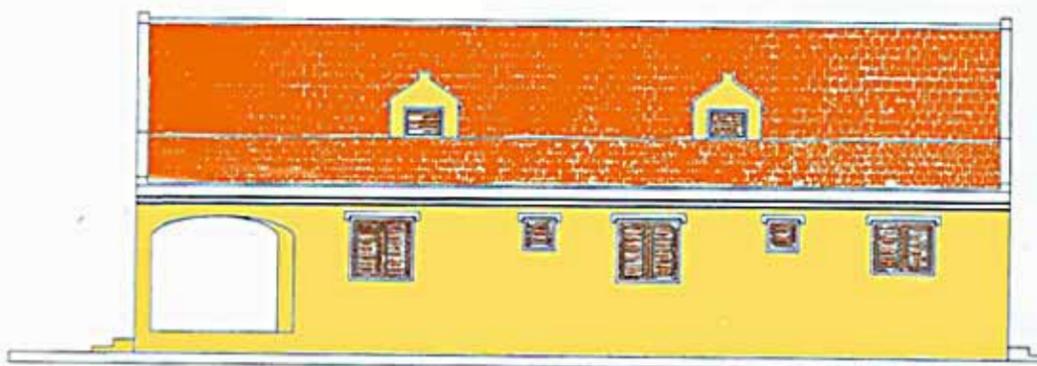
Sunbelt Realty

House of the Month | Nikiboko | Kaya Nikiboko Zuid 64

**Brand new
Bonairean style
spacious home**

Total living area
2,248 sq. ft. / 209 m²
Total lot size
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Long lease land

**Price:
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RECHTERGEVEL

**Bonairean 'landhuis' style home with
all modern amenities and luxury close
to the center of Kralendijk**

This home is currently in the final construction phase and will be finished before August 1st of this year. Its design is inspired by the traditional Bonairean 'landhuis' style, however it is built with all modern amenities. One of the most striking features of this home are the extremely high cathedral ceilings in all the rooms. Lay out: Covered entrance into hallway with doors to the master bedroom suite with bathroom and walk in closet, two additional bedrooms and one bathroom. Living room with open kitchen, separate laundry/storage area and living with French doors to the spacious L shaped covered porch.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Saturday, May 3 – Art Exhibit Opening, “Remembering Bonaire from the 80s” by artist Asyla Ten Holt, Kas di Arte on the waterfront, 6 pm

Saturday, May 3 – Sunday, May 18 – Art Exhibit, “Remembering Bonaire from the 80s” by artist Asyla Ten Holt, Kas di Arte on the waterfront. 9am to 12 noon, 4 to 8 pm

Saturday, May 3 – Lora Art Auction of prize winning artworks to raise funds for *Salba Nos Lora* and Movie showing “Amore” (parrot love), 7pm Captain Don’s Habitat, page 6

Sunday, May 4 – Yellow Oriole/Troupial count, 7-9am. See page 6

Wednesday, May 14 – Talk Captain Don’s Habitat 7:30, page 6

Wednesday, May 21 – Talk and festival close Captain Don’s Habitat 7:30pm, page 6

Sunday, May 11 – Mother’s Day – Check hotels and restaurants for special menus

Sunday, May 11 Dutch Antilles Windsurfing Challenge

Tuesday, May 20 – Full Moon

May 22 to 25 -Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2008. Numerous headliners. More information in upcoming issues

Sunday, June 1 - Anniversary Celebration Washington Park, 8 am-5 pm. Free entrance and participation in activities. Call STINAPA 717-8444, 71-4163

REGULAR EVENTS

- The popular SGB High School restaurant, **Chez Nous**, is now open to the public. Four-course dinners with welcome cocktail on Tuesdays. Seating begins at 6 pm. Lunches on Wednesday & Thursdays. Call 717-8120, ask for Chez Nous or email: keesleeman@telbonet.an
- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Divi Flamingo Casino** open

daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm– 4 am; Sunday 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) with live mariachi- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10pm

- **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.

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

- **Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeke for more information—796-7870.

• **Mountain Bike Training for riders of all levels (also Tuesday)** at 5pm. Bonaire Wellness Connexions, Eden Beach, 785-0767, email info@bonairewellness.com

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

- **“Dive & Dine” Buddy Dive Resort**, 6:30 –9:30 pm
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- **Margarita & Taco Tuesdays!** With \$2.50 Margaritas and a Taco bar! Plus Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 6-8pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**

Wednesdays

- **“Live Cooking by the Chefs”** with live music by the Flamingo Rockers Unplugged - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10 pm

Thursdays

- **Flamingo Rockers at “Admiral’s Hour”** for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

• **Bonairiaan Restaurant**, open 9 –10:30 am, run by teens in training. Only on Thursdays and Fridays. Coffee, tea, homemade baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27

Fridays

- **Bonairiaan Restaurant**, open 9 –10:30 am, run by teens in training. Only on Thursdays and Fridays. Coffee, tea, homemade baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27

• **Harbour Village Tennis, Social**

Round Robin 7 - 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

- **Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sunrise Poolbar and Sportsclub, for children 0 – 18.

• **Manager’s Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, Live music by Flamingo Rockers, **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 6-7 pm

• **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30-6:30 pm) with Moogie Nation, followed by all-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday– Creature Feature—John and Suzie Wall of Buddy’s Digital photo center present a multimedia slide Presentation about Buddy’s House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

Monday-Dee Scarr’s Touch the Sea Slide Presentation, Capt. Don’s Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8529

Monday- Land & Ocean Bonaire by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of Bonaire Dive & Adventure.

Tuesday —Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Buddy Dive Resort, 7 pm—717-3802.

Tuesday—Diving Facts And Fiction - An Evening with DIR slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure, 786-5073

Wednesday– Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker’s Carib Inn (717-8819) at 7pm.

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 at 7:00 PM-every Sunday at 5:00 PM. Phone: 786-7699 .

Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

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 Old Inn (across the street from

Plaza) All levels, NAf2,50. Call Joop 717-5903 or be there by 7:15.

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

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children’s club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

New Apostolic Church: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379 .

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor’s home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. 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, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antrio, Saturday at 6 pm 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

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

Send event info to:

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Don't Miss Mercury at its Best This Week and Next



Once again I'd like to encourage you to catch planet #1 from the Sun, **Mercury**, this week and next because it will be at its best for evening viewing for this entire year. This week and next, 30 to 45 minutes after sunset face west in the Sky Park and if you have a clear relatively flat horizon you will see a steadily glowing bright pinkish light which is, since Pluto's demotion, now the smallest major planet in the solar system, Mercury. Only 3,000 miles wide, it is only a thousand miles wider than our 2,000-mile-wide **Moon** and a thousand miles smaller than 4,000-mile-wide **Mars**. The next biggest planet is **Venus** followed by our slightly larger **Earth**. So if anybody asks you where the smallest major planets reside in our solar system they are the ones closest to the Sun. Mercury being number one, Venus number two, Earth number three and Mars number four.

Now if you start looking at Mercury this week and continue to look at it every night for the next couple of weeks through a small telescope you will notice that it rapidly changes its appearance, getting steadily larger in apparent size but shrinking like the full Moon as it goes from full Moon to last quarter to new. In fact on May 2nd almost 70% of Mercury's disc appeared to be lit up, but by Thursday, May 8th, its disc appears only half lit and it will steadily shrink night after night as it comes closer and closer to Earth. In fact by Sunday night the 18th it will be only 25% lit. Wow!

It's called the pink iron planet because there is more iron in Mercury's core than in our entire Earth. And it's pink only because we always view it through our Earth's dusty atmosphere, which makes it appear pink for the same reason our Sun always looks so colorful when it's close to the horizon. From space Mercury would appear to glow a steady white color, and until 1974 no human being had any idea what the surface of Mercury looked like. Then in 1974 our spacecraft **Mariner 10** visited it and took the first close up pictures, but we were only able to photograph 50% of the planet. What did the rest of it look like?

Well in January of this year our new **Messenger** spacecraft, the first to visit Mercury in 33 years, flew over previously unseen parts of Mercury and revealed some fabulous and puzzling features, including mysterious chains of enormously high cliffs, some two miles high and hundreds of miles long. And although at first glance Mercury resembles Earth's Moon, upon close examination it is much, much different. So explore Mercury visually for yourself this week and next because the Mercury adventure is just beginning. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For May 2008

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can take advantage of opportunities if you are quick to make a move. Be sure to spend time helping children with projects that are too difficult for them to accomplish alone. Be prepared to make changes to your personal documents. Your desire for excitement and adventure may be expensive. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Your temper may get the better of you if a colleague has tried to ruin your reputation. You should consider submitting some of your written work for publication. Keep the promises you've made or you can expect to be in the doghouse. Try to keep any mood swings under control; they may result in alienation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You need to spend some time pampering yourself. Sit tight. Things aren't as bad as they appear. Be sure to pay attention to your financial status. Don't overspend to impress someone who interests you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Follow through on some of the good ideas that come up, and you could have a real winner of a deal. You need to spend time with friends and family. Don't offer to pay for others. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You can pick up valuable information if you listen to those with more experience. Pleasure trips will be a form of healing for your emotional state of mind. Try to keep any mood swings under control; they may result in alienation. This will not be the best day to initiate change. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Losses are likely if you get involved with uncertain individuals. You should be raising your self esteem and confidence in order to promote your work. Don't trust others with private information that could be used against you. You may attract attention if you get out socially. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) New romantic relationships will develop through group activity related to sports events. You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances. Don't push your mate away. You may get some opposition. Personal changes will be to your benefit. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Travel for pleasure will be enticing. You'll be able to break bad habits if you put your mind to it. You may become rundown if you take on too much. Put all your energy into moneymaking ventures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) It's a great month to attend social functions. You will be too busy to meet some people right away. If they're really interested, they'll wait. Your partner may be somewhat irritable this month. Be prepared to have relatives or close friends introduce you to new and exciting individuals. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can have quite the romantic adventure if you take time to get to know your mate all over again. You can make money but not through harebrained schemes or gambling. Your attitude could be up and down like a yo-yo. You may have a problem keeping secrets. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Let them know what your intentions are. Attend to things that you should have done yesterday. You are best to move quickly and to get in good with the boss. You can spend a passionate evening with someone you cherish if you make your plans early. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Someone you live with will be quite unreasonable this month. Do some research if you want to find information that you can apply against the opposition you face. You may need a physical outlet that will help you relieve your tension. Your fun loving approach will be admired and appreciated by others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday. ■

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Implosion of the Netherlands Antilles

The restructuring of the Antilles is well underway. Although no new date has been set following the acknowledgment that the December 15, 2008 target cannot be met, the process is irreversible. The editors feel the article below will give our readers a perspective for understanding the issues and the subtleties involved.

How to understand the disintegration of the Dutch Caribbean? What is it about?

The extended statehood of the Kingdom of the Netherlands comprising three countries -the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, and Aruba- is being reordered. If all goes as agreed upon, **the Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist as a separate country.** Curaçao and Sint Maarten will acquire country status within the Kingdom, just as Aruba did in 1986, though theirs will be of a different status and with less autonomy. The islands, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, the so called B E S islands will be integrated into the Netherlands as public authorities; as such **the BES islands will be administered by the Netherlands while retaining local government functions** (just as municipalities in the Netherlands).

Colonial rule came to an end with the Charter of 1954, which enacted a constitutional partnership. The Charter bestowed a country status on a collection of six islands, some close together, some far apart, an artificial gathering, not a nation, which was rooted in local aspirations. More than 50 years later, the islands of the Netherlands Antilles have chosen different options. **Aruba went earlier; it seceded in 1986** and obtained separate country status; now the other islands follow, though in a different format.

In 1954 the Caribbean countries (Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles) had claimed autonomy, not independence, to be on equal footing with the Netherlands. The Charter included the ruling that any constitutional change requires the unanimous consent of the partners concerned. This compact was not meant for eternity; one day the Caribbean countries would become independent. For Suriname that day came in 1975. For the islands of the Netherlands Antilles that day may never come. The Netherlands no longer pushes for independence; instead good governance has become a major concern.

Aruba's secession meant the end of a workable Antillean nation-state. The wobbly character of the remaining Nether-

lands Antilles became an obstacle in maintaining good-governance. **An insurmountable public debt, staggering numbers of homicides and widespread involvement in the drug trade created a failed-state image,** while making a mockery of the unbearable lightness of the Kingdom's safeguards. Several attempts to fix the problem failed:

1990: A Netherlands draft Commonwealth Constitution: two countries (1) Sint Maarten, Saba and Sint Eustatius and (2) Curaçao and Bonaire; came to naught.

1993: A Netherlands proposal: each island a separate status; came to naught.

93/94: Island referendums: major support for Antillean nation-state-as-it-is.

1995: An Antillean attempt to centralize the nation-state; did not work.

2000: Referendum Sint Maarten: voted 70% for separate status.

2003: A Netherlands proposal: restructuring of the Antillean nation-state; Sint Maarten disagrees; it insists on country-status, to be separated from Curaçao.

2004/05 Referendums: Sint Maarten and Curaçao- separate status; **Bonaire and Saba- integration in the Netherlands; Sint Eustatius-** Antillean nation-state as-is.

Eventually in 2005 all parties agreed that the Antillean nation-state must go. Sint Maarten and Curaçao are adamant to be separated from each other; they wish to ascend to autonomous statehood within the Kingdom. The Netherlands aims to empower the Kingdom by doing away with a wobbly Antillean government. The constitutional deadlock was broken as now all partners pushed for change, though each with its own agenda.

On the part of the Netherlands, a sense of responsibility for by-gone historic colonial bonds has eroded. At the same time migration and integration have become divisive issues in Dutch politics and in academe. Multicultural diversity is now a contentious concern, which spills over to the Netherlands deportment vis-à-vis the Dutch Caribbean. As in other European countries, immigrant bashing has become an effective vote getter. A Netherlands autochthony (*descended from original inhabitants.* Ed.) complex manifests itself as a compulsion to make a distinction between True Dutch who are connected to the nation by virtue of their birth and Dutch ancestry, and New Dutch, the immigrant population of non-western ori-

gin. **Antillean immigrants are classified as allochthons,** (An **allochthon** is a person who either was born abroad or has one or two parents born abroad. Ed.) to be more precise: as non-western allochthons, and so lumped together with Moroccan, Turkish and Surinamese immigrants, the four major immigrant populations in the Netherlands. Antillean migrants do not belong to the True Dutch; they are slotted into a mythical Dutch **Allochstan.** Unrestricted Antillean migration to the Netherlands seamlessly fits into the populist mold of an inflated Dutch **Allochstan.**

The incompetent Antillean nation-state has become part and parcel of the multicultural agenda in the Netherlands and puts pressure on all political parties to take a tough stand. Anti-immigration politicians loudly suggest putting the Antilles up for sale on *Marktplaats*, the Dutch E-bay, and once and for all getting rid of the Kingdom's "Absurdistan." On the crest of populist waves, **Allochstan** in the Netherlands merges with **Absurdistan** in the Dutch Caribbean, **a new imagined political reality** that manipulates the Netherlands' position on Caribbean affairs. Gauging an erratic public sentiment at home, the Netherlands government is pressured to put the Caribbean house of the Kingdom in order.

The deal on the table includes empowering the Kingdom's good governance agenda in the Dutch Caribbean, supported by public debt relief (€2.3 billion), and a redefinition of Kingdom's overseas extended statehood. The Kingdom will be regulated to keep public finances under control, and the enforcement of the rule of law in the Dutch Caribbean will be tightened. So be it, if all goes as agreed upon. But if a crisis-time election in the Netherlands brings the autochthon complex to power, or if Curaçao eventually opts for an all exclusive *Nos Patrimonio*

Royal Decorations (Cont. from pg. 11) the Dutch Antilles, working in Curacao and, St. Maarten and overseeing the office in Bonaire. Since his retirement he's worked as a volunteer in the Kadaster's office in Bonaire, setting up different projects and systems and was a member of the Kadaster Automation Commission. He's been a member of the Lion's Club in St. Maarten and Bonaire (as president), working on social projects such as protecting the young, working with the elderly, disabled and the blind. Timp dedicates a lot of time to different social and religious activities for the Catholic Church.

Nominations are now being solicited for next year's round of Royal Decorations and can be sent by individuals or organizations to the Royal Decorations Advisory Committee (RODAC).

Special forms are available from the committee chairman, Robert Sances, or any committee member. Nominees must have carried out voluntary activities

that impacted the community for an extended period of time and must still be active at the time of nomination. Information about the activities with specific periods and dates must be submitted along with the completed nomination form and a photo of the nominee. Recommendations are reviewed, and chosen candidates are submitted to the Lt. Governor who prepares a proposal for the National Decorations Committee of the Antilles who advises on the nominations and sends its recommendations to the Antillean Council of Ministers. The final list is sent to the Netherlands for approval.

Royal Decorations for exceptional or outstanding services to the community are divided into the Order of the Lion of the Netherlands and the Order of Orange-Nassau.

The Order of Orange-Nassau, the decorations awarded this year, is divided into six classes: Knight Grand Cross, Grand Officer, Commander, Officer, Knight and Member. ■ L.D.



The new members of the Order of Oranje Nassau and the invited guests drink a toast to the Queen.

Nashonal - a remarkable kind of soul brotherhood across the Atlantic, or if Sint Maarten refuses to make its corporate governance see-through transparent and regulated, the overseas paradise moment may be lost for good. ■ Lammert de Jong

Presented this month during a conference in Puerto Rico concerning Governorship in the independent Caribbean. Lammert de Jong was the former head of KABNAA, the Dutch Cabinet for Antillean and Aruban Affairs.

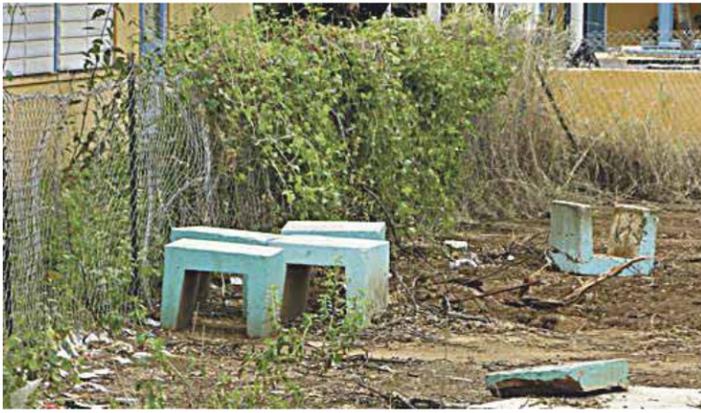
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Dismal scene at the SGB High School

Herman van Leeuwen photo

I guess it was inevitable that I should write something more about the Scholengemeenschap Bonaire (SGB High School), better known as the school everybody has an opinion of. Usually that opinion is a very negative one. As it happens I know the SGB very well because I work there. A lot of negative opinions are unfounded and unnecessary, but truth be said, some aspects of the SGB are absolutely bad.

Let us take a look at the buildings where we (the teachers and the students) have to do our thing every day. Strangely enough there is not one building but more than 10 separate buildings. Besides the fact that we have to do a lot of walking (in the sun), those buildings are a disgrace. Ceilings are coming down, roofs are leaking, walls rotting, windows broken or even missing, pipes for plumbing are out in the open where students can tear them apart, etc, etc, etc... You might catch my drift by now.

Before we blame it all on those so called juvenile delinquents who inhabit that school, I would like to share a nice little theory called the "broken window" theory. When you leave a new car by the side of the road with a broken window it will be stripped in no time. But when you leave the same car at the same spot, though now completely whole, nothing will happen for a very long time. The broken window theory tells us that when something is already damaged people feel less inhibited about breaking it even more or taking something away. So when you make sure your property is nicely maintained you need less money to keep it that way.

But you are right, there are some people actively helping in the destruction of the school. Why are they doing that? Are they not happy that they can get an education? Do they have such a low opinion of the school?

The school is just a mirror image of society. What do the students hear and see? "This school is not to be taken seriously." Nobody does, right? Look at the buildings; they are not fit to teach in. If it is raining you cannot get to a classroom without getting wet. Every 30 minutes a boom box car with extremely loud music will pass the classrooms, removing any chance of getting a normal education. During recess there are not many shady places. When you go to the toilet you must have an iron stomach. It is screaming in your face and very hard to ignore: "This school is absolute rubbish. Everybody thinks so, and nobody seems to care!"

However, it is very dangerous to call a school an outrage. When you say "school" it is not just the buildings. There is no school without teachers and students. And this is what it is all about. People are very eager to judge the SGB, but they seem to forget that it is their own future they are pulling down. Even though the buildings might be in a shambles most of the people who occupy them certainly are not. And that is the most important thing about a school.

The fact is that this school in this state is an insult for the teachers and the students. For people like me who work there it is like participating in the Tour de France on your grandmother's bicycle, but you are expected to win. Imagine what it must be like for the students who work very hard to get a diploma, but all they hear is that their school is nothing. It is a small step for insecure adolescences to think that they are in fact nothing because they are that school, right?

The buildings are not in any state as to be called parts of a school except for the fact that there are teachers and students in them. When you ask why the school is in such a state, people will reply that there is no money. There is money for nice cars,

What's Coming Our Way?



Construction progress in Hato

Leaving Hato and going north on Kaya Gob. Debrot towards Sabadeco we pass the unfinished building on our right hand side not too far off the shoreline, just before the road turns inland. It has been here for years and years, more precisely since the beginning of the 90s. At the time the project (that has left the island with this "souvenir") was intended to be a resort in the Mexican style on about 5,000 m² of land. It was never finished though. The developer, Mr. Bode-man, a Dutchman, passed away during the building. His son, who inherited it, later sold the land and the project plans to Quality Travel and Accommodation Bonaire NV, who are now developing something here. However, their plans differ from the original ones.

The unfinished building is still there (for the moment, that is), but just behind it we see construction going on. Where many new developments appearing on the island begin with putting up a billboard advertising the project before actually starting construction, here it's the other way around. There's a good chance that many of us do not have much of an idea yet what is happening here.

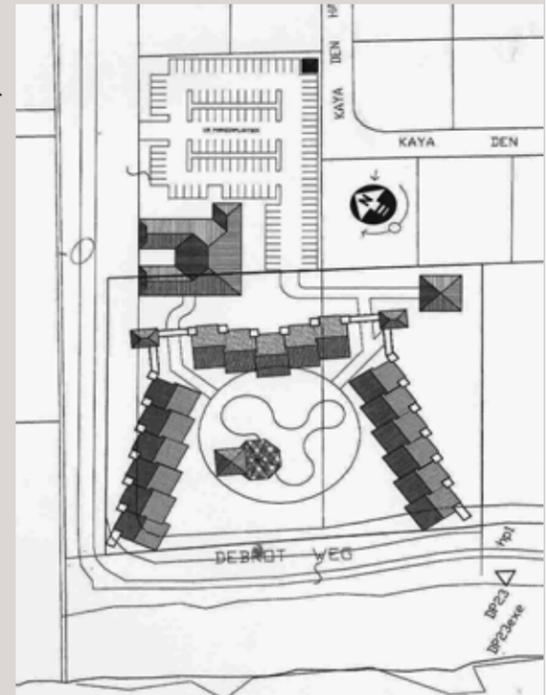
The developers have been building on Bonaire a long time: Den Laman and Seaside Apartments among others. They took over the NV and land of the "Resort in Mexican style" in 2004 and also acquired two of the bordering lots of 5000 m² each. Government restrictions on this land say that only a hotel or resort may be built.

By the end of 2010 a resort complex consisting of three condominium buildings, a central building intended for reception, dive shop, meeting rooms, other shops plus a tropical swimming pool area will rise here (see drawing). Guest accommodation will consist of 76 condos in various sizes. The majority of them will be two bedrooms, but there will be one bedrooms and penthouses as well. As a comparison, Sand Dollar has 60 separate condos.

The reception building, under construction since September 2007, will be finished by the end of 2008. Construction of the three condominium buildings, all located closer to the sea and around the swimming pool area, is expected to start by September of this year, taking around two years to complete. These buildings will be four stories high and will be concrete constructions with much wood used in the upper section to soften the de-

electric gadgets, a runway for planes, but there is no money for the future of Bonaire? Bonaire has one important product to sell: tourism. Sure, you need that runway for that, but if you want to be able to keep on selling tourism, you need educated people in marketing, in environmental studies, in construction, in hotel management, in housekeeping, etc. as well. Investing in education is essential for the economy of a country.

There is a lot of talent and potential in this school, which is needed for the future of Bonaire. For good education, we need education to be



sign. Buildings are connected through an outside passage at each level.

The reception building will be finished far before the condos and will be used as a showroom for selling condos (which obviously should be put in the rental pool of the resort for a certain minimum period of time).

This new oceanfront resort—some may say it is not truly oceanfront as there still is the public road between the resort and the sea—plans to make a beach on the seaside strip. They say Marine Park rules concerning creation of this beach will be followed. We may expect beach lounge rentals etc. at this location but they say that it will remain a public beach.

One thing is for sure. The surroundings here are going to change considerably over the next two to three years. In the meantime there is enough time to speculate on the name of the resort; we haven't found that out yet. ■

Story & photo by Marcel Leurs



taken seriously. For that we not only need students and teachers, but we also need well maintained school buildings. There are a lot of positive things that can be said about the SGB, but unfortunately not about the school buildings. And it needs to be said. ■ Story & photo by Mary Ann Koops

Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.



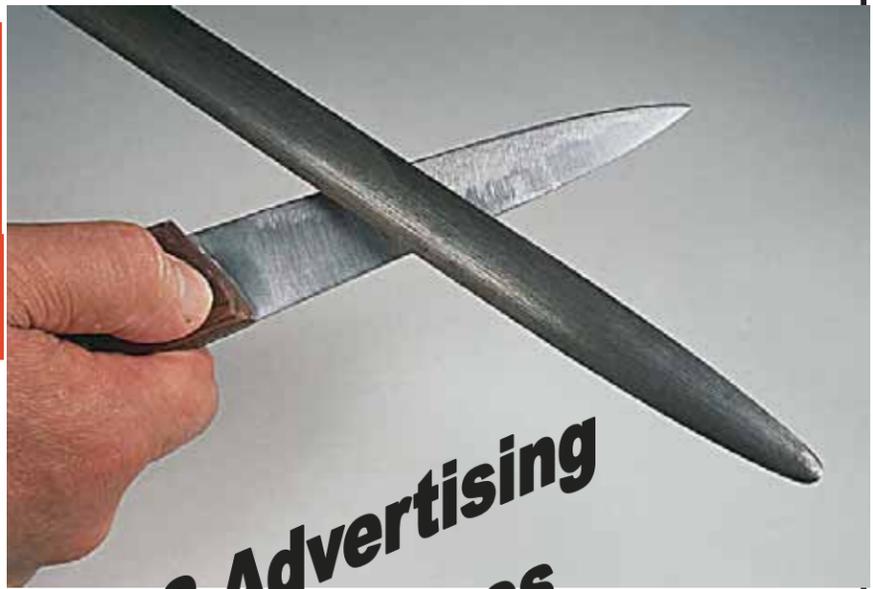
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