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**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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Since 1994

Jeanne Emers photo

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**Bonaire Governors  
Passing The Gavel**  
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*Herbert Domacassé, Eddy Thielman and Glenn Thodé*

► **The Bonaire Government ordered the minimum wage raised** from NAf 6,27 to NAf 7,21 (\$4.07) effective November 1, based on a 40-hour work week.

► **Beginning Friday, November 21st Insel Air will fly non-stop from Curaçao to Miami, Florida.** The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is allowing ticket sales for this destination. The Insel Air website will be soon reflect this and the travel agents will be informed. Next April they plan to add Puerto Rico to their schedule. The airline said they hope to fill the void left by ALM and then DCA with this new destination. Now if they are serious will they also arrange for some of those flights to originate in Bonaire so our island will again have non-stop Miami service as in ALM/DCA days.

► **Between December 18 and 20, Delta will add flights** from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to Buenos Aires, Argentina, Bogota, Colombia and **Bonaire.**



► **The Aruban Justice Minister announced that Antillean-resident travelers can no longer use their ID card (sedula) to enter Aruba.** Aruba Customs is using a new system that cannot read Antillean ID cards. Antil-

leans who travel to Aruba will now need to show their passport to enter Aruba. There will still be separate lines for them, however, assured the Minister of Justice.

► **According to RE/MAX Paradise Homes' latest report, 2008 saw a leveling off of the real estate market on Bonaire** in terms of both the number of sales and in selling prices. In 2006 and 2007 the Bonaire real estate market was red hot with home prices in some areas rising 10% or even 15% per year. As the real estate markets in North America and Europe started to cool off and even go down, prices on Bonaire also leveled out. Real estate prices have not gone down yet in the Bonaire market, but they have definitely stabilized. RE/MAX Paradise Homes expects demand and prices in the Bonaire real estate market to remain stable through the first half of 2009. If the economies in Europe and the US start to grow in the second half of 2009, then the Bonaire market will pick up as well, they predict.

► **In October the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) started economic situation research in Bonaire.** The aim of this research is to get up-to-date information on commercial and economic developments. The investigation will be conducted with all companies with 10 or more employees. Samples will be taken of companies with fewer than 10 employees. In all ± 1,150 companies will be approached by interviewers of CBS which will distribute the questionnaire and if required will assist the company in completing it. The questions

**The Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) has released the results of its crime victim inquiry conducted on Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Maarten.** The most important results are: **BOINAIRE- 72% of the citizens over 16 years old were victims of a crime in their lifetime.**



In the 12 months preceding the inquiry 27% were victimized. In 1995, 58%. The most common crimes were being burglarized, robberies from unsecured areas like a garden, porch, or car. In 39% of the cases victims reported the crime to the police. In 1995, that was 50%. The most important reasons given for not reporting the crime were: The police force will do nothing. The police force could have done nothing because of lack of proof, the matter was too small to report/there was no loss/it was done by a child, the matter was solved by the victim-he/she knew the perpetrator. Of those who reported the crime only 33% were satisfied with the police's efforts. In 1995, 43% were satisfied. That is a fall of 10%. Of the people surveyed 35% showed strong to very strong fears and feelings of disorder. Compared to 1995 (62%) that's considerably lower.

**CURAÇAO - 80% of the citizens over 16 years old were victims of a crime in their lifetime.** In the 12 months preceding the inquiry 26% were victimized; in 1995, 71%. The most common crimes were being burglarized, robberies from unsecured areas like a garden, porch, or car. In 46% of the cases victims reported the crime to the police. In 1995, it was 45%. The most important reasons given for not reporting the crime were the same as those given in Bonaire. Of those who reported the crime only 41% were satisfied with efforts of the police.

**SINT MAARTEN - 72% of the citizens over 16 years old were victims of a crime in their lifetime.** In the 12 months preceding the inquiry 28% were victimized; in 1992, 47%. The most common crimes were being burglarized, robberies from unsecured areas like a garden, porch, or car. In 31% of the cases victims reported the crime to the police. In 1995, was that 41%. The most important reasons given for not reporting the crime were the same as those given in Bonaire. Of those who reported the crime only 38% were satisfied with efforts of the police.

concern, among other things, estimates of the turnover, the exploitation costs, the investments and the staff situation over the whole year of 2008. There are also questions related to the judgment of the entrepreneur concerning a number of indicators such as entrepreneur faith and climate for investment.

► **Something for WEB to think about if it continues to fail to provide reliable electricity.** Dutch competition watchdog, NMa, has fined three regional electricity grid operators a total of

1.5 million euros (US \$2 million) for not compensating consumers and businesses quickly enough for power cuts.

According to the regulations, users are automatically entitled to 35 euros (\$47) for a power cut of between four and eight hours and 20 euros (\$26.90) for the subsequent four hours.

Grid operators are obliged to pay the compensation by the time the next bill is due but have still not reimbursed customers for power cuts dating back to 2004

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# Bonaire's Executive and Legislative Government Officials



On the occasion of the transition of the leadership of the Island Council to the new Lt. Governor, Glenn Thode, most of the members of the council were on hand. Between now and the end of the year many of the members are stepping down for a variety of reasons. This may be one of the last photos of Bonaire government officials prior to Bonaire becoming a Dutch municipality. With thanks to Nerry Gonzalez. From left to right:

**James Kroon** (P)- Senator, member of Island Council  
**Jopie Abraham**-(D) Senator/ member of Island Council  
**Eddy Thielman**- Customs head, acting Lt. Governor  
**Robby Beukenboom** (D), member of Island Council  
**Nolly Oleana** (D), member of Island Council  
**Marugia Janga** (D), member of Island

Council  
**Herbert Domacassé** -Outgoing Lt. Governor  
**Glenn Thodé** – New Lt. Governor  
**Nerry Gonzalez**-Island Secretary  
**Anthony Nicolaas** (P)-Commissioner, member of Island Council  
**Maritza Silberie** (P)-Commissioner, member of Island Council  
**Willem Cecilia**-Assistant Island Secretary

**Jonchi Dortalina** (P), member of Island Council  
**Ramonsito Booi** –(P) Senator/member of Island Council  
**Boy Clarinda** (P)-Commissioner  
 Not pictured: **Bernie el Hage** (P) – Commissioner ■ *L.D.*  
 D-Member of the Bonaire Democratic Party (red)  
 P-Member of the Patriotic Union Party of Bonaire (green) *Photo by Jeanne Emers*

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# Profiles: Mikail Janga, Master Innovator and Renovator

Mikail Janga is a very special man. He is one of the few people who live from their heart because they simply cannot imagine living differently. About 10 years ago, Mikail, an active member of the Rincon community, volunteered to save the old Rincon church which was nearly completely deteriorated. He assembled a group of craftsmen who volunteered to work in their spare time to restore the building to its original state, a project that took over a year.

In the 70s the Rinfa ladies club in Rincon set up a crèche for the children of parents who worked at BOPEC. The crèche functioned as a day care center with several female volunteers in a house on the main street of Rincon. There were no educational materials or even a place outside to play, but at least it was a safe haven for children from birth to four years. Parents had to make a contribution, then later the crèche received a small subsidy from the government, but with certain criteria.

In the meantime, the Stichting Plataforma Rincon was formed, an organization that represents the interests of the Rincon community. Mikail was one of the five members of the board, whose goal was to organize the crèche's finances and structure to meet the requirements of the government. In spite of their efforts there simply wasn't enough money to pay a professional teacher or to purchase necessary equipment.

A year ago, Ruud and Ruth Snelder visited the crèche during their vacation. The facility wasn't efficient for the 40 pre-school children. The Snelders, having been involved in similar projects in Brazil, Chile and Holland, decided to financially support the Rincon project, in cooperation with Plataforma and Riet Sealy from SEBIKI. A generous check

from the MCB bank, the financial support of Dutch Funds, *Ayuda y Prevencion* (aid and prevention), as well as support from the Snelders made it possible to look for a new building. The new crèche would have to be in a central part of the community and because such a building simply wasn't available, it was decided renovate the existing house.

Mikail Janga accepted responsibility for the technical planning. Building materials, doors, floors, kitchen, airco, electricity, sanitary facilities, paint, bricks, fences and an outside playground

pre-school facility. Details like intercom, central airco, a laundry facility, an efficient kitchen to prepare meals and numerous other details outshine many pre-schools in quality -- even abroad.

A professional pre-school teacher could be hired when the new school year started in August. The crew continued to work even after the school started again, every day after 5 o'clock and during the weekends. Up until the Saturday before the official opening day on September 28th, everyone worked hard to reach the goals that were set months before.

**"The results are amazing and it is obviously a showcase of mutual effort, love and dedication by the members of the Rincon community."**

including the roof had to be designed, planned and purchased. Mikail's expertise in attracting volunteer craftsman was put to good use. Several companies were willing to donate some of the materials or sell them at a discount. Mikail's cousins, neighbors and friends were inspired to donate their time and craftsmanship to fix up the building. When the crèche closed for three weeks in July the work started full blast. Many of the men donated their vacation time and worked even on the weekends. Mikail worked alongside them, keeping track of the building plans and designs. He also kept track of the available finances and the volunteers.

Furniture, educational materials, books, baby beds, learning tools and playing materials arrived from Holland. The building underwent an unbelievable transformation, testifying to true craftsmanship, taste, and knowledge of what is needed for a professional

The results are amazing and it is obviously a showcase of mutual effort, love and dedication by the members of the Rincon community. "The wives and families of all these workers need to be thanked as well," Mikail says. "They hardly saw their husbands and fathers for months on end." Often at the end of a week's work on Sunday nights the families got together at the school to have a meal and refreshments.

Sunday the 28th of September was the day of the "Open House." Parents, children and all the volunteers were invited. The school was decorated with balloons and the children's creative work. Chocolate milk and cakes



were served, speeches were given by Mikail Janga, Riet Sealy and several others who were involved in accomplishing this amazing and inspiring project.

a few people can make a true change in the present with benefits for many generations to come. Rincon and its community are truly an inspiration for what is possible on the island! ■

Story & photo by Louise Rood



This Sentro Pre-Eskolar in Rincon isn't just an up-to-date facility for the children. It's the result of a strong community sense, mutual effort and endless dedication for the good of Bonaire's youngest. It's an example of how



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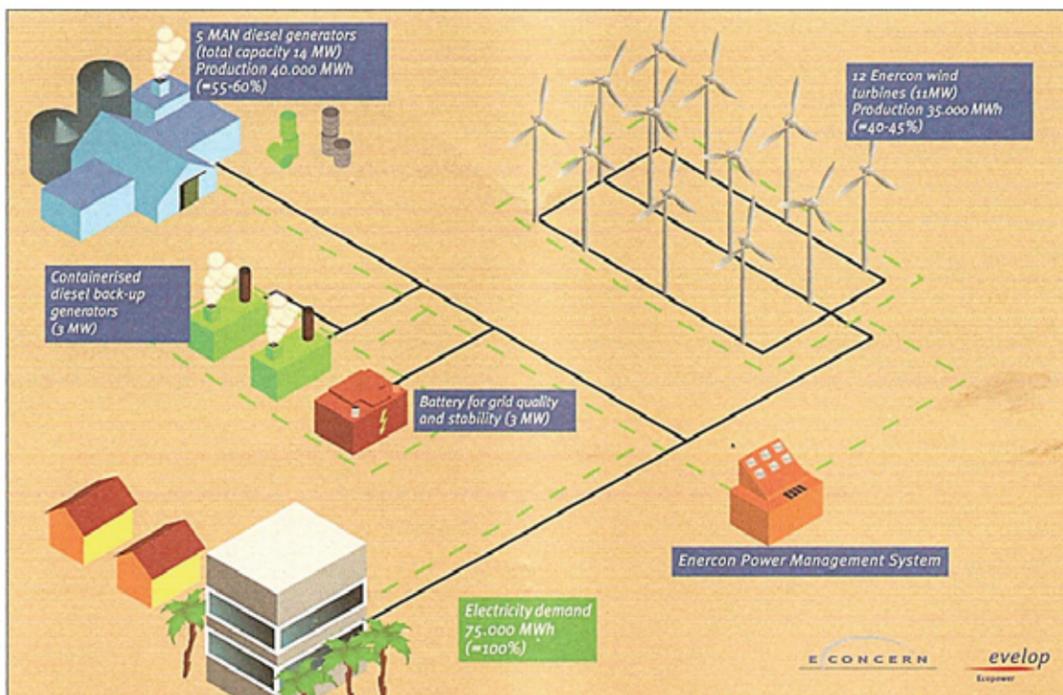
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# New Power On Schedule



**I**f progress continues as planned, next year at this time Bonaire's new electrical power system will be in test operation to power the island with a combination of wind and fossil fuel two months later, in January 2010.

The aim of the project is to provide electricity to the island at lower cost, at least 20% lower according to Richard Hart, head of the holding company (BHM)

responsible for WEB, Bonaire's electric power provider. The diesel generators are compatible with biologically produced fuel oil which may be able to be produced on Bonaire using algae especially grown for the purpose on the Cargill Salt property.

On October 30 a press conference detailed the progress of the project. According to Project Manager Hans van Heel, the work is on schedule. The heavy

rains of last month saturated the ditches where the power cables will run, but they will be installed in January, 2009.

Still to be erected are the 12 wind turbines along Bonaire's northeast coast at Morotin. The special sand required for their foundation has already arrived on island. The towers should be up by next summer.

Dirk van Boekhout, a top official of Evelop, the mother com-

pany of the project, says that despite the shaky world economic situation, the financing for the project is secure. "We don't depend on any US banks for our money," he said.

Great care is being taken to protect Bonaire's natural and social environment. The project completed and published a comprehensive environmental impact study, a first for Bonaire, before proceeding forward. The high tension power lines running from the east to the west coast will run underground as they pass through Rincon to not disturb the ambience of the town.

The two lines will carry 30,000 volts, the highest ever on Bonaire, to ensure enough capability for current and future island needs.

The 330 kW wind turbine at Sorobon has been in a pilot mode, not only producing electricity to the Bonaire grid, but also valuable training and environmental data. Its recent outage was thought due to a lightning strike following the Omar storm. However, it is monitored via the Internet in Germany(!) and technicians there notified Bonaire of the problem which was swiftly remedied.

Each of the 12 wind turbines will produce about three times the power of the Sorobon turbine. They will be 55 m. tall with 44 m. diameter blades. On average the wind should provide 40-

50% of the island's power needs.

As can be seen in the diagram on this page, the system is designed to be reliable, a problem with the present WEB system. There will be five main diesel generators and two backup generators in containers. (*The Reporter* mistakenly said there would be three generators in the last edition). Plus there will also be three megawatts of battery backup for optimum stability.

For the next year there will be increased road traffic as the heavy equipment is transported to the construction sites at the Morotin wind park and the power plant adjacent to the BOPEC depot.

The new system, however, is more than just another island electrical power project. It's designed as a showpiece for sustainable energy. Once the algae is growing to provide the raw material for the biodiesel "refinery" then Bonaire will become the only self-sustaining renewable resource powered island in the world.

The partnership (consisting of Evelop-the overall developer, Enercon-for the wind turbines, and MAN-for the diesel generators) under the name of Ecompower, Bonaire B.V. will be the owner of the system. The electricity will be delivered to WEB which will sell the power to the consumer. ■ G.D.

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) and will have to pay 5,000 euros for each week it remains in breach of the agreement.

► **The CIEE University extension Research Station in Bonaire** is settling into bigger quarters. On Friday October 24th, the staff and students joined the building contractor and his workmen for the celebration of the *spantebier* (beer for the rafters, the completion of the highest point of a building) with snacks and drinks provided by Gibi. The renovated building at Kaya Gobernador N Debrot 26 is the future CIEE Research Station Laboratory building which will house the staff offices, two classrooms and a marine laboratory. The new facility will be wheelchair accessible and will be completed by the start of 2009.



CIEE flags

As tradition has it beer was poured over the three flags which were put up for this celebration: the Bonairean flag, the white *spantebier* flag and the CIEE flag.

► **Soldachi Tours has arranged a walking tour of some of the beautiful areas around Rincon.** Set aside this coming Saturday morning, November 8 if you want to get a taste of the original Bonaire. The tour begins at 6 am and will last for about 2 1/2 hours. A surprise will await you at the end of the tour. Wear comfortable shoes and a hat, remember to take your camera, a water bottle, perhaps a raincoat and of course, a good mood. The cost is only NAf15 and you can rent a walking stick for only NAf 1 more. Call 796-7870 as soon as you read this to reserve your spot.

For those who don't know, Soldachi (Hermit crab) Tours is a grass-roots Rincon tour operation that offers an authentic Bonaire experience.

► **The next full moon will be on November 13. The Meditation for Unity and Positivism at Onima will be held then, on Thursday, November 13 starting at 6:45 pm.** Gather at the Onima Indian Inscriptions (half way to Rincon) or meet at Stadium in Kralendijk at 6 pm to car pool for the trip. If you go directly to Onima be there by 6:30 pm.

The meditation will be guided by medium Jan Arnold Francken. He will speak in Dutch, but there will be an English translator. All are invited. In order to minimize the number of cars we recommend getting together to car pool. It will also be in the right spirit to come and leave together. Contact Jan Arnold Francken for more details, 788-2728. See the related article in *The Reporter*, October 10-24, 2008, "Full Moon

Meditations" on page 4 for the background on this event.

► **Mega Jazz is a weekly jazz program, broadcast every Sunday evening on 101.1 FM**

between 8 and 10 pm. On Thursday evening this program will be repeated at the same hours.

Mega Jazz can be downloaded one day after broadcast at [www.megafm.com](http://www.megafm.com).



► **Cruise Ship Season Is Here Now!**

During this cruise ship season, lasting from October 27, 2008, to May 6, 2009, Bonaire will be host to

111 ship visits. This includes the 27 days that the *Freewinds* will be tied up on the waterfront. Every day the ship is in port, an average of 18, 9-cubic-meter truckloads of sewage is collected from the ship, according to the trucker. That's 162 meters per day x 27 days = 4,374 cubic meters trucked to LVV for disposal. A typical Bonaire home disposes of less than 1 cubic meter of wastewater a day.

Last year during the same period there were 97 cruise ship visits, according to TCB.

The crafts markets at Wilhelmina Park on cruise ship days are wonderful places to visit with multi national artists and craftsmen offering their wares. Businessmen on Kaya Grandi, however, are complaining that there are not enough parking for their clients or even themselves when the streets are closed for the cruise ship passengers.

It would appear that the more cars and trucks being imported to the island. The number of parking places are dwindling as construction booms.

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- **Maryanne, the professional nail stylist at Zebranails** (ad on page 7).
- Also returning on a regular basis is **RSA-Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance** located just north of the traffic circle (ad on back page) and
- **Outlet Mol** debuting her closeout shop, **Molly Finale**, (ad on pg. 18).



Herman van Leeuwen photo

► **Don't forget Dia di Grasia- Bonaire's version of Thanksgiving Day.** On Sunday, November 9, From 9 am-3 pm bring what you want to give away clothes, canned food, furniture, appliances, etc. to the parking lot of St. Dominicus School (across from Caribbean Fasteners) for distribution to Bonaire's poor people. There are no middlemen. Everything goes straight to the needy. This annual event is run by radio personality Mamita Fox and the New Creation Club. In addition this year Mamita has arranged for about 300 meals to be provided to Bonaire's poor and handicapped.

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## BONAIREAN VOICES

### MUSIC

Most of us can remember when we were in primary school or in high school getting music lessons at school. It could be on the guitar or "kwarta" (typical instrument used in folkloric music), piano, percussion and we can mention a lot more. What I can remember from that time was that we were so proud to learn our own music and from mostly Antillean musicians. Teachers made up their own lyrics and we learned them by heart and made them flow with the music.

Nowadays, is it the same in the schools? We have our Music School, which besides being housed in an old building, has been bombarded by Tropical Storm Omar's winds and rains. I interviewed Mr. Siegfried Molina (49), manager and instructor of the school for the last three years. He explained, "Unfortunately this building is not part of the Monument Funds and so if it needs to be repaired we have to do it with our own money. The government covers the school's costs like salaries, water and electricity and the school musical instruments. We have gotten most of our instruments through AMFO (organization for financial aid to the community) and the government. But now we need more instruments because some of them were damaged by the waters from Tropical Storm Omar. Maybe we need to do fundraising, but in one way or another we

need to get funds. The contributions paid by the children and adults who are getting music lessons go to the freelance instructors at the school. The government can't finance a lot because they don't have the money. The directors are working hard to make this a stable music school and we think it's improving. The only one thing we need is for companies and organizations to help us to repair the school or build a completely new music school. We have good communication with SKAL (Office of Culture and Art) to make the best of the school.

We have a lot of multi-talented children here in Bonaire who are interested in learning music too. Our main interest for the Bonairean community is to help them have a better and broader view about music."

The art of music is arranging sounds in time so as to produce a continuous rhythm. Gabriel Mercera (53) has been involved with music nearly all his life. He's a percussionist and makes different musical instruments like the guitar, drum and some of our local instruments. He gives music lessons in basic or elementary schools and he agrees, saying that, "Not all the elementary schools have music instruction on a regular basis because I can only give music lessons to Reina Beatrix School, Papa Cornes School and Kristo Bon Wardador School. That's because I'm only one person and I can't go to all the schools. Not having lessons are schools like Watapana, Luis Beltran and San Bernardo. We're



missing a large number of people, music wise. To me music lessons have to start when children are young, at a very early age, even in the kindergartens. Young children need to learn the names of our local instruments like the maraca, the marimba, the kwarta, the drum and lots more. They have to know how these instruments are made and what kind of music you can make with them. Reina Beatrix School is a multifunctional school, but only some of the classes can get music lessons. Adults need to have a general knowledge of how music develops worldwide so they can influence young people to be more involved with music and learn to play an instrument. We have the money, the materials and good, capable people to do it. But of course with bad management everything comes to a halt. I have been giving private percussion lessons for almost 16 years now and I see the results of my work. The music school has been there for years and what is

the result? We have to put things in balance and see what our priorities are. Paying for the lessons, instructors and instruments

- you need the means to do this. People must have the time and be available to do it. But we need to stay optimistic to help the children and those adults who want to learn to play at least one instrument."

Remember that music is part of our life. Everything has music or a rhythm, even that breath you take. A world without music is like a world without colors. ■Story & photo by Siomara Albertus.



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

### DO YOU SUDOKU?

		2			9		
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9	8			2			5 1
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			3			6	

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. **Answer on page 9.** Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney

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# Island View

## ALGAE AND COCKROACHES

Sunday begins normally enough: sleeping in, late breakfast, getting all the swimming gear, some snacks and the dog in the car, and off we go to the blue sea. When we approach the coast we notice all the dead vegetation alongside the sea, and we are reminded that only a few weeks ago Omar decided to grace us with his visit. Oh yes, how could we forget the pounding of the waves for two days, the beached boats and the flooded streets. We did not really forget, but there is this flicker of hope that the waves were not that powerful and the salt spray on the trees immediately washed away by the rain.

As we look at this strange autumn falling onto Bonaire, we begin to fear for the coral and other creatures under the sea level. When we arrived at our destination we found the beach completely transformed and elevated with dead coral stone. And as soon as I put on my mask and looked down into the water, I was confused because there was little I could recognize. The water was horribly murky, and what I was able to see was terribly damaged. The sea bottom lay bare with no sand or stones, the corals were turned over and grouped together as if there will be a Selibon (waste management) under water to collect them, and every surface that protruded a bit was scraped clean with a giant rasp. I felt like getting out off the water and ...., and what? What could I do? Nature did what it was meant to do: change everything. Then why be sad when there is nothing you can do to stop it or prevent it from happening?

I can remember (a long time ago), as a child, running with some friends along the

Kaya Playa Lechi looking into the water, while telling each other scary stories about the wolves that would come out of the water to grab you and drag you into the blue depths. These wolves would, of course, live in the forests made of Elkhorn corals all along the coast. Where have they all gone? The more boats you see, the fewer corals will grow. What can a child nowadays fantasize about when the underwater forests of Bonaire are disappearing? We are helping these formations to vanish at a faster rate than all the storms combined.

The physical taking and destroying of coral and its environment has certainly taken its toll. But this is not where we stop. There are some more refined methods to destroy the most beautiful creatures of this planet. When you catch a fish, you want it to be a big fish: as big as possible. With the taking of too many of these big fish you will unbalance the food chain in the waters. For example: algae are eaten by small fish, which are in turn eaten by big fish which are eaten by the biggest fish. If you take away the biggest fish, the big fish will increase in numbers, because there isn't anyone to eat them. The big fish will now eat so many small fish that they in turn will decline in numbers. With fewer small fish to eat the algae, the algae can grow, and grow, and grow... This will block out the sun so the corals cannot grow and they will die. Voilà: there is your recipe for disaster.

On top of that, we lend the algae a very big hand to grow. Corals need clear warm water with very few nutrients (like nitrogen, phosphate and potassium). If there are more of these nutrients, other organisms, like



Asdrubal Marcano photo

Tropical Storm Omar littered the shore with rubble and flotsam

algae can also grow in these waters and will soon overrun the slow-growing corals. Adding these nutrients to the soup and boom! A nice algae bloom, which blocks out the sun, etc... These nutrients come from the runoff from the rain or from the leaky cesspits.

We know all this. It has been scientifically proven years ago. We are tumbling into this with our eyes wide open. If a storm passes by it is horrible because it does a lot of damage all at once. We do a lot more damage, but not all at once so it is not that obvious. Because of our activities, the corals have even more trouble recovering from being damaged by a storm or divers.

Nature has a way of dealing with the disappearance of slow-growing, slow-producing creatures. Other fast-growing and

fast-producing organisms like algae, rabbits or cockroaches will take their place. Gradually and surely the corals vanish to occupy only a small space in our memory. But we need our corals. No corals, no tourism. No tourism, no money. With no money we all have start fishing. But no corals also means no small fish. No small fish, no big fish and of course no biggest fish. What are we going to eat then? I know! Algae and cockroaches.

■ Mary Ann Koops



Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School. Her insightful commentary appears regularly in The Reporter.

## Pet of The Week

Meet Joyce Hacken, the newest member of the Bonaire Animal Shelter team, and "Vosje" (Little Fox). Joyce was a volunteer for nearly a year at the Shelter and then started as one of the managers this last August. She, her family and cat and dog have been on Bonaire for about a year and a half. In Holland Joyce's education was with animals and she wanted to be a vet's assistant. Not only is she spending a lot of



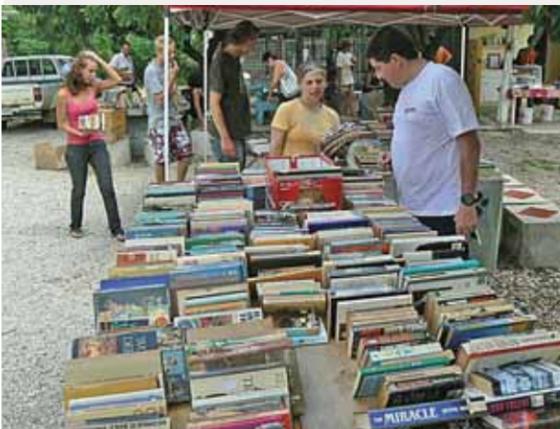
"Vosje" (Little Fox) and Joyce Hacken

time with the cats and dogs at the Shelter but she works with the horses at Kunuku Warahama and leads horseback riding tours.

Joyce is holding little Vosje, a very sweet brown dog with long, soft fur like an Irish setter's. Vosje, who really does resemble a little fox, is about a year old and loves to play. He can be a little feisty, showing good self confidence but then again there's an-

other side to him that's a little shy. And as are all of the animals up for adoption, Vosje is in top health and is extremely social. The adoption fee of NAf 105 includes his shots, worming, testing and sterilization. You may see him at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. ■ L.D.

## Shelter Book Sale Success



On Saturday, October 25, the Animal Shelter organized a super book market at the Shelter on the Kaminda Lagoen. It was a roaring success. There was a choice of thousands of books for only NAf 2,00 each.

Visitors found a lot that they liked and walked away with arms, bags or boxes full of books.

Now and then they took a break with a drink, a bite and a sociable conversation with other visitors or people from the Shelter, so it became a nice outing for many.

The Animal Shelter has received a lot of cooperation from others to make the day a winner by their donations and wants to thank specifically Martinus Import, We Dare to Care Foundation, Janine Kuiken, Phil and Steffany Bennet and volunteers and trainees of the Animal Shelter.

For those who have missed the book market, there is always the monthly flea market in Parke Publico Bonaire (behind the hospital) where also the Animal Shelter has a booth which sells, among other things, lots of books. The next flea market is Saturday, December 7. ■ Paul Wichers

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# Walk For Your Health

**O**verweight and obesity – those were the main subjects of “Kana pa bo salu,” (Walk for your health), a symposium hosted by the Antillean Government and SVB (health insurance). Overweight and obesity on the island – that’s the problem and how can we avoid it, prevent it and correct it? Four different professionals talked about the issue from their different point of views: Ester Bernabella, MD; Angelique Salsbach, Dietician and Nutritionist; Drs J. Hol and Marloes Voosgsgeerd.



recommendations on how to eat healthily:

- Eat three main meals a day, without skipping any
- Eat a variety of foods
- Don’t overeat
- Limit liquids other than water, especially bad liquids that contain a lot of salt and sugar
- Eat healthy snacks
- Choose products with high fiber content
- Eat enough fruits and vegetables
- Drink at least two liters of water daily
- Limit alcohol intake
- Don’t eat late at night
- Avoid eating out

The causes and consequences of overweight are bad eating habits, sedentary life style, high cholesterol levels, diabetes, back and joint pain, coronary disease, high blood pressure, cancer and digestive problems.

Bernabella and Salsbach both agreed that movement as well as healthy eating habits are the key factors in keeping those extra pounds or kilos away. How to achieve these goals? Dr. Bernabella stressed that walking and just walking was the most important -and very simple at the same time- action to take. No special clothes needed, no extra money spent and almost anyone can do it no matter how old or how young.

Dietician Salsbach gave a list of practical

Salsbach also pointed out some statistics about the island population: 50% of the population over 18 is overweight and coincidentally 50% of the population over 18 is leading a sedentary life style). Information is key to educating the population on how to lead a healthier life; the key point to start the process of changing bad habits, knowing what is going wrong, why and how to correct it. But that is not enough. If it were so simple then why isn’t everyone who receives the information taking the proper action right after they have the data?

Changing rooted habits is sometimes a bit more of a complicated process that requires some technical help too. Often we get what it is called a secondary benefit from our bad habits, and although we quickly

realize they are detrimental to our health and our happiness, we cannot get rid of them until we discover what those secondary benefits are that keep us hooked on them.

To start with a simple example, somebody knows walking is good, so he or she decides to wake up every day one hour earlier to do it. The person does this once or twice, then fails to continue. The secondary benefit of this lack of commitment in this case is staying in bed longer and sleeping more. This is a very simple example of a secondary benefit of an action that done otherwise can bring benefits to our health but as a short term hedonist, the person decides to stay in bed.

Other times the secondary benefit is not so evident. Some people “choose” to stay out of shape and seclude themselves to avoid being confronted by social situations. Some people “choose” to be sick to receive attention from the loved ones. Others “choose” to be below their potential to avoid certain responsibilities, to avoid taking action or to avoid the compromise of performing at their peak. The choice is not done 100% consciously. Uncovering such motivations can sometimes be a delicate task.

Getting to know such motivations will help the person make better decisions. Again, this is important, but it is not always enough. Once we have the information and understand the processes that make us make bad decisions we still need to make a plan to change our habits - a plan that has to take into account personal needs, not only in terms of calorie intake and amount of exercise to perform, but also personal preferences and capabilities. Changing habits has to be gradual, and

the motivational factor needs to be reviewed periodically.

For all that was previously mentioned, a team formed by a nutritionist and an MD working in a health plan concerning changes in habits, would find a lot of benefit in including a professional who knows how to change behavioral patterns, that is a psychologist. ■ Irene da Cunda

Da Cunda has a Bachelors in Psychology from the University of Uruguay, a Masters in Behavior Modification (UNED) and has done further studies in Transpersonal Psychology and Sports Psychology. She lives on Bonaire.



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Puzzle on page 7

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# Memorial for Marlies

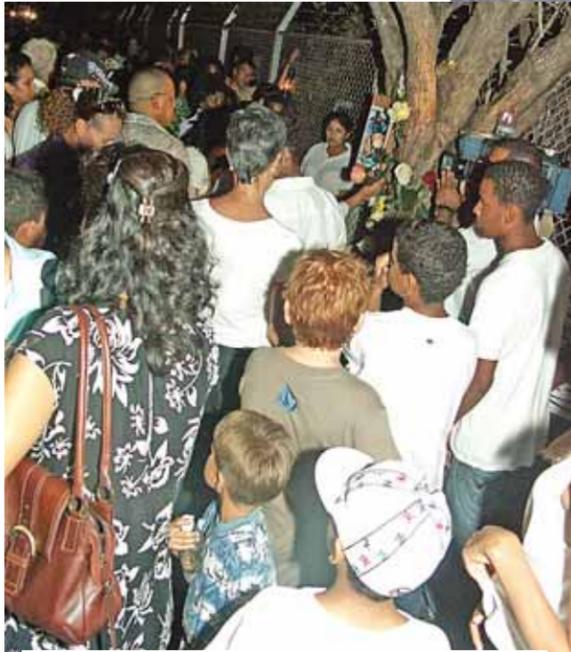
With the reported confession of the main suspect in the disappearance of Marlies van der Kouwe the mystery of her disappearance can be resolved except for the trial. Suspect Ryan P. confessed that he strangled Marlies, said his mother in an interview with the press.

The 27-year-old man said that he wanted to steal Marlies' bag, but when the victim put up a fight, he strangled her. The mother says that her son made a confession before the police in the presence of his lawyer and herself. The police are still investigating to determine additional details and if there were others involved.

On Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, a memorial service was held at Jong Bonaire followed by a silent march from the traffic circle to the spot where Marlies was accosted. More than 1,000 people attended the moving ceremonies. In attendance were Marlies' parents, her sister Nienke and two Dutch friends as well as top officials from Bonaire and David Dick, the Antilles' Justice Minister.

The service and march were impressive as the people of Bonaire of all ages, colors and nationalities joined together then silently walked to the site where Marlies

was last seen alive. Many wept. They carried lamps, candles and flowers. The march ended at a roadside memorial



At the memorial following the march



Marlies van der Kouwe Memorial near WEB

where even today people stop to leave a flower or small token. A children's choir sang to the accompaniment of the humming dynamos of the WEB power plant.

raised mostly on Bonaire, although not a poet, was moved to write a poem. It's printed here in English. However, Henk wrote it also in Papiamentu, Dutch and Spanish. It's in memory of Marlies and also to express his feelings about the tragedy - not only with Marlies' family - who received the poem after the memorial service - but also with our readers. ■ G.D.

## TRIPTYCH FOR MARLIES

### MARLIES

To Bonaire she came ,  
with nostalgia,  
childhood memories  
pure desires,  
expectations.

Her ideals  
she brought along,  
her hope;  
her love  
for the island of  
her tend<sup>r</sup> rest years.

Given  
she was,  
by parents  
grandparents  
siblings.

Received  
by colleagues,  
friends,  
island people.

Island;  
many tongues,  
races,  
colors,  
glaring sun;  
tropical sun,  
radiant sea.

Caribbean Sea  
beloved sea,  
feared sea,  
but always  
again beloved.

Marlies;  
radiant child  
beloved child;  
not here anymore  
but always,  
always again  
beloved.

### MARLIES

A storm broke:  
Unknown violence,  
all of a sudden,  
senseless, vile,  
malicious,  
incomprehensible.

That storm  
of unknown  
fury,  
of mad  
insanity  
destroyed her,  
in that dark,  
sinister night.

Marlies:  
Loss  
beyond  
description.

Life,  
Ideals,  
Faith,  
Hope,  
but, most of all  
that Love,  
not dawning, yet

Talents,  
expectations,  
never used again,  
never given again,  
never fulfilled again,  
by one moment,  
not making sense,  
merciless,  
of a monster  
with no equal.

Marlies:  
Our  
Loss,  
beyond  
description.

### MARLIES

Island in the sun;  
island in mourning,  
sadness,  
shame,  
and anger.

An island  
in the sun,  
never the same  
again, because of  
changes  
coming too fast;  
unable  
to absorb,  
to integrate.

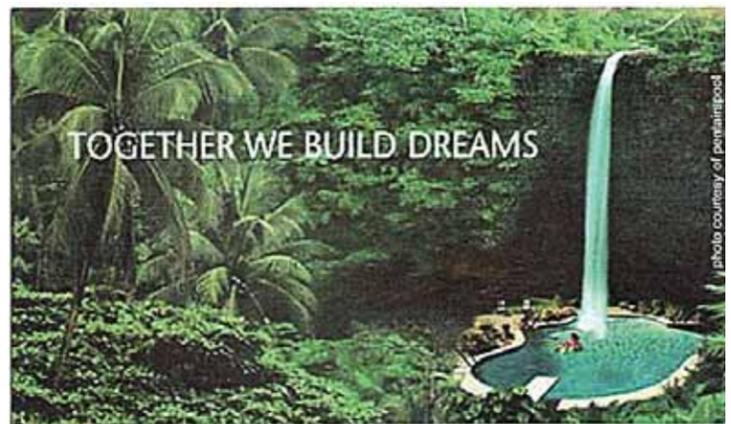
An island  
in pain,  
incomprehension  
doubts...  
How to go on?  
Never the same  
again...

A family  
in pain,  
incomprehension  
doubts...  
How to go on?  
Never the same  
again...

Marlies;  
we don't know  
what to say,  
what to do...

But  
we hope,  
Marlies,  
we believe,  
that somewhere  
in the Universe  
you may go on  
in Love and Peace...

By Henk Piek, October 2008



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# Bella Vista Estates

# A Place To Build Your Dream Home

In the flood of Bonaire's new properties for sale one stands out. It's Bella Vista, a new development close to town, with an open, neighborhood feeling.

This is a place for people who want to have real homes – space for a house and space to live at a reasonable price. The 24 lots are generously sized, from 851 m<sup>2</sup> to 1177m<sup>2</sup> (1/5 to 1/4 acre) at the reasonable price of \$50 to \$55 per square meter. Early purchaser discounts are available that can drop the price to as low as \$40 per square meter.

There's an open feeling with no walls around the development separating it from the surrounding family neighborhood. Bella Vista strives to provide residents with the perfect blend of a spacious community that every home feels a part of with the sense of privacy required to make a house truly a home.

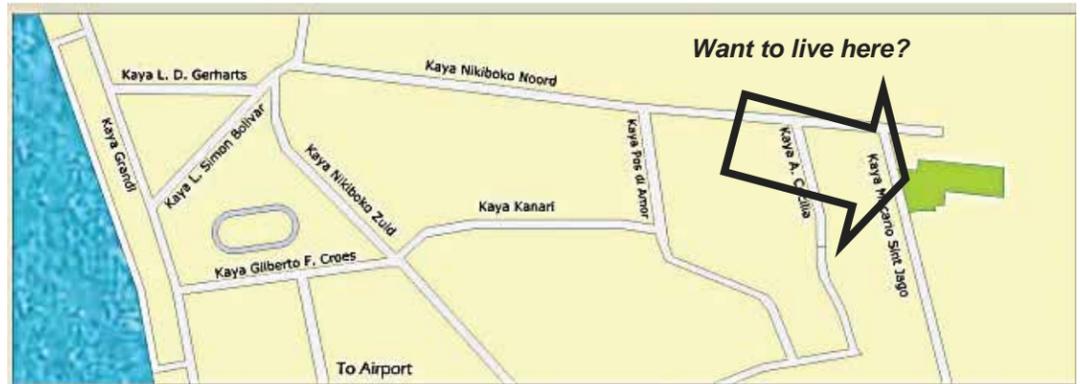
Bella Vista is intended for individual houses only. No apartment complexes, hotels or other multi-family housing are allowed, but each house may have a single rental unit associated with it, either built on to the main home or as a detached bungalow. Building restrictions also ensure that the homes will be built from quality materials. Houses must

be built from masonry (concrete block, adobe, compressed earth block, or integrated concrete forms) and have to be roofed with quality roofing material. They have to be set further back from the lot lines than in most areas, providing each home with a feeling of privacy.

Bella Vista is a custom home area. Each home will be developed and designed by the owner. There is a minimum of architectural restrictions on homes, just that they must be built well, but a variety of architectural styles is expected.

The infrastructure of Bella Vista is planned to be complete by June of 2009, to include concrete roadways, driveways, and sidewalks. The planned roadway is of very high quality. The right-of-way is 12 meters wide, instead of the normal 10 meters. This additional room provides space for generous sidewalks located well away from the roadway. This enhances the appearance and safety of the area as pedestrians never have to contend with traffic.

This feeling of openness and space will continue through the rest of the construction. Combined with the wider roadway,



the larger setbacks mean that the neighbor across the street will be a minimum of 24 meters away from your home. Fences are required, but front fences will be have an open upper design maintaining that feeling of openness and visibility. Rear fences are required to be solid, preserving a sense of privacy for your pool, spa, or other backyard activities.

Bella Vista is located east of Nikiboko and west of Jato Baco, on Kaya Macario Sint Jago. It is only 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the center of town and within walking distance to markets, restaurants and a gym.

Pink Beach Properties, the developer of Bella Vista Estates, is owned by Kevin Wayne Williams. Kevin is a resident of Bonaire, having moved here in 2004



Sample architecture

when he purchased The Great Escape, a small hotel in Belnem.

After selling the hotel in 2007, he turned his interests to real estate development. Born in Japan, Kevin spent most of his youth in Nebraska and Iowa and his adult life in Arizona and California, where he worked in the telecommunications and semiconductor industries.

Lots can be purchased directly from Bella Vista (see ad on back page) or through Bonaire Realty, Bonaire Sunshine Homes, Caribbean Homes & Yachts, Harbourtown, or RE/Max Paradise Homes. ■

L.D.



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# Trans World Radio Changes

One of the most recognized and cherished pictures in the Caribbean is the artistic rendition of the undersea scene (at right) on the Trans World Radio (TWR) building here on our beautiful island of Bonaire. Ask anyone who has been here to dive and they can tell you about the giant mural near the traffic circle. Some divers, visitors, and cruise ship passengers are so fascinated that they visit the office just to find out what TWR is all about.

Since 1964, TWR has been broadcasting from Bonaire to places all over the world. Originally selected for a prime shortwave site, Bonaire proved to be a great location for a medium wave (AM) station as well. Shortly after TWR setup the first transmitter, Radio Nederland Wereldomroep (RNW) began broadcasting via TWR. The transmissions were so successful that RNW decided to install their own shortwave transmitters on the island.

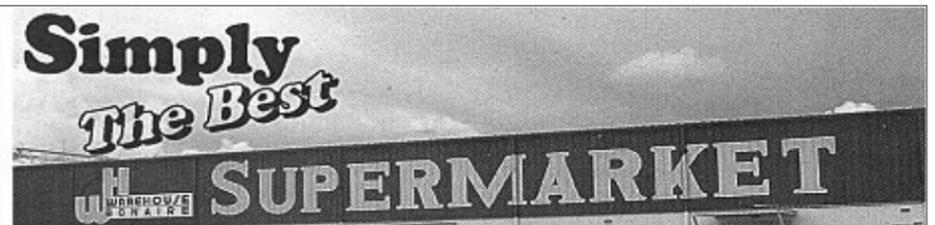
As time progressed, things changed, and they continue to change. In the 1990s, TWR ceased shortwave broadcasting and changed its giant tube transmitters for one solid state medium-wave transmitter. Modern technology with the internet and satellite have provided the station with a more efficient way to produce programming in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and other countries.

As a result, there are fewer TWR workers on Bonaire, but the Christian broadcasts continue to reach out to a large area from the Amazon to Cuba and in many countries of the Caribbean and South America via 800 AM. A few years ago, TWR installed a 24-hour FM radio station for the island of Bonaire. At 89.5 FM, listeners on Bonaire can hear a special Bonairean mix of Christian music and programs in English, Papiamentu, Spanish, and Dutch.



Recently, TWR based in the US, has announced the addition of a new president for the global Christian broadcasting organization. A farmer's son from northern Kansas, Libby holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Regis University. TWR-Bonaire Station Director Joe Barker said he welcomes President Libby into the fold and looks forward to his leadership in this constantly changing world.

As TWR moves into a future of change, the organization has realized that the large building at the traffic circle is too big for their needs. According to Mr. Barker, TWR is in discussions with the island government about the building and the possibility for TWR to build something more in keeping with its current and future needs. The new building is planned to be near the current building in the Hato area. Mr. Barker says that the design goals of the new building include a reflection of local architecture and a positive portrayal of God's creation on and around Bonaire. ■ Bob Lassiter/ Joe Barker

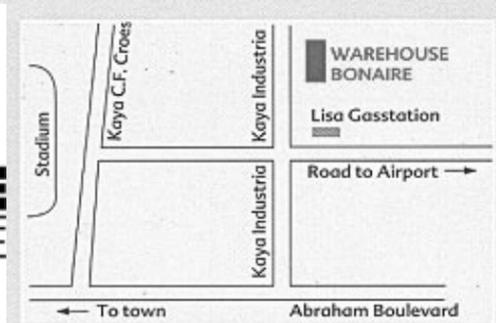


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Bonaire Reporter November 7-21 2008;

# Letters to the Editor

## UNDERWATER CHANGES

Dear Editor:  
We have just arrived back in Bonaire after an absence of several months. On our first dive near the sad remnants of the fishing pier we noticed some changes and additions to the reef. Tropical Storm Omar has deposited a layer of silt over the entire reef except for the coral. The coral must be self cleaning or maybe the feather duster worms have been living up to their name. The white silt has given the reef a decidedly snowy appearance. Adding to the winter wonderland effect was a set of Christmas lights we found adorning a coral head. Very festive. We also found a few more interesting additions to the reef. There was a very nice (pneumatic tires!)

baby carriage. It was somewhat the worse for wear from having made the trip from shore to sea and the tires were flat. Several large wood planks have settled to the bottom. Wood? I don't know what kind of wood these were, possibly Natalie, but they definitely do not float. The best find of all was an Apron Excellent #1. Yes, a golf ball. There has to be a story on how this golf ball ended up on the reef. Was someone defying Omar by chipping shots into the water or engaging in "extreme" miniature golf? I would like to know. In any event, I took the ball with me. If this is violating Park regulations I will be happy to put it back. I think a nine-iron would be just about right.

Webster (Web) Burrfish



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## KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
10-24	4:16	1.0FT.	10:25	1.5FT.	16:00	1.2FT.	21:36	1.6FT.	56
10-25	4:13	1.1FT.	10:39	1.6FT.	17:24	1.1FT.	22:28	1.4FT.	63
10-26	3:45	1.1FT.	11:06	1.7FT.	18:38	1.1FT.	23:24	1.3FT.	71
10-27	0:26	1.1FT.	2:30	1.1FT.	11:37	1.8FT.	20:03	1.0FT.	78
10-28	12:06	1.9FT.	21:30	0.9FT.					82
10-29	12:41	1.9FT.	22:44	0.9FT.					83
10-30	13:23	1.9FT.	23:37	0.8FT.					82
10-31	0:25	0.8FT.	13:59	1.9FT.					79
11-01	1:10	0.7FT.	14:41	1.9FT.					74
11-02	1:44	0.7FT.	15:27	1.9FT.					67
11-03	2:13	0.7FT.	16:08	1.8FT.					60
11-04	2:36	0.8FT.	17:01	1.8FT.					52
11-05	2:53	0.8FT.	17:47	1.7FT.					45
11-06	3:02	0.9FT.	18:37	1.6FT.					39
11-07	2:58	1.0FT.	10:09	1.5FT.	14:41	1.4FT.	19:34	1.5FT.	37

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## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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**BONAIRE ON WHEELS**

## Bonaire's Yellow Flash on Wheels. What?

*The 39<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."*

Bonaire/Kralendijk -

A screaming yellow flash - that's what you saw in a split second - if you were lucky. Then it stops, turns and approaches you again. It passes you at a very high speed. It has wheels! What is it? It's a car!

Mr. van Dijk smiles; he is a happy man. He is the proud owner of a handmade British kit car, a Robin Hood, derived from the famous and well known Lotus Super Seven made in England since 1957. The Super Seven model has been copied and built under license thousands of times. Well known are the Caterham and the Dutch-made Donkervoort - all inspired by Colin Chapman's design. And now there is a Robin Hood Super Seven on the island.

In 1952 Lotus Engineering Ltd. was founded in Hornsey, England, by the famous car designer and car racer Colin Chapman. The first Lotus Super Seven, launched in 1957, was a small, simple, lightweight two-seater, open-top sports car produced by Lotus Cars (initially called Lotus Engineering) until 1972. It was designed by Colin Chapman and has been considered the embodi-

ment of the Lotus philosophy of performance through low weight and simplicity.

The original model was highly successful with more than 2,500 cars sold, due to its attraction as a road legal car that could be used for clubman racing. After Lotus ended production of the Seven, Caterham bought the rights and makes both kits and fully assembled cars.

"My Super Seven is also a kit car," explains Mr. van Dijk. "The vehicle is hand made with parts of an English Ford Sierra. In those days Robin Hood produced some 500 cars a year, using the Triumph Dolomite, the Ford Cortina and the Ford Sierra as donor cars. Their philosophy was 'One kit + one donor vehicle = one car on the road.' Robin Hood produced the Super Seven from the late 90s. Mine was presumably produced in 2001. It is sometimes hard to tell when you are dealing with kit cars. When my wife Christine and I came to the island of Bonaire with our kids, we took our very nice restored Mercedes 280 SL, built in 1976, with us. Above the Mercedes there was just sufficient space left for the Super Seven, so we enriched Bonaire with two new classic cars!"

This yellow sprayed very, very low-built vehicle is constructed of aluminum and fiberglass, wrapped around a light and sturdy frame of steel tubes. A Ford Sierra was used as a donor vehicle.

The two-liter, four-cylinder overhead camshaft engine equipped with fuel injection fits nicely under the hood. The naked sports wagon is fitted with an extra large radiator for cooling the high power output engine. The car is fitted with light alloy wheels, fat rubbers and a very nice modeled stainless steel exhaust and muffler system with less muffler than exhaust. The interior is slightly cramped but there is loads and loads of open air. There are two Sparco racing seats, four-points safety belts and a rugged roll bar. Of course there are no doors mounted, no side windows, no airco, no power steering, no abs. This car just supplies the driver pure contact with the road. From the driver's seat it is easy to touch the pavement! This is just a vehicle on wheels, as simple as a Model T



Lotus Super Seven

Ford but almost four times as fast!

Then Willem van Dijk turns the ignition key. Some coughing from the muffler. The little yellow yeller starts screaming. The oil reaches the right pressure and the right temperature and the gearbox is shifted in first gear. The 13-inch Firestone Multi-hawks join the howling of the muffler. With screaming rubbers the Super Seven is launched. In less than no time the car vanishes completely over the horizon. Be careful: Bonaire is a small island... Acceleration is surprisingly fast, road holding is superb. The vehicle seems even faster because of the very low position of the driver and the open air system. Some nice cornering on Bonaire. Watch out for potholes and sleeping policemen! Nice

car, nice dashboard. Aluminum, fiberglass, stainless steel, even some half hidden wood. A low weight and a high output are the secrets of this open car. Pure fun!

Then, finally, we have to go home again. The car easily finds its way back to its parking spot. Willem kills the engine by turning the ignition key in the opposite direction. Hot air is waving from the engine compartment and even the floor of the car is kind of hot. "Do not burn your legs on the exhaust system," Willem van Dijk exclaims. Then he crawls out of his beloved vehicle. The car shows the same huge smile as his owner... ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



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# Bubbles from the Biologist

## Did You

**Know...**that after being a part of the Klein Bonaire Beach Cleanup and the Yellow Submarine Underwater Clean up, it was brought to my attention that plastic pollution is a growing problem in Bonaire. Plastic bags, plastic bottle caps and plastic cups are polluting the coastline and are also



drifting in currents up to the shore of Klein Bonaire in large amounts. Plastic does not only hinder boat engines and propellers, but it is frequently mistaken for food and consumed by many marine animals. Plastic debris can become lodged in the throat, stomach and intestines of animals such as birds and turtles, which eventually leads to a slow agonizing death due to starvation. Many fish are consuming smaller pieces of plastic that mimic plankton floating in the water column, which leads to malnutrition and ultimately death. Plastic also poses the threat of entanglement to many marine species.

The high dependency on plastic use needs to be controlled before the problem gets entirely out of hand. Plastic is killing the fish we consume, destroying the beautiful reefs that account for a large amount of the Bonaire's monetary income and also threatening many marine species that are on the verge of extinction. Plastic bottles need to be reused, plastic cups need to be limited, and most of all, plastic dependency needs to be reduced. .

■ Amanda Parra

Parra, a student from the University of La Verne in Southern California, selected to study abroad in CIEE's Tropical Marine Ecology and Conservation Program. Her major is Environmental Biology and she hopes to conduct research in Marine Biology as a career. Conservation and education is the key to a healthier world.



# Picture Yourself With The Reporter Medemblik, Holland



**R**ob Taal and Henry Koning take a look at *The Bonaire Reporter* during the Flying Dutchman sailing competition in Medemblik, Holland They were sailing under the Netherlands Antilles Flag (Bonairean).

Rob has been visiting Bonaire since 1985 and built a house here in 1996. Since then he and his wife, Sonja, spend about seven months a year on the island. In 1997 he joined the sailing club on Bonaire and helped Arti de Vries a little with the boats and training.

He and Henry Koning, his sailing partner, sail the Flying Dutchman in vintage-boat international regattas. The photo was taken at the sailing the Vintage Yachting Games ultimo in September. They finished in a very successful 4<sup>th</sup> place The team usually finishes near the top of the fleet and is the Benalux champion. ■

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# Alert Ladies Win

**T**he Regatta may be over but the racing fans still remember the fine performance of the all (Bonairean) girl crew aboard the beautiful yacht, *Alert*.

Captained by skipper and owner Phil Warneke, the crew trained for five weeks. The training paid off when they won the first race in the Open Class. The yacht sailed well in the rest of her races, usually first across the line, and finished second overall in her class.

The yacht was sponsored by Greenfields Residence, a local project development company now preparing a real estate project in Playa. ■ F.G./G.D.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, November 9- From 9 am-3 pm Dia di Grasia (Thanksgiving) -see ad on this page**

**Saturday, November 8—Special Soldachi Tour around Rincon, 6 am. NAf15. Call 796-7870 to reserve. More on page 6**

**Thursday, November 13—Full Moon Meditation for Unity and Positivism at Onima 6:45 pm start –see page 6 for details.**

**Monday, December 1- Bari Festival Period. Song, dance, drink and the traditional Beating of the Drums (Bari) are the highlights of this celebration which recounts the year's happenings.**

**Cruise Ship Season is back: Arts & Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, usually 10 am to 2 pm:**

Tues., Nov. 11 –*Ventura*  
Wed., Nov. 12 –*Sea Princess*  
Thurs., Nov. 13 –*Aidavita*  
Fri., Nov. 14 –*Emerald Princess*  
Mon., Nov. 17 –*Aida Aura*  
Wed., Nov. 19 –*Caribbean Princess*  
Sun., Nov. 23 –*Club Med 2*  
Tues., Nov. 25 –*Sea Princess*  
Wed., Nov. 26 –*Queen Mary 2*  
Fri., Nov. 28 –*Ocean Village, Prinsendam*

## REGULAR EVENTS

- 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

- **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. **Big Marché first Saturday of the Month**—www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

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

- **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

### Mondays

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

### Thursdays

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

### Fridays

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

## 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- Land & Ocean Bonaire** by Fish-Eye photo, Sunset Restaurant, 7:30 pm.

**Tuesday—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Buddy Dive Resort, 6:30 pm—717-3802.

**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 6:30pm.

## 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 7pm; every Sunday at 5pm. 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 ) All levels, NAf2,50. Call Joop 717-5903 for venue.

**Darts Club** plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4,

games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

**JCI - First Wednesday of the Month** - Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

**Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

**Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - '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.

**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**

## Dia di Grasia (Day of Thanks)

Bring your castoffs, clothes, canned food, furniture, appliances, etc. to

The parking lot of St. Dominicus School (across from Caribbean Fasteners) for distribution to Bonaire's poor people

**On Sunday, November 9 From 9 am-3 pm**

There are no middlemen-everything goes straight to the needy. This annual event is run by radio personality Mamita Fox and the New Creation Club

**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.

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Contact: 717-3322

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:** Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:  
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Email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
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# Underwater Status Report

The Bonaire Marine Park's survey conducted a few days after the passing of tropical storm Omar to the northwest of Bonaire reported some reef structural damage, mostly overturned corals, on Bonaire's west coast. There was significant silting and rubble movement in the shallower areas.

Tropical Storm Omar hit Bonaire heavily. The damage on the reef is evident in almost all west-side dive sites shallower than 15 meters. Some areas were more affected than others. The area between Sabadeco and 1000 Steps received the heaviest impact in the shallows. The damage is evident but was not that bad. It's far less than the hurricane Lenny damage.

There was no damage on Bonaire's east coast which was protected from the west winds. Dive shops contacted by *The Reporter* say that their guests feel the effects are mostly not noticeable at depth. The pri-



Storm Omar wave

mary difference between storms Omar and Lenny (1999) was the intensity of the waves. Lenny's waves were much longer and came at a higher speed and were more broadly focused. The west to northwest direction of Omar's waves, however, was devastating to some shore side homes normally protected by Klein Bonaire in the normal southwest wind reversal.

## Moray Mortality

In late August the BNMP start receiving reports of moray eel mortality along the coast. Through October there were more than 50 reports. An expert in such matters, Dr. Ernest Williams from University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, visited two weeks ago and is preparing a report due next week. A similar event occurred in 1995 and stopped after a few months. They are no formal reports of the 1995 mortality but comments from some people who did some studies indicate that the possible cause is bacteria.

## Coastal Wastewater Pollution

The September 8 meeting with the tourism sector about the requirement to pump out leaking cesspits and septic tanks was satisfactory. Everyone present agreed that they have to do something. Since each property is different, one of the followups is for the BNMP to meet with them to work out solutions. Some hotels have already started to truck away much more waste than they did last year. Others still didn't haven't taken

any action. Ronella Croes, the Director of the TCB, is to draft a letter that reflects the position of the tourism sector in this issue.

According to our latest information from DROB, the funding agencies are dragging their feet in releasing money for the Action Plan to transport the sewage away from the shoreline. As we go to press there is another meeting underway among the organizations trying to get funding to implement a fast temporary solution.

## Bleaching

There appears to be a major coral bleaching event underway all around the island. Bleaching is a natural cyclical event usually initiated by rising water temperatures.

However, water temperatures haven't risen as much as usual for bleaching and there is speculation that the event may be due to unusually overcast conditions or other unknown factors. We'll continue to keep you informed. ■

G.D.

## SHOPPING and DINING GUIDE

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# Divers Restore Town Pier After Omar or "Hey, Where Are You Going With My Sponge?"

At the suggestion of the Wannadive shop, a few visiting divers did a modest restoration of the Bonaire Town Pier on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Tropical storm Omar had done some damage to marine life on the pier's pillars. The divers reattached sponges to the pillars and cleaned up loose garbage.



Henkjan and Rene (from divEmotion)

The damselfish is upset. Gone is its brand new sponge! A diver is taking it away, to attach it to one of the Town Pier pillars. Omar had thrown this new domain into the lap of this damselfish. Just as it was settled and comfortable, its idyllic home was roughly disturbed. Usually idyllic the neighborhood deteriorated rapidly after Omar. Debris is everywhere. What's happening? Divers are reattaching the sponges torn off by the storm to the Town Pier's pilings. On the way back, they are taking as much garbage as possible with them, so that Town Pier can become just as wonderful a diving spot as it was before the storm.

A noble goal, and as ordinary tourists and Town Pier fans, we are quite happy to cooperate. Together with 10 other divers, we received instructions from Wannadive. Equipped with fishing line, gloves (with special permit) and nets, we dive down at Town Pier under the midday sun for a change. The gloves are needed to protect our hands against some of the sponges that can irritate your skin. First, we collect all kinds of loose sponges at the bottom behind the pier. Then we look for an open area on the pillar where the sponge can attach itself again. With the fishing line we tie the sponges to the pillar. The line is firm enough not to break at the next storm, but it is not harmful to the sponge; in time, the line will just be absorbed by it.

It's a strange experience to be allowed to touch these sponges, which we have been so busy avoiding touching with every dive. They are surprisingly heavy. Some of the pieces that appear to be lying loose are still fixed to stone or rope. Other pieces can easily be picked up, these end up in our net. Damselfish react fiercely to this unexpected move, but other animals find the action quite interesting. Like the goatfish, busy searching for food in the sand that is raked up. They are not impressed by us bubble-blowing monsters at all. A pushy sharp tail eel even wants to swim

into our net. A family of fire worms is moving together with its sponge to a new spot on the pillar.

At first sight, marine life on the pillars did not appear to have sustained heavy damage. The sponges giving them their beautiful arty colors are still there. If you touch them with your finger ever so gently (this time it is permitted), they feel soft and slimy. But the protruding sponges like barrel sponges and tube sponges are clearly missing here and there. At the open spots, we attach them again with the fishing line. Several turns around the pillar and it looks all dressed up again.

And back again we go, to collect more sponges. Between the pillars, divers can be seen carrying all kinds of sponges under their arms; A strange sight for the innocent bystander. Are these reef vandals?

When our air is almost gone we return to shore. We put the garbage we come across into our net: polo shirts, pieces of cloth, a razor, rope, you name it. A couple of divers even emerged with a complete microwave! Not that cleaning up really helps, because it is very obvious now how much trash is lying under water. Another cleaning crew is going to take care of that next time.

After 97 diving minutes we are finished... Not enough by a long shot, but still we have the feeling to have contributed a little bit to the restoration of a piece of coral reef. If the sponges remained on the sandy bottom they would have died. Now they have a chance to attach themselves once again and continue to live. A nice side effect is the increased diving pleasure for us and for all those other divers. And the damselfish has enough sponges from which to choose itself a new home. ■ Henkjan, Rene and Astrid (divEmotion Nederland)

# Walk of Walks



4-Daagse Organizers: Coraline Perret Gentil, Robby de Palm, Amilcar Meulens and Joselle Margaritha

The Four Day Walk for Bonaire, The Vierdaagse Bonaire, is now set for the end of this month. Originally set for earlier this year it was rescheduled because of the death of one of the organizers of the organization, Clarita Regales Figueroa. Beginning at Flamingo Airport on Thursday, November 27, at 9 am, participants will walk or bike for 125 km. covering the length and breadth of the island over a period of four days. The event is modeled after the world-famous Nijmegen (The Netherlands) Vierdaagse, the largest marching event in the world. Proceeds will benefit the Center for Children in Poverty Foundation. The president and founder of the event is Coraline Perret Gentil, who although a resident of Curaçao, has a long history on Bonaire.

The Reporter will bring you additional details, including the walk route, as the event gets closer. Anyone who is able to walk or bicycle about 30 km. in a day is encouraged to participate. There will be camping areas provided for the evenings at the day's destination points. The cost is NAf 50 which will cover support drinks and snacks along the route and a T-shirt designed by Gisela van Steenberg, of one of the sponsors, Caribbean Homes. For campers, the fee is NAf 100 which includes a campsite, food, drinks. The 4-DAY logo was designed by SGB student Joselle Margaritha.

You can sign up for the walk at City Café every Saturday from 10 am to 7 pm. Entry is free to handicapped persons and Special Olympics team members. For more information call 697-1235 or 567-0026. Email [Vierdaagse\\_bonaire@yahoo.com](mailto:Vierdaagse_bonaire@yahoo.com). ■ G.D.

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Gender: MAN WOMAN	T-SHIRT Size: _____	Health: Excellent Good Fair	Signature: _____
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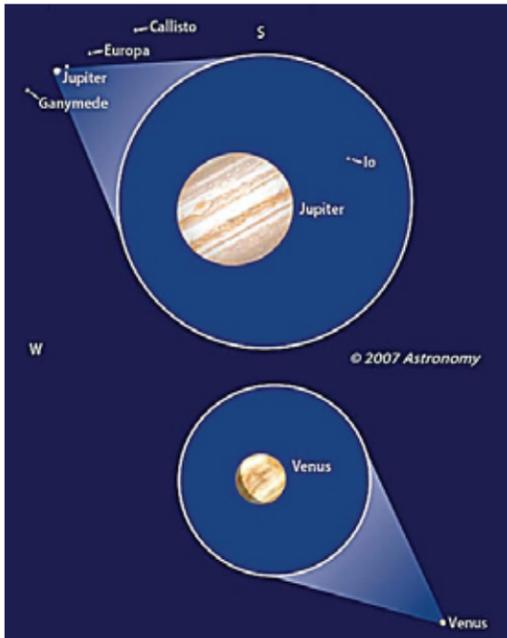


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## Watch the Two Brightest Planets Race Toward Each Other for a Super Close Meeting!

If you've been looking into the west just after sunset recently, you've been seeing two bright objects which are going to give us a super duper sky show at the end of the month. In fact they are the two brightest planets in our solar system, super bright **Venus** and second brightest **Jupiter**. And you can watch them come closer every single night from now until November 30th and December 1st when they will be super close to each other and will be joined by an exquisite crescent **Moon** which means that for two nights in a row there will be a meeting of the three brightest objects in the night sky which is really going to be a knockout show.



Next Monday, November 10th, one hour after sunset face southwest where you'll see super bright 8,000-mile-wide Venus and up to its left not-quite-as-bright, 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter, so huge we could line 11 Venuses up across its middle. Astronomers say they're 20 degrees apart from each other which is a little easier to understand if you think of it this way. A full Moon is one half a degree wide. So on Monday, the 10th, Jupiter and Venus will be 20 degrees or 40 full Moons lined-up-end-to-end apart from each other. But they're really moving fast each night and in fact by next Monday, the 17th, they will be only 13 degrees or 26 full Moons apart.

And the going really gets good during the next week because by Monday, the 24th, Thanksgiving week, they'll be only 6 1/2 degrees or 13 full Moons apart. On Tuesday 12 full Moons would fit between them, Wednesday 10 full Moons and ta da! on Thanksgiving night go out just after dinner just after sunset and they will be so close only eight full Moons could fit between them. On Friday, six full Moons, Saturday five full Moons and finally on Sunday the last day of this month November 30th they'll be at their closest when we could fit only four full Moons between them.

Plus they will be joined by an exquisite three-day-old crescent Moon complete with **earthshine** which will look like a grayish-black full Moon nestled within the crescent. But it gets even better. On Monday, the first day of December, a slightly fatter crescent Moon complete with earthshine will have moved just up past Venus and Jupiter and will be even closer to them forming a trio of the three brightest objects we can ever see in the night time sky.

Once again on Sunday, November 30th, a magnificent trio, the two brightest planets in our solar system and the crescent Moon, and Monday, December 1st, an even more impressive trio when the crescent Moon will be even closer to Jupiter the king and Venus the queen. Don't miss this please. Start your Venus and Jupiter getting-closer-to-each-other-every-night -watch now! ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



## THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
For November 2008

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You may find that you are a little lucky this month. Try to keep a low profile. Investments that deal with property will pay off but could cause conflict with some family members. You can stabilize your personal relationship if you're willing to communicate honestly. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Proceed with caution if operating equipment or vehicles. Family responsibilities are escalating. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Get busy trying to make more money. It is time to clear your decks. Don't jump too quickly regarding an investment that appears to be good. Don't let your partner goad you into wearing your heart on your sleeve. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Call someone you haven't seen in a long time. Watch your tendency to live for the day and to spend too much on entertainment and children; it could set you back. You can win if you're open and up front with your boss. Get on with business. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You may find yourself caught in the middle of an argument that has nothing to do with you. Don't be shy; if you want to spend more time with a special person, make a commitment. Your stubborn nature will backfire if you give your mate an ultimatum. Your moneymaking opportunities will flourish. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Hassles with close friends or family will put a damper on your day and result in isolation and loneliness. You may want to have a heart-to-heart talk with a close and trusted friend. The only thing you'll accomplish is a bad reputation. Don't turn down offers that include sports activities or children. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may not be too pleased with the actions of those you live with. You can help a close friend find solutions to personal problems. Listen to a good friend who is truly looking out for your best interests. You are best to put your efforts into redecorating or inviting friends over. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your creative input will be appreciated by your boss. Things may not be as harmonious as you would like with colleagues or employers this month. Financial limitations are likely if you take risks. It's time to reevaluate your motives. Your luckiest events this month will occur on Sunday.

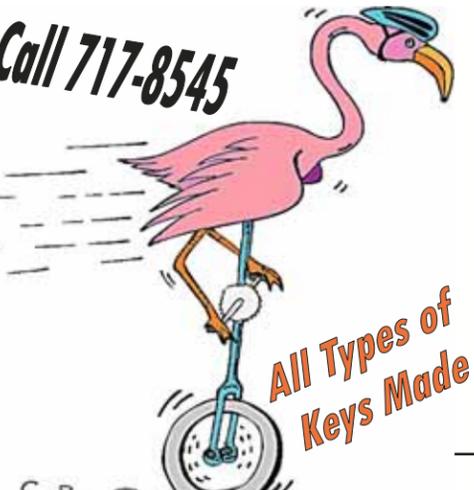
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You're in need of love. Investments are best left alone this month. Coworkers may not be giving you all the pertinent information. Your tendency to take on too much will end in fatigue. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. Take care that arrangements to spend quality time together are made in advance. You can help sort out problems that friends are facing. Be sure to pay attention to your financial status. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Trips will be more than adventurous. Social events will be plentiful. Don't overload your plate. Hold your temper and refrain from doing anything that might cause injury. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) It's a favorable time for real estate, investments, and moneymaking opportunities to be successful. Get promises in writing or you will be disappointed. Empty promises and a lack of cash may put a damper on your plans. Stick to your own projects and by the end of the day you'll shine. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■

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## Passing The Gavel

When Glenn Thodé took over from retiring Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé in a formal ceremony at the Island Council meeting on October 24, it marked the beginning of a new era for the island. Domacassé was the last governor (*Gezaghebber* in Dutch) of the Netherlands Antilles Island Territory of Bonaire; Thodé will be the first governor of the Dutch municipality of Bonaire. In his five years as Governor and president of the Island Council Herbert Domacassé earned his place in the hearts of the Bonairean people as a wise and considerate leader. His wife Elena became a much loved First Lady. They plan to do a bit of traveling before settling on the island as private citizens.

Glenn Thodé comes on the scene as Bonaire transitions in a new, direct relationship with The Netherlands. In his address at an introductory reception in the garden of the Executive Building he expressed concern that Bonaire is polarized by the fast moving changes. He quipped that it should work out, as he himself has proven in his marriage to a Dutch woman.

It promises to be a turbulent time as cultures and customs clash and merge. Many Bonaireans fear their way of life is threatened while at the same time recognizing the advantages of a better link with Holland. The storm damage from Omar has to be repaired, but the funds for repairs aren't available. The island is still recovering from the shock of the Marlies van der Kouwe murder.

Governor Thodé appears well qualified for his challenging job. He leaves his academic post as Dean and Faculty Lecturer,



Jeanne Emers photo

Governor Thodé with his parents

(PhD, LL.M.) Attorney and Professor at the University of Aruba. He's younger than most of the past appointees but has shown sensitivity and maturity in several of his early appearances. He says the functions of a *Gezaghebber* will remain necessary after the official restructuring at the end of this year. Currently the *Gezaghebber* reviews the decisions of the Island Council and Executive Council and fulfills functions in the name of the Dutch Kingdom.

Importantly to this island of family oriented people, Governor Thodé was born on Bonaire. He moved with his parents to Aruba while still a baby but vacationed on Bonaire at his grandparents' home. His great-grandfather is Kachi Craane, who lived on the seaside and built stout boats. Governor Thodé's job will be to build a stout new Bonaire — *Boneiru Nobo*. ■

G.D.

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