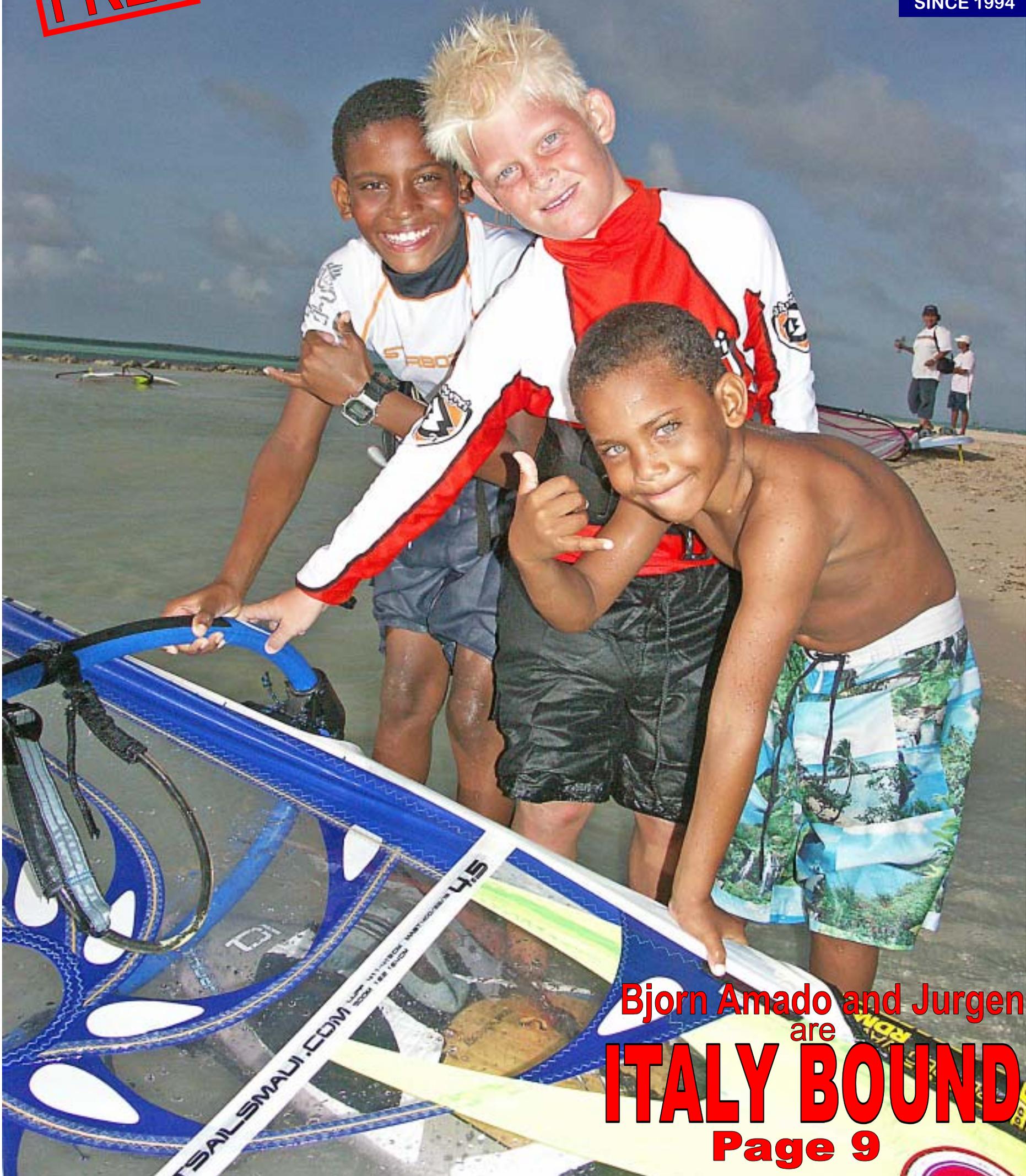


May 21 to May 28, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 20

# The **BONAIR** REPORTER

SINCE 1994

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**



**Bjorn Amado and Jurgen  
are  
ITALY BOUND  
Page 9**

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Last Thursday an agreement was reached on creating a **new Central Government**. It is the third iteration of a government since the last general elections about two and a half years ago. There's about one and a half years left until the next scheduled national elections.



To form the new government, seven political parties agreed on a governing accord and the division of portfolios. In essence the new government is similar to the last, but Curaçao's PAR Party replaces the FOL Party, which now joins the opposition. The other government members are St. Maarten's Democratic Party and WIPM, Curaçao's PNP and PLKP, Bonaire's UPB and Statia's Democratic Party. **Bonaire will retain the Minister of Education and Culture portfolio, the State Secretary of Education and the Deputy Chair of Parliament.** It is speculated that a new ministry to lead the fight against drug trafficking will be created.

Some of the points on which the parties disagreed were **the continuation of the market protection** tariff for Curaçao and Bonaire (at the expense of only Bonaire, since the other Antillean islands are exempt), the language of instruction in the schools (the balance of Papiamentu and Dutch) and public health. PAR leader Etienne Ys will most likely become the next Prime Minister. The new government should

be officially in place in two weeks. The Antillean Governor has set June 1<sup>st</sup> as the deadline.

► The 67 prostitutes who entered Curaçao without the required visa to work at Curaçao's Campo Allegre brothel took legal proceeding against the National Government to allow them to stay on Curaçao anyway. Judge Leo van Gijn (National Ordinance Administration of Justice) ruled yesterday that the **prostitutes are allowed to stay** until their maximum stay permit expires. Since the maximum permit to stay is for three months, most of the women would only have a short time left anyway. About 92 women work at the Campo as prostitutes.

According to the ruling, the Justice Minister at the time, Ben Komproe, should have been aware that his permission letter "could have given the prostitutes the impression that they didn't need a visa," said the judge. The women were misled through no fault of their own. Komproe is under investigation for this and other irregularities.

► Robby Bouwman, whose company supplies fire protection equipment, **says Bonaire's government buildings, many of which are flammable, should pay more attention to fire safety.** Not all buildings have fire extinguishers, others have out-of-date extinguishers and poor plans for evacuation in case of fire.



Gail Funk from the yacht *Fifth Season*

► One of the nice things about having visiting yachtsmen feel they are part of the Bonaire community is that they sometimes offer their talents to the island people. Last **Monday Gail Funk from the yacht *Fifth Season* played the harp and sang on the pier at Karel's Beach Bar.** The professional performance was enjoyed by a large group.

This Saturday, Gail will perform from 7:30-9:30 pm at **The Blue Moon Restaurant** on the waterfront. If you want a truly entertaining and uplifting evening along with food fit for royalty, stop by. Martijn Bouwmeester, the manager-chef, has, on several occasions, prepared meals for the Dutch royal family.

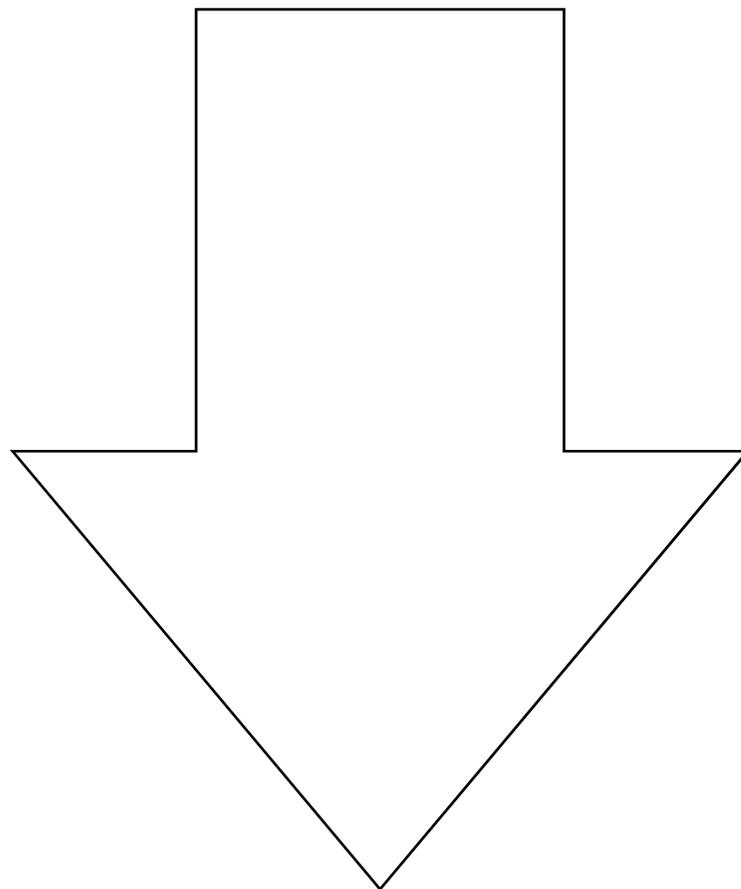
(Continued on page 4)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

March Tourism Statistics	4
MCB Bash	6
TV Trance	7
Copa Julia	8
Samur SGB Trip	8
Port of Bonaire Upgrade	9
Dive Festival Countdown	10
Referendum Chronicle	11
Gardner (Oleander, II)	12
Catch of the Week (French Angelfish)	12
35 Years Washington Park	15
Caving College	17
Sonora Group	17
Obituary	19
Trip to Mangrove Islands	22

## WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Police Update	5
Opinion (Eagle Subsidy)	5
Yacht List & Tide Table	9
Windsurf Scene (Italian Connection)	9
Picture Yourself (Patagonia, Chile)	15
Classifieds	16
Pet of the Week (Bruno)	16
Hit Parade	18
What's Happening	19
Shopping Guide	20
Dining Guide	20
On the Island Since (Yke & Ina Faber)	21
Bonaire Sky Park	23
The Stars Have It	23



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**Reporter@bonairenews.com**

*The Bonaire Reporter*, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles.

Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

**Reporters:** Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Dabney Lassiter, Ann Phelan, Michael Thiessen, Ap van Eldik, Gwen Wildeboer

**Features Editor:** Greta Kooistra; **Translations:** Peggy Bakker, Sue Ellen Felix

**Production:** Barbara Lockwood; **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo.

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# MARCH TOURISM RESULTS --the details:

Bonaire recorded an estimated 4,933 tourist arrivals for the month of March, 2004. Compared to March 2003, **tourist arrivals dropped 7%**. The **US decreased by 13%**, while **Europe decreased by 2%** compared to 2003. The **South American market recorded a fall of 39%**. Year-To-Date shows an increase of 10% for the North America market and 6% for European market. The **total Year-to-Date tourist arrivals increased by 6%**.

## North America Market

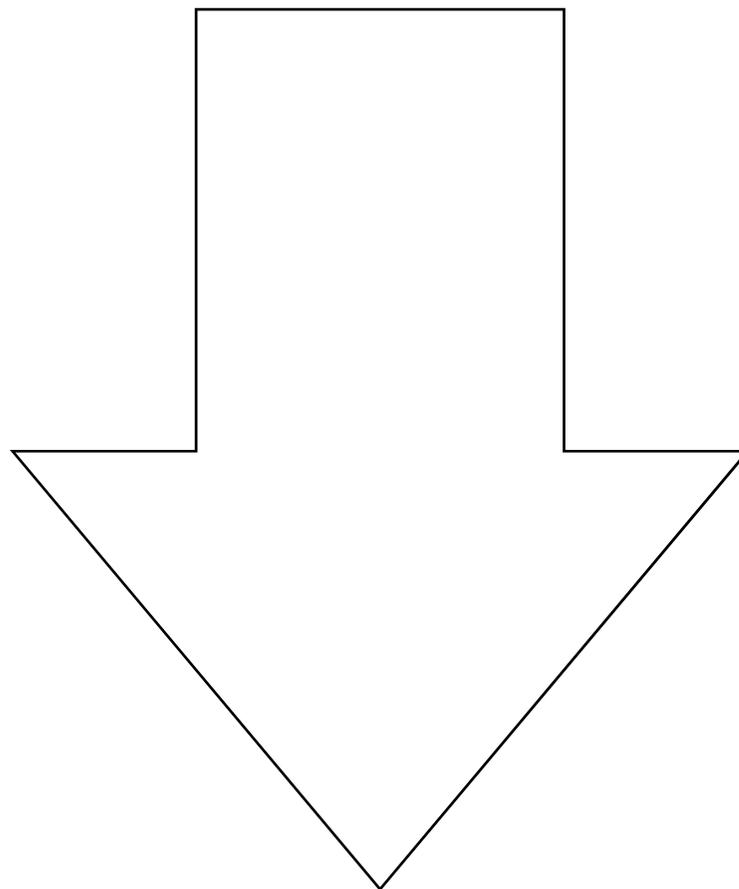
The US market decreased by 13% compared to 2003. This decline reflects the impact of the loss of three American Eagle flights per week, and the lag time of six weeks before Air Jamaica came on line with an additional flight. The awareness of the Thursday Air Jamaica flight has to yet penetrate the marketplace.

## European Market

The numbers from the European market, especially for the Netherlands, show a 2% decrease. There are fewer direct flights from Europe compared to 2003. It seems that more tourists need a flight to Curaçao or Aruba via Bonaire Exel. □

## TOURIST ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

MARCH 2004		Year to Date Totals								
2003	% of total	2004	% of total	% growth	2003	% of total	2004	% of total	% growth	
<b>North America</b>										
US	2,377	45%	2,060	42%	(13.3)	6,808	43%	7,273	44%	6.8
Canada	94	2%	152	3%	61.7	340	2%	593	4%	74.4
Total-2,471	46%	2,212	45%	(10.5)	7,148	46%	7,866	47%	10.0	
<b>Europe</b>										
Netherlands	1,584	30%	1,547	31%	(2.3)	4,774	30%	5,355	32%	12.2
Germany	272	5%	264	5%	(2.9)	630	4%	599	4%	(4.9)
Belgium	88	2%	54	1%	(38.6)	187	1%	175	1%	(6.4)
United Kingdom	132	2%	158	3%	19.7	413	3%	417	3%	1.0
Switzerland	71	1%	43	1%	(39.4)	183	1%	156	1%	(14.8)
Other	259	5%	192	4%	(25.9)	774	5%	692	4%	(10.6)
Total-2,406	45%	2,258	46%	(6.2)	6,961	44%	7,394	45%	6.2	
<b>South America</b>										
Venezuela	134	3%	82	2%	(38.8)	477	3%	314	2%	(34.2)
Other S.A.	117	2%	56	1%	(52.1)	460	3%	334	2%	(27.4)
Total-251	5%	138	3%	(45.0)	937	6%	648	4%	(30.8)	
<b>Caribbean</b>										
Aruba	123	2%	247	5%	100.8	419	3%	454	3%	8.4
Other Caribbean	38	1%	52	1%	36.8	125	1%	174	1%	39.2
Total-161	3%	299	6%	85.7	544	3%	628	4%	15.4	
Rest World	26	0%	26	1%	0.00	76	0%	70	0%	(7.89)
Total Tourist Arrivals	5,315	100%	4,933	100%	(7.2)	15,666	100%	16,606	100%	6.0



KILLING THE GOOSE

In our opinion Bonaire is well on the way to losing the American Tourist. Yes, the group that spends the most money (as proven by surveys), has the friendliest attitude and tips generously for service. Why? The prime reason is lack of convenient airlift; the second has been the government's preoccupation with all things Dutch. And now it seems that a body blow will further wallop American tourism. American Eagle has threatened to stop its daily service from San Juan, effective in September, unless the island provides a \$1,000/day subsidy. It's not because people aren't flying to Bonaire. It's because Bonaire is a high cost route for the airline as compared with its other Caribbean destinations. Flights to Bonaire take two hours; most Eastern Caribbean destinations take around an hour. Then the planes and pilots must spend the night, incurring further charges. Bonaire-San Juan tickets run around \$220; to other Caribbean destinations \$300+. At least one hotelier on the island feels that some accommodation must be made to subsidize American Eagle. It would be worth it, as the plane usually carries between 25 and 50 travelers who spend a week or so enjoying the island. Senator Booi, who has championed increased air service to Bonaire, especially from KLM, told *The Reporter* he wants to keep American Eagle flying here. But that, since the government has no



budget for subsidies, cash must come from the private sector. We don't want to diminish the contribution of Air Jamaica which will expand their flights to four a week and were among the first to rescue Bonaire when ALM (now DCA) stopped direct US flights and slashed service to our island. But Air Jamaica has only a handful of American airport gateways; American Airlines has about 160. We can't count on the rumors of non-stop US flights by Air Exel or Northwest Air charters out of Memphis which are, at this time, just that, rumors. But even with American Eagle continuing, Air Jamaica expanding and Bonair-Exel's convenient connecting service to Aruba with its plethora of US connections, there is still **NO non-stop service planned to America**. Tourists, especially Americans with their short vacations, take a dim view of spending whole days of their vacation involved with stopovers for a 2½ hour flight from US soil.

POLICE UPDATE



Assistant Prosecutor Justine Gonggrijp reports that:

- Four more drug smugglers were caught by the Flamingo Team at the Airport between May 12 and 16.
- Two Dutch nationals were arrested for cocaine possession last week when one of them entered a small wooden house on Kaya Grandi to purchase the drugs. Having been alerted by one of the suspects two weeks before the police were conducting a stakeout on the house. The suspects tried to flee in their car before being arrested. One of them is a teacher at the SGB (high school). The other is his neighbor.
- Last week a woman was jogging near the Andrea dive sites around 5:30 pm when she saw a young man running away in a suspicious manner. She yelled at him and started chasing him but he was far enough away so she couldn't catch him. She called the police on her cell phone. They arrived quickly and caught the suspect; how-

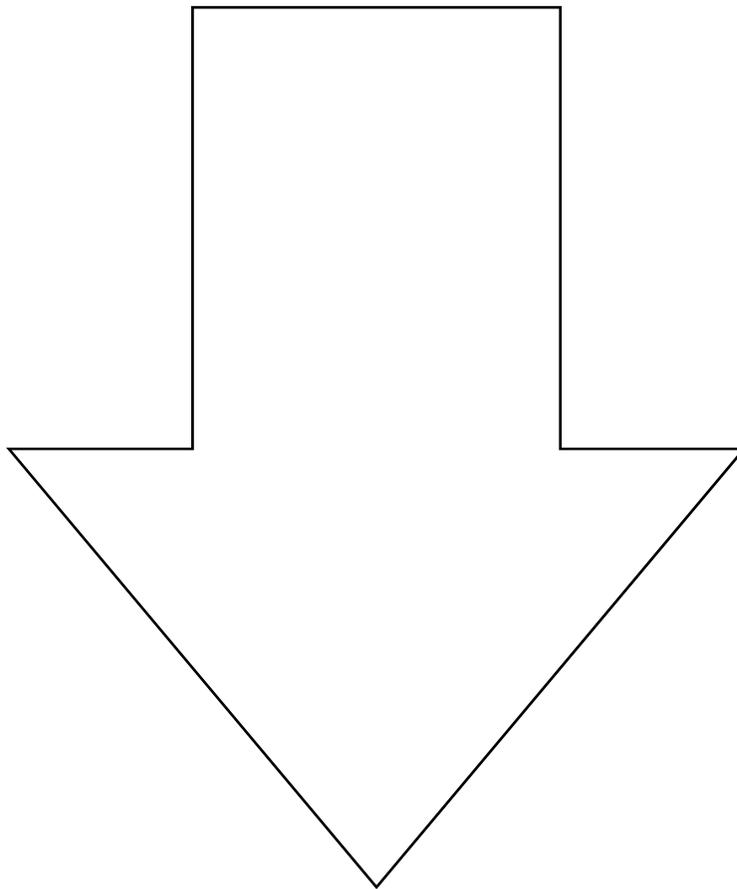
ever, he wasn't in possession of any stolen goods so he couldn't be held. A car at one of the dive sites had indeed been broken into.

Charles Souriel of the Police Department reports:

- Two suspects were arrested on May 16 in connection with the robbery on May 12 at the Oceanfront Apartments. Stolen were a laptop, cellular phone, \$1,800 and other items. The police received a tip and were able to collect enough information to arrest the suspects. During the investigation at the house of the suspects in the barrio of Senkura, the police retrieved the laptop. The suspects are two brothers, D. (26 years) and E. (28 years), who are being held during further investigation.
- On May 17 the police arrested a principal suspect in the Oceanfront Apartments robbery in the barrio of Karañito. He is R.P.S (19 years). Nothing was found but the suspect was interrogated and is being held in jail during further investigation. □ L.D.

There are fewer American tourists visiting Bonaire now than there were 10 years ago. One of the island's economic strengths is its dual source tourism-Europe and the USA. Doldrums in the economies of Europe are offset by buoyancy in America and vice versa. This is a valuable quality; we mustn't lose it even if the outcome of the upcoming

Referendum is to have closer ties with Holland Bonaire's private sector and government must put the same emphasis on American tourism that they've spent on Dutch and European markets. If not, through neglect, they will kill the goose that laid the first of Bonaire's golden eggs. □ G. D.





# MCB BASH

Following its board meeting in Bonaire, Maduro and Curiel's bank threw a big party at the Belle Fontana Courtyard at the Harbour Village Resort. The top bank officers from Curaçao and Bonaire were on hand to greet the guests, introduce the new head of the bank and hand out some generous gifts to two Bonaire community organizations. It drew many notable Bonaireans including leaders from business, the government and the press. □ *G.D.*



*Listening to the speakers*

*The changing of the guard. In September Chicu Capriles will take over the reins of MCB from his father, Lio (at rear)*



*MCB gave NAf10.000 donations to the Papa Cornes School and Rincon's Cocari Senior Citizens Center*



*Leaders of Bonaire: Senator Ramonsiti Booi, Governor Hubert Domacassé and First Lady Lena Domacassé*



*Commissioner Burney el Hage and his wife Senator Genia el Hage*



*Airline expert Larry Gerharts and his sister travel agent Nastasja*

*continued on page 7*



*Educator and ex-TV anchorwoman Ann Leong with Minister of Education Nolly Oleana*



*Outgoing MCB President Lio Capriles with his old-time friend, hotelier (Great Escape) Sylvia Abraham*

# TV TRANCE

In a fit of frustration have you ever wanted to hop a jet to a US gateway city for no other reason than to buy a *TV Guide*?

Since Flamingo TV no longer offers the monthly program magazine and TDS has never offered one at all (except for channel 1 which only tells what's on at the time you're checking it out) it's very difficult to find out what's coming on the tube.

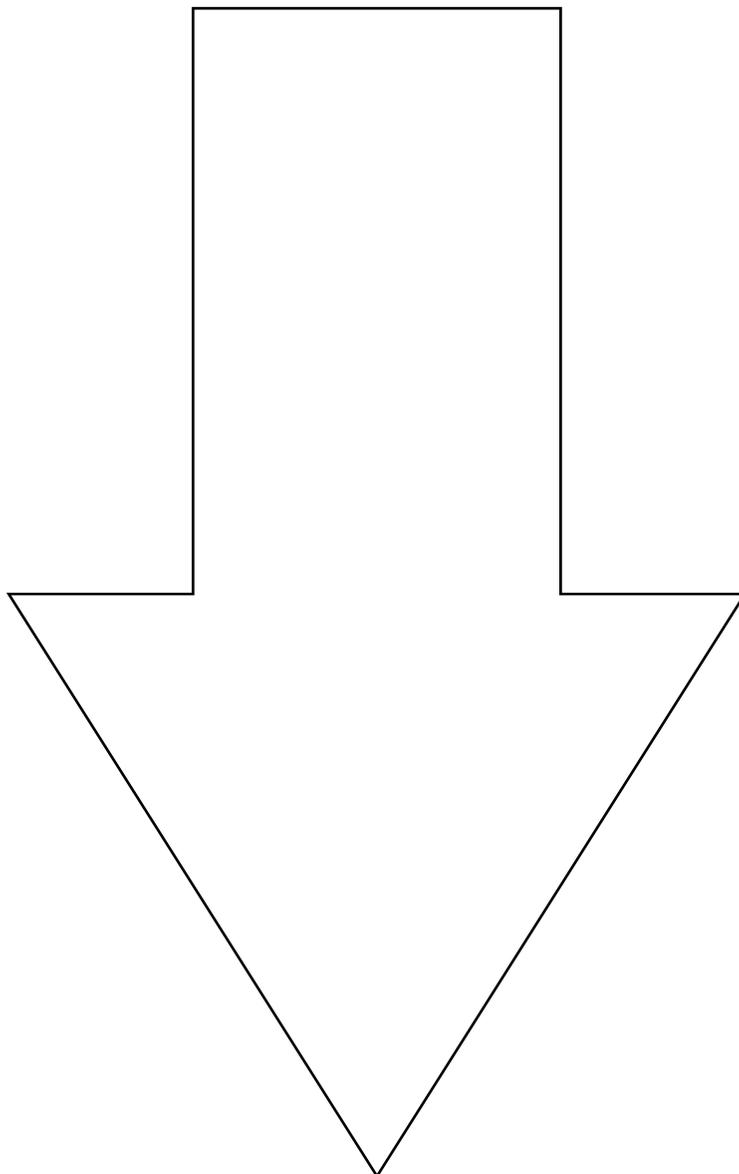
If you subscribe to TDS (the wireless cable provider from Curaçao) you can buy the daily edition of *Amigoe*, a Dutch language newspaper, where you'll find the listings. However, if you can't read Dutch, you'll be paying a few guilders a day just for the TV page which, thankfully, is printed in English.

But cheer up, you TV junkies, help is on the way. Boot up your computer and go to the Yahoo home page. Click on the TV icon. At the top of the page you will see My Personal Listings. Click on the Edit icon. By putting in a zip code you can bring up all TV listings from that area: Cable, Local, and Satellite.

You can also choose time zones. Unfortunately the Atlantic Time zone is not an option so the next best choice is Eastern Time. But remember, when Daylight Savings Time goes off we'll be an hour ahead of the Eastern zone. That means that we'll actually have to stay up until 11 pm to watch our favorite 10 pm shows. Yawn ... just can't do it! Thank heavens for VCRs.

Here's how to make your own TV Guide. Every day click on the Yahoo TV icon, click on Today, click on the time you're interested in, then print out your very own listing sheet. You'll then be 'in the know' and the envy of friends and neighbors everywhere. □ *Dabney Lassiter*

P.S. If you need an Eastern Time zone zip code try 27804, Cox Communications. Most of the channels we get here are listed with that provider.



# THE COPA JULIA

*Bonaire's Windsurfing Event for Youngsters*



*The Copa Julia is a real family event. Here Harbormaster Robby Sint Jago helps rig a sail with his daughter Silviene*

Sunday was the scene for the annual *Copa Julia*, the windsurfing competition named for Julia Martinus that is held on her birthday.

Her parents, Elvis Martinus and Suzie Swygart, created the event to celebrate. It was a day of light winds-perfect for the youngsters. There was food, drink, windsurfing and prizes. Parents and spectators were treated to the typical adrenaline-filled windsurfing thrills that make the Bonaire Sailing Team world popular.

The Kids division ran a two-buoy slalom race where Italy-bound Amado Vrieswijk dominated the heats, placing first. He was chased down hard by Kiran Badloe who is showing that training hard pays off. This kid is emerging as another great Bonairean talent. Young Jurgen Saragoza placed third in this high speed event. His training time in Maui was reflected in his speed and finesse.

The Juniors competed in a genuine freestyle contest. The winds were light, but the multi talented sailor, Bjorn Saragoza, took top place with his fancy moves and winning smile. The judges were greatly impressed with his *Vulcans* and other difficult moves. Endro Finies was a hot second showing that time on the water counts. A newcomer to the podium was Hendrick Balentine who impressed the judges with his cool moves. It's refreshing to see newbies win big at the local events.

In the Men's competition it was a hot race between winner Clay Finies, who, incidentally, was celebrating his 17th

birthday. Clay threw some serious *Flakas* and other difficult moves. Following close was new star, Jaeger Sint Jago. This wiz kid has been sailing just over a year and is clearly one to watch in local and regional events. He is talented and fearless. His *Spock-540* dazzled the crowds and won him second place. Star teen Christopher Bernabella placed third in a very competitive event. Chris is a shy and humble kid but on the water he is on fire. He will see many a winning podium in years to come.

In the popular Pro Division, brothers Tonky and Taty Frans duked it out, with Tonky winning by a slim margin. Both brothers are preparing for the PWA and if this weekend is a sample of what's to come, the riders on the tour need to beware. Kiri Thode was outstanding performing an astounding level of aerial moves.

In the end the "Baby Division" treated the crowd to a wonderful performance. The babies are always the crowd pleasers with their adorable smiles and cute ways. Queen for the day Julia and other kids such as Goo Goo Martis were wowing the crowd. Afterwards, Julia presented awards and trophies to the winners. Group pictures were taken and of course there was birthday cake for all.

The windsurf culture and tradition is a wonderful aspect of life in Bonaire and the kids, parents and volunteers really work hard in all arenas to make it happen. Next up are the sailors heading to Croatia and Cape Cod. Go Bonaire! □  
*Ann Phelan*

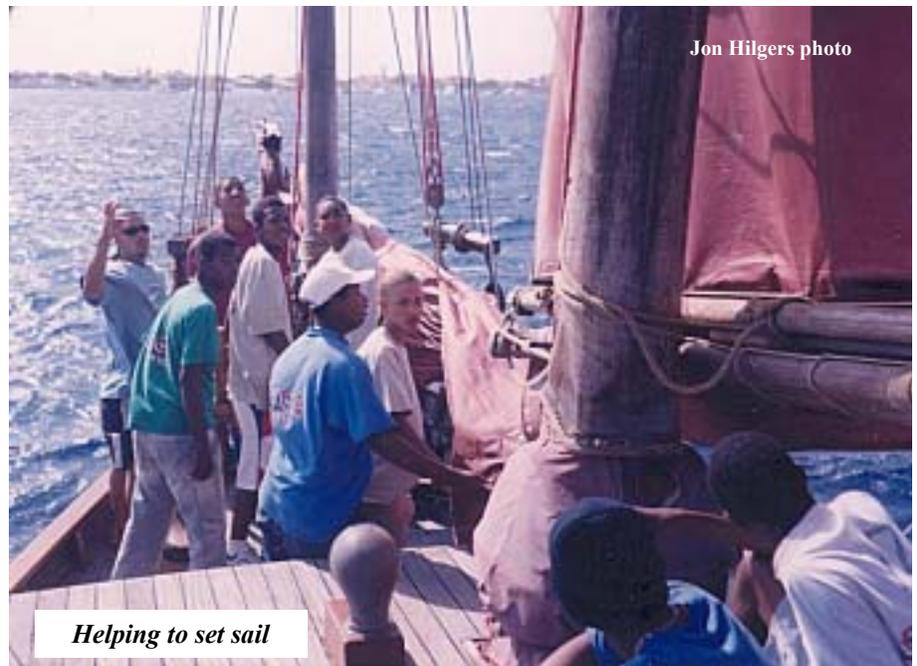
# SAMUR SAILING TRIP FOR SGB KIDS



Jon Hilgers photo

*The SGB sailors*

It was a great day last week when 16 kids and four teachers from the SGB got to go sailing on the *Samur* with Capt. Chris, Yvonne and Mate Victor. The students are from the AGO (technical education section for studies in car repair and hotel, restaurant and construction work). They got to hoist the sails, steer the boat and act as lookout. On a tour through the interior they checked out the heads (toilets), the master stateroom bed and sat in the shower/bath tub. Yvonne gave a little history of the boat, how it was originally built for cargo, then remodeled for a family. The kids were particularly impressed with the fact that the boat's dragon figurehead is the same design as that in gold in the garden of the king of Thailand. The trip was made possible for the students by funds from the SGB and the generosity of the *Samur* crew who charged a very reduced price. □ *L.D.*



Jon Hilgers photo

*Helping to set sail*

## WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON THE ITALIAN CONNECTION CONTINUES

The Italian - Bonaire Connection continues as three young Bonairean guns in the windsurf scene head to Lake Garda in Northern Italy at month's end. Hot Sails Maui and Starboard have invited their three prize winning team riders, **Amado Vrieswijk and the Saragoza brothers,**



*Under the judges' stand is a popular place for the young windsurfers to wait their turn to race*

**Bjorn and Jurgen,** to Italy for Surf Festival, an annual windsurfing expo held in Lake Garda every May. This is an exciting cultural opportunity for three deserving windsurf kids.

The main feature of this event is a trade show and, of course, competition. Hot Sails Maui and Starboard recognize the skills and abilities of these hard training youngsters and support them in many ways. While in Italy the boys will be Bonaire's ambassadors, representing the pre-teen division of this now world renowned team.

Bonairean windsurfers are widely recognized as hard training individuals with incredible talent. Other countries are modeling Bonaire by creating "teams" to attend competitions and events. Since Bonaire is also one of the most popular stops on the Professional Windsurfing Association (PWA) Tour, the boys' visit will make their visit to Europe even more significant.

The boys will be accompanied by their parents and coach/windsurf guru of Bonaire, Elvis Martinus. While in Italy, Elvis will promote the King of the Caribbean event and work on sponsorship opportunities for both the event and deserving windsurfers. We wish them all bon voyage and best of luck in their travels. □

*Ann Phelan*

## PORT of BONAIRE TO UPGRADE



*Car carrier at the Town Pier*

Antillean officials have been meeting on maritime security, focusing on a new international security code to be in place by July 1, 2004, to make ships and port facilities more secure. Following the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) ordered ports worldwide to conform to the ISPS (International Ship and Port Facility Security) Code. It applies to all ports and vessels over 500 tons, which would include some of the mega yachts and many of the ships that call at Bonaire. Port requirements include a fencing-in the site, 24-hour guards, camera surveillance and more. The cost of implementing port security is considerable. Just doing the first phase would cost NAf400.000. In addition to the expense, Bonaire has other problems in meeting the requirements. People are accustomed to fishing from the docks, and night diving under them is a popular attraction for SCUBA divers. Bonaire officials are working on a plan to preserve these practices and still meet the ISPS requirements. □ *G.D.*

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

*Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides*

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
5-21	1:59	2.0FT.	0.7FT. 7
5-22	2:34	1.9FT.	13:00 0.7FT. 7
5-23	3:13	1.9FT.	13:35 0.7FT. 6
5-24	3:49	1.8FT.	14:01 0.7FT. 6
5-25	4:35	1.8FT.	14:22 0.8FT. 5
5-26	5:26	1.6FT.	14:36 0.9FT. 4
5-27	6:18	1.5FT.	14:38 0.9FT. 43
5-28	3:35	1.4FT.	7:27 1.4FT. 14:25 1.0FT. 21:53 1.5FT. 42

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alegria	Henderberg	Rusty Bucket
Angie	Honalee, USA	Sabbatical, USA
Astrolabe	Jalapeno	Sandpiper, USA
Bird of Paradise	Jupiter	Santa Maria, Sweden
Blauwe Crab, Curaçao	La Contenta	Scintilla, Germany
Betty Jane	La Escotilla	Sitiraz
Borealis	Lady Awce De Serk	Sirius
Camissa, Chan Is.	Lady Diane	Sijoiumer
Camperdown	Lionstar	Sovereign III
Cape Kathryn	Lovina	Surprise, USA
Cappoquin	Libertijn	Sundancer III
Caravela	Lucky Lobster, Curacao	Sylvia K
Carpe Diem	Luna C	Triumphant Lady
Danette	Macaby, Netherlands	Ta B
Dream Maker	Magalita	Ti Amo, USA
El Sabor	Misty Blue	Today, USA
Felecia	Natural Selection, USA	Traveler, Canada
Fifth Season	Nieke	Trio
Flying Cloud, USA	Nuance	Ulu Ulu, USA
Gabrielle, USA	Pamela Jean	Unicorn, Norway
Galadrial, USA	Perseverance	Varedhuni, Germany
Gatsby, USA	Polecat	Ya-T, BVI
Goril Too	Precocious Gale, USA	Zeno's Arrow, USA
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Queen of Hearts	
Hannah	Rhapsody	



► Many of us have missed the **Open House Weekends at the LVV** (agricultural department) where demonstrations would be given on how and what to plant on the island, different kinds of shade houses, advice on feeding and spraying and even the opportunity to win a goat or a black bellied sheep. According to Director Rocky Emers, LVV needs money from the government (about NA/300) to put on an open house. LVV in turn increases that amount by selling tickets to a BBQ and other activities which bring in much more revenue. It's sad, but you still may visit LVV during the week, Monday through Friday, until 4 pm. They sell goats, sheep, plants and trees, plant food, insecticides and more. Stop by and see what a fine job they're doing to help the *kunukeros* –farmers (and *kunukero* wanna-be's) grow produce and fine livestock that can flourish on the island. They're on the Lagoon Road, just past the Animal Shelter. Tel. 717-8836.

► Veterinarian Jan Laarakker reports that it is **no longer necessary to have blood samples taken from your animals** when you export them to Europe. This was a long and costly operation and discouraged people from bringing their animals back to Europe with them. However, all the other requirements are still in force: the animal must have an ID chip or tattoo, it must have a rabies shot and a health certificate from a vet.

► More news from the LVV. **A very large cage has been built to house those Loras (Bonaire parrots) that are confiscated from owners who have not had their birds banded and registered.** Up until recently the cage has been empty. But now there's one lonesome Lora in it, and it has a band. Unfortunately, the number on the band doesn't coincide with the number that was given to its owner. If anyone has lost a banded Lora, contact the LVV and show them your registration paper. Tel. 717-8836.

► **The people of Rincon are sick of the second class service** they say they are getting from the police. More Rinconeros are becoming the victims of minor crime like burglary and theft according to a report in the local press. The villagers are once again, as they did in the past, pressuring the government to assign more policemen to their village to reverse this trend. Two of Bonaire's elected officials from the UPB (green) party, Ginia El Hage-Cecilia and James Kroon, have written to the Lt. Governor asking for his help.

► At the General Membership meeting of the **Democratic Party (PDB-red)** on May 15, the following **officers** were elected:

- **President**-Ben Oleana (teacher and

former head of Selibon)

- **Vice President**- Nolly Oleana (acting Minister of Education)
- **Secretary General**- Jubella Balentien, (school mistress)

► **"Dia di Arte," Art Day**, is the event where Bonairean artists, painters, poets, sculptors, musicians and others demonstrate their talent. If you are one of those artists you have until May 31<sup>st</sup> to reserve your space in Wilhelmina Park for the event. If you're not an artist and want to help out you can volunteer. Contact one of the following people to make arrangements: Edwin Martijn, 786-8400; Misheyla Sint Jago, 785-3692; Desiree Silberie, 790-2807; Eduard Santaris, 785-6415, Mary Tjin A Sjoe, 785-7267 or Emma Sint Jago 717-7420.



► The Gospel Concert, Film and Song Festival, in celebration of the **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Church in Rincon**, will take place this coming week in the garden of the Protestant Church in Rincon. Admission is free and everybody is welcome at both the Church Services and the reception. See *Happenings* for details of events and times. □ *L./G. D.*

## FASHION SHOW FOR THE FESTIVAL

As the date nears more and more special events for the Dive Festival are being announced. For example, Palm Trading will organize two unique Dive and Beachwear Fashion Shows during the festival. The first show will be on **Wednesday, June 9**, at the **Divi Flamingo Resort**, at the poolside terrace, next to the casino.

The second show will be during the second week of the Dive Festival, on **Thursday, June 17**, at the **Buddy Dive Resort** around the pool bar. **Rosita Paiman**, of **Fit 4 Life** and a regular *Bonaire Reporter* contributor, will produce both shows.

Featured will be part of the latest summer collection of Brunotti sports and beachwear and will include a selection of their large assortment dive wear and accessories of the BARE brand Wetsuits, TUSA and Cressi-Sub Dive Gear. Both shows start at 7 pm. There will be a bar, a buffet and great prizes to win. Captain Don's Habitat is planning at least two more surprises and we'll fill you in next week.



*Santa won't be at the Dive Festival, but Rosita Paiman, right, will again put on a fast paced fashion show as she did one Christmas.*

## WEEK TWO

In the last issue we brought you the schedule for the first week of the Dive Festival. Here's the second week's schedule:

**Saturday June 12**  
12-6 pm Festival registration at Bonaire Tourist Office  
Free day to explore Bonaire and take advantage of specials in the voucher booklet \*\*

**Sunday June 13**  
8 am- 4 pm Dive Festival Registration at the Bonaire Tourist Office.  
9:30 am-2 pm Lac Bay/ Mangrove Discovery Day.  
4 pm Local food, live music and Informal Opening Ceremony for 2nd week of Festival at Lac Bay\*

### Monday June 14

11 am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives.  
7:30 pm Local Photo Pros' Demonstration followed by evening presentation by Philippe Cousteau and Stephen Frink at Captain Don's Habitat, followed by a BBQ\*

### Tuesday June 15

11 am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives.  
7 - 10 pm Dive Festival *Ban Topa* Rincon with local food and music, marketplace, and brass band

### Wednesday June 16

11 am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives, Surprise Underwater Treasure Hunt (Registration required).  
In the evening sample one of Bonaire's restaurants listed in the voucher booklet \*\*

### Thursday June 17

11 am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives.  
7 pm Dive & Sportswear Fashion Show at Buddy Dive Resort, followed by a Mexican Buffet\*

### Friday June 18

11am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives.  
7 pm Goodbye BBQ with live music at CoCo's Beach Bar in Kralendijk\*

\* Show your Dive Festival wristband to get the special Dive Festival prices for food and drinks during the evening. Some Dive Festival activities are at an additional cost. The program is subject to change.

\*\* To make exploring Bonaire easier during the Festival a number of restaurants will be offering Dive Festival specials, designated Dive Festival taxis will offer special rates and a voucher booklet containing specials at many of the Island's stores will be offered for purchase at a discounted price. Many of Bonaire's hotels are offering special Festival packages. If you are interested in attending the Dive Festival call 1-800-BONAIRE or visit the official Dive Festival website at <http://www.bonairedivefestival.com> for the most current Festival information and a list of special Dive Festival hotel packages being offered. □ *Press*

COUNTDOWN  
TO THE  
DIVE  
FESTIVAL



14 DAYS TO GO



*Artist Germain Nijdam (center) presented one of her works to the TCB Festival team of Desiree Marchena and Delno Tromp which will be given to one of the International Speakers at the Festival.*

# Referendum Chronicle

**NOS FUTURE, BAN P'EI  
(OUR FUTURE-LET'S GO FOR IT.)**

The activity surrounding the upcoming Referendum is getting more intense as clarity is being brought to the choices and the July 2<sup>nd</sup> voting date is confirmed.

A two-ballot system, with each ballot a different color, has been chosen to highlight the differences between the questions. The first ballot is to specify whether Bonaire should be independent of any mother country (go off on its own) or stay connected with the Dutch Kingdom (the Kingdom includes The Netherlands, The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba).

If voters choose independence they don't have to cast a second ballot because in that second ballot they will be asked just how they want the connection to be maintained: as it is today, as a separate member of the Kingdom or have a direct relationship (which would have to be defined by negotiation) with The Netherlands.

## **Where does Bonaire fit within the Kingdom of the Netherlands?**

There is confusion in many voters' minds because of the way the Kingdom of the Netherlands is currently defined. On paper, that is as defined by laws, the Kingdom is a **federation** of three sovereign states with equal rights. But in practice it operates more as a **confederation**, an alliance of states, more or less permanently united. In the almost 50 years of its existence it has proven to be an effective method of government and reasonably flexible to accommodate the needs of its members. Bonaire is a junior partner in one of those states, The Netherlands Antilles, which is considering changing its status for

various reasons. But except for a Referendum, which is non-binding on any member of the Kingdom, Bonaire can't make its voice heard.

## **Why is Bonaire speaking out now?**

Ten years ago Bonaire voted overwhelmingly (90% of votes cast) to remain part of the Netherlands Antilles. But the failure of the Central Government to bring promised prosperity to the Antilles, predatory practices by the Curaçao-led Central Government and, most recently, proven corruption at the highest levels of that government have motivated Bonaire's elected officials to go to the people formally, via Referendum, to ask their opinion about alterna-

tives. It didn't hurt to have all the Dutch political parties say they would be willing to deal directly with Bonaire. Up until then the stated Dutch policy had been to only deal through the Central Government.

If the result of the Referendum is for a change from the present status it will require comprehensive negotiations to formulate a new arrangement. For *status aparté* Aruba could serve as a model, for independence, Surinam, but if a close Dutch relationship is desired new laws and tough negotiations will follow. There is no model.

In the coming weeks *The Reporter* will try to present unbiased and researched views on the choices and simplify the issues. No matter which options you eventually choose, **voting in the Referendum is a must** to provide a mandate that is recognized not only by kingdom partners, but also by the UN.

## **The Next Meetings**

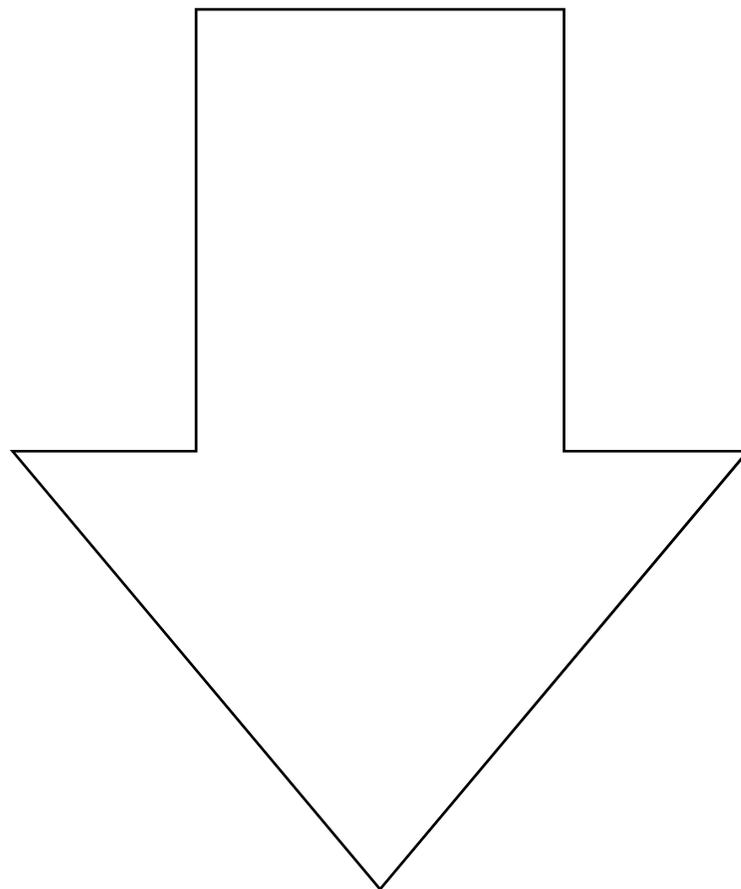
The next Referendum public information meeting will be in North Salina on

The aim of the **Chronicle** team of editorial and staff writers is to inform, not to influence public opinion or "sell" a particular option. Critical comments, useful additions and questions by the readers are welcomed and published whenever possible. Active co-operation and exchange of information is sought with the local/regional media (press, radio, TV), and the official Referendum Commission. Any item in the Referendum Chronicle may be freely quoted and/or downloaded via Internet. Opinions expressed are solely those of the writers. □



**The cover of a Referendum Bulletin**

Saturday, May 22 (10 am-noon) and will continue in the other barrios in the coming weeks. There will be a continuation of consultation with the island's NGOs on May 25 with a meeting at the Sentro di Bario in Antriol. On June 1 there will be another info night at the Sentro di Bario in Rincon, on June 8 in the Sentro di Bario of Tera Kòrá and on June 15 at Jong Bonaire. All will be in the evening from 19.30 to 21.30. □ *Chronicles*



This is my second article about one of Bonaire's most frequently planted groups of plants, the *Nerium oleander*, or Oleander, as most people call it. The reasons why it is used so much are simple. There is a different variety for every site as long as the plant receives full sun. They don't need much water; they don't mind a lot of wind; they need little nutrition; and they bloom almost all year round. What more can you expect from a plant on Bonaire? Now I will describe the different groups and their use.

## HEDGING TYPES

The most frequently used are those types for hedging. The oleander is perfect for this, as long as you choose the right variety. There are a lot of high growing cultivars in different colors. The one I use most is a **double flowered dark rose**. It's very fast growing and easy to prune. There is also another close-growing one that's a **little more red**. I found this one somewhere on Bonaire and I started making cuttings of it. They have no diseases, bloom all the time and make a very close hedge of about four meters high. (In a later article I will talk more about pruning.) Another good one is the red colored "**Calypso**," which is even fragrant! There are also some nice white or cream cultivars. The strongest white one I have to mention is called "**Sister Agnes**." This also is a very strong growing type but doesn't bloom as much. What's in a name? A very good cream-white one is called the "**Luteum Plenum**" and is planted a lot at Habitat Oasis. This one is really healthy and probably your best choice if you want a light color.

## LOWER GROWING TYPES

Another group of Oleander is the lower growing type, but they're also suitable for small hedges and filling in of big spaces in your garden. The best group for these purposes is the different, so called "**Hawaii**" types. They come in a nice rose that's really strong colored and a new one, the **yellow**, and even **pink**. They will not grow up straight because of their very big clusters of flowers, but that is what makes them attractive. If you let them grow out they can really get big, but it is nicer to keep them trimmed a bit. The best variety, however, for this purpose is a cultivar that I found some years ago. I was supposed to get a new dwarf variety from Florida, but instead they sent me a new type that is very easy to trim, has **bright rose/pinkish flowers** and blooms all the time. They make the per-



*Fragrant Oleander Calypso*



*Oleander Luteum Plenum*

fect healthy smaller hedge up to two meters tall.

A new type, that we have for the first time now, is the *Nerium oleander*, "**Salmon Delight**," a very beautiful strong one, with, of course, salmon colored flowers.

## SMALL GROWING TYPES

The last group is the small growing type, mostly called the Dwarf Oleander. Of this type, there are two varieties: the **O. Petit Pink** and the **O. Petit Salmon**. The Salmon seems a little stronger, as the Petit Pink seems to have problems with all types of fungus after a few years. Both make very nice small hedges and can also be used a border plant. The best variety for this purpose, however, is a new one, the **O. Icy Pink**, a very bright rose/pink flowering type. These are my favorites; they bloom all year round in very different colors. They make perfect border plants and hardly ever need pruning.

I think this is enough information and you will probably be tired now of all

## FRENCH ANGELFISH

If you've never seen an angel, this is your chance. If you're too down-to-earth to believe in angels, remember this article the next time you stick your head in the water. On most dives, and also on snorkel trips, you'll find the beautiful French Angelfish (*Pomacanthus paru*) slowly swimming by. Other Angelfishes can also be seen in these waters, but always remember that it looks like the French, like a good glass of champagne, since the French Angelfish is dark, with many golden bubbles on his sides. Adults are about the size of a dinner plate and their golden-rimmed pectoral fin, gills and eyes make them lovely chinaware. A white mouth completes the picture. It's been said that French Angels are monogamous, and often spend half of the day with their mate, so if you see two almost identical angels coming by, you're absolutely fine. As picky as these fish are in partnerships though, they are not exactly bothered by haute cuisine; they are omnivores and eat sponges as well as invertebrates. There are not many species that eat the distasteful sponges, so it's believed that the appetite of the French Angelfish, which has evolved recently (in geological terms), is a reaction to the enlarged rivalry for provisions on the reefs.

French Angelfishes usually don't worry about divers and can be approached very closely. They can be aggressive though, but you don't have to worry about that, unless you're looking similar to them and try to mess with their sexual behaviour. These fishes really belong in these Caribbean waters when you look at their slow pace of swimming, and even their reproduction doesn't cost them much effort. You might think this makes them an easy prey, but the round and flat shape of their lovely body would be a real hiccup for any fish looking for a quick meal. There are only a few reported sightings of the disappointing mating of French Angels. They swim together, rise together a couple of feet, with their abdominals towards each other, and then the cosiness is over already. No quick dart to heaven, no big cloud of gametes.



ReefNet Photo

*French Angelfish*

In fact, now that I come to think of it, the adults are a bit dull, but of course still beautiful for a photo shoot.

This dullness is certainly not a birth defect, for the juveniles are one of the cutest and busiest fishes on our reefs. Up to about three inches in length, they dart along the rubble, play hide and seek with you and flutter with their oversized fins. Since they're minors, they don't have the champagne bubbles yet, but instead have three golden body bars, a tail lined in gold and a golden band on the forehead to the upper lip, and then around the mouth. If you're not sure whether the youngster is a French or a Grey Angelfish (since there has been a reporting of a juvenile Grey Angelfish just lately), examine the tail and decide if it is round and lined with gold (French), or flat and clear (Grey).

Although you would think these kids are too excited to take any task seriously, they're very good at cleaning. They'll take away parasites and debris for their customers and even swim unafraid into the mouths of really big fish to clean gills and teeth. They can easily use their black and gold pattern as advertisement, even though they're only seen as secondary cleaners. When they grow up, their bars fade, the tail becomes dark, the pectoral fin extends and the champagne bubbles appear on the sides. So the intermediates have a bit of everything and only have to focus on adapting to the slow Bonairean pace.

If you still don't believe in angels, I'll give you another chance someday with the Queen Angelfish (*Holacanthus ciliaris*). □ *Gwen Wildeboer*

those names, but the good thing is: they all are growing somewhere on Bonaire. Ask your gardener where they can be seen so you have a good picture of what to expect! □ *Ap van Eldik*

*Ap van Eldik owns Green Label Landscaping, a company that designs constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. He has two nurseries and a garden shop in Kralendijk which carries an array of terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410*

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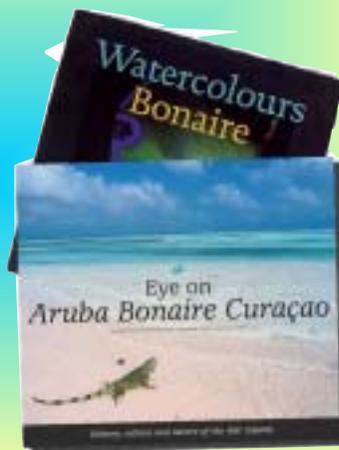
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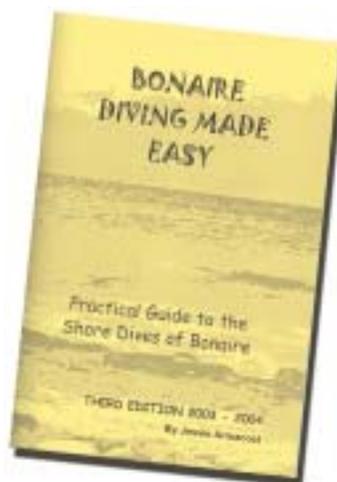
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*The refurbished Park museum houses an exhibit of the details of trees that grow in the park*

To celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Washington-Slagbaai National Park, STINAPA is organizing a day full of activities in Washington Park for young and old. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the festivities on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> May from 8 am to 5 pm. And it's all free. As we go to press the Park's roads are being graded to smoothness not felt in a long time to make for a convenient and comfortable visit.

### SOFT ADVENTURE

Put on your hiking shoes and climb the *Kasikunda* or hike along the *Lagadishi* Walking Trail. Feeling more adventurous? Let the breeze of the early morning catch you while biking through the arid landscape of the park followed by a breathtaking kayak trip from *Benge* to *Slagbaai*.

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS

For the younger ones, there will be a number of activities to keep them busy. We have an exciting treasure hunt at the entrance of the Park, several craft and painting projects and more...

### INDOOR MUSEUM and OUTDOOR EXHIBITION

At our Park entrance, you will find a state-of-the-art museum and outdoor exhibit that takes you through Bonaire's history and formation; from life on the plantations in the early days, to Bonaire's unique flora, fauna and geology.



Stinapa photo

**Road repair in the Park**

### LOCAL MARKET

Come and enjoy our local food and typical Bonairean snacks and sweets and local art and music during our traditional local market from Rincon. For the first time ever in the Park! Don't miss this day, filled with fun and excitement! For more information contact STINAPA on 717-8444 □

*Stinapa Release*



*The new picnic pavilion at the entrance to Washington Park*



## PATAGONIA, CHILI

Bonaire residents Jan and Wol van Groenewoud took an issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* with them on a trip through Chile to make sure they could have this picture taken. They write:

"The first week of February we were in Patagonia and stayed four days in the famous 'Parque Nacional Torres del Paine.' This photo was taken on one of these days in front of the 'Cuernos del Paine,' a part of the same formation as the Torres del Paine." □

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**PET of the WEEK**



"Bruno"

This is a story of a dog who's made a big change in his life. "Bruno," this sweet faced, Weimaraner look alike, was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter by his owner because, according to him, Bruno was always fighting with the man's two other dogs. But what a big change came over him since he's been living at the Shelter. He was castrated and he's calmed down a lot and gets along beautifully with all his other Shelter mates. According to the Shelter staff he'll make an excellent watch dog because he's so alert and smart and extremely trainable. And he has a fine character. Bruno is about three years old. In the looks department Bruno is a winner with his gray and white coat and amber eyes. You may see Bruno for yourself at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

Don't forget; write it in your agenda: **The Shelter's Massive Sterilization Program, October 18 to 30.** This is a project that needs community-wide participation. Six veterinarians will be coming to the island to donate their time to sterilize 300 dogs. Volunteers will be assisting with the operations

and helping to bring the dogs in. The target group will be those dogs that are fed but not kept off the streets. They're not sterilized and when the females go into heat they're chased by herds of males, resulting in "gang rapes." The public should get involved with the program by talking to those people whose dogs are on the street. Encourage them to call 717-4989 and bring them into the Shelter, where the sterilization is free during those two weeks. The main idea of this program is to help the dogs, but the whole community will benefit. So please help to get the word out! □L.D.

**FREE STERILIZATION PROGRAM**

**OCTOBER 18 to 30. Call 717-4989**

**Animal Shelter's Community-wide Program**

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

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## CAVING COLLEGE



*The Graduates*

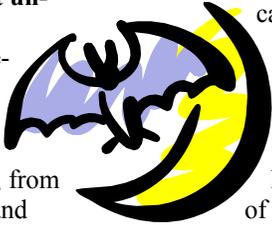
Recently a group of 15 persons received their certificates which allows them to lead cave expeditions into three caves on the island that are designated for exploration. **These caves will be visited only under the guidance of a specially certified cave guide. By giving these specific caves a commercial function, the other, more sensitive, caves are left untouched.**

Future cave guides were representatives of the cave tour operators from Buddy Dive and Plaza, Bon Eco Experience, Bonaire Guide Services, from the TCB, police department, and customs.

The course was held on May 7, 8 and 10 and was conducted by local cave expert Papi Cecilia and DROB's Gijs van Hoorn. The course is a result of the covenant that the resorts and activity providers on island signed with the Government of Bonaire, STINAPA, Santa Barbara Development Company N.V (SABADECO) and the Tourism Corporation Bonaire in which it was agreed **not only to protect the caves and use/visit them in a responsible way, but also to train the guides who**

### **conduct the cave tours/excursions.**

The participants had lectures by Papi Cecilia, Gijs van Horn, Washington Park Manager/Interim Manager of the Marine Park, Fernando Simal, Stinapa Director Elsmarie Beukenboom, Hans Voerman of Bonaire Guide Services and others during two mornings. The third day's class was spent entering the caves themselves.



Besides safety and first aid issues the guides also learned about the history of the caves, the animals living in them and the role of the caves in the entire ecology system. The now-official cave guides each received a badge and a certificate during a ceremony on May 12<sup>th</sup> which was held at Buddy Dive. Hopefully this program of opening the three caves to be entered with a guide will satisfy those who have an overwhelming interest in exploring caves so that Bonaire's other environmentally sensitive caves and their equally sensitive animal inhabitants can be left alone and in peace. □ L.D.

## MUSIC GROUP SONORA MATANCERA COMES TO BONAIRE



*Sonora Matancera in the 70s*

**S**onora Matancera is considered the oldest and most popular music band of South America and the Caribbean, and they'll be performing in Bonaire again after 34 years! They'll play one performance only at the BSF Tennis Courts in the center of Playa, behind MCB Bank, on Saturday, June 5, from 9 pm to 3 am the next morning. Tickets are NAf50 and are available at Lisa Gas, Tusnara Snack in Rincon and Gas Express. There is also the option of purchasing a "Red Carpet Ticket" for US\$300 which entitles four persons to be seated at a table with drinks and snacks. The local group, Glenn & Friends Combo di Boneiru will play as well. Sonora Matancera has propelled a broad group of excellent salsa singers to stardom, including the "Queen of Salsa," the late Celia Cruz. The band was formed in January, 1924, in the Cuban province of Matanzas, as a sextet called "Tuna Liberal" (a liberal oriented student group of musicians). Later the name was changed to *Estudiantina Sonora Matancera*. In 1927, on their way to play in Havana, they went from town to town, playing and singing in every township to pay for their food and lodging. Intending to stay only a week the group ended up making Havana their headquarters for many years. They were invited to play at the Alhambra Theatre in New York and in 1928 started recording 78 rpm records for Victor and Columbia. By the early 30s the name was changed permanently to *Sonora Matancera*. In 1944 a big change took place when most of the guitars were replaced by a piano and an additional trumpet. The band, consisting of many top stars, delivered the best in Cuban/Latino music, creating a very distinct and unique rhythm and sound that has never been copied. For 30 years they performed on Radio Progreso which reached, via short wave, most of the Caribbean area, southern Florida and parts of Central and South America. Their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary was honored by the Mayor of New York City with a special proclamation making March 23, 1979, as "The Day of the *Sonora Matancera*." Another highlight was a record-breaking presentation with

Celia Cruz in Tenerife, Canary Islands, in 1986. And in the Plaza Madrid they attracted an audience of 240,000, which made the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest audience by a Latin American Band. Their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary they celebrated in Carnegie Hall and in an open concert in Central Park, presenting 15 of the original singers.

Although all the original members and most of their successors have passed away, the same spirit remains intact, delighting club, concert hall and party goers. Dancers and non dancers love to dance and listen to the melting sounds of sweet swinging rhythm and melody. Today's group is under the direction of Raymundo Vazquez, bass, and Javier Vazquez, keyboard, both sons of the co-founder Pablo Vazquez. The conga player is Celio Gonzalez, son of Celio Gonzalez, golden record winner with the group and still vigorously performing at 80 years. Singers are Massiel Andreu, Jorge Maldonado, an old timer, and Dario Rosado. On the drums is Edgar Lopez, Jose Cruz, pianist and Robert Olivera and Domingo Suarez on trumpets.

This will be an historic and unique opportunity to hear a great, one-of-a-kind band! □ L.D.



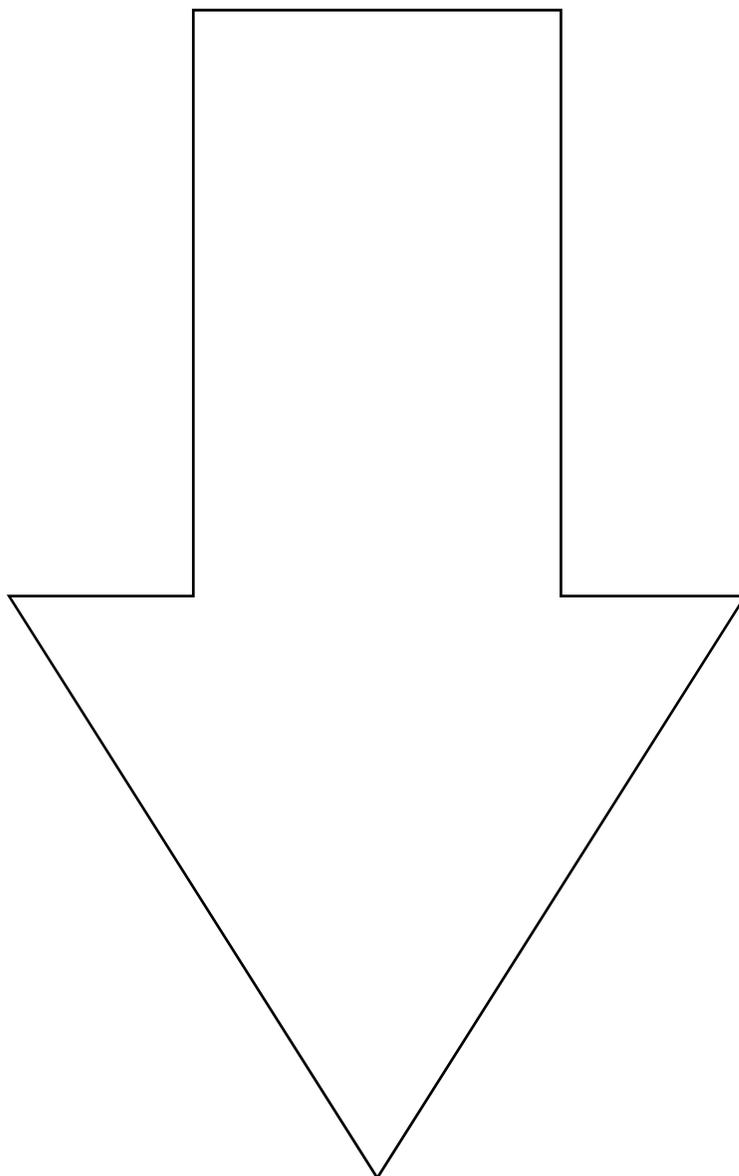
# BONAIRE HIT PARADE



TW	LW	#WEEKS	BAND	SONG TITLE
1.	2	7	MEGA	MI KURASON TEY PA BO
2.	1	6	USHER/LUDA/LIL JON'	YEAH
3.	1	7	BANDA SUN G	AMOR DE MADRE 2
4.	4	9	ORK. CACHE	KASA KU MI
5.	8	3	JANET JACKSON	ALL NITE (DON'T STOP)
6.	7	4	BEYONCE	NAUGHTY GIRL
7.	5	9	MASTAKINGLOVER	WHEN I HIT YA
8.	9	1	WIMPY DUNK	SI MANAN NO YEGA MAS
9.	12	1	ORK. CACHE	24/7
10.	13	1	DISLE HEURE 2 ZOUK	MA RIVALE
11.	14	1	PERFEKTA SON/LUWISTIMA	MI MENOS
12.	15	1	AGR. PAL'I WIRI	KI NODI BO TIN
13.	N	N	GUESS	SA BO KE SA?
14.	N	N	KING AFRICA	GOLOSINA
15.	N	N	SUGAR DADDY	SWEET SOCA MUSIC

**LISTEN TO THE TOP HITS EVERY SATURDAY FROM 12 NOON - 1PM**

A regular feature of *The Bonaire Reporter* is the **Bonaire Hit Parade**, a listing of the 15 most popular songs on the island. It is compiled by the staff of Digital FM 91.1 and shows this week's (TW) and last week's (LW) songs. □



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**New! Usually 9:00 pm**

**Starsky & Hutch**  
(Owen Wilson)

Early Show (usually 7:00 pm)

**Secret Window**

**Kaya Prinses Marie**  
Behind Exito Bakery  
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - **NAf10,50** (incl. Tax)  
High Schoolers - **NAf7,75**

**NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY 4 PM Scoobydoo 2-  
Monsters Unleashed**  
**SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM**  
**The Ladykillers**

### THIS WEEK

**Sunday, May 23 - 5K Run/Walk.**  
Start at the Soccer Stadium, Playa.  
Sponsored by Comcabon Tel.717-8629

### COMING

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 28, 29, 30 -Comedy: "Pai, Non a Kue Mai",** 8 pm, Jong Bonaire

**Saturday, Sunday, May 29, 30-A visit and local guided tour to Isla di Yuana and Isla di Pedro** at Lac Bai. Meet just past Chapparal on road to Lac. Sponsored by Amigunan di Nautralesa (Friends of Nature) Tours from 9 am to 4 pm. Adults, NAf25. Children, NAf15. Includes drinks, BBQ and book by Bòi Antoin. Tickets at Extra newspaper office, Kaya Gilberto F. Croes. Tel. 717-8482. More on page 22

**Sunday, May 30- 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Washington Park. At the Park from 8 am to 5 pm.** Soft Adventure sports, kids activities, indoor and outdoor exhibitions, local market and more. FREE. Call 717-8444 - More on page 15

**Saturday, June 5 - Rincon Marshe** - open air market with stands selling local food, drinks, gifts, plants, herbs. Friendliest place on the island. Also Soldachi Walking and Bus Tours of Bonaire's oldest town. 10 am to 2 pm. Call Maria for tour information 717-6435.

**Sunday, May 30 -Children's Theatre** with Peter Fabel, 11 am to 1 pm. Price includes pancakes and soft drink.

**Saturday, June 5- Jong Bonaire Fair** Sale of second hand sports gear, computer equipment, games, presentations, sports. 2 pm-9 pm. Held at Jong Bonaire, Kaya Lib. Simon Bolivar #16. Call 717-4303 for info

**Saturday, June 5- Famous Cuban Band, "Sonora Matancera,"** will play at BSF Tennis Courts (behind MCB bank in Playa). Tickets are NAf50 and are available at Lisa Gas, Tusnara Snack in Rincon and Gas Express. There is also the option of purchasing a "Red Carpet Ticket" for US\$300 which entitles four persons to be seated at a table with drinks and



The following events are in celebration of the **70th Anniversary of the Protestant Church in Rincon:**

**Sunday May 23- 5 pm**  
Religious service in the Rincon church  
**Monday, May 24- 7.30 pm** Gospel Concert (Rincon)  
**Tuesday, May 25-7.30 pm** : Film Festival (Rincon)  
**Wednesday May 26- 7.30 pm:** Gospel Song Festival (Rincon)  
**Thursday May 27- 7.30 pm:** Church Service and Reception (Rincon)

For more information contact Hugo Leter, President ,Anniversary Committee, at 717-4101 or 785-0187 □

snacks. More on page 17

**June 6-18 Bonaire Dive Festival.** For details see page 6

**July 4,- Sunday Dia di Arte,** "Art Day," 10 am-10 pm Wilhelmina Park More information as the event nears. See mention in Flotsam and Jetsam. For more information contact Emma Sint Jago at 717-7420

### EVERY WEEK

**Sunday -Dinner and live music at Chibi Chibi Restaurant** at the Divi Flamingo 6 to 9 pm.

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

**Monday -Rum Punch Party on the beach at Lion's Dive.** Dutch National Products provides an introduction to Time Sharing and how to save on your next vacation. 6:15 to 7 pm

**Tuesday-BonaireTalker Dinner/Gathering** at Gibi's Terrace-6:30pm -call Jake at 717-6773 or e-mail jake@bonairetalk.com for more infor.

**Tuesday -Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225 /717-7500, ext. 14.

**Wednesday -Sand Dollar Manager's Cocktail Party,** Mangos Bar and Restaurant

**Friday -Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort** 5:30-6:30 pm.

**Friday- Open House with Happy Hour** at the JanArt Gallery at Kaya Gloria #7, from 5-7 pm.

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

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Sunday- Discover Our Diversity** Slide Show, Buddy Dive at the pool bar, 7 pm 717-5080

**Monday- Touch the Sea** introduces Dee Scarr's unique perspective on marine animals and divers. Aquarius Conference Center, Captain Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. Tel. 717-8290, or call Dee at 717-8529

**New! Wednesday- Turtle slide show** by the STCB (Turtle Club) at the Buddy Dive pool Bar at 7 pm.

**Friday- Week in Review** Video Pres-

### Gert Schreuder

A great friend of Bonaire died last Friday, May 14, at San Francisco Hospital. Gert Schreuder was 79 years old.

He and his wife Helma started coming to Bonaire in 1984, staying at the old Hotel Bonaire where they became part of the "February Club," a group of visitors who visited every year at that time.

In January 1992 he and his wife of 25 years, Helma, moved to Bonaire permanently. "He loved Bonaire more than he loved Holland," says Helma. "This was his home and where he wanted to be buried."

Gert had a number of careers in Holland: insurance, dry cleaning and running a club house at a golf course.

He has three children, two daughters and a son.

There will be a small memorial service this Saturday, May 22, at the chapel at the old Kas di Sosiego building at 10 am.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

□ L.D.



**Gert Schreuder**  
1925-2004

entation by the Toucan Dive Shop at the Plaza's Topsy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

**Friday- The Captain Don Show-** Conversation, fun, yarns, a few slides. Guaranteed 85% true. Aquarius Conference Room. Captain Don's Habitat 8:30 pm Tel. 717-8290

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**The Bonaire Swim Club is looking for volunteer help. Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valarie@telbonet.an**

**Cinnamon Art Gallery.** Volunteers to help staff the gallery during the day. Please contact **Wendy Horn, at 717-3902 or 785-9700.**

**Bonaire National Marine Park** 717-8444.

**Bonaire Animal Shelter** 717-4989.

**Donkey Sanctuary** 560-7607.

**Jong Bonaire (Youth Center)** 717-4303.

**Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care)** Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

**Special Olympics** contact Delno Tromp, 717-7659

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

**AA meetings** - every **Wednesday**; Phone 717-6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.

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

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays,** 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

**Darts Club** plays every **other Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

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

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday,** 12 noon-2 pm - Rendez-Vous Restaurant, Kaya L.D. Gerharts #3. All Rotarians are welcome. Tel. 717-8454

### BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

**Mangazina di Rei, Rincon.** Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse" while learning about Bonaire's history and culture and visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 or 790-2018

**Go to the source.** Visit the **Bonaire Museum** on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

**Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

**Sunday at Cai-** Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai.

Dance to the music of Bonaire's most popular musicians.

**Saturday at Rincon - Marshe Liber** (smaller markets) 8 am until 2 pm

**Large market offering Rincon area tours on the first Saturday of each month,** 10 am to 2 pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

**International Bible Church of Bonaire** - Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) **Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm** in English. Tel. 717-8332

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.** Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,** Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

**Catholic San Bernardus** in Kralendijk - Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 .

**Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, **in English.** Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

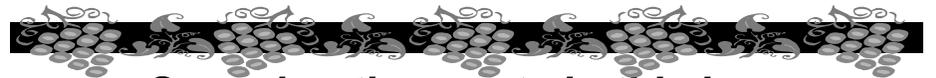
**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios),** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). Services in English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

**New Apostolic Church,** Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Send in your events to**  
**The Bonaire Reporter**  
Email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

# DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 535	Moderate. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Sunday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>The Blue Moon- Early Bird Special! before 7 pm</b> Sea Side Restaurant—Waterfront on the Promenade 717-8617	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Inexpensive bar menu Closed Wednesdays	Award-winning Chef Martijn Bouwmeester is the master in the kitchen and manager of the restaurant. Have a fine dining experience with creative, inspired dishes.
<b>Caribbean Club Bonaire at Hilltop</b> 5 minutes north of "Hotel Row" 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast, Dinner, closed Sunday	What a place! Friendly bar next to the pool, home cooked meals, happy hours 5 to 7. Serious BBQ on Tuesdays NA/25.
<b>Chez Lucille</b> Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund 19, Waterfront, 717-7884	Moderate Dinner 6 to 10 pm Closed Sundays	After your warm welcome from owner-chef-hostess Lucille you'll be enthralled with a menu that combines the familiar and the exotic. In an historic waterfront home and garden.
<b>Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Sit over the water in the most charming and colorful building on the waterfront. Fine service with a broad menu to suit every taste. Special menus often offered. Live music Sundays.
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Skilled chef direct from Tuscany prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a total delight. Get served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort.
<b>Garden Café</b> Kaya Grandi 59 717-3410	Moderate Monday-Friday, Lunch & Dinner Saturday, Dinner. Closed Sunday	Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties. Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and Latin Parilla
<b>La Balandra</b> On the Water at the Harbour Village Resort 717-7500, ext 62; 785-0902	Moderate Breakfast-Lunch Special Dinners on Friday, Sunday	Cuisine by Chef Alberto Roldan of the Bonaire Culinary Team. If you are using the NA/25 Beach Pass, a NA/15 credit is given for meals Bonaire's best seaside location?
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> 717-3293 <b>Home Delivery or Take Out</b>	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30pm Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lions Den Beach Bar And Restaurant</b> On the sea at Lions Dive 717-3400 717-6616	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open 7 Days	Spectacular setting overlooking dive sites and Klein Bonaire. Imaginative menu, open kitchen. Owned and operated by Kirk Gosden.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. <b>The Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
<b>The Seahorse Cyber Café</b> Kaya Grandi #6. Phone 717-4888	Low-Moderate Open 7 am - 7 pm Closed Sunday	Tasty breakfasts, pastries, fresh tropical juices, homemade bread, special sandwiches, delicious desserts and more make this a favorite.



# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## AIRLINES

**BonaireExel.** Bonaire's own ON TIME airline flying between Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. Look for *The Bonaire Reporter* on board.

## APPLIANCES/FURNITURE/COMPUTERS

**City Shop** is Bonaire's mega-store for TV, Stereos, Air conditioning, large and small kitchen appliances. Name brands, guarantees and service center.

## BANKS

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

## BEAUTY PARLOR

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

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes.

## BOOKS

**Watercolours Bonaire and Eye on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao** are the most original ways to remember Bonaire and the islands at their best. At Photo Tours and many other island shops.

**Bonaire Diving Made Easy**, Third Edition, is an essential in your dive bag. The latest information on Bonaire's shore dive sites.

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

**APA Construction** are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

## CLEANING SERVICE

**Conetal Cleaning Service** cleans homes, apartments, offices. Offers babysitting, gardening, laundry.

## CYBER CAFES

See Restaurant Guide for **The Seahorse Cyber Café.**

## DENTURES

**All Denture Lab.** For denture repair or new ones. All work done on the island, fast results. Owner-operator dentist. Repairs while you wait.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

**Dive Inn** Seven studio apartments and dive shop/school directly on the waterfront in the heart of town. Friendly, highly experienced with an exceptional staff.

## FITNESS

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

**Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.** Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

## GIFTS - SOUVENIRS - LIQUORS

**The Bonaire Gift Shop** has a big selection of what you need to enjoy Bonaire and remember it when you get home. Digital cameras and watches a specialty.

## HOTELS

**Hotel Bonaire Inn** (formerly Friars' Inn), downtown Kralendijk, has rooms and breakfast at Bonaire's lowest prices. Great for tourists or when visiting family and friends.

## METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

**b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V.**, offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints and slides plus a variety of items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

**Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent.** They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.

**Re/Max Paradise Homes:** International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community.

**Sunbelt Realty** offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

## REPAIRS

**Bon Handyman** is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc.

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

**Buddy Dive Resort** offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable. Call 717-8125.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.** Call 717-8922/8033.

## SUPERMARKETS

**Tropical Flamingo** is convenient, clean, modern, efficient and has the lowest prices on Bonaire. Located behind NAPA.

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

## TOYS AND GAMES

**Laur'an** is a store dedicated to providing quality toys and games to Bonaire. Find them on Kaya Gerharts in the Lourdes Shopping Mall

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Call Bonaire Nautico at 560-7254. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup too.

## WINES

**Antillean Wine Company.** You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

## YOGA

**Yoga For You.** Join certified instructors Desiree and Don at Jong Bonaire for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

**ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN:**  
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter.*  
The most advertising for your guild.  
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

## Ina and Yke Faber

“Yke was asked to run an electro-technical installation company in the Antilles. We knew Bonaire was somewhere in the West Indies and when we looked it up on the map we found out it was close to Venezuela and it seemed awfully far away! I remember standing in front of the farm that belonged to the people who had offered Yke the job. It was hailing, snowing and freezing cold. Yke asked me what I thought. I answered, ‘If you’re going, I’m coming with you!’ He went and he liked Bonaire instantly: its nature and the people’s attitude. After a month he returned to Holland and told me all about it.

We were living in Friesland, one of the northern provinces of Holland, in a very small place, so I guessed it wouldn’t be such a big change to move to an island of 7,000 inhabitants. Yolanda was three years old, Yvonne was two and I was pregnant. Yke went back to Bonaire for four months until the doctor told me he’d better get back because the baby was going to be early.”

“Two days before I left the crates with our belongings arrived on Bonaire,” Yke says. “I arranged for a lady, Mevrouw Lina, to unpack and put everything in its place. Our son, Sebastiaan, was born July 14<sup>th</sup>, too late instead of too early, and July 31<sup>st</sup> we flew, the five of us and our dog, through Lisbon and Port of Spain in 16 hours to Curacao and from there to Bonaire.”

“We arrived at night,” Ina says, “and it was pitch black. There were no street-lights. The house was on a dirt road with some old oil drums in front of it. I thought, ‘Oh my God, where did we end up?’ Fact is, they can tell you all about it, but you can’t imagine anything until you feel it, you smell it. But the house was fine; everything in its place and the cradle looked so neat. Everything about how to handle a newborn in the tropics I was taught by Mevrouw Lina. She was a great help. I still felt very weak physically and I really had to get used to the heat. There were times that I panicked, ‘My God, it’s never going to be cold again!’ It took me four months, and then one morning, I had brought the girls to Sister Virginia’s kindergarten and had left Bas with Mevrouw Lina. I went shopping in my own car and I stopped for lemonade at a little bar. I remember sitting there thinking: Everything is okay now.”

**Yke (58) and Ina (56) Faber have been living on Bonaire for 25 years, almost longer than they ever lived in Holland. When I ask them if they feel Antillean they say:** “Yes, we are Bonaireans, but we also are and always will be Frisians. We’re having a wonderful life here, but we can never deny our culture and our background. However, we don’t feel like guests here. This is our home and we hope to say that for many more years.”

“I became the managing director of

INPO,” Yke says. The company was founded in 1967 to supply Bonaire with electricity, especially the salt company, BOPEC, Radio Nederland and WEB. In those days, Larry Gerharts’ grandfather, L.D. Gerharts, owned a small generator in the old Exito bakery that supplied part of Kralendijk for several hours a day with electricity. That was it! When I came 11 years later there were 35 people working for INPO and they were just finishing Flamingo Airport, building Flamingo Beach Hotel and adding a new wing to Hotel Bonaire.

Later, we started building SGB (high school) and renovating the *Pasangrahan*. Work was eating me up completely. I had very little spare time, but somehow social life was on a higher level than it is now. The meeting point was the beach hut of Hotel Bonaire. Women were not allowed to work. Ina got her residence permit because she was ‘married to and living in with Y. Faber!’ If we wanted to go on a holiday we had to go to Immigration first to get a permission to for us and the children to return and pay NAf2,50 per person, otherwise we were not allowed to leave. Only after 10 years could we apply for Antillean rights (*Things are still the same, except the price has gone up.* Ed.)

There was only one man who had a bicycle; there were no motorbikes, no scooters, nothing. For five guilders you could buy an oil drum at WEB for your garbage. There were very few paved roads.

Telbo didn’t exist, but Bonaire was the only island in the whole region where you could make direct phone calls to Holland through Landsradio. The streets didn’t have names or house numbers, except for some main roads. Plaza didn’t exist. You could walk straight from town to the airport. We did have TV, but it started after five in the afternoon and with only one channel, TeleCuraçao, where *Tante* Irma sang and danced with the children. Occasionally we could receive ‘Television’ from Venezuela. There was only one radio station, ‘Hoyer II.’ There were many small shops but only one big supermarket, ‘Kralendijk Supermarket,’ later called ‘Henderson,’ after that ‘Cultimara.’ Eight times a day ALM flew back and forth to Curacao, and in case of an emergency the BOPEC plane was used. The control tower at the airport was unmanned. Everything was controlled from Curacao, and that was why every plane had to circle the strip before landing, to check for donkeys! When a cruise ship came in the population was asked to come with their car. They got a taxi permit for

one day and a \$3 expense allowance per person to show the tourists around. It was a very nice time; everyone knew everyone and you learned to become less hard-headed and more of a diplomat as it was a very small community. We studied Papiamentu with Nochi Willem and Aloys Lammers, who were both teachers in Rincon. After we’d been here for nine and a half years Ina picked up her old profession when she was asked to teach at SGB.”

“I was a teacher for more than eight years and I managed the SGB restaurant, *Chez Nous*, for over a year,” Ina says, “and I always enjoyed it. Many times I was a social worker and a mother too. Now I have my own apartment rental business, but I’ll never forget that what I learned

from the children enriched my life and gave me more understanding. Here you don’t unwrap a present. It’s impolite because your face may show if you like it or... maybe not. Here, people don’t say ‘No,’ they go around it, not to offend you, and they don’t look you straight in the eye, which would be considered arrogant. When

you’re invited for dinner, you don’t clean your plate; you leave some food on it to show that there was more than enough. And at the end of a party you are offered a plate with cake and candy to take home as a memory. All those little things tell you something about the way people think, about their culture, and you learn to appreciate them more for that.

My children became Antillean, especially Yolanda and Bas who are true Bonaireans. Now the girls are living in Holland, but when they’re together they speak Papiamentu. Yolanda works for a utility company in Rotterdam, and she has a beautiful three year old son, Joey, from an Antillean father. Yvonne and her husband are expecting their first baby in five weeks and Bas is still in Bonaire and has become a fisherman. He’s a true child of Playa *Pabao*, always been crazy for the sea. I remember him at Lac, not even three years old, standing motionless in the water, then grabbing a fish out of the water with his little hands, just like that! He rode donkeys and horses, walked through the *mondi* barefoot, and at night when he got



Ina and Yke Faber

home he’d ask without complaining, ‘Mom, can you pull the spines?’ Together with the children we did a lot of camping all over the island, to the most remote and abandoned places.

Yke bought INPO in March ’84. He helped develop Sabadeco and worked for years on Sand Dollar. He did the post office, APNA, the Central Bank, the police station, Fort Oranje and he restored the light at the light house. One of his last projects was the renovation of *Slagbaai*, an eco project of Stinapa, and he did it with great joy. He installed solar energy and the water and sewerage system for 10 bathrooms. We camped there six times, took our mattresses, cooked on three stones... wonderful!

Bonaire is such a lovely island! We feel that after some real tough years the economy is finally improving, KLM has opened the island up, but alas, with it came crime.” “In spite of all the changes,” Yke says with a smile, “the sun is still shining every day and we wouldn’t be here if we didn’t want to be. At first we said it was going to be for at least 10 years, but we didn’t want to die here. It’s all in God’s hands. Twenty-five years on Bonaire has given us a split identity. It’s been an incredible impact. As for our plans for the future: we’d like to become more mobile, also because of the children, but we will never sell our house here. The children forbade us to even think of it, and I agree, because it will always be home. It was relatively easy to come and live here, but from here going back to live in Holland, that would be very difficult, that would be really hard...” □

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

Unique and not to be missed

# TRIP TO ISLA di YUANA and ISLA di PEDRO

Would you like to visit two spots on the island that even many Bonaireans don't know about? Then next weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 29 and 30, join the group, *Amigunan di Naturalesa* (Friends of Nature) whose aim is to give residents and visitors alike the rare opportunity to visit very special places on the island. They hope that this excursion will give people the unique opportunity of getting to know some natural areas that are not easy to find. They'll be taking you to *Isla di Yuana* and *Isla di Pedro*, two relatively undiscovered islands in *Lac Bai*.



*Frigate birds and many other varieties make their home in the mangroves*

The tour will be a fund raiser to help send Bonaire's contingent to the famous Nijmegen Walk (where participants walk 50 km a day for four days). Last year, about this time, the group organized an excursion to *Isla di Yuana*, the smaller island, which was once occupied by a Swiss family Robinson-like

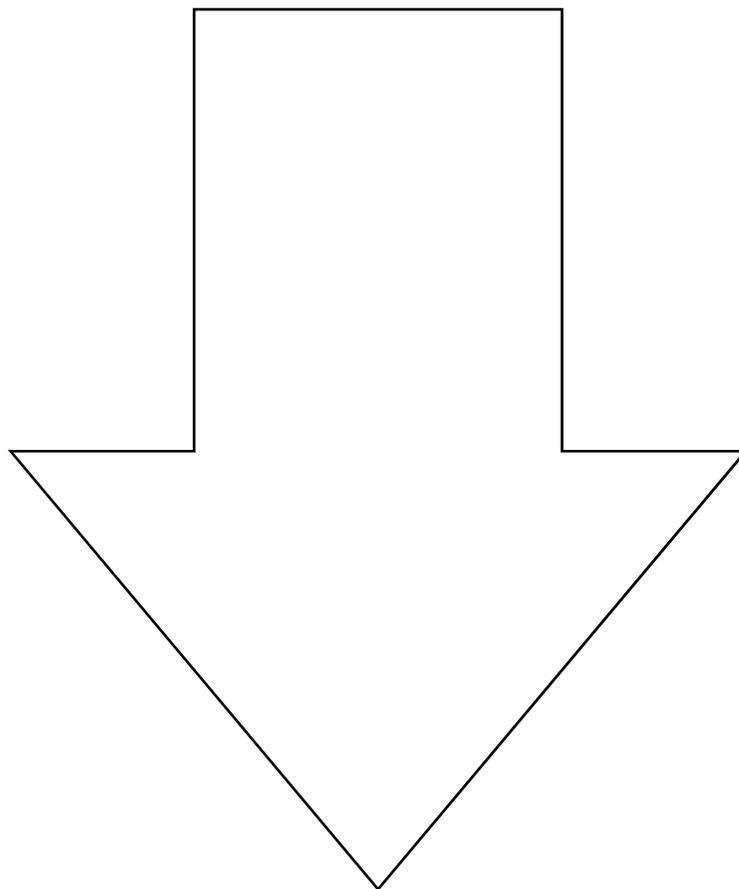
family and was used as a site for making *kalki* (chalk for mortar). The *Kadushi* and the *Yatu* cactus grow tall there, but the trees like the Saddle Tree and the *Palu di Sia* (gum tree) are short and stunted like bonsai because of the wind and poor soil. But even in this inhospitable environment seeds brought



*You'll travel through a tunnel like this to get to Isla di Pedro*

in via bird and goat droppings found a home and germinated. *Isla di Pedro*, the much larger island, was a popular place for making *kalki* as well. The coral (limestone) was brought in by boats and the many trees on the island at that time were cut down and chopped up to provide the high temperature fires to create the *kalki*. On the island are small lakes frequented by sea birds, and the island is rimmed with some of the tallest mangroves trees you'll ever see. Today, both of these islands are populated only by iguanas and shore birds. You'll be brought to these islands by boat with your tour guides: Minister of Education Nolly Oleana, Special Secu-

rity Services executive Ben Oleana, journalist and historian Bòi Antoin and nature lover and famous walker, Marcel Nahr. The boats start leaving the shore at 9 in the morning, and the last boat returns from the islands at 4 pm. Tickets are NAf25 for adults and NAf15 for children. And that includes a delicious barbeque set up on *Isla di Pedro*. The adult ticket also includes a choice of one of Bòi Antoin's books on the history of Bonaire (#2, 3, 4, 5 or 6. #1 is on longer available). Get your tickets now at *Extra* newspaper offices on Kaya Gilberto F. Croes. Tel. 717-8482. □ *L.D.*





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

## The Moon revisits the King of the Planets and the Brightest Star of Leo

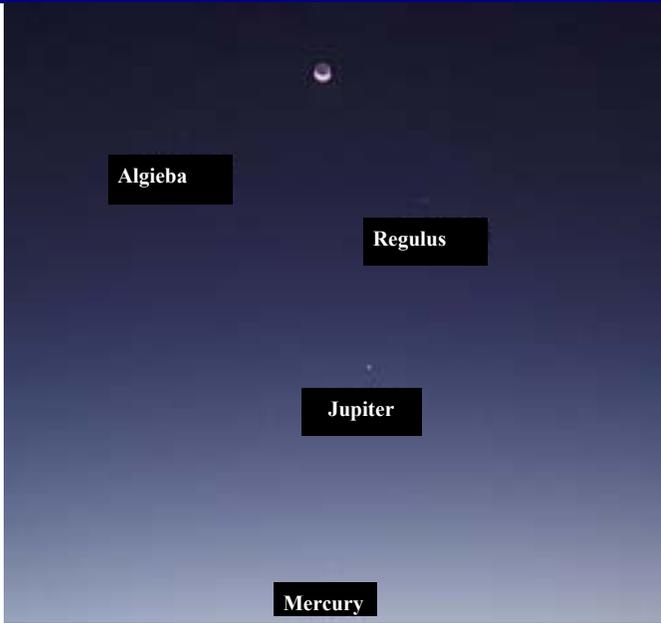
Just a quick reminder that you should catch the most brilliant planet of them all, **Venus**, before it disappears. Plus **Saturn** and **Mars** still remain close together. But the real fun event will be next week when a first quarter **Moon** revisits the

King of the Planets and the brightest star of the King of the Beasts. This Friday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, just after sunset, face west where you'll see an exquisite crescent Moon just above Venus, which each night will descend lower and lower until by the end of the month it will disappear below the horizon. And right above Venus and the Moon, Saturn and Mars are still at their closest for this go round and huddle side by side. Plus on Saturday an even more exquisite crescent will form a wonderful triangle with them. But the nights to mark on your calendar for some real fun Moon-planet-star watching are next Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday, face southwest an hour after sunset and you'll see an exquisite seven-day-old, which means first quarter, Moon marking one point of an elongated triangle whose other two points are marked by the second brightest planet of all, the King of the Planets, 88,000-mile-wide **Jupiter**, and **Regulus**, the brightest star of the spring constellation, **Leo the Lion**, a star which dwarfs both Jupiter and the Moon because it is a whopping five times wider than our Sun, so huge that almost 50 Jupiters could be lined up across its middle, side by side.

Now to the naked eye this threesome will be an exquisite sight. But if you have even the cheapest, smallest telescope please take a look at both the Moon and Jupiter because a first quarter Moon is always very dramatic through a telescope and Jupiter always displays a couple of its bands of storms encircling it plus three or four of its largest moons as they endlessly orbit Jupiter and change place from night to night. Regulus, as seen through a telescope, won't look any larger than to the naked eye, but it will look much brighter and you'll be able to see a faint bluish tint to it. The reason it won't look bigger is because it is so incredibly far away.

On Wednesday our Moon will be only 240,000 miles away while Jupiter will be 490 million miles away. Regulus, on the other hand, will be a whopping 85 light years away, which is one million times farther away than Jupiter. Now on the next night, Thursday, the 27, a one-day-past-first quarter Moon will make an almost straight line with Jupiter and Regulus. Plus the Moon will be 3,000 mile closer than it was the previous night. Jupiter, however, will be two million miles farther away. Regulus, on the other hand, is so incredibly far away to begin with that any varying distance would be impossible to detect.

So there you have it: Venus, Mars and Saturn this weekend, a cosmic triangle on the 26th and a threesome line-up on the 27<sup>th</sup>. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: **May 21 to May 28, 2004**

By *Astrologer Michael Thiessen*

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Things may not be as harmonious as you would like with colleagues or employers this week. Take time to visit someone who has been confined due to illness. You're likely to encounter new partners if you take short trips. Do not let others exhaust you financially. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You will be able to find the perfect outfit and the greatest new accessory for your house. Inharmonious situations at home may be extremely upsetting for you this week. You have done all you can to sort things out on a personal level. You are best not to confide in anyone right now. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You may want to get involved in financial investments presented to you. Consider starting a small business on the side. Look for a marketable gimmick. Travel should be on your mind. Compromise may be necessary. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Double check your work and be sure that your boss is in a good mood before you do your presentation. Try to join groups of interest such as ballroom dance classes or perhaps an internet organization. Consider the source before you believe what you hear. Use your charm, but don't be phony. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You have worked hard and the payback is now. You can get ready to celebrate your new direction. Those you work with may have little consideration for the underdog. You need to concentrate on solving existing problems. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Use your creative talent in order to accomplish your goals. Your high energy and discipline will enable you to complete any seemingly insurmountable tasks. Try to compromise rather than having an all out battle. You may find yourself interested in more than one person. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Find out what they're up to, and see if you can pick up where you left off. Keep an open mind when dealing with youngsters. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Positive changes regarding your personal status are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Problems with your partner could be reaching a high level of concern. Someone you care about may let you down or criticize your methods. You must take care of health problems that have been lingering. You could have a change of heart if an old flame waltzes back into your life. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Alienation may be the result of a misunderstanding. You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. Social activity should be on your agenda. Don't take your frustrations out on loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Curb the impulse to make lavish purchases and maybe spend some time with good friends. Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Your romantic inclination should lead to a committed relationship. There could be disappointment regarding investments. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Someone you live with may cause drastic alterations in your usual routine. You should take good care of your health; get lots of rest. Look before you leap. Debates will stifle passion and result in estrangement. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) This may not be your week if you are overly melodramatic and unnerving everyone around you. Take time to look at any outdated papers or possible investments. You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. Don't overspend to impress others. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. □

**Moon Info** ☾ First Quarter on May 27<sup>th</sup> ☽ Full Moon on June 3<sup>rd</sup>

☾ Last Quarter on June 9 ☀ New Moon on June 17<sup>th</sup>

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