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It's about time!

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**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

The **BONAIR** REPORTER

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



Plasa-Machi-Mimi 1892-1986
SEE PAGE 13.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

During their working visit to the Netherlands of last week, Prime Minister Etienne Ys, Finance-minister Ersilia de Lannooy, and Justice-minister Norberto Ribeiro succeeded in getting a minimum of NAf60 million for combating poverty and forgiveness of a NAf105 million debt to Holland.



Prime Minister Etienne Ys

About 10% of the NAf4.9 billion Antillean national debt of the Antilles is to the Netherlands; the rest is owed locally. Since the Antilles won't have to service the debt, more money will be available to improve conditions in the country.

► **Dutch Kingdom Relations Minister Thom de Graaf will visit the Netherlands Antilles October 5-11.** The work visit was confirmed by Marielle Capello, the Dutch Representative in Willemstad. De Graaf will visit all the Antillean islands,

► A press release from Curaçao's Seaquarium reported that Dolphin **Gee Gee gave birth on September 5** at 8:30 pm. Both the mother and baby are fine. Because Gee Gee already gave birth twice before and raised two babies, the staff is optimistic. She arrived in the Seaquarium on November 30, 2003, one of four coastal bottle-nose dolphins – Gee Gee, Tela, Mateo, and

Nemo. Their previous home was the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences of Honduras.

There was no release reporting the number of dolphins that have died in captivity at the Seaquarium.

► **The decision on the future of the Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA) was postponed** because Curaçao Island Council members want more information on the direction of the aviation industry on the island. The Executive Council was supposed to ask the Island Council (legislators) to agree to the proposal for a temporary credit of NAf 12 million for DCA. This money would keep the company in business for at least three months, until a long term solution is found.

► At the same time, the *Stichting Overheidsaccountantsbureau (SOAB – Government Accountants Bureau Institute)* soundly criticized the financial administration of Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA). DCA's current figures do not correspond with the financial records and there is a backlog in the administration of 2004 figures.

The SOAB points out that there are missing documents and contracts and that there is no connection between DCA's financial analysis and the financial administration of the company. From the figures, which the SOAB did manage to get, it appears that the DCA company never managed to make a profit during its existence, contrary to what DCA Director Mario Evertsz has stated.

In the second half of 2001, DCA's revenue was NAf8.1 million. But when the deductions, including the takeover of the old

ALM debt (NAf7.4 million in 2001) are figured in, the second half of 2001 suddenly shows a NAf4.8 million loss. It's the same story for 2002. The revenue amounted to NAf1.1 million, but if you add the ALM debts for 2002 (NAf15.9 million), you arrive at another NAf14.8 million loss.

The SOAB estimates the total debts of DCA at NAf68.8 million. Commercial creditors account for NAf35.8 million of the debt with NAf18.1 million of long term debt, NAf 9.9 million of that is for the lease agreements of DCA's four DC 9-30s.

► The Netherlands Antilles Police Board (NAPB) says **the arrival of Marechaussees (Dutch Military Police) will have major negative consequences** if the *Marechaussees* are not put on patrol in police uniforms. The union is in favor of the Netherlands Antilles police force getting help but says this help must come in the form of police assistance to deal with everyday crimes. A local union representative told *The St. Martin Daily Herald*, "If they want to come, we welcome them, but let them put on police uniforms."

The NAPB has also expressed displeasure at the fact that the process to recruit nearly 20 Suriname police officers has been seemingly abandoned in favor of the arrival of *Marechaussees*.

► **The Central Bureau of Statistics will begin a survey of 2,250 Bonaire households on or about September 13th to sample the current employment situation on the island.** If you are invited to participate you are required to cooperate under the law. All responses to the surveys are confidential and the results will be presented in statistical format.

► **St. Elizabeth Hospital, the main**

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general hospital for the region, has proposed a price increase of 93% for intensive care treatments, an increase of 10 to 20% for lab research and dialysis treatment, and an increase of 11% in hospital rates. According to financial manager Sydney Ricardo, these proposals are measures to improve the financial situation of the hospital. From 1997 through 2002, the hospital lost NAf20.7 million. The estimated deficit for 2003 was NAf2.5 million.

► **The Dive Inn organized an incredible clean up of Chachacha Beach** this past Tuesday, not only on the beach, but also

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FOREIGN RESIDENT DISCRIMINATION

It was discouraging that so many foreign residents, promised a chance to vote on the direction of the future of their adopted home, were denied that chance because of an unreasonable bureaucratic procedure.

At the polling place foreigners were informed they needed, in addition to valid ID and the voting "ticket," an original copy of their residency permit (*Vergunning van rechtswege toegelateni*). Dutch citizens did not need a birth certificate to prove they were Dutch, but could vote anyway. Copies, work permits, personal knowledge or other paperwork were not acceptable. And to top it off, the Immigration office closed early so the necessary paper couldn't even be obtained. The official Referendum voting notice only said, that in addition to the ticket and ID, proof of "legal residency" was needed. The need for the original copy of the Vergunning was not mentioned. Why were foreign residents singled out in the rules for additional ID anyway?

Many foreign residents like Captain Don, Petri Hausmann, and others were denied a vote. Despite years of work permits, property ownership, and community involvement they couldn't find an original copy or never were provided with a *Vergunning*. Regardless, if that was what was needed, it should have been spelled out clearly and specifically.

We can only hope that in the next vote on our future, perhaps to choose for LGO or UPT, the unfair procedures will be abandoned. After all, we can only blame Bonaire bureaucracy once we're rid of Curaçao rules. □ G.D.

PLAYA IVAN

Last week, once again, Mother Nature proved that the coastlines of our beautiful islands don't belong to humans. In a time span of less than five years the ocean and the weather have shown us, at least twice, some of what they are capable of.

Five years ago Klein Bonaire took a severe beating from Hurricane Lenny. Most noticeable was the change of the coastline on the north-western part of the island.

The sandy beaches were redistributed. Sand was transported from west to east. Beaches west of "No Name" beach were mainly left with coral rubble. East of "No Name" was beautifully restyled, and the newly formed beaches could compete with the beaches on Aruba. By 2004 Mother Nature had shifted the sand back where it was at the end of 1999. Even the sand dunes that were characteristic of "No Name" before Lenny were beginning to reappear. This sand transporting process is probably part of a larger natural cycle. Beaches are very dynamic in this way. Actually they are alive!

Hurricanes are all natural and in this way help the beaches to stay healthy and beautiful. Coastal development interferes with this natural cycle and beaches, coastlines and reef systems are being prevented from being dynamic; in other words, they're being killed.

On the east side, south of "Sea Hatch" (the shrimp farm), the Government has allowed a particular form of coastal development lately. Severe sand mining was allowed to take place – an act that completely destroyed the coastline. They didn't even bother to cover up the huge craters that were left behind. Hurricane Ivan was able to take care of this problem and has leveled some of these craters. As a result a beautiful beach has been created that has an enormous potential for humans and nature.



The only thing that we have to do is let the ocean (re)distribute the sand on the beaches that are now partly covered with coral rubble. I bet that within five years this beach will be one of the best there is on the island. If only the Government would leave it alone (but protect it) and let the beach live its own life.

Happy birthday, "Playa Ivan!"

Imre Esser
President Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)

A NEW BALANCE

The people of Bonaire have chosen for a direct link with Holland. This will open the way for many great new opportunities. More than one can imagine. Warm and heartfelt congratulations to the people of Bonaire. In life nothing comes easy. If we sit and wait at home, work will not come knocking at our door. In other words; this decision will not cause manna to fall from heaven, without our having to work for it. But new opportunities will certainly come falling like manna. It will be up to us to make good use of them.

First of all, I applaud the people of Bonaire. The opposition did its utmost to scare them with all kinds of spurious stories and arguments, but they stood firm and voted for option B anyway. Support for option B was even greater than is shown by the actual results, if one takes the 16% who voted for option A into account. Seeing that the B and C options together obtained 84% of the vote, this means that the general consensus is that Bonaire should step out of the Antilles. Therefore, assuming that the A-voters had to choose between the options B and C (as option A is out of the race anyway), chances are that their choice would at least be divided 50-50 between options B and C. If this is taken into account, we may conclude that option B received approximately 68% and option C, approximately 32%.

Praise also to our politicians because they had the courage to propagate option B. Just think about this for a minute. Bonaire will now have to give up some autonomy in exchange for improved security and social minimum standards. This means the people stand to benefit with better social services and an improvement of the economy. Meanwhile the politicians stand to lose. They will get *less* power. The public will not notice the loss of some autonomy, only the politicians will. They will have to endure a lot of finicky supervision from Holland. They will no longer be free to do as they please. Therefore, our politicians, having understood that the general interest goes before their personal interest, have acted altruistically in taking this step. Wholeheartedly I praise

Continued on page 14

their courage and the fact that for the benefit of the people they were prepared to sacrifice. Ramonsito (Booi) is the man, because he is their leader.

This is a new undertaking and even though in a *political* sense I am not responsible for this achievement, *morally* I am responsible, because I have actively supported our politicians in their endeavor to change the direction of our island, yes, even of our whole country. And even of Holland! Because Holland, too, will have to come to the realization that they have to deal with a different Antilles now or at least with a different Bonaire. That is why I feel obliged to keep on contributing to this effort and to make sure we will get a good deal from Holland. Negotiations will not be easy, but let us go for it now!

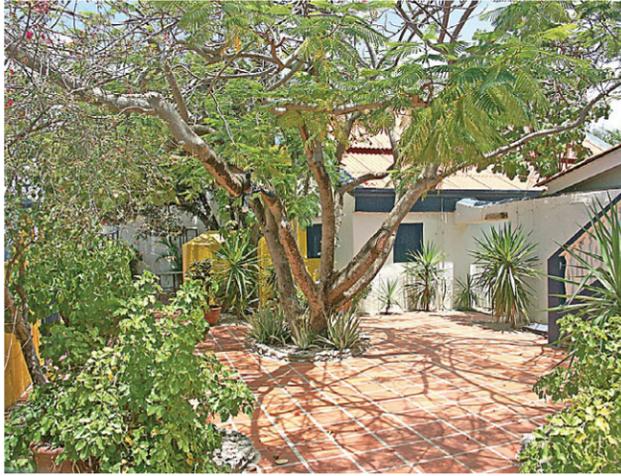
Finally I would like to say to the people of Bonaire: Let us now make good use of the new and great opportunities which will certainly come our way. Let us not *again* waste our chances to develop and uplift ourselves, as we have been doing during the past 50 years. Had the islands of the Antilles not quarreled so much among themselves and had we made better use of our relationship with Holland, we could have progressed much more than we have done.

But all that is water under the bridge! We must now all work seriously for Bonaire's progress and for the advancement of mankind. Thus we will also contribute to the pro-

(Continued on page 14)

HAUSMANN'S FOLLY

Recently we reported that word, from reliable sources, was that the shorefront Hausmann's Folly house, previous home to Chez Lucille Restaurant, was to be demolished to make way for an apartment building. Here are more details:



Dear Editor:

"Well over 40 years ago our family purchased a seaside ruin - no roof, walls broken down, no floor. The family has never been able to explain, or just to mention a little, the disastrous state of repair Folly was in.

It was my parents - particularly my mother- because of her love of Bonaire and its heritage - who worked painstakingly for years to restore it to its former beauty with fantastic gardens. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that Captain Don, who was at Flamingo Beach, gave us a lot of advice and assistance in the restoration. The family has never been able to get an exact history of the house and for what purpose it was constructed (thought to be commercial, perhaps banking). What we do know is that the house is well over 200 years old.

Frans Booi has made extensive research both here and in the Netherlands but has not turned up any conclusive information. It took our family three years to purchase the property as the deed circled the globe in search of the 73 required signatures. Many of our present day politicians were born in Folly.

The Folly has been sold to investors in the Netherlands with the property changing ownership in January 2005.

Initially plans were for an apartment complex on the property with the *basha abou* (demolishing) of the existing buildings. However, the investors have become aware of the historic value of the Folly and its sentimental value to the people of Bonaire. At the present time I can only share that the investors are looking at alternatives for

the property which would preserve the original Folly house.

Only time will tell. Let us all remain optimistic and also recognize that the new Folly owners are respectful of the Folly's place in the Bonairean culture. Perhaps it would be productive to make the Bonairean concerns known to the investors.

I, too, feel great sadness in the "passing" of Folly. It was my home for over 25 years and my family was raised there. I shall especially miss *Ma Didi*, our friendly ghost (well documented), who, I suspect, is very active now looking out for her spiritual home. I will keep *The Bonaire Reporter* informed as matters develop.

Petri Hausmann

VOTING PERSPECTIVE

Dear Editor:

I'm not sure if you will be printing a referendum voting article but when I voted (which took all of 15 minutes from the time I left until I got back- point being the financial burden of everyone having 4 hours off when business on Bonaire is tough as it is). Two people were denied the right to vote in that short time I was there.

The government sent out a voting notice or "permission to vote slip" which had the correct legal name and all the correct addresses, ID # etc. This notice had to be taken to the polling station where a group of 4 people monitored what was happening. These 4 people also had a complete list of names which matched the notice. It clearly stated on that notice that a form of ID must be presented which could be a sedula or a passport. Upon arriving at the polling station one person was told that their sedula was out of date even though they knew the person and that he had been on Bonaire for decades. His wife was allowed to vote and she had the same year sedula.

The second person was told that they also needed their residency permit and she was denied a vote until she presented it, so she did not vote at all. She also has been living Bonaire for over 15 years and has permanent residency.

The point here is that if the government sent out a "permission to vote notice" and that name appears on the voting roster, then the sedula or passport should have only been used to identify that person and nothing more.

Again it clearly stated on the voting notice that a sedula or passport were needed and nothing more.

This all occurred in the 5 minutes I was actually inside so I wonder how many others had this same problem.

B.B.

Referendum Results

Option	ballots	vote%
A	853	16%
B	3182	59%
C	1290	24%
D	27	<1%
Total	5352	

56% of the Electorate (9557) voted

The majority of Bonaire's people want to become more Dutch; or at least to have equality with the social and economic conditions of The Netherlands. In the consultative Referendum held last Friday, 10 September, almost 60% said they wanted to have a "direct link" with Holland and abandon the 50-year-long union with the other five islands of the Netherlands Antilles. Every precinct (*stembureau*) opted for B by a wide margin over the other choices. The second most popular selection, for a status aparté similar to Aruba's, won 24% of the ballots. Some 16% of the voters opted to maintain existing ties with Curaçao. Only 27 people (<1%) wanted full independence. But what was loud and clear was that with Options B and C combined, 84% rejected the interference of Curaçao in their affairs. While the results are not legally binding, they place a moral obligation on the island's leaders to join with Holland.

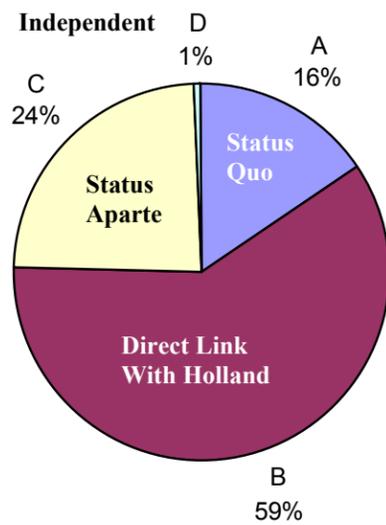
All the UN guidelines for a decisive referendum were met. More than 50% of the electorate voted and more than 50% chose one of the options. It is a definitive victory for the UPB party of Ramonsito Booi who campaigned hard for the Option B, direct link, choice. The turnout of only 56% of the island's eligible voters was disappointing and below that of typical Island Council elections.

With last week's decisive vote, Bonaire became the second island territory of the five-island constellation of the Netherlands

Antilles that has voted to leave the group. It joined St. Maarten, which in June 2000 voted to become a separate country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Sometime in the next six months to a year the remaining Antillean islands will also hold similar referenda. If the results of the first two referenda are duplicated, it will send a clear signal to Holland that the Netherlands Antilles, as structured today, must be dismantled.

Today, however, the integration of Bonaire into Holland does not rank high on the Dutch list of important "things to do." Now that the people have spoken it is up to Bonaire's leaders to move it up that list. And when he succeeds, Senator Ramonsito Booi, the man who led the drive for a direct link with Holland, may go down in history as the Father of the new Bonaire, as did Betico Croes for Aruba. □ G.D.

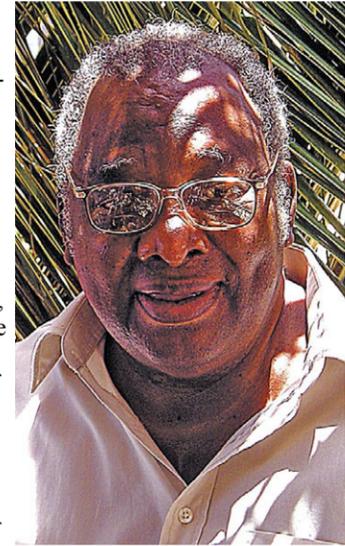


OPSHON	STEMBUREAUS										TOTAAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A	73	100	131	108	66	77	56	73	109	60	853
B	347	505	443	358	274	262	259	318	251	165	3182
C	130	198	145	156	126	151	93	127	92	72	1290
D	4	4	5	2	3	0	1	5	1	2	27
	554	807	724	624	469	490	409	523	453	299	5352

Referendum results posted at the Passengrahn

LANLAN CLARINDA 27 February 1939 - 11 September 2004

One of Bonaire's musical giants passed away last Saturday night after a long illness. Baldomero "Lanlan" Clarinda was the founder, composer, musician, and singer of one of Bonaire's most honored folk groups, *Tipiko Boneriano*. He was a true child of the ABC islands: he passed his early years in Curaçao, his school years in Bonaire and worked in Aruba, as well, at the refinery and as a blacksmith.



But when he returned to Bonaire he began a career at LVV (Agricultural and Animal Service), a career he was familiar with from working on the *kunuku* of his grandfather, Janchi Clarinda. He spent eight months in Israel as a representative of the Bonaire Government, learning new soil techniques which he applied after his return to Bonaire.

But Lanlan is best known as a musical composer and musician. He was key in forming musical groups, first in Aruba in 1945, where his group was made up mostly of Bonaireans. In Bonaire he formed the Caribbean Boys, joined with the *Tipiko Grasiioso* group of Antonio Valintijn. It evolved into the famous *Tipiko Boneriano* group about 45 years ago. His bad heart slowed him down and he lived in Holland for his health for some years. Last year he returned to his beloved Bonaire. □

THE REFERENDUM CHOICES	Definition from the Referendum Committee
A. Stay within the Antilles (MANTENSHON DI E AKTUAL STATUS)	Bonaire to remain part of the Netherlands Antilles
B. A direct link with Holland (INTEGRASHON DEN E MADRE PATRIA)	Bonaire to become an integral part of Holland
C. Autonomous country within the Kingdom (ASOSASHON KU E MADRE PATRIA)	Bonaire to become an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands
D. Independence from the Kingdom of the Netherlands (INDEPENDENSIA)	Bonaire to become an independent state

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

underwater (the Dive Inn house reef). Because of the high seas and powerful surge from Hurricane Ivan there was a lot of damage, mostly to piers on the waterfront in this area. A lot of wood, debris and other pier material were thrown on shore and on the reef.

Dozens of people- tourists, local people, Park Rangers, and Marine Park SCUBA divers (who got a free air fill)-showed up and worked so hard they more than filled two dumpsters. Selibon had to make a couple of trips to empty all the trash.

► Next year Queen Beatrix will celebrate 25 years on the Dutch throne. A National Committee in Holland is in charge of the festivities, and the Netherlands Antilles is represented by Kingdom Council of State member Gilbert Wawoe. The Antillean Government recently signed an agreement with the Dutch Orange Committee Foundation for preparations and celebrations on the five islands, in close cooperation with the island governments and the National Committee, which will make the necessary funds available.

► Building on the successes of the last two windsurfing events, the PWA, in cooperation with the Bonaire Sailing Foundation, has decided to **re-schedule the Bonaire King of the Caribbean Freestyle event to May 22-29, 2005.** Bonaire, until recently, was an undiscovered windsurfing paradise, offering incredible sailing conditions on crystal clear turquoise waters. In



2002, the Bonaire King of the Caribbean became the first PWA Windsurfing event on the island, catapulting the beautiful venue to the forefront of the windsurfing community. The 2003 event once again made for an unforgettable finale to the Freestyle tour with superb conditions.

The decision to move the dates will ensure the future of what has become one of the strongest events on the PWA Calendar. Lac Bay, where the event is held, has indeed enjoyed excellent Freestyle conditions during previous year's contests, but the December winds are not as reliable as May's. Winds during May are traditionally 4-5 knots stronger than in December.

For further information contact info@pwaworldtour.com or ann@bonairewindsurfing.com.

► **Hurricane forecaster William Gray says there will be five named storms this month,** that two of them will become major hurricanes and that the other three will become hurricanes. Tropical Storm Ivan is considered the first of five named storms Gray forecasts for this September. As we go to press another tropical storm, Jeanne, is passing through the north Caribbean.

Gray had downgraded his forecast in early August from 14 to 13 named storms for the 2004 hurricane season.

However, Gray now expects a more active season than he had predicted earlier. He was reported as saying that the month of August represented a near record for high activity, that September will continue the pattern, but that there will be below-average activity in October. To date the Atlantic Hurricane Season has seen the formation of nine named storms. Gray said in his latest forecast that he expects the current season to be "the eighth of the last 10 seasons that have had hurricane activity

POLICE UPDATE



If you see or hear something suspicious, call the POLICE HOT-LINE - DIAL 108. You may choose to remain totally anonymous.

► **Nine bolita swallowers** were arrested at Curaçao airport last Sunday, September 12, after they had flown from Bonaire and then attempted to buy tickets on the KLM to Amsterdam in the Curaçao transit hall. Their respective residences were listed as Curacao, Bonaire and Holland. Their passports were confiscated and they were sent back to their countries with a subpoena.

► **A known goat thief,** RTH (46), was arrested on Sunday, September 12, when he attempted to convince police that the goat meat he'd delivered to Ruben's Snack was from his own goats. Legally, goats should be taken to the slaughter house to be killed and their meat inspected and stamped. This assures the restaurants and snacks that the meat

is legal and hygienic. Meat arriving at the establishments in other ways can be considered suspect and possibly contraband. This was the case with the meat delivered to Ruben Snack.

► **The Zero Tolerance program** has put a lot of police on the streets, cruising in all the neighborhoods in their cars, and things are improving, says Charles Souriel of the Police Department. Cars, scooters and motorcycles are being stopped and checked for licenses and insurance. Loud scooters and motorcycles are being reported, but by the time the police arrive, in most cases the cyclist has disappeared. If you would like the police to have more control over vehicles making loud noises, let them know.

► Public Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius and representatives from Curaçao are in St. Martin having a meeting with the Coast Guard. More information as it becomes available. □ *L.D.*

much above the last 55 year average and above that of the quarter century period of 1970-1994."

► It's not often that an **Asian country beats out the West with progressive environmental policy.** Yet that's just what Taiwan has done, with regulations that have dramatically reduced use of what many consider a scourge - the plastic bag, the unofficial flag of Bonaire. Long has it waved from our cactus.

Single-use plastics, so ubiquitous in modern life and so prevalent across Asia, have

become something of a novelty in this island nation since the country's Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) implemented tough restrictions - namely, **large fines against businesses that give away plastic bags, utensils, and Styro-foam and plastic food containers.** Maybe Bonaire can try it too?

► If you want to understand more about **differences in raising children** now and in years past be sure to read the Living Treasures article on page 17. Ebo Domacasse explains it clearly and simply. □ *G./L.D.*

LOCAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

It was wonderful to have the local fishing tournament back as an annual event. The gathering of families to spend the day fishing is a flashback to old times. And all the fish caught are consumed, even the marlin which is smoked; none are reef fish; sharks or tarpon are not permitted to be caught. Hook and line are used and the methods have proven sustainable over the years. If only the big commercial boats did the same. Prizes consist of fishing gear, safety stuff and other equipment invaluable to fishermen. The photos capture some of the spirit of the event. □ G.D.



Weighing in some small fish



Siri photo

Landing the Tourney's largest fish, a White marlin



And some bigger fish

RESULTS

Weight and number of fish caught:

12 Big boats-462½ kg., 268 fish
28 Small boats-402½ kg., 239 fish
Total-864 kg., 507 fish

Overall Winner:

SPERANSA DONALD SILBERIE 98 KILO

WINNERS SMALL BOATS

Weight	1. CHICHI	ROGELIO DORTALINA	84 ¼ KILO
	2. HUNTER	GIORDANO EMRENCIANA	64 ½ KILO
	3. RODERICK	GILBERT CHRISTIAAN	55 ¾ KILO
Quantity	1. HUNTER	GIORDANO EMERENCIANA	45 PISKÁ
	2. ZAME II	EDDY AYUBI	34 PISKÁ
	3. CHICHI	ROGELIO DORTALINA	31 PISKÁ
Heaviest fish	1. CHICHI	ROGELIO DORTALINA	11 KILO
	2. RODERICK	GILBERT CHRISTIAAN	8 KILO
	3. SANDRA	DAMIAN WINKLAAR	7 KILO

"Pot" winners: Small boats SANDRA NAf 275
Big Boats SIRI NAf200

WINNERS BIG BOATS

Weight (in kilos)		
1. SPERANSA	DONALD SILBERIE	98
2. SIRI	VERBINNEN	82
3. PATRICIA	VINCENT SIKET	54 ½

Quantity in fish (piska)		
1.SPERANSA	DONALD SILBERIE	67
2.PATRICIA	VINCENT SIKET	47
3. PORFIN	HUMPHREY THOMAS	46

Heaviest fish (in kilos)		
1. SIRI	VERBINNEN	82
2. CHA-ANNE	CHARLON BERNADINA	11 ¼
3. MS EVELINE	LUDWIG CRAANE	10 ¼
3. BLACKY II	RUDOLF DE JONGH	10 ¼

MAKING MEGA MASTS in BONAIRE A New Industry

About a hundred years ago one of the foremost activities on Bonaire was boat building. From small skiffs to freight-carrying schooners, Bonaire's boat builders were admired for the quality of their craft. During the last century the practice was abandoned and today only a handful of Bonaireans can build boats. But boats have changed too. Technology is very much in the picture, and boating technology is what a proposed new industry for Bonaire is all about.

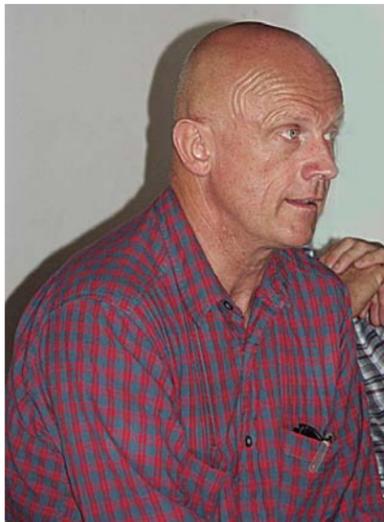
Niek Sandman (see *The Bonaire Reporter*, On the Island Since, 6 September 2002), a Dutchman living on Bonaire, is a developer and investor. Among his Bonaire assets are Danielo Bowling, E WoWo Disco, Esmerelda Resort and BonairExel. He's a wealthy man, and like many wealthy men before him, can afford a mega yacht. Bonaireans are familiar with mega yachts. Our harbors always seem to have one or more visiting. Mr. Sandman's yacht, now under construction in Amsterdam, will be a stand-out. Although most details are secret it will be a sailing yacht about 48m. (160 ft.) long with a 62m. (205 ft.) high mast! The boat is scheduled for launching in the spring of 2005.

While the cost of the yacht has not been published, it's estimated to top 30 million euros. The mast alone costs 1.2 million euros (NA\$2.5 million). And that's the start of the story of how Bonaire is getting into the high-tech mast making business.

It appeared that the company in Majorca building the special mast for the Sandman yacht, which will be named *BonairRig*, was going out of business, and with it the hopes that the yacht could be completed on schedule, evaporated.

The mast is not like what we've seen on other sailing yachts. For starters it is made of a carbon fiber laminate. Pound for pound carbon fiber is 100 times stronger than the strongest mast-making metal. And lightness

and strength is all-important because the mast is to soar more than 20 stories into the air without bracing... no wires will be necessary to support it. It will be stepped on the keel of the yacht and emerge from the deck 5 m. (16 ft.) above. From there it will soar to twice the height of the steeple of the Catholic Church in Kralendijk. And that's not all. It must support the driving force provided by sails 1½ the size of a football field. It weighs 12,100 lbs. (5,500 kgs.), but if made of steel it would be over 220,000 lbs. (100,000 kg.) Other innovations to the boom and rig will allow a much smaller crew than usually needed to handle a sailing yacht this size.



Niek Sandman,
the man behind the mast

To keep on schedule Niek Sandman bought the mast making company and relocated it to Zaandam, The Netherlands. He also thought that if things worked out, the mast making technology and workforce could be transferred to Bonaire and smaller versions of the mast produced on the island.

In addition to the workers already putting the mast together, he hired four Bonaireans to learn the craft. It didn't take long for them to become productive workers alongside the New Zealanders who were already experts. They are under the guidance of Englishman Tony Smith, an acknowledged yacht-building expert who was on Bonaire for the announcement of the project. He gained experience as part of the team that put together the thoroughbred racing yachts *Play Station* and *Prada*. Tony says that Bonaire has a good climate and good workers for building carbon fiber masts.

Mast construction requires heat and pressure. After layers of fiber are applied the mast is wrapped and the air is sucked out from under the wrapping. The vacuum allows the normal air pressure of 14.7 lbs/in² (1 bar) to be uniformly applied. Over the surface of the mast it amounts to 200 tons. Heating elements raise the ambient temperature to around 106°F (50°).

While mast production itself is not threatening to the environment, the waste products can be and must be disposed of responsibly. In Holland there are firms that do this. In Bonaire, a solution still must be found.

The business plans to begin as soon as it gets its first commission.

It's anticipated that Bonaire's mast mak-



Mastenfabriek- photo

Making the megayacht mast in Amsterdam.
Do you recognize Bonaire sailor "Yellowman" in the center?

ing operation will be conducted in Bonaire's "Economic Zone." That means that there will be no customs duty applicable to imports and exports of the materials required to build the masts or the mast themselves. Fifteen men will be hired to do the work. It will be the first time in a half-century that Bonaireans will be involved again in building large sailboats. A tradition will be reborn. □ G.D.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF		
9-17	14:48	1.6FT.	23:54	1.1FT.	92
9-18	1:20	1.0FT.	15:48	1.7FT.	89
9-19	2:20	0.9FT.	16:48	1.8FT.	82
9-20	3:07	0.8FT.	17:50	1.9FT.	74
9-21	3:52	0.7FT.	18:46	2.0FT.	65
9-22	4:28	0.7FT.	19:43	2.0FT.	58
9-23	5:08	0.8FT.	20:33	2.0FT.	56
9-24	5:43	0.8FT.	21:29	2.0FT.	61

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

3T	Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Rumbacon
Abu Dai	Honalee	Sandpiper, USA
Angie	Macaby, Netherlands	Santa Maria, Sweden
Alegria, USA	Maggie	Scintilla, Germany
Alaluya	Makai	Side by Side
Aleria	Marathon	Sirius
Aurora	Marina Em	Sojourner
Avatar, USA	Marnel IV	Southern Cross
Bright Sea	Misty Blue	Starlight Dancer
Camissa, Chan Is.	My Dream Israel	Sylvia K
Camperdown	Natural Selection, USA	Sylvistre
Cape Kathryn	Nonesuch, USVI	Ti Amo, USA
Chacuco	Nut N Honey	Too pfarr out
Cop Out	One Way Wind	TopCat
Delphinus	Ottifant	Tothill
El Sabor	Pamela Jean	Ty Dewi, USA
Escapade	Pastime	Tween
Fan-Fan	Polecat	Ulu Ulu, USA
Flying Cloud, USA	Pomona	Unicorn, Norway
Frajola	Pow Wow	Varedhuni, Germany
Gatsby, USA	Precocious Gale, USA	Windmiller, Canada
Gonzo II	Revid	Ya-T, BVI
Grey Lady	Reward	Zahi, Malta



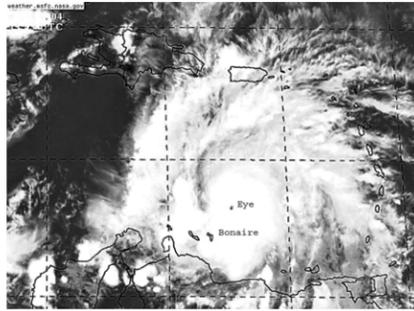
Alan Gross photo

Spray breaks over the Spelonk lighthouse before the arrival of Ivan

Hurricane Ivan is old news in Bonaire this week but big news in America. On September 8th the killer storm took a twist to the north just before reaching the island, saving it from the fate of Granada, Jamaica and The Caymans. A few inches of rain and brief gale force winds were experienced on land. The shore on all coasts took a battering as the position of the storm moved relative to the island of Bonaire.

We were able to follow the path of the storm using Buys Ballot's Law* and the satellite animations on the Internet (<http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/TROP/DATA/RT/watl-ir4-loop.html>). What a relief to see that as Hurricane Ivan approached Bonaire its course deviated northward. But it was most frightening to see the storm grow in size and intensity as it passed Bonaire to the north.

Bonaire handily weathered its closest encounter with a hurricane in almost a decade with some coastal destruction but its infrastructure intact. Severe damage was



Hurricane Ivan approaches Bonaire at 4:30 pm Wednesday

isolated to the shore areas. The eye of Hurricane Ivan passed 60 miles to the northeast. It was a full fledged, category 4 storm when it neared Bonaire. The island last dealt with a major storm in 1996 when Cesar developed just north of the island, growing into a category 1 hurricane only days later. (Swells from Hurricane Lenny in 1999 damaged some of Bonaire's reefs but was 350 miles away.)

Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao are on the southern fringes of the hurricane belt, but

IVAN THE TERRIBLE

they are not totally outside that belt as many think. History says that roughly once every 100 years considerable damage is caused by tropical cyclones passing near the islands.

Storm preparations, while rarely done, were well organized. Officials declared a Hurricane Warning early Wednesday morning. Airlines BonairExel, DCA and KLM cancelled all flights to the island. Disaster services were mobilized at 8 am. Most business closed by noon. A storm hotline was announced. Shelters were opened in all of the *barios*. Yachts and local boats sheltered in the two protected marinas on the island and Lac Bay. The harbor anchorage was empty by mid-morning and streets were deserted. Downtown shops had their windows boarded and taped. Some seaside areas were evacuated. A curfew was in force.

Because of expected high water in downtown areas, electrical power was shut down to some sections. It was restored in the morning after the storm winds passed and the tide receded.

As Ivan moved closer to the island, it took a slight turn to the north. The new course, further away, is what saved Bonaire from more serious wind damage, but magnified the impact of the battering seas as the new angle further exposed the built-up western shoreline. The storm effects peaked between 5 and 7 pm. The great majority of the damage was caused by waves which washed over seawalls and shorefront buildings. The highest wind gusts were clocked in the 50 knot (60 mph) range, but the sea spray often exceeded 15 m (50 ft)

high. The high seas continued into Thursday, battering the southwest coast most of all. Rainfall was intermittent and did not exceed two inches in most areas. No injuries were reported, except for a man who fell from his roof while cutting branches clear just before the storm. There was significant damage to shorefront homes and beach structures in the southern Belnem residential area. The most seaward of the "snacks" at Lac Kai was flattened. Flooding in Rincon caused some people to evacuate their homes. The roof in the new hospital building leaked badly. Nukove beach is gone. All coasts had beach erosion; roads and shops adjacent to the shore were swamped.

On Thursday morning businesses and shops reopened and people returned to their shorefront homes as Hurricane Ivan



Delno Tromp photo

The mess at Lighthouse Beach

spun away from the ABC Islands. Cleanup began immediately.

Aruba was not so lucky; the day after the hurricane passed a backlash rain band

(Continued on page 11)

SPARES BONAIRE

(Continued from page 10)

flooded the island. There are reports of damage in the tens of millions. As far as we know, there were no human casualties but 9,000 chickens drowned.

DIVE REPORT

All dive operations were back in action on the weekend. Despite some early reports, Buddy Dive Resort Bonaire did not lose its dock. In fact, after inspection and repair, it reopened on Tuesday, September 14. Buddy Dive's "Free Upgrade to Unlimited Boat Dives" special offer was even extended from November 27th through December 26th, 2004.

Lots of coral rubble has been washed ashore and there is damage between the shoreline to the drop off in many areas. We observed an underwater video made in the Barkadera area shortly after Ivan passed (available online at <http://video.blennylips.com/IvanAftermath.wmv> with the following observations:

Visibility was good, there were the usual numbers of fish, and there was a lot of



The Fisherman's Pier broke up when the supports broke off the rusted bases. The bases were relatively new.



Cleaning up the waterfront on the morning after

coral rubble, mostly dead coral and man-made debris littering the bottom in the shallow areas. Pier pilings remained vertical. Elkhorn and fire coral were standing

Although there have been no reports of significant damage to coral below 20 ft. (6m.), Jessie Armacost [jessinbonaire@telbonet.an], coordinator for the Bonaire National Marine Park volunteers, has asked **divers to complete the form below and return it to her or to Marine Park H.Q.**

Dive site _____ Date Assessed _____

Depth of damage _____

% of corals damaged at that depth _____ %

Type of damage. Check all that apply:

- excessive amounts of sand on the corals
- corals turned over
- corals broken apart
- live corals washed ashore
- rock washed ashore
- gorgonians (soft corals) washed away
- sponges gone

Describe damage

Other information

but the tips were broken off. In the deeper water the water was clearer and the coral looked good. There was some sand covering some formations (But according to other reports the corals were clearing themselves of the sand.)

At Oil Slick Leap the ladder was still in place. In fact all the ladders build by Botterop Construction ("bcb," a *Bonaire Reporter* advertiser) survived the storm.

There are new beaches on the south of Klein Bonaire and the east coast south of Sea Hatch (see, Playa Ivan, Opinion sec-

tion, page 4). □

***BUYS BALLOT'S LAW**, in meteorology, the name given to a law which may be expressed as follows: Stand with your back to the wind; the low-pressure area will be on your left hand. It is approximately true in the higher latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere, and is reversed in the Southern Hemisphere, and is reversed in the Southern Hemisphere, but the angle between barometric gradient and wind is an approximate right angle in low latitudes, like Bonaire's. The law takes its name from C. H. D. Buys Ballot, a Dutch meteorologist, who published it in the *Comptes rendus*, November 1857.

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Call or fax *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988 e-mail ads@bonairereporter.com



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



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



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LUNCH TO GO- Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call **CHINA NOBO 717-8981**



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BOATS & ENGINES for SALE

JUST IN TIME FOR REGATTA

Traditional Bonairean Sailing sloop. Wood, traditional construction, about 21' long. Fiberglassed in and out for minimal maintenance. Two time winner of Bonaire Regatta, Class A. A dream to sail. Bargain at NAf9,999. One of the last of its kind. Call 717-8988 or 785-6125.



FOR SALE

Brand New Mobile Room Airco with remote - 220v., 50-60 cycles, NAf600. Tel. 564-9227 or 717-3303 (Ask for Richard)

For Sale: 2 month-old **LG fully equipped automatic washing machine.** 10.2 kg. I'm moving, so I don't need machine now. NAf650. Call 717-8811 or 568-6257.

Toshiba Satellite Computer: PSA10C-05HVM, Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 2.4GHz, 512MB SDRAM expandable to 1024MB; 60GB Hard Drive, 15" TFT Color LCD, CDRW+DVD, V.92 Data/Fax Modem, 10/100 LAN & 802.11b Wireless, 16bit Stereo, 3D Sound, 32MB UMA DDR Video Memory; RGB, 2 USB 2.0, RJ-11, RJ-45, TV-OUT, 2.5 Hours Battery Life, Weight 6.2 lbs, Toshiba World Wide Warranty (2 1/2 yrs), Price \$1999 negotiable. Phone: 791-4192, thussisiva@hotmail.com

PROPERTY FOR RENT.

Oceanfront, furnished, studio apartments at Sand Dollar Resort, direct owner rentals; <http://dcolvard.home.mindspring.com/condos/index.html>; Email: dcolvard@mindspring.com; Tel: (USA) (919) 781-3141

We want to rent a house, Oct. - Dec. 2004, or swap with our house in Soest. Call 035-6022307, dick_janny@hetnet.nl

For Rent: Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-Privacy & security- July 15 to Jan 15-Brochure available-Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293-or (US) (570)-586 0098-e/mail larjaytee@aol.com

Oceanfront, furnished, 2 bedroom apartment for rent in Belnem. Call 717-8603.



WANTED

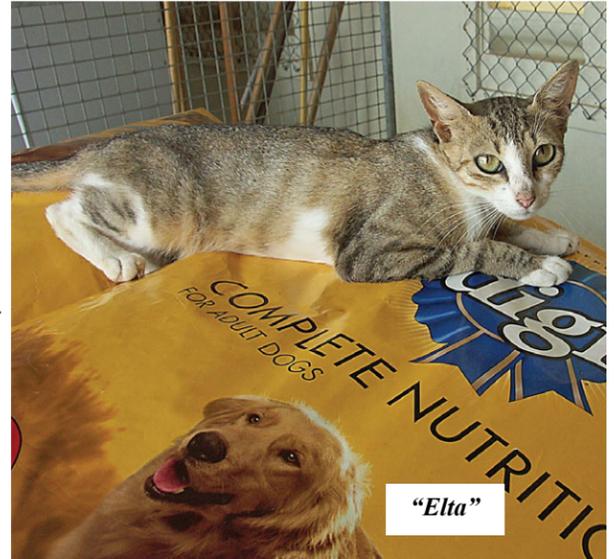
WANTED to buy, a used shipping container. Tel. 717-2727 or 785-7688

WANTED: (The services of) a Siamese male cat for our female one. Fam. Jonkman. Tel. 717-2006



PET of the WEEK

Mom "Elta" was brought into the Shelter with her four kittens (Randy, Roy, Ryan and Rita. Randy and Roy were Pets of the Week recently). She is considered such an important personage that she was given the assignment of guarding the Shelter's supply of dog food! Now that's an honor and a responsibility. Elta is a very cooperative and sweet personality who's so sweet. She and her kittens



"Elta"

came from a family that had children, so she's used to being handled and she's not in the least skittish. Elta is about a year and a half and will be sterilized. If you want a loving, appreciative pet who's ready to go, health and personality wise, see Elta. The Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

Do you love dogs and cats, puppies and kittens and have a little extra time

on your hands? Then why not do something fun for yourself and those pets and volunteer at the Shelter. If you wonder whether you'd be welcome just check out all the wagging tails and happy meows when you show up! Give them a call at 717-4989. You can pretty much pick your own hours.

Note: Because of the Sterilization Program the Shelter's Boarding will be closed from October 11 to 30. □L.D.

**FREE STERILIZATION PROGRAM
OCTOBER 18 to 30.
Animal Shelter's Community-wide Program
Tell Your Neighbors!**

THE NAMING OF: PLASA MACHI MIMI

COVER

The fruit and vegetable stand used by the Venezuelans on the seaside that was once the site of a local fish market has a new name. It's now called "Plasa di Machi Mimi," named after the legendary fish seller, Machi Mimi (Bernabé Dominga Everts 1892-1986).

Shown in the cover photo is Machi Mimi's 97-year-old sister, Mathilda Chrinio, with her daughters, Felicia Chirino and Erna M. Chirino. Mathilda is the last of Machi's siblings who consisted of two brothers and five sisters. Following is a story written by Bòì Antoin about the Plasa when its future was uncertain last year. There had been a possibility of its being turned into another seaside bar, but after a public outcry, the danger has passed and the Plasa now as a new name.



THE PLASA

Bonaire is an island which has always been known for its fish. Some were even exported to Curaçao. Fishermen lived in every neighborhood on the island. They were men who went to sea very early to hunt for their daily bread, many times under difficult circumstances.

In earlier times the fishermen went out in rowboats, but those with a little more money had sailboats. However, when motors became available, nearly all the fishing boats had one.

Fishermen who returned from a day of fishing sold their fish where they tied up or pulled their boats onto the shore. People who wanted to buy fish came to those seaside sites so they could choose the best fish. What was left over, the fishermen took home.

The Engelhart family of Playa Pabou had their own place where they sold fish. It was in a lean-to located more or less where Zeezicht is now. There, Magri Engelhart, the wife of Shon Jan Engelhart, sold fish as long as her husband and the other fishermen could supply them. This was the first "Fish Plasa" in Bonaire.

In 1935, Johan M. Status van Eps became the Lt. Governor of Bonaire. He was known as an energetic government official, and during his tenure, from 1935 to 1939, he worked towards getting a public plasa where fish could be sold. Status



Machi Mimi's 97-year-old sister, Mathilda Chrinio, with Commissioner Jonchi Dortalina

van Eps himself designed the building which some people labeled Greek architecture while others who saw it thought it had the elements of a Chinese design.

The Plasa, once it got established, became one of the most important places in Playa. Having the Plasa made it easier for the fishermen from Playa and Antriol because now there was a central place where

MO DÉ SLIPWAY



Dedication of the Mo Dé Slipway with Mo Dé's family

The slipway by the south pier is the newest one built on the island, and recently there was a ceremony to give it its official name. It's now called the "Mo Dé Slipway," in honor of Mo Dé Martines of Playa Pariba. Mo Dé was the renowned and respected master fisherman who was a big influence on his fellow fishermen and family, especially his grandson, Elvis "Piskechi" Martines,

who is well known in his own right as the windsurfing "godfather." Elvis was raised and taught by Mo Dé.

According to Elvis' sister, Liesje Saragoza, Playa Pariba was a real family neighborhood, many of whom got their living from the sea. Some of the family names along with Martines, were Diaz, Booi, Boekhoudt and Marchena. □L.D.

they could bring their fish for sale. A fisherman could sell his catch to a salesman located at the Plasa and get payment based on the quantity of fish that he sold. The salesman also sliced the fish for the buyers after the fishermen had scaled and cleaned the fish which they brought there that day.

Often the boats arrived at the Plasa, one right after another, between 11 and 12 noon. Who came in first depended on what time the fisherman went to sea and if the fishing went well. By noon the fish were usually sold out. Except during its declining days, the fish sellers at the Plasa were always women. **One of the women who without a doubt left her stamp on the Plasa was known as Machi Mimi.**

The Plasa wasn't only a place for selling

fish. It was also a place where notices were posted which were of interest to the community. In those days there were no newspapers, radio or television. So the Plasa became an important source of news and gossip for the entire Bonairean community.

About 20 years ago interest in selling fish at the Plasa started to disappear. After the death of the legendary Machi Mimi others attempted to sell fish at the Plasa. There was Chirino Silberie and later a grandchild of Machi Mimi, Egon (Choy) Evertsz, but no one could be successful. Eventually the Plasa became a place where fruits and vegetables imported from Venezuela are sold. □

Story by Bòì Antoin, translation by Laura DeSalvo

Opinion (Continued from page 4)

gress of the other islands. The breakup of the Antilles is now an irreversible fact but not one done out of malice. We wish the other islands well; but we simply have to take charge of our own future now. There never was any other motive behind this. We will always maintain fraternal ties with the other islands and Curaçao will always remain our "sister island." □

Michiel Bijkerk

Michiel Bijkerk is a well known Bonaire attorney who advised the government of Bonaire on the course towards the just-completed Referendum. His story appeared in "On the Island Since" in the September 12-19, 2003 issue of The Bonaire Reporter. Ed.



Michiel Bijkerk

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! Usually 9:00 pm
White Chicks
 (Shawn and Marlon Wayans)

Early Show (usually 7pm)
King Arthur

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 Two Brothers
SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM
King Arthur

THIS WEEK

Until September 25, at Cinnamon Art Gallery an exhibition of "Nochi" Coffee's works.

Saturday, September 18—Clean Up the World—Selibon and Fundashon Tene Boneiru Limpi. Tel. 717-8159.

Tuesday, September 28—NEW DATE-SGB CULINARY SCHOOL FUND-RAISING DINNER, Chez Nous, at 7 pm. To help send four students to study cuisine in Italy for 4 weeks. Call for reservations 717-8120.

COMING

October 3-10—37th Annual Bonaire International Sailing Regatta

Wednesday, October 6—Bonaire Regatta Run/Walk, 5 km, 5 pm, sponsored by Comcabon. Tel. Richard Pietersz at 717-8629 to sign up.

EVERY WEEK

Sunday -Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar**. Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live **Fla-Bingo** with great prizes, starts 7 pm, Divi Flamingo

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 introduces 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 info.

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 -Meditation at Donkey Beach from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Open to all. Call S.H.Y. 790-9450

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.

Saturdays during summer Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music.

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

Daily- The Divi Flamingo Casino is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm- 4 am and Sunday 7 pm- 3 am.

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

Wednesdays (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation Slide Show by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

Friday- Week in Review Video Presentation by the Toucan Dive Shop at the Plaza's Tippy 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- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Val-rie@telbonet.an

Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. 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.

Al-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, sec. Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th 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 popular musicians.

Rincon Marshé- every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Bonaire's historic town. **Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area . Alta Mira Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am.**

Town Walking tour at 9:30, Bus Tour at 10. Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.

CHURCH SERVICES

International Bible Church of Bonaire - Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) **Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm** in English. Tel. 717-8332

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting**

THE KEY TO UNIVERSAL WISDOM Lecture organized by the Rosicrucian Order AMORC in Jeugdhuys Jong Bonaire

What is the source of the silent voice from within? Intuition and inspiration are not merely mechanistic processes of the subconscious. Attunement of the mind is not limited to communication with other human beings. If the universe is orderly, then it is conscious. If it is conscious, it is intelligent. This Universal Intelligence need not be just an occasional sudden flash of ideas into the conscious mind. You can call it forth at will - you can unlock it when most needed - and be the recipient of the enlightenment it provides. The Rosicrucian Order AMORC, an international non-profit organization, can help you explore these topics. On 24 September 2004 the Bonairean section of AMORC, the foundation Parthenon AMORC Bonaire, organizes a public lecture on some aspects of the Rosicrucian philosophy. The lecture is entitled: 'Verlichting is verplichting' (Enlightenment entails obligation) and will be held by Mr. Michiel Bijkerk. The lecture will be in Dutch, but anybody should feel free to ask questions or join in the discussion in English or Papiamentu. The lecture starts at 7 o'clock on **24 September 2004** in one of the rooms of Jeugdhuys Jong Bonaire. The evening will end before 11 o'clock. Anyone interested, is welcome. Entrance is free. □ M.B.

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.

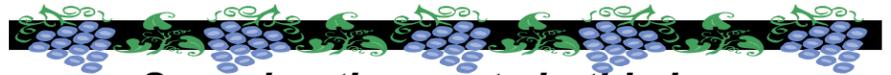
Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). Services in English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

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

* * * * *

Send events to *The Bonaire Reporter*
 Email reporter@bonairenews.com
 Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 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
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and beautiful turquoise setting when enjoying a breakfast buffet or a la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Enjoy inspiring vistas and a high standard of international cuisine.
Croccantino Italian Restaurant 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. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
Garden Café 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
La Balandra On the Water at the Harbour Village Resort 717-7500, ext 62; 785-0902	Moderate Open every day 30 am to 10:30 pm, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	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.
The Last Bite Bakery 717-3293 Home Delivery or Take Out	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 gourmet class items - always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The Lost Penguin Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003. CLOSED Sept. 1 to 26.	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.
Nonchi's at Cultimara 791-4280	Low Open 5 am-8 pm Monday-Saturday	Delicious local and international food to take out, or eat there. Everyday a different combo. Sandwiches and roast chicken too. Lunch from NA/7-
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
The Seahorse Cyber Café 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

BonairExel. 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, computers. 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. Have your keys made here.

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.

CYBER CAFES

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

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.

HOTELS

Golden Reef Inn is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute to diving and the sea.

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

Kodarama- the only digital lab and studio handles all digital media and offers the largest variety of professional services -across from MCB Bank

Paradise Photo in the Galeries 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.

SAILING

Woodwind has it all: Smooth trimaran sailing, to Klein Bonaire, affordable prices, snorkeling with equipment, guide, drinks, snacks. Call 560-7055

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



Ebo and Suzy with grandchildren Kevin, Mary Ann and Melissa

“Children nowadays have much more time on their hands than we ever had. I know you can’t compare the situation now to how it was in the old days, but we certainly had some good things that we could introduce and use again. In our time we had the friars and they taught us discipline after school through scouting and sea scouting. With the scouts, under the guidance of Friar Franciscus and Friar Calito Nicolaas, we went camping in Washington Park; we went mountaineering; we played games - all sorts of things. Friar Benno was with the sea scouts and he taught us how to sail, to row, to swim, to make knots and how to use a compass. We were the first sea scouts of Bonaire and we learned a lot from these people.

I’ve been everywhere in the Caribbean and I haven’t seen a bay as beautiful as Bonaire’s and I feel sorry, because we’re not using it. Children nowadays simply don’t have a clue what fun it can be to be out at sea and to learn about the winds and the currents and how to handle a boat and the sense of great freedom that it gives you.

In my time we respected the old people and it was for a reason, because everything I know now is what they taught me. I don’t want to brag, but my grandfather was one of the best fishermen of Bonaire. He had his own boats and nets; he fished the waters of Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba; and he was independent. My father built big fishing boats. We use to row to Klein Bonaire to look for suitable trees. He taught me how to cut them and how to saw the wood. The Bonaireans should be proud of their ancestors. We had captains, pilots and boat builders; we had knowledge and a lot of capabilities! Where did it all go?

The future is in the hands of our children, but somehow I feel there is no strong leadership to guide them. There are volunteers, and some of them mean well and work hard, but there’s also a group of people who want to have fun themselves, who are not doing it for the children but for their own benefit. We need these vol-

unteers, but they should be more responsible because we leave the children in their hands.

I spend a lot of time on the waterfront at Playa Pabou and I see the good works Artie de Vries is doing with his Sunfish Club, but he can’t do it alone. A funny thing I noticed is that when the Dutch people take their children to sail they stay with them and help them carry the boats etc. Sad to say, but the majority of the Antillean people just drop their children off and disappear, so they’ll never know what their children are doing there. Why don’t they spend some time with them? My father taught me how to make the micro-boats. We went to the east coast to look for wood, then he’d help me put it together, then later I’d go swimming with my little boat. You have to do something together with your children and enjoy doing it. It doesn’t take a lot, but it does make a big difference.

“I want to wake up the people. We have to change - parents, society and government - we have to invest in our children. Let them play and learn about the sea in this beautiful bay we have. Give them professional teachers to instruct and motivate them. Let them be proud of themselves and their island.”

Captain Don and I started the dive industry on Bonaire. Now there are about 20 dive shops. The people who worked for Captain Don and me were Bonaireans. Now there are only a few local people working at Habitat. I don’t want to put the blame on anybody - people came to make money here - but I find they could do something for the island in return. In the old days, before we went diving, we took the children to Klein Bonaire and then picked them up on our way back. Why don’t the dive shops do things like that now for our youngsters? They could do something when business is slow: organize a snorkel trip, teach them how to dive or go with them to Klein Bonaire. Why not? We did it! Then we were poor and we did it. Now there is money and nobody does it.” *He laughs.*

“They’re teaching children how to swim in a pool in Antriol nowadays - good for the people who own the pool, but what’s wrong with the sea? The sea’s more hygienic and the water is nicer. Another aspect is that once they learn to swim in a pool they’re afraid to swim in the sea; they think they will be eaten by a shark!”

Ebo Domacassé is a wise old man; a father, a grandfather and a great-grandfather. Together with his second wife, Suzy Mayer, he’s taking care of three grandchildren who are living with them and their mother in one house. It’s not an easy job at their age, as the mother of the children is working a full time job. Suzy and Ibo are cooking, cleaning, doing the laundry and the shopping and they are raising Kevin, who’s 12 and at SGB, Mary Ann, who’s 10 and in the fifth grade, and Melissa, who’s seven and in the second grade. So, if Ibo (80) is talking about his concerns about Bonaire’s children... he knows what he’s talking about!

“My problem,” *he continues,* “is that the Government and the people of Bonaire are not doing enough to save the children. What can we do? It can’t go on like this. It’s going from bad to worse. I love children. With Kevin we’re going through a tough time. He’s a good boy and I’ll never give up on him, but sometimes I don’t know how to handle him. He’s been with us all his life. He needs me, but I need him too. He comes home from school at one o’clock and he has the whole afternoon to himself. He doesn’t know what to do. He sits in front of the TV, gets impatient. I bought him a boat and when he’s out sailing he’s happy because he knows what he’s doing. He’s a real good guy, you know. He likes to help me and I’ll do anything for him; he’s like my own child. But sometimes I look at him, observe him, and I feel that he thinks that we’re old and silly, that we don’t know anything. But even though we didn’t grow up with TV and all the knowledge it gives you, we’ve grown too.

When I raised my own children, to me their study was number one. Number two was scouting. And thank God, they all did well. I went to school till the seventh grade. I was the eldest child, and without a scholarship there was no chance to study. I had to work to provide for the other eight children. My father was very strict and my mother was a very special person who gave away everything she owned to other people; that was her greatest joy in life. When she died I felt as though I was choking; I loved her so much and she loved me. Till this day I pray for her every night.”

He smiles and he’s just beautiful sitting there on the table with his red painted



Ebo Domacassé surrounded by his children: Jopie (8th child, dive master), Herbert (eldest, Lt. Governor of Bonaire), Leo (2nd, airport manager for 30 years, now advisor to government on airport and aviation matters), Robert (7th, tennis coach), Arthur (6th, government advisor), Rudy (4th, SGB teacher, tennis pro), Caroline (9th, administrative secretary at S.E.K.), Two other children, Carlos (3rd) and Rolando (5th), live in Holland.

finger nails and toes, granddaughter Melissa’s piece of art. “The old people I knew didn’t have an education, but they had something we don’t have any more: they were satisfied. I’ve done so many things, I’ve been to so many places, I’ve met so many people, good and bad ones, and I find it a pity that everything I’ve experienced will get lost. But on the other hand, I’m happy I’m still alive.”

There’s ruckus at the door and a whole bunch of children rush into the house. They kiss their grandmother and then they bury their grandfather with hundreds of kisses and big, long hugs. Then they go to the kitchen, return with a plate of food and start talking. Ibo glows:

“I want to wake up the people. We have to change: parents, society and government; we have to invest in our children. Let them play and learn about the sea in this beautiful bay we have. Give them professional teachers to instruct and motivate them. Let them be proud of themselves and their island. I just want to wake up the people; I’m not Mr. know-it-all, but we all say we love Bonaire... if that’s so, we have to do something... together!

□ *Greta Kooistra*



Greta Kooistra

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

It pleases me to start writing this article about how lucky we have been with how little damage was caused on the island by Hurricane Ivan! A week like last week makes me realize once more that we are living on a tropical island surrounded by the sea and that we should never forget what could happen. As we and others strive to make lush and green gardens along the seaside it is very wise to consider things like Ivan can easily happen.

I think most of the damage done by Ivan will be on plants. The part of Bonaire most affected was probably Punt Vierkant at Belnem. But a lot of other gardens on the seaside also had a lot of salt spray. Maybe I can advise you a bit about what to do in a case like this.

The first thing to do is to wash off as much of the salt as you can, the sooner, the better. You can do this several times. It's also very wise to turn on your irrigation system if you have one, and if you don't, give the plants a lot of sweet water, even if it has rained a lot. The sooner the salt leaves the soil, the better.

It's not such a good idea to start pruning the burned branches and leaves right away because you might get more salt spray, and in the beginning you can't really see what is burned and what isn't. So it's better to wait a few days, then start cutting off the burned branches.

This is also a good time to look around and see which plants can stand some salt spray and which plants aren't so good to be planted on the seaside close to the water.

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 terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410



Salt spray damage from Hurricane Ivan on once luxurious Bougainvillea 75 m. from the sea and 15 m. above it.

Here are some really good plants and trees that won't have too many problems with salt spray. Most of the palms like the **Coconut, Washingtonia, Date palms and Trinxax are okay.** Shrubs like the **Sea grape, Silver and Green Buttonwood and the Coco plum will do fine.** But the best of all I think is the **Scaevola.** Its English name says it all: **Beach Berry.** This is a very beautiful evergreen shrub with little white flowers.

And of course I have to mention which plants are very **vulnerable to salt spray.** **Everywhere the Texas Sage, Ficus and Bougainvillea** are showing burned leaves and branches. Also some **semi-local trees like the Flamboyant and Karawara** are having a lot of problems. The palm that doesn't like salt at all is the **Manila palm,** so be careful not to plant this one close to the sea.

So, if you have salt spray damage, spray your plants with fresh water, wait a few

days before cutting them, and keep on adding fresh water, but not too much because then the roots can start rotting.

And, last but not least, wait a few weeks before adding fertilizer. The salt in the soil will make crystals around the roots and the roots won't be able to absorb the nutri-

ents. To explain how this works will be too technical, but after waiting it's highly recommended to add some friendly fertilizer like Miracle Grow or Peters. This will give the plants a new boost, and before you know it everything will look even nicer than it did before! Good Luck. □ *Ap van Eldik*

PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER

Cuba

International Airport José Martí in Cuba.

Island Councilman Eddy Thielman remembered to bring *The Bonaire Reporter* along when he went on a family weekend in Cuba. Pierro got married in Cuba on Monday 21st of June to Yoanet. □

From left to right: Piet Cicilia, Yoanet Cicilia-Escalante, Edward Thielman and Olivia Thielman. This picture was taken by Pierro Cicilia, son of Piet and Olivia.



WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □

CMYK



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Next Week's Autumnal Equinox: What It's Really All About and One Very Obvious Effect It Will Have on You

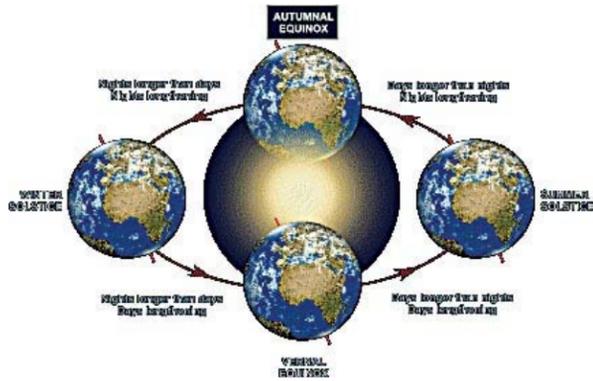
Next week, on Wednesday September 22, at precisely 12:30 pm EDT and Bonaire time, the **Autumnal Equinox** will occur, which means that at that moment in time autumn officially begins for the northern hemisphere. But what really is the Autumnal Equinox? And what obvious effect on that day can you notice? Let me show you.

The word **equinox** comes from the Latin words equi and nox. Equi means equal and nox means night. That means that on the two days of the equinoxes, the Autumnal Equinox and the Spring Equinox, the hours of night are equal to the hours of daylight because these are the two days when the Sun, on its yearly journey against the background of stars, crosses an imaginary line we call the **Celestial Equator**. One crossing marks the first day of spring and the other marks the first day of autumn.

You see if you watch the Sun rise on the first day of spring you will notice that it rises exactly due east. However, if you watch the Sun rise each successive day you will notice that it will rise a little bit farther north of east each successive day until it reaches its farthest point northeast on the first day of summer, the Summer Solstice. After which it will back up and retrace its path, rising a little bit less north of east each successive day until on the first day of autumn, the Autumnal Equinox, when it will once again rise due east. After that it will rise a little bit farther south of due east each successive day until on the first day of winter, the Winter Solstice it will rise at its farthest point south east. After which, you guessed it, it will slowly retrace its journey northward. And this entire cycle repeats year after year after year.

Almost all ancient cultures kept track of this rising and setting of the Sun at different places on the horizon throughout the year because by doing so they noticed that the seasons coincided with where the Sun rose. So they figured out that one Sun cycle equals one year, one complete cycle of the four seasons, which was very important to them because they needed to know exactly when to plant and harvest. Of course keeping track of this constantly changing rising point of the Sun is not as important to us because we keep track of time and the seasons with calendars and atomic clocks.

Even so if you want to see one very obvious effect the equinox still has on us today try this little experiment. Because the Sun always rises due east and sets due west on the equinoxes this means that if you drive to work on a due east highway at sunrise on the equinox the Sun will rise directly over the yellow line in the middle of the road. Conversely if you drive home at sunset on a due west highway on the equinox the Sun will set directly over the yellow line in the middle of the road. And if it doesn't your highway is not true due east and due west. So put those Sun visors down next Wednesday and experience this wonderful evidence of the equinox for yourself. It's fun and it's science. □ *Jack Horkimer*



The Autumnal Equinox signals the end of the summer months and the beginning of winter. At this time of year, days have been shortening since the Summer Solstice some three months earlier. The Equinox is the point where nights reach the same length as days. After this point, the Sun will shine lower and lower on the horizon until the Winter Solstice in about three months' time.

Moon Info ☾ First Quarter September 21st ☽ New Moon September 28th ☾ Last Quarter October 6th ● Full Moon October 6th



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
September 17 to 24, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can use your versatile mind and dazzle others with your speed and accuracy. Don't overlook that fact that someone you care about may be hiding something. Do things for them but don't allow them to make unreasonable requests. You must not make unnecessary changes this week. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can meet new and exciting lovers through work related projects. You may find that your plans will cost a little more than you had expected. Don't push your mate away. Be sure that you lay your cards on the table. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Try not to be too harsh with your mate. Concentrate on work. You may not be that popular at home but you should be able to shine at social gatherings. A romantic infatuation from your past may surface if you frequent places that you both used to go. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You need to take a break with the ones you love. You are best to get out of the house this week. Focus, and concentrate on yourself and your future. You need to control your temper and deal with the situation rationally. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Someone you care about may not be too well. Not the best time for business trips. You need some help this week. You will find their philosophies worth exploring. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You are best to get out of the house this week. You will meet some interesting people if you attend promotional functions. Hold your temper and refrain from doing anything that might cause injury. Talk to someone with experience about budgets or consolidating debts. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can make money through real estate or by using your head when it comes to personal investments. Hassles with in-laws could put a damper on your day. Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. Be fair, not colorful. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Try to keep your cool; you may be a tad frazzled by all the rushing around. You may want to look into warm vacation spots. If you're already in a relationship, use this added energy passionately. Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be careful not to hurt someone's feelings. Try to ease any disappointment by making amends. You may divulge private information without realizing it this week. Take a second look; difficulties with appliances, water, or electricity in your home may be evident. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22- Jan. 20) Relatives will not agree with the way you are dealing with your personal problems. The existing problems must be dealt with one way or another. You are best to back away from commitment. Don't let your mate stop you from attending an event that could be most important. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will be in the doghouse if you are being. You may find that romance will unfold through business connections. Don't argue with family. Get together with friends and catch up on reading and letter writing. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Get involved in the activities of children. They will teach you far more than you expect. You may find yourself in an emotional fix if you interfere in other people's problems. You may have been too nice to a friend who just wanted to take advantage of you. Opportunities for romance will flourish through travel. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. □