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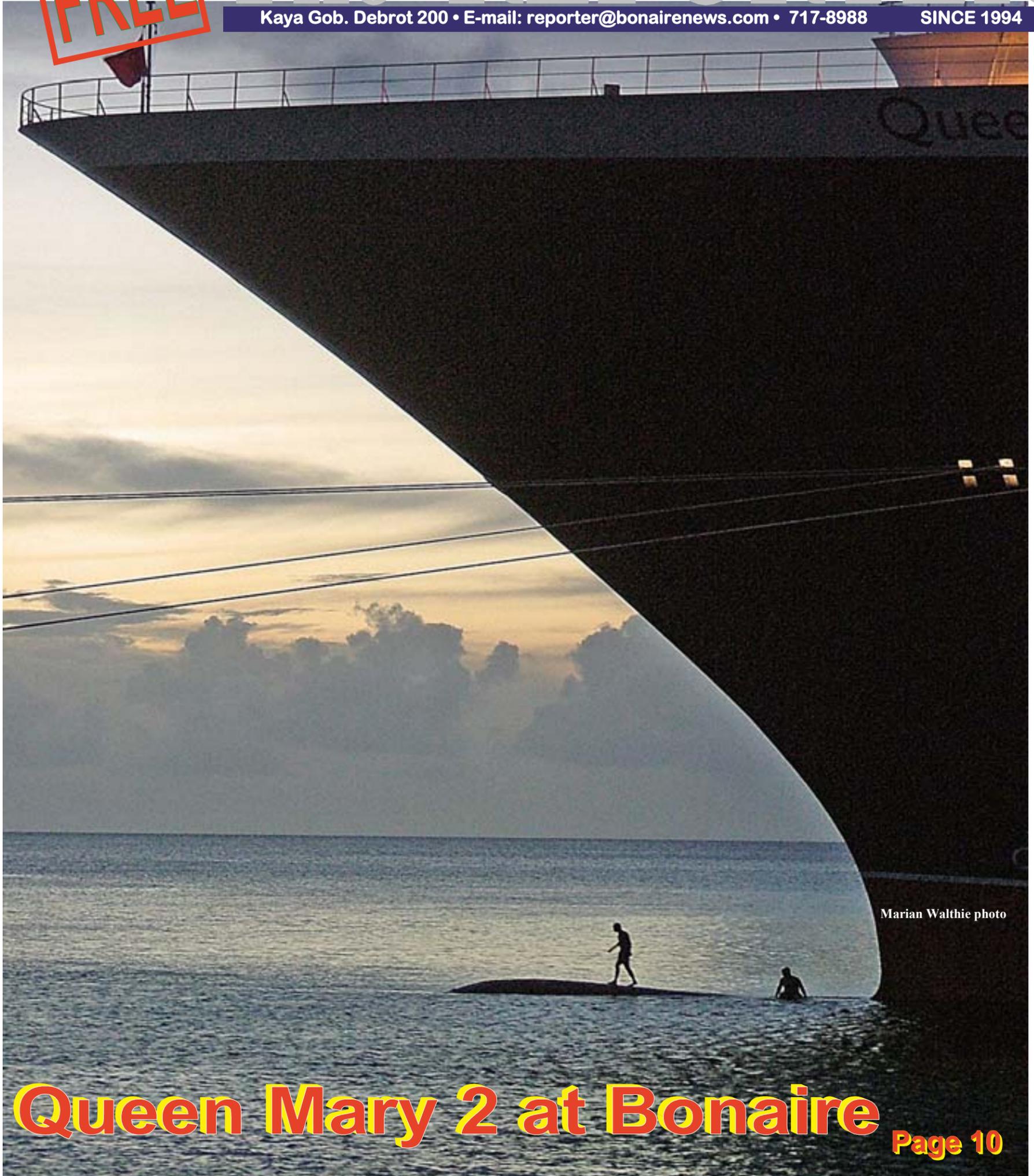
December 17 to December 24, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 48

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

The **BONAIR!** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Marian Walthie photo

Queen Mary 2 at Bonaire

Page 10

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



An ecological nightmare in the making? Two groups, including one from Venezuela, have shown an interest in **drilling exploratory wells for oil and natural gas near both Saba and Curaçao/Bonaire**. Antillean Prime Minister Etienne Ys announced last week. Two trial drillings by a company called "Saba Bank NV" in 2000 failed to produce anything. The last time the possibility of oil near Curaçao was investigated was 1981. "But at the time the drilling techniques were not as advanced as now and the oil price was \$15 per barrel," said Ys. The current price is close to \$50.

► A letter with the **urgent request for a charter permit for Exel**, essentially a short-cut until all approvals have been received, was sent to the Transport and Communication Ministry on December 9. The Venezuelan airline, Aserca, used the same tactic to start flying to Curaçao after the bankruptcy of Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA). Exel wants to fly to Isla

Margarita and Merida (both in Venezuela) and Colombia, in addition to Miami, Santo Domingo, Haiti and Trinidad. This week Exel will be interviewing former DCA pilots to hire six for the Boeing 757, which is ready to start regional flights. They can also work on the Boeing 767 DutchCaribbeanExel flights to Holland. Another 20 pilots will also be given a "subject to change" contract for the Boeing 737, along with 40 cabin crew members. Six DCA pilots are currently in training for the turboprop ATR used to fly between the islands.

► **If you are in America you can now book on BonairExel.** Hahn Air is now a ticketing carrier for more than 55 airlines including Air Exel (XT), Holland Exel (YZ) and BonairExel (9H). Hahn Air is a ticketing carrier for more than 20 European, 10 Latin American and Caribbean, 15 Russian and 10 African and Asian airlines. US travel agents may easily book those airlines through their computer systems and will earn 7% commission. As a form of payment, Hahn Air accepts VISA, cash, etc. A regional help desk, based in Miami, which can be reached at 1-800-639-3590, is available to all US travel agents.

► **France was selling almost half its stake in Air France-KLM** last Thursday as part of a wider deal which could see its remaining stake cut to below 20% and give staff shares in return for pay cuts.

French Finance Minister Herve Gaymard said the government expected to raise 700 million euros (\$929.8 million) from the sale and would use the cash to cut government debt. But bankers and

union officials said it was part of a wider move to cut the government stake further. The initial sale will leave the French government with around a quarter of Air France whose takeover of Dutch airline KLM earlier this year made it the world's largest airline by sales.

► On November 20, **Air Exel broke its connection with KLM** after 15 years of cooperation. Originally an airline just flying Amsterdam-Maastricht, Air Exel became an airline which expanded to the new world. Last year, BonairExel was formed. Later, other regional airlines were set up, plus the remains of Sobelair and Air Holland were swallowed up to form Belgium Exel and Holland Exel, respectively. Dutchbird, a charter airline, which competes with KLM's Transavia, is a recent addition. Exel essentially became a KLM competitor in many markets. Because of this, Exel decided that all the connections with KLM had to be broken. The oldest of the Exel 'family,' KLM Exel, was renamed Air Exel. Exel Aviation's founder, Eric de Vlieger seems to be trying to create a new Dutch national airline.

► Harm Prins, Chief Executive Officer of ExelAviationGroup, has been **arrested and jailed in Holland**. He is suspected of extortion, money laundering (a half million euro) and forgery. Dutch newspapers reported the arrest on Friday and it was confirmed by judicial authorities. Because Antillean authorities did not receive any request for assistance in this case from their Dutch counterparts, it is assumed that Exel's airlines operating on the islands - DutchCaribbeanExel, Curaçao-Exel, BonairExel and ArubaExel - were

(Continued on page 4)

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from the
REPORTER STAFF

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) not directly involved. Prins (33) was arrested at his Rotterdam home by the financial-economic detective bureau early last Wednesday morning. On the same day a second suspect, said to be a relation of Prins, was also arrested in Almere. Exel is a group 10 airlines owned, for the most part, by Amsterdam entrepreneur Erik de Vlieger and Bonaire resident Niek Sandmann. They are not suspects, stated the prosecution. The shareholders of Exel have suspended Prins pending the investigation. De Vlieger and his associate Mr. G. Corver have taken over his tasks temporarily.

► An internal audit has indicated that, according to majority shareholder, Erik de Vlieger, the Exel Aviation Group **has not been involved in the money laundering** and other offences that Exel CEO Harm Prins is accused of. "This weekend all books were reviewed and nothing has been found out of order," de Vlieger stated. "The future of 1,400 employees is at stake," he added. (*John van den Heuvel and Bart Mos from Holland*)

► Dutch Second Chamber Member **Harry van Bommel wants The Netherlands to show more initiative in the fight against drug crimes in the Antilles.** The Antillean government has set up an emergency plan in which the Dutch military police also plays a role. Van Bommel requested Minister Thom de Graaf explain his rejection of the Antilles' petition to let officers of the Royal Military Police assist in combating crime. The Dutch government admits that drug crimes are a problem on the islands; Van Bommel believes it's logical that the

Netherlands should step in. In his press release Van Bommel points out that there already have been more than 1,000 assaults in Curaçao this year and that at least 45 people have died as a result of violence. The Netherlands is the biggest market for drugs trans-shipped through the Antilles.

► Joseph Goddard, Managing Director of Goddard Enterprises, Bonaire's in-flight catering company based in Barbados and one of the Caribbean's largest corporations, said Bajans are becoming a **bit too self-centered** and instead of adopting a strong work ethic, too many of them are thinking the world owes them a living. (*from the Barbados Weekend Nation*)



► We just found out that the very **whimsical turtle mailbox at TCB** that we showed last week in *The Reporter* was made by Bonairean artist Artie Figueroa. Artie made it so children can deposit letters, drawings and ideas for the *Protect Our Turtles* campaign which is sponsored by STCB (turtle club) and STINAPA.

► **Did you lose "Chippie" phone service for a time last week?** That was be-

cause United Telecommunications Services (UTS) Caribbean had installed \$1.5 million+ 'pre-paid platform' for clients throughout its network in the Antilles. The new pre-paid platform will enable customers to access advanced services, including pre-paid roaming and MultiMedia Services (MMS). The server for the pre-paid platform is based in Curaçao. Some 19,000 UTS chippie customers in the Antilles had to be transferred to the new platform. Other enhancements include family and friends packages and group rates. If you are a Chippie customer check your text message in-box for the new code needed to recharge your phone. The info on the phone card is obsolete.

► **Congratulations (Pabien!) to the Watapana School of Rincon** which celebrated its 30-year anniversary last weekend.

► **A big thank you goes to Delno Tromp.** Because of him and all his friends who donated money, the members of the 60 Plussers from Kai Mamina in North Salina and Flor di Orkida will enjoy a festive and delicious Christmas dinner at Croccantino Restaurant this week. In an unrelated development, Delno was named to the board of Special Olympics-Caribbean, the first person to be so named from the Netherlands Antilles.



► **Dive Inn is selling a beautiful "Under the Caribbean" wall calendar for 2005.** Normally it sells for \$9.95, but especially for the holidays, until December 31, the price has been dropped to \$7.95. Also for the holidays they've lowered prices on snorkel sets and underwater (snorkel) cameras. Don't forget the vintage 100% cotton collared Sunset Beach shirts for \$5, now in S-M-L. Buy six and pay only for five.

► Patrice of **Bistro de Paris** would like us to tell everyone that they have a separate room where they can do private parties of from 16 to 20 people. The restaurant is also becoming a favorite with people who love vegetarian dishes.

► Wil, the Master Chef at **Wil's Grill**, let us sample his new appetizer: dumplings with (real) crab, plantains, vanilla and more, in a truly tasty combination. We called it Dim Sum with a Caribbean accent. It's wonderful to have a creative Waldorf Astoria-experienced chef right in the heart of downtown Kralendijk.

► **Whale update.** The Bonai group of SGB students is making progress on putting the whale skeleton together (see last week's *Reporter*), and according to their leader, archeologist Dr. Jay Havisser, the skeleton should be ready to transport in sections, bit by bit, to the museum in Washington Park by February or March. Thanks to the following for their contributions: Rotary Club Bonaire, Cargill Salt Company, AMFO, Prince Bernhard Culture Funds, Rudy Ellis (for the container) and for the cooperation of the Bonairean government and SKAL (department of culture and literature). □L./G.D



NEW PILOT PROJECT FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE SISTER MARIA HÖPPNER FOUNDATION



Using free time constructively

The young residents of Bonaire's foster home for boys now have an opportunity to take part in a new exciting project that hopefully will help them gain self esteem, life skills and future employment.

The Sister Maria Höppner Foundation, established by Sister Maria Höppner in 1985, runs a foster care home for 14 young boys, aged six to 14, who the courts have removed from their home environment. Dedicated team leaders look after these young boys' welfare 24 hours a day.

In cooperation with the Bonaire Marine Park and the Stichting Project, the

Foundation started a new pilot program for their older residents (nine to 14 years) called the "Aspiring Ranger Program." The project is geared to motivate the boys to take charge of their young lives and to give them the opportunity to be trained for future employment in the environmental field.

Along with their regular schooling on week days, the boys who participate in the Aspiring Ranger Program are now completing the first phase of the program. This phase is geared to improving their physical condition and includes learning to repair a bicycle, swimming, and deciding how to use their free time in a constructive way instead of waste-

fully.

This phase will be followed by training in: basic communication skills, computer skills, rescue swimming, the history and nature of Washington Park, snorkeling, boat steering, Junior Open Water Diving, underwater navigation, and how to assist a Park Ranger—just to name a few of the

skills fostered by its curriculum. By September 2005 the boys should have accomplished their program and will receive their Aspirant Ranger Certificate. What an achievement this will be in their young lives!

The Aspiring Ranger Program is only one of the many projects that the Maria Höppner Foundation is trying to get off the ground. But, as with many other foundations around the world, they have to overcome the major hurdle of funding. One of their 2005 goals is to upgrade another building on their compound to house a foster home for girls. Should you want to assist the Foundation to provide a better future for unfortunate children, do not hesitate to contact the Foundation with a donation. Keep in mind



Games can build teamwork skills as well as motor skills

that for the many young survivors who are placed in foster care their stay at the Foundation is the first time they will have been able to live in a safe environment and concentrate on working towards a better future. □ *Joseé Bolduc Frosst*



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Team Leaders (M/F)

The Sister Maria Höppner Foundation is looking to hire dedicated team leaders to assist with the daily care of their residents. The candidate should speak Dutch and/or Papiamentu. Please contact the Foundation at 717-4181 or at zmhs@bonairelive.com for a more detailed job description.

BONAIRE'S MISSING REEF

Part 2 of Tsunamis on Bonaire

Did you ever wonder why there is no fringing reef on Bonaire's east side? Sure it's the windward side and the seas are much rougher there than on the western, leeward side of the island. But islands east of Bonaire, at the same latitude, the Aves and the Roques all have fringing reefs. There are indeed magnificent coral formations along Bonaire's east coast, but they begin 30-40 or more feet down.

The answer may lie in the fact that tsunamis, or tidal waves as they are sometimes (improperly) called, have swept the island since prehistoric times, 99 in the last 500 years in fact. According to Anja Scheffers, post doctoral researcher from the University of Essen, Germany (see last week's *The Bonaire Reporter* story, *Tsunamis on Bonaire*), if you examine the coastline you'll discover, that the reef itself "lies in pieces along the shore. The huge waves scraped away the east side reef and its substrate, so that the reef could not reform," she says. Dr. Scheffers theorizes that a submarine slide along the Atlantic



A relic of Bonaire's missing reef?

ridge caused the tsunami.

There is no tsunami monitoring network in place in the Atlantic as there is in the Pacific although one has been proposed for several years. An eruption of the undersea volcano, "Kick 'em Jenny" might go unnoticed until the resulting tsunamis hit shorelines all over the Caribbean.

Bonaire is unique in the region in that its shoreline preserves, to this day, the effects of thousands of years of tsunami activity. That's why a tsunami nature area, or Tsunami Park, has been proposed for the area around Spelonk lighthouse. A conference on Caribbean tsunamis is planned in February, 2006, on Bonaire. □ G.D.

GIANT WAVE COULD THREATEN US

The wave would sweep across the island of Bonaire; only the land above 50m (165') would be spared. A collapsing volcano in the Atlantic could unleash a giant wave of water that would swamp the Caribbean and much of the eastern seaboard of the United States, a scientist has claimed.

Dr Simon Day, of the Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre at University College London, UK, believes one flank of the Cumbre Vieja volcano on the island of La Palma, in the Canaries archipelago, is unstable and could plunge into the ocean.

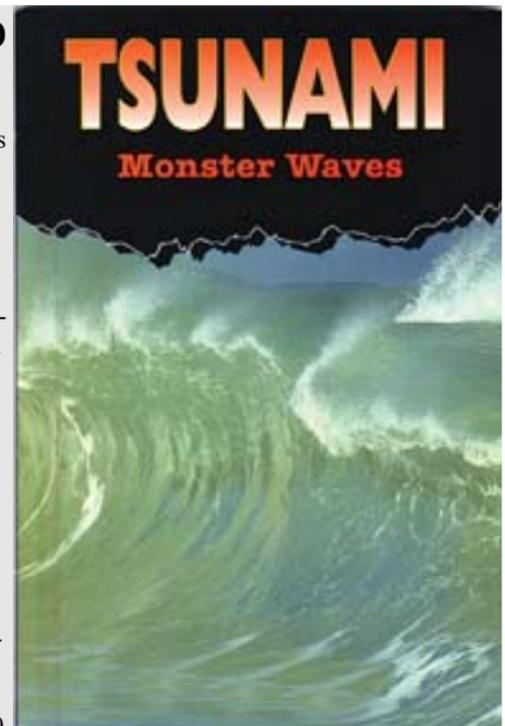
Swiss researchers who have modeled the landslide say half a trillion tons of rock falling into the water all at once would create a wave 650 meters high (2,130 feet) that would spread out and travel across the Atlantic at almost the speed of sound.

The wall of water would weaken as it crossed the ocean, but would still be 40-50 meters (130-160 feet) high by the time it hit our island. Dr Day told BBC Science's Horizon program: "This event would be so huge that it would affect not only the people on the island but people way over on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean - people who've never heard of La Palma. Day's latest work on the subject has been published in the *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*.

The largest wave in recorded history, witnessed in Alaska in 1958, was caused by the collapse of a towering cliff at Letuya Bay. The resulting wave was higher than any skyscraper on Earth and gouged out soil and trees to a height of 500 metres (1,640) feet above sea level.

Geological studies have found evidence of giant landslides elsewhere in the world such as Hawaii, the Cape Verde Islands and Reunion in the Indian Ocean.

But researchers caution that such a catastrophe may not occur for many decades. □ G.D.



PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER in Leipzig, East-Germany

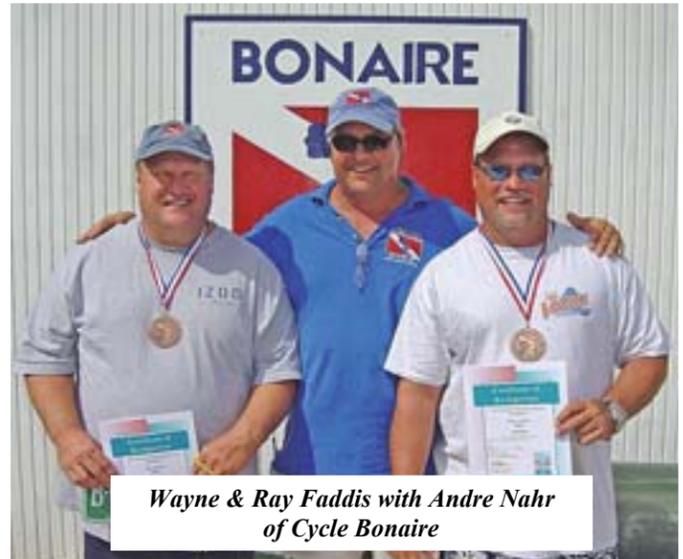
Last August and September **Joop van der Hoek** was on Bonaire for four weeks for the wedding of his son JeePee to Roosje Goeloe. He took a couple of copies of the edition of *The Bonaire Reporter* that published their wedding photo home to show his family and friends. Here he is at Thomas church in Leipzig, where the world-famous composer Johann Sebastian Bach worked as an organist and chorus leader. He writes, "I took this photo because I am in awe of this man and his compositions. On Saturday December 4th, I had the opportunity to be in that church for the performance of Bach's Christmas Oratorio, composed and performed for the first time since Bach. It gave me a special feeling." □



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.) □

BONAIRE AMBASSADORS

Wayne and Ray Faddis have earned their Bronze medals as Wayne has 12 consecutive annual visits, and Ray has made 10 consecutive annual visits. They are going for the silver next! □
Delno Tromp



PEDISA – FOR WELLNESS AND BEAUTY

Meet Peter and Maria Isabel Benekendorff of a new spa in town—Pedisa. Between the two of them they have 70 years of experience in the field—40 for him and 30 for her! They use proven methods of massage and treatments, combining energy healing, Reiki and reflexology. They're experts at helping their clients get rid of accumulated stress in their musculature and circulatory systems. "We give individual treats to relieve the body, soul and spirit," Peter says. "We help rejuvenate cells after so much sun exposure that damages and ages the skin. The skin is treated with hydration to initiate rejuvenation and skin nutrition."

There are a number of skin treatments for the whole body, using creams, masks, exfoliation—like Baño di Luna—or Baño di Novia where mud from the Black Sea is applied. "Cellular nutrition is new here," Peter explains, "and we do it in a special way. It needs a good eye and hand to do well. And the results are spectacular!"

Peter has cured scoliosis patients successfully with 10 to 12 treatments and has the X-rays to prove it. "I learned this in Germany," he says where I worked with doctors. Later I worked with doctors in Paraguay and Venezuela."

During the first working years of his life Peter was employed in the hotel business, but he felt a strong need to help others so he changed completely and studied



Peter and Maria Isabel Benekendorff

orthopedics in Frankfurt. He met Maria Isabel in Paraguay. Maria says, "I've been in this business for all these years because I love it!"

They're offering low introductory prices on all their treatments. They have gift certificates too, as Peter and Maria say, "for those you love and whom you want to feel better." PEDISA is located behind the government building, next to the Central Government offices (where Anytime Shake used to be), across from the Post Office. Stop by or call them at 717-4111 or 786-4635. □L.D.

WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2004 was an active year for Bonaire windsurfers. Many of our local pros and sailors traveled around the globe as Bonaire's windsurf ambassadors. In the Spring, young talents Amado Vrieswijk, a student at Papa Cornes School, and the dazzling duo, brothers Bjorn and Jurgen Sargoza headed to one of Europe's favorite windsurf lakes, Lago Garda situated in northern Italy. Accompanied by Amado's parents, Edward and Nancy, and soon to be sailing sister, Channel, Tonky Frans, now in the top 5 of windsurfing pros, Mom Liesje and uncle Elvis Martinus, they amazed the crowd at a Euro Surf Expo with their hip Bonairean style, attitude and their flawless talent. It was an incredible life opportunity for these kids to experience new cultures, meet new people and continue to show the windsurf world that Bonaireans know how to windsurf, even at a young age.

Shortly after their return, the Saragozas with their former windsurf Olympian Dad, Patun, headed to the fabled windsurf capital of the world, Maui. This Hawaiian island boasts great sailing and one of the largest windsurf communities in the world. Starboard and Hot Sails sponsored the trip to enable the Saragozas to attend

a photo shoot for an upcoming catalogue. Not only are our kids famous in competition, but many are cover models for the hottest brands in the sport.

Our Bonairean pros. Bonaire was represented by its first Pro Woman as Femke van de Valk joined her windsurf brethren on her first pro tour. Femke, originally from Holland, took on some of



Femke van der Valk performs a Vulcan

the hardest sailing venues to earn her spot in the current rankings.

Jayson Jong, sponsored by US based World Sails, and Ruben Petrisi, sponsored by Palm Trading, also joined the

Frans brothers to enter the challenging world of pro windsurfing. The youngest Bonairean to get his passport stamped in the windsurf world is 14 year-old Kiri Thode. Kiri was the crowd favorite in Cape Cod. Showing off his new move, which I coined "The Gecko Flaka," he battled against his cousin, Taty Frans as they competed in bitter cold rain to cap-

ture the top two spots. He later headed to Europe.

A young hot shot with talent and charm, 17 year-old Clay Emer returned to Cape Cod. Clay is a crowd pleaser with his brilliant smile and incredibly friendly attitude.

He went on to one of the US's windiest venues, The Columbia River Gorge. This geographic windsurf center is an area on the Columbia River split between two states, Oregon and Washington. His team mates, Tonky Frans and Ro Meyer came here three years ago to put Bonaire in the Gorge Games. Clay heads back in the summer of '05 to start a windsurf school.

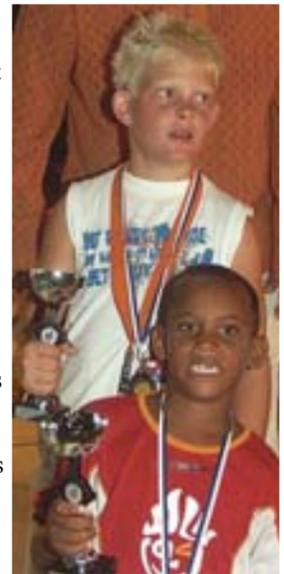
Throughout the year, pros came to Bonaire to train. Media people and magazines came to do photo shoots and to capture the stunning images seen daily at Lac Bay. Windsurfers formerly attracted to Aruba and Margarita changed course and found windsurf love in Bonaire. ABK, one of the world's biggest windsurf clinics returned again to train many windsurfers.

Bonaire's island community has given much to the Bonaire Kids over the years. There were endless fundraisers, ongoing events and trips and much gear bought so our athletes can compete. It's so rewarding to see that all of the personal, family and community efforts are so recognized. And several of our sailors are earning their way in life with various levels of sponsorship ranging from free gear to cash salaries. Hard work on all levels really paid off.

The year is coming to a close but it ain't over yet. Dec. 18 is the next event on tap, either a wave challenge at Lac Suite, or if wind is lighter, a freestyle event at Event Site. The 19th is the annual End of the Year Race in Playa and on the 20th *Freewinds* is hosting a King of the Caribbean Fundraiser Holiday Concert at 7 pm. Tickets are available at TCB, Bonaire Windsurf Place or through Edseline Dammers or Gabrielle Nahr.

And what lies ahead? Caribbean Wind and Sun Vacations, a now Bonaire based

windsurf travel company will host several windsurf groups as well as Bonaire's first Singles Week in the spring of '05. ABK returns for eight weeks of action packed clinics and our famous team of amateurs, kids and pros head around the globe. 2005 promises to shine as many windsurfing events are planned including the Third King of the Caribbean on May 15-22. Keep reading *The Bonaire Reporter* for up-to-the-week reports on Scene at Sorobon. □ Ann Phelan



Amado Vrieswijk and Jurgen Saragoza

Support our
WINDSURFERS

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
12-17	1:40	0.8FT.	76
12-17	17:20	1.7FT.	
12-18	1:59	0.9FT.	64
12-18	9:21	1.5FT.	
12-18	13:59	1.4FT.	
12-18	18:19	1.5FT.	
12-19	2:06	1.0FT.	54
12-19	9:18	1.6FT.	
12-19	15:54	1.2FT.	
12-19	19:35	1.4FT.	
12-20	1:50	1.0FT.	48
12-20	9:36	1.8FT.	
12-20	17:18	1.1FT.	
12-20	20:45	1.2FT.	
12-21	0:54	1.1FT.	50
12-21	9:58	1.9FT.	
12-21	18:25	1.0FT.	
12-21	22:32	1.1FT.	
12-22	10:23	2.0FT.	55
12-22	19:31	0.9FT.	
12-23	10:53	2.0FT.	62
12-23	20:24	0.8FT.	
12-23	10:53	2.0FT.	62
12-23	20:24	0.8FT.	
12-24	11:27	2.1FT.	69
12-24	21:12	0.7FT.	

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angie	Jandreso	Sandpiper, USA
Alegria, USA	Midnight of Goodrich	Serendipity
Aleuya	Nowdays	Sirius
Bingo	Inspiration	Slowpoke
Bright Sea	L' Intuile	Sylvia K
Camissa, Chan Is.	Luna C. USA	Sylvester
Cape Kathryn	Mahi Mahi	Ta-B
Coral Moon	Maggi	Ti Amo, USA
Dallia	Mary Morgan	Tsih
Delphinus	Michelle	Tartufo
Destiny	Moon Rice	Tween, Netherlands
Dulcinea	Natural Selection, USA	Ulu Ulu, USA
Elza	One Way Wind	Unicorn, Norway
Firemoose	Odetta	Varedhuni, Germany
Flying Cloud, USA	Panta Five	Ventura II, Costa Rica
Gammer	Papillon	Verena
Gatsby, USA	Pisces III	Windmiller, Canada
Grey Lady	Plane Sailing	Ya-T, BVI
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Precocious Gale, USA	Zahi, Malta
Hotel California Too	Pura Vida	

COVER

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SHIP *makes a stop in BONAIRE*

Based on the interest we observed, the first port call in Bonaire of the new Queen Mary 2 was one of the highlights of the year. Traffic was jammed around the port as local people tried to get close to see the ship and visitors tried to get away to see Bonaire. *The Bonaire Reporter* received photos of the Queen Mary 2 from no fewer than five persons. We present a few of them here and regret we haven't room for more. □ *G.D.*



Marian Walthie photo

The QM2 at night



Herman-Leeuwijes photo

From Seru Largu the QM2 dwarfs downtown.



Five of the "dolphins" that were installed at great expense to secure the QM2.



Shelly Craig photo

Dive boats sure look small next to the QM2



Herman-Leeuwijes photo

No, the good ship Unicorn is NOT about to be run down

GET READY FOR THE WALK-A-THON



Wega di Nòmber is sponsoring the posters and 20 kids who will be walking from Jong Bonaire. Ludwina Lendering, Director of Wega di Nòmber, makes the presentation to Byron Tromp

Get ready for the Third Annual Special Olympics-BonaireExel Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser on Sunday, January 23, 2005. All proceeds will go to Special Olympics Bonaire Foundation.

Everyone is invited to participate. Join in a great fun event that benefits a noble foundation. Age doesn't matter, nor does your level of fitness. You just need a desire to do what you can, whether it be the whole 30 km or a part of it. You may walk, bicycle, run or even roller blade.

Entrance fee is NA/25 and for that you get a t shirt, canvas bag and water bottle (MCB Bank) and a delicious BBQ and drink (Herrera's Amstel Malta, Fria and

Spa) at the end of the walk at the Pasa dia Karino in Rincon.

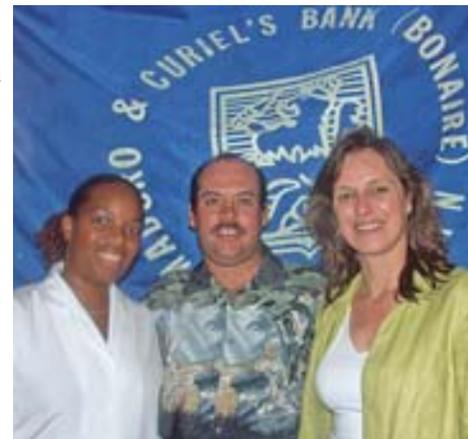
The start is at the White Slave huts at 5 am and the finish is at the Pasa Dia Karino—whenever. The route is scenic and it's well marked. Every five km there will be a station dispensing water and encouragement. The Red Cross will be on hand for any emergencies. Last year's successful event was the biggest fund raising activity in the history of the island with 451 participants.

Participants are encouraged to get others to sponsor them, so much per km. Or you may pick your participant and sponsor him or her.

You may get your entry tickets at TCB, Croccantino Restaurant or from any member of the board.

Pick up your packets, by showing your ticket, at City Café/Hotel Rochaline in the lobby on January 20 (1600-1900), January 21 (1600-1900) and January 22 (1000-1600). □L.D

Bonaire's Special Olympic Athletes compete in Bocce, Swimming, Track, Tennis and now, Bowling. Pictured are the coaches for the Bowling team.



Support for Bonaire Children's Theater



Manager of Banco di Caribe, Norbert Goyla, presents a check to Jackie Bernabela in support of Bonaire Children's Theater (JePoBoN).

SGB ATTEMPTS A GUINNESS BOOK RECORD

Closing Activity Day last Friday in the Stadium, the SGB High school made a 'high score' attempt for the world record of 'World's Largest Human Transportation Belt' for the Guinness Book of Records. Standing in rows, lined up like a snake, 780 people (for the most part students with addition of teachers, parents and security people) attempted to pass a surfboard overhead from person to person – *it was absolutely forbidden to let the board fall* –, and succeeded very well. Supported by cheering of those who had participated in the attempt, history teacher Ben Vriesema said with excitement, at 12.05 pm, the words: "We have the official World Record!"

The working group of teachers (Ben Vriesema - *History*, Gemma Van der Linden – *Art, Health*, Edi Carolina – *English, Dutch, Papiamentu*, Willie Dijkstra – *Tourism, Hospitality, Health*, Spike Stapert – *Physical Education* and Guno Gerling – *Social Science*) decided at the very last minute to change the attempt of the existing world record 'Largest Conveyor Belt' into a totally new one: the 'World's Largest Human Transportation Belt' because of the maximum number of persons needed and the muddy stadium. For the Conveyor Belt record at least 1,000 participants were needed and everyone had to kneel. Not cool!

Vriesema said, "So why not create a new issue for the attempt of a record"... We made a video that will be sent to No-



Largest Conveyor Belt

tary Martense. He will judge if we did the job 'legally' and send it with an affidavit to the Guinness Book of Record organization, a procedure which can take approximately six to eight weeks. As soon as they agree we will receive a certificate of appreciation and we can call ourselves official World Record Holder and SGB Bonaire will be published in the Guinness Book of 2006.

"I am very proud of the kids, they showed everyone that the main goals of 'solidarity' and 'do different *out of school* activities with each other and the teachers' have been completely fulfilled. You see, when you really want to achieve something you will succeed" Vriesema



SGB headmaster Peter Haak

said with twinkling eyes.

Head of the school Peter Haak afterwards pointed to his T-shirt- "SGB-The Best". Hopefully next year he can put 'Guinness Book World Record Holder' underneath it.

The lining up of the 780 participants was tumultuous and hilarious. A threat of a big rain shower made the people run for cover. A student of HAVO 4 grabbed the mike – foreseeing that waiting out the rain could take 'ages' – and announced:

"You want to achieve a World Record, so face the rain. If you come back as soon as possible everyone will be free next week." You don't need to have too much imagination to think what happened next.

The second attempt to break a Guinness World Record, The World's Largest Human Bonairean Flag, didn't happen. "Unfortunately," Headmaster Haak said, "we were unable to reach the minimum number of participants." Nevertheless, a "sort of" Human Bonairean Flag was attempted. From WEB's "aerial bucket truck" – together with the *Extra* newspaper reporter, Tio Sje-I had a magnificent view.

Thanks to the sponsors: Cultimara, City Café and Hotel Rocheline. With this project, money was collected for the 25 students of HAVO 4 (Geography/History) to make an excursion to St. Martin in 2005.

□ Story and photos by *Marian Walthie*.



SGB's Bonaire Flag

BRILLIANT CHRISTMAS #5



Timothy Bissessar stacks the gifts

For the fifth consecutive year the Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation has organized a most worthwhile project for Christmas under the title of "A Brilliant Christmas." The group, Goodhearted Youngsters, will present gifts obtained from donations to Bonaire's less fortunate children. □ *G.D.*

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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>



PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE BONAIRE. Consultation, Supervision, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy **Drs. Johan de Korte, Psychologist, Phone: 717-6919**



CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER
Trees and Plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² of plants and nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). **Phone: 786-0956 or 787-0956**



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

NEW BRASSERIE BONAIRE NEW
Restaurant – Terrace – Take away
Open everyday for **LUNCH** and **DINNER** Sunday closed.
SPECIALTIES: French baguettes – Fresh salads, Local fish–Steaks–Saté–Special Fish Menu \$20.
ROYAL PALM GALLERIES, DOWNTOWN KRALENDIJK, Kaya Grandi 26 F/G, TEL/FAX : 717-4321



visit *Gallery* “MyArt”
Marjolein Fonseca-Verhoef
call : 785-3988



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

FOUND

A large male dog - black with brown and tan markings - was found in Nikiboko, near the Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador School. This rather energetic fellow is only about 1 year old. Call **BONAIRE ANIMAL SHELTER**, Kaminda Lagoen #26-A, Open Mon. through Fri., 10 am to 2 pm; Saturdays until 1. Phone #717-4989



FOR SALE

For Sale: **Underwater housing** for video camera (120 F) + **camera Sony TRV27** (perfect condition) Price- \$1,200. Call 790-1228.

For more information on any of the following items, **please call 717-2848.**
•Two end table **lamps**, mint green with beige shades, in the shape of a cactus. Very good condition. Originally, NAf 480 for the set, now both for NAf200
•**Bird cage**, very good condition: 19.5” wide, 16” deep, and 33” at its highest point (the top curves upward from right to left) originally NAf400, now NAf150

High End Road Bicycle with 60.5cm Dean Titanium Frame, Carbon fork, Shimano 105, Ultegra and Dura Ace components, two sets of wheels, NAf1.875. Phone: 717-8800 (work) or 717-8814 (home)

Larry's **Jeep Wrangler for Sale**, 350 Chevy Engine, 400hp, good condition, NAf27,000. Phone 790-9156, 717-5246

Slide and negative Scanner; Minolta Dimage Scan Dual II, Use with Windows 98, Win 2000, Mac OS NAf200. Phone 717-5246

RENTAL PROPERTY/TIMESHARE

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

Timeshare week (7 nights, Saturday to Saturday) in Dutch Sint Maarten, studio apartment for two with full kitchenette, at the Ocean Club on Cupecoy Beach. Available year round, but subject to availability. US\$350 for the week (taxes additional).

BOATS & ENGINES for SALE

Inflatable Boat - Achilles 16 ft with trailer. Very good condition Now only NAf4,990 Call 717-8819, 8 am to 5 pm

Privateer Renegade boat- used for diving. With **200 HP Yamaha.** All very well maintained and ready to go. NAf29,990 Call 717-8819 8 am-5 pm

PET of the WEEK



“Tommy”

This “Tommy,” giving us the eye from high atop the cat cage where he surveys his domain. He hasn’t been in the Shelter long, having been brought there by someone who said he couldn’t keep him anymore. Tommy is a handsome grey striped “tom” who’s affectionate and well behaved. He has what one would call a “solid” character.

Tommy enjoys people and gets along well with all the other cats in the cat cage. If you’d like to know more about cats and why people like them so much, read this week’s “Pet Professor” on page 17.

There have been 147 adoptions so far this year at the Shelter. Last year there were 110; the year before, 90. They must be doing something right, and we can

thank Shelter Manager, Jurrie Mellema, for running such a great operation. As someone who’s had a lot of experience said this week, “I’ve seen many, many shelters in my life, and this one is about the best ever.” Thanks, Jurrie, for a job well done. You have to really love this job for what it is, because you sure can’t get rich from it! □L.D.

WANTED

Needed: An experienced **babysitter** for a little girl of 5 years baby 2 days a week. Also a **babysitter** plus baby-camping bed. Please call Lea de Koning at 791-6462.

We want to buy 40 ft container, in reasonable condition. Call 791-4750

WANT TO BUY: Loader/Backhoe in good condition: Call George at 717-8988/786-6125.

HELP WANTED

WANTED: Part time waiter or waitress for December holiday times. Call **Croccantino Restaurant at 717-5025 after 4 pm.**

HELP WANTED- Part time **Server**, Part time **Chef Helper.** Wil's Tropical Grill 717-6616.

Restaurant Helper – wait tables, help in kitchen. Day shift part time (30 to 35 hours a week). **Must speak English.** Will train. The Lost Penguin 717-8003

SEA TURTLES GET ATTENTION THEY DESERVE



Recognition was given for activities protecting the turtles. Pictured are: Sydney Paulina, Managing Director Operations of Nieuwe Post NV, Governor Herbert Domacassé, Minister of Education Mrs. Marita Silberie, Debby Wauben, Manager Nature, Environment and Education of STINAPA, STCB President Imre Esser, Elsmarie Beukeboom Director of STINAPA, Kalli DeMeyer, Director of Fundashon Bon Coral and Nivia Paulina, Manager of the Bonaire Post Office

At a special presentation in the Plaza Resort on Friday, December 10, Mrs. Ruthmila Haseth – Director Philately & Retail Development of Nieuwe Post Nederlandse Antillen NV, was obviously proud to present the special bonus series of six stamps dedicated to turtles, who are, according to Mrs. Haseth, “the most magnificent creatures of the sea. The beautiful stamps are designed by John Baselmans (NL) who did a wonderful job!” Each stamp shows a different kind of Caribbean Sea Turtle.

The issue is a cooperative project for Nieuwe Post, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, STINAPA-Bonaire and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).

Mr. Sydney Paulina, Managing Director of Operations of Nieuwe Post, addressed an audience including Governor Domacassé, Minister of Education Mrs. Marita Silberie, Director of STINAPA Elsmarie Beukeboom, and President of STCB Imre Esser. “The most important reason for us to use the Turtle is to make the environmental point of the importance of

the protection of turtles and their role in the ecological system.”

Debby Wauben, Manager Nature, Environment and Education of STINAPA, made this point. “Today we present you with the poster showing the cycle of the turtle life which is part of the Awareness Campaign: ‘Protect Our Turtles’ for locals and tourists which started on November 1.

The campaign, strongly directed at kids, includes a monthly newsletter for each school child, a button, a (bumper) sticker, a flyer delivered house to house, a poster and diverse educational projects.

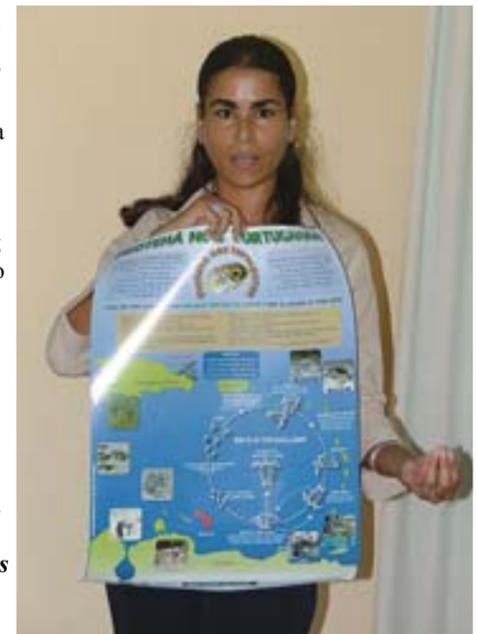
President of STCB Imre Esser was obviously moved by all the positive attention ‘his’ turtles are getting lately. Imre said the release of these stamps is a highlight for the STCB. “I have a lump in my throat, and I have the feeling we are ‘on top of the wave’ with our organization which is ideal for our turtles.”

Mr. Paulina presented the representatives of the involved organizations with a nicely framed drawing (by John Baselmans) of the stamps accompanied by all the stamps. Governor Domacassé rounded off the presentation by releasing five baby turtles, previously rescued, into the open ocean. □ Story and photos by Marian Walthie



The block of turtle stamps

Debby Wauben, STINAPA’s Education Officer, is leading the campaign to raise the island’s awareness of endangered sea turtles. Here she shows a poster, in Papiamentu, describing the turtle’s life cycle.



TURTLES TRAVEL

‘Funny,’ our female hawksbill and the last radio tracked turtle of the 2004 Bonaire nesting season, has finally departed after nesting one more time on Klein Bonaire the night of December 8th. She covered approximately 25 km in her first 24 hour period. Then ‘Funny’ picked up speed after departing the waters of Bonaire, swimming over 80 km in the next 24 hrs and steering well clear of Curaçao. Then she picked up more speed, over 115 km in the next 24 hour period and swam a record 125 km, yesterday! She is currently about 500 km to the northwest of Bonaire, well northwest of Aruba, moving towards Jamaica.

Last Saturday, at a ceremony attended by Bonaire’s Governor and representa-

tives of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), STINAPA, and the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, the Netherlands Antilles postal service unveiled a new set of very nice postage stamps dedicated to sea turtles. The stamps depict six species of turtles: the Loggerhead, Kemp’s Ridley, Green turtle, Olive Ridley, Hawksbill and Leatherback. The unveiling ceremony was highlighted by the Governor releasing five Green turtle hatchlings that had been rescued from a nest only the previous day into the Caribbean Sea.

In the meantime, we continue to receive good signals from Green turtle ‘STINAPA,’ who remains in the same location at her feeding grounds off the coast of Nicaragua, since arriving there



on November 30th. ‘STINAPA’ is also the mother of the five rescued hatchling Green turtles released at Plaza Resort Bonaire by Governor Domacassé at the launch of the sea turtle stamp set issued by the Netherlands Antilles’ postal service (Nieuwe Post, N.A.). □ Andy Uhr and Robert P van Dam - STCB



ASK THE DIETITIAN TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Christmas is coming, and that means lots of get-togethers and dinners with family and friends. It's still easy to

watch your weight or diet during the holidays while having fun. Most of us have the idea that we cannot combine our diet or healthy eating pattern with social activities, but really it's just choosing well. Have you planned your Christmas dinner yet? Remember that it is possible to enjoy a meal that is low in fat and low in calories. So try to pay attention to making healthy choices for the holidays. Here are some tips on **making healthy choices at the supermarket:**



Before shopping

- Think about some of the meals you will make. For Christmas dinner you can use a cookbook to help you make your choices, but remember when you pick a recipe, take a good look at all the ingredients and see which of those ingredients you can substitute with a low fat version. For example, if one of the ingredients is full cream milk, you can substitute low fat milk.
- Write a list of what you need to buy and stick to it.
- Have a meal or a snack before shopping. If you are hungry, you might be tempted to buy food you don't need.

At the store

- Be aware of distractions that may tempt you to buy foods that are not in the line with your nutritional goals or foods that you tend to overeat.
- Purchase only those foods on your list.
- Refer to the nutrition label to see how a food fits into your healthy eating plan.
- Compare the nutrition labels from different brands of the same food.
- Choose foods that are lower in fat, sodium and calories rather than their high-fat versions or counterparts.

Using food labels to select food

Food labels provide important information that allows you to compare foods and make better choices. The percentage daily value (% daily value) gives a general idea of how much fat, sodium, carbohydrates, proteins or dietary fibers a serving contributes to the overall daily diet. Use the % daily value information to easily identify foods that might be low in fat and high in fiber. This will help you see how a particular food fits into your meal plan.

Claims on labels can help also. Choose those products with the claims:

- low calorie
- light or lite
- fat free, low fat, reduced/less fat
- sugar free, reduced/less sugar

Most of us have the idea that we cannot combine our diet or healthy eating pattern with social activities. But really, it's just choosing well. Here are some practical tips how to turn your favorite recipes into healthy and low calorie dishes by making smarter ingredient choices. Just think how happy you'll be when you get on the scale after the holidays and you haven't gained an ounce or a gram!

More Tips

Reduce or eliminate an ingredient. Many recipes call for more salt, fat or sugar than is needed for good taste. By experimenting, you can learn how much you actually need. For instance you can omit both salt and oil from the water used to cook pasta without sacrificing taste. When a recipe calls for mayonnaise, you can mix equal amounts of reduced fat or fat free mayonnaise and low fat or non fat yoghurt. Try also to experiment with cake recipes by reducing the amount of sugar.

Substitute one ingredient for another. Use low fat or skim milk instead of full cream milk, low fat or non fat yoghurt for sour cream. Replace bacon with turkey bacon. And instead of heavy cream use evaporated milk "light," etc.

The following recipe shows you how to make your favorite recipe low fat.

LOW FAT CHEESE CAKE

For the crust:

- 1 pack of cookies (brand: Marie)
- 2 tablespoon of melted margarine reduced fat
- 2 small packs of Equal or 2 teaspoons of Equal (in powder)

For the filling:

- 2 packs of light cream cheese
- 3 egg whites
- ½ cup of low fat milk
- ½ cup of sugar
- 1 tablespoon of white flour

PREPARATION: Crush the cookies and put them in a bowl with the melted reduced fat margarine and the Equal. Mix everything together thoroughly. Take a cheesecake baking dish and cover the whole bottom of the dish with the cookie mix by pressing it flat in the bottom. Mix the cream cheese to a creamy consistency and while mixing pour in the egg white, then the low fat milk followed by the sugar and the flour. Mix well. When everything is well mixed, pour this in the baking dish covered with the cookie mixture. Let the cheesecake bake in the oven at 350° for 45 minutes.

(This recipe is from Marie Salsbach, former owner of a Bonaire health shop and restaurant.) □ Angélique Salsbach

Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Write her at dietitan@bonairenews.com □

RINCON MARSHÉ 1st LUSTRUM

It all started with the Rincon women's club, RINFA, which opened the first Marshé on December 11, 1999. The results surpassed their expectations, and on February 5, 2000, the Marshé began in earnest. During the years the Marshé has been organized and led by mostly ladies, but now they feel it's time for more of the men to join too.



*Some of the people of Rincon who made it happen –
The Rincon Marshé's Fifth Year (1st Lustrum)*

The Marshé Commission has organized courses for the stand holders in English and how to manage their businesses, making them even more professional.

The Marshé is now set up every Saturday in the center of town. Guests from the government, business and other sectors come to speak and give information "Bou di Ramada" (on the porch), and people who've had a positive influence on the community are recognized. It's a place where visitors and local people can come together to visit, to sit and chat under the cool umbrellas, to shop for gifts, fruits and vegetables, sweets, to stay for a drink or lunch on local specialties or BBQ. What started as a small endeavor has become an island tradition every Saturday which everyone looks forward, visitor and local alike. □ L.D.

THE PET PROFESSOR



CATS RULE AND DOGS DROOL

It is said that there are dog people and there are cat people. There is certainly no denying the differences between these two most popular pets.

Practically speaking, cats require less space and maintenance than dogs. They are quiet and self-cleaning and don't need to be walked. They also purr. Unfortunately, nobody seems to know how they do this let alone why, but we like it anyway. On the other hand, cats can be somewhat less satisfying in terms of the emotional payback expected by dog owners; you know, that unconditional love thing? Don't even go there with cats. Unlike dogs, cats discriminate. Do not assume you are worthy. You will be judged, and most likely found wanting. Nothing can make you feel quite as inadequate as rejection by a cat. But when you do manage to achieve acceptance, and dare I say it, love, from a cat, doesn't it somehow mean more than getting a tail wag out of your dog? Don't you feel just a bit more pleased with yourself?

Is this because cats are smarter than dogs? Not always. More lovable? Not usually. Better, more loyal, companions? Rarely. So why would anyone prefer them to dogs?

For that matter, why would cats choose to live with us? For dogs, life with humans is a no-brainer: they are not genetically hardwired to fend for themselves and it is natural for them to share our homes, acknowledge us as their superiors, depend on us, and even seem grateful to us. Cats, on the other hand, are self sufficient and solitary by nature, the ultimate predator, acknowledging no superiors whatsoever, perfectly capable of surviving without us. There is a wildness in them that remains untouched by centuries of domestication. Your dog licks you because you are the one who feeds him. Your cat rubs up against you to mark you as his territory.

We expect respect and obedience from our dogs. But cats demand our respect, and manage to achieve it through sheer arrogance -- along with undeniable beauty and grace (well most of the time

anyway). The fact that cats choose to live with us makes us feel special.

They keep life interesting, being much less straightforward or predictable than dogs. When your dog is happy, or unhappy, you know it, and you usually know why. Your dog does not often greet your friendly overtures with a yawn. He is almost always happy to see you. He does not carry a grudge, or punish you for something you did two days ago. He does not pretend to be affectionate only so he can bite you when you're not looking. He will rarely disdain your culinary efforts. He does not reject the toy you bought him in favor of its packaging. He would not vomit in your travel bag the night before departure. He does not get into the trash and then blame it on the cat (he looks suitably guilty instead). Your dog is not capable of perpetrating a criminal act while appearing on the other side of the room almost simultaneously. He does not have sudden inexplicable fits, or wake you up by knocking each

item one by one off your night stand.

These feline characteristics amuse and impress us despite ourselves.

The fact is cats intrigue us, and



maybe intimidate us a bit too. There they are (we hope) waiting for us when we get home: but what kind of mood will they be in? Aggrieved, demanding, coy, aloof? You never know. Unlike our dogs, we get the feeling cats have lives, separate from and unknown to us, while we are gone.

Are they thinking deep thoughts all day? Cataloging our inadequacies? Do they have a better understanding of the universe than we do? Is it possible they are higher beings? In fact they sleep 20 hours a day, but this does not diminish the mystique surrounding cats. We are drawn to these cute, fuzzy little killing machines, seeking a connection with something wild and unknowable. Whether we achieve it or not, some of us can't imagine life without cats.

In closing: Dogs have owners, cats have staff. □ Susan Brown

Susan Brown is a professional dog trainer on the island who has been in the "pet business" for 28 years. For all your dog training or pet care needs contact Susan at the Pet Professor, e-mail: bandfarm@yahoo.com or call 717-2620.

NOVELLO HITS CROCCANTINO

Croccantino and Antillean Wine Company will be hosting a "Novello" wine tasting on Sunday, December 19, at Croccantino Restaurant from 6 to 8 pm, and **the public is invited**. The event will celebrate AWC's 11th anniversary.

"Novello" is the young new wine of Italy, like the Beaujolais Nouveau in France. Even though this is a young wine you may enjoy drinking it for up to a year from the time it was bottled.

Antillean Wine Company was founded in 1993 by George Winkel and Ruud Vermeulen because, according to Ruud, there weren't really good wines on the island at that time that you could get on a regular basis even though there was an ongoing demand for them by restaurants and private individuals.

Although now there are a number of wine purveyors on Bonaire, AWC still stands out as the premier. Their wines are ALL top quality and the bottles are kept in a temperature controlled storage facility (60°F)

In August 2000 the present owners, Noel and Marjolein Hayden, took over AWC, having run a very popular Irish bar in Breda, Holland, for many years. Their personalities and expertise have gained them an outstanding reputation on the islands.

They, like the original owners, feel that selling wines is a fun business to be in. However, the buying and selling of wines is totally different from dealing with other goods and services. It takes 100% attention, dedication and enthusiasm to become and stay successful. It can't be just a sideline to another business. This is



Noel, Marjolein and Ruud at last year's party



where the strength of AWC is and always has been. Not only that, but they deliver free of charge. Their motto is: "You Ring; We Bring" **Antillean Wine Company can be reached at 560-7539, email wine@antilleanwine.com for delivery or their wine list. They want to remind you that for last minute gifts and parties their cool storage (white/blue building on Kaya Industria opposite Selibon) will be open between 9 am and 12 om December 23, 24 and 30, 31.**

During the evening award-winning photographer Shelly Craig will show her 8 by 10 underwater photos. All proceeds from the sale will go to Special Olympics Bonaire. Purchasers will receive a certificate for tax deduction. □ L.D.

Shelly Craig has been photographing the underwater Bonaire since 1995 and has received numerous first prize awards for underwater photography competitions including EPIC (Environmentally aware Photographic Image Competition), the Bonaire Dive Festival and the CORAL Reef Alliance.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! Usually 9:00 pm
Shall We Dance
(Jennifer Lopez)

Early Show (usually 7pm)
Without a Paddle

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 Shark Tale
SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM
The Forgotten

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:

"Without a Paddle" by Steven Brill starring Dax Shepard, Matthew Lillard and Seth Green



If movies and TV are your window on America then you probably think that every American has guns and shoots them at least once a week. In every American movie there are guns and shooting. Even in this 'comedy' people are blasting away. If you think that stoner jokes, poop jokes, pee jokes, gay jokes, lesbian jokes, erection jokes and gross-out jokes are funny then this is your movie. If not then the title for this film should be "Without a Purpose." The moral in this movie: "Love your life and live it every day." That's about as deep as it goes. □ *Dodo*

THIS WEEK

Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19 - Second Annual Triathlon (swimming, cycling, running) sponsored by Jong Bonaire. On Saturday at City Café all contestants register at 5:30 pm and get a great pasta dinner ("carb loading" for the next day). Races start at City Café at 7 am on Sunday. Teams pay NAf35; individuals pay NAf15. Call Mabel Nava at 717-4303. See page 11.

Saturday, December 18—Bonaire Windsurfers Holiday Freestyle Frenzy Event, Lac Bay 11 am

Sunday, December 19—Bonaire Windsurfers End of the Year Race, Playa

Sunday, December 19—"Novello" Wine Tasting at Croccantino Restaurant from 6 to 8 pm. Public is invited. The event will celebrate Antillean Wine Company's 11th anniversary

Saturday, December 20—Holiday Concert with Freewinds Band Fundraising Evening for King of the Caribbean 2005. Aboard *Freewinds*, 7-10 pm. NAf17,50 (\$10). Tickets: TCB, Windsurf Place, Gabrielle Nahr, Edseline Dammers, Ann Phelan

This week through Jan 27, 2005 First ever exhibition of artwork underwater "40 Feet Underwater": Moving Light into an Unlimited Territory," Dutch artist Fred Ros. At the dive site Front Porch, located at Bongos Beach at Eden Beach Resort. Entrance Fee \$5 (Bonaireans free)

Until January 5, 2005—Renate van der Byl Art Exhibition at the Cinnamon Art Gallery, Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind the Banco di Caribe. Open weekdays from 9 am to noon, 2 to 5 pm. 717-7103 or 786-9563.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Dec. 19-*Adonia*

COMING

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Dec. 25-*Oceana*; Dec. 27-*Queen Mary 2*, Dec. 28-*AidaVita*, Dec. 29-*Silver Whisper*

Saturday, Dec 25 - Christmas Day (Holiday). Stores closed

Sunday, Dec 26 - Boxing Day (Holiday).

Sunday, Dec. 26 - Wave/Freestyle Extravaganza - Lac Suite 11 am

Friday, Dec 31 - 5k San Silvester Run. Call Richard Pietersz, 717-8629

Friday, Dec 31 - Fireworks all over Bonaire! - stores close early

Saturday, January 8, 2005—Art Exhibit Opening of Helen Sargent ("Elena") at the Cinnamon Gallery

Saturday, January 8—Crossfyre Soca Band / Fundraiser for Regatta in Playa - See Elvis Martinus for details

Friday, January 14—Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005 (students from ABC islands and St. Martin)— Chef demonstrations -Chez Nous, SGB

Saturday, January 15—Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005 Gala Awards Dinner and Cocktail Reception— place, cost and time to be announced

Saturday, Jan. 29—Windsurf Expression Session - Event Site 11 am. On site, special industry people from Hi Fly and Starboard.

Feb. 5/6 - Bonaire Windsurfing Freestyle Frenzy - two days of the hottest fun freestyle.

May 15-22 KOTCaribbean!!! This is a World Cup Grand Prix, so many pros and guests are expected. For info, see www.pwaworldtour.com or www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com

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 on Time Sharing and how to save on your next vacation. 6:15 to 7 pm

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 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. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours 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; Sunday 7 pm- 3 am.

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- Discover Our Diversity Slide Show, pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

Sunday - Bonaire Holiday -Multimedia dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat, 717-8290

Monday Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea slide experience at the Aquarius Conference Center, Captain Don's Habitat, 8:30 - 9:30 pm.

Wednesday (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 Plaza's Topsy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Bonaire Arts and Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonierano) 717-5246 or 717-7117

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@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,

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

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 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). 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. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
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 turquoise setting when enjoying a breakfast buffet or a la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine.
Caribbean Club Bonaire at Hilltop 717-7901	Kitchen open 10 am for salads and sandwiches. Reasonably priced dinners Closed Sunday	What a place! Friendly bar next to the pool, home cooked meals, happy hours 5 to 7.
Crocantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a 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
The Last Bite Bakery Home Delivery or Take Out 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, 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.	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/6,50
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



SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Bonaire Pro can keep your financial records in order, minimize your tax liability and provide helpful advice. For individuals or businesses.

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, 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.

CLEANING SERVICE

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

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 AND SOUVENIRS

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

GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK HELP

JuliMar assists with the paperwork and procedures needed to obtain permits, citizenship, residency and more. Experienced in Immigration matters.

HOTELS

Caribbean Club Bonaire is in a tranquil setting at Hilltop, adjacent to Oil Slick Leap dive site. Cool breezes, fresh water pool, cozy bar and restaurant.

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

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.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women

and children.

Littman's Jewelers, where good taste is foremost. Bonaire's official Rolex retailer.

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.

SPA—DAY SPAS

Face and Body Day Spa offers the ultimate in advanced beauty treatments, facials and massage. Call 717-2622

Intermezzo Day Spa at Captain Don's Habitat is the newest of this ABC island chain of elegant spas. Now offering seaside massages and facials.

Pedisa Day Spa—for all your body and wellness needs, 40 years of experience Classic and specialty massages, Reiki, Reflexology and more..

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.

VILLAS

Bonaire Oceanfront villa for up to nine people: five kitchens, five bathrooms. Ideal for diver.

WATER TAXI

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

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

ON THE ISLAND SINCE . . .

Wilma and Frank Bohm

“We’d been hoping to live abroad, mostly through a foundation that offers Dutch education in foreign countries,” *Wilma says*. “We’d been on vacation in the Antilles a couple of times and to us Bonaire stood out from the other islands. I sent an application to SEK (Education Department) asking for an interview while we were in Bonaire for vacation. I was hired as a teacher at Kolegio Reina Beatrix for three years which I thought was a very short time. In Holland I was a director of a primary school and once you have a job like that it feels like your bed is made, and that’s what got to me. I wanted something different, completely different.”

“We were looking for an adventure,” *Frank says*. “What bothered me most in Holland was the rush and the pressure. It seemed like life was only work, work and work. We could have moved to another town, a different job, but sooner or later we would have been stuck in the same old routine again. The fact that we don’t have children made it easier; we wanted to go overseas, explore our limits. When Wilma got the job I was still working for *Hoogovens IJmuiden*, an international steel company. At night I studied mechanical engineering at College of Advanced Technology. I had to finish my studies as they were paid for by my employer, so it was a dilemma, but we didn’t want to miss the opportunity as we thought we wouldn’t get a second chance so soon.”

“We put our house up for sale,” *Wilma fills in*, “and I left in 1995. It was pioneering. In Holland I was responsible for a whole school; here it was only for one class. I had to get used to that. I didn’t speak Papiamentu; that was a disaster! However, being a kindergarten teacher originally, I knew how to address the children in a simple manner and body language was of course also very important. I took a Papiamentu course immediately but, as I am not so talented when it comes to languages, it went slowly. Nevertheless, I’ve always felt that when you live in another country you should learn the language and immerse yourself in its culture. After Frank graduated in 1996 he flew to Bonaire the next day with the raise he got with his diploma!”

“I knew there wasn’t much to do on Bonaire in my profession,” *Frank says*, “but I thought, I’ve got two hands; I’ll see what I find. However, before I got here I had a job with Hot Shot scooter rentals. Wilma’s job was with the government, so we were okay financially. After a week’s vacation I started to work -for the first time in my life in

tourism - renting out mopeds, scooters and bicycles. I had to be friendly with the clients, try to drag someone on a scooter, but I got used to it quickly. Hot Shot was having the maintenance done elsewhere, so I said we could do it ourselves. It was quite an experience! I discovered that there were lots of bicycles on the island that weren’t used due to a lack of spare parts, so five years ago, I started *The Freewieler*.

It was a hit from the very beginning. I asked Wilma, ‘Are you using your bike? No! Then I’m going to sell it now! Immediately I had to deal with all the ins and outs of having your own business. Of course I didn’t have any experience; I had to find out everything by myself. I went to Holland, to Beverwijk, the town where we lived, and went to the bicycle shop. They gave me some addresses of exporters who were willing to ship. The paperwork took me one year, but if I had to do it over again, I’d be ready in a month! I learned a lot!

Most of my clientele are locals who come to buy and for repair. It’s a stable market. The rental part has more ups and downs, but it’s going fairly well. At first I noticed people here didn’t have a lot of money to spend so I sold second hand and cheaper bikes. However, lately more people are asking for more expensive bikes. Just from the last shipment alone I sold four mountain bikes in four days!

“... I started *The Freewieler*. It was a hit from the very beginning. I asked Wilma, ‘Are you using your bike? No! Then I’m going to sell it now!’”

It’s fun to have your own business, working according to your own ideas, and the socializing with the clients makes it even nicer. Another advantage of having my own business is that I can close it when I want to, to carry on my biggest hobby, being an international water polo referee. Last week I was in Jamaica, and over the years I’ve been sent to many different places in the Caribbean and Latin America, five to 10 times per year.

Another passion of mine is diving. I think I’ve made over 500 dives, mostly on Bonaire. Wilma and I go practically every weekend. It’s special, no matter whether we see the usual things or we meet a manta ray or a turtle, it’s always

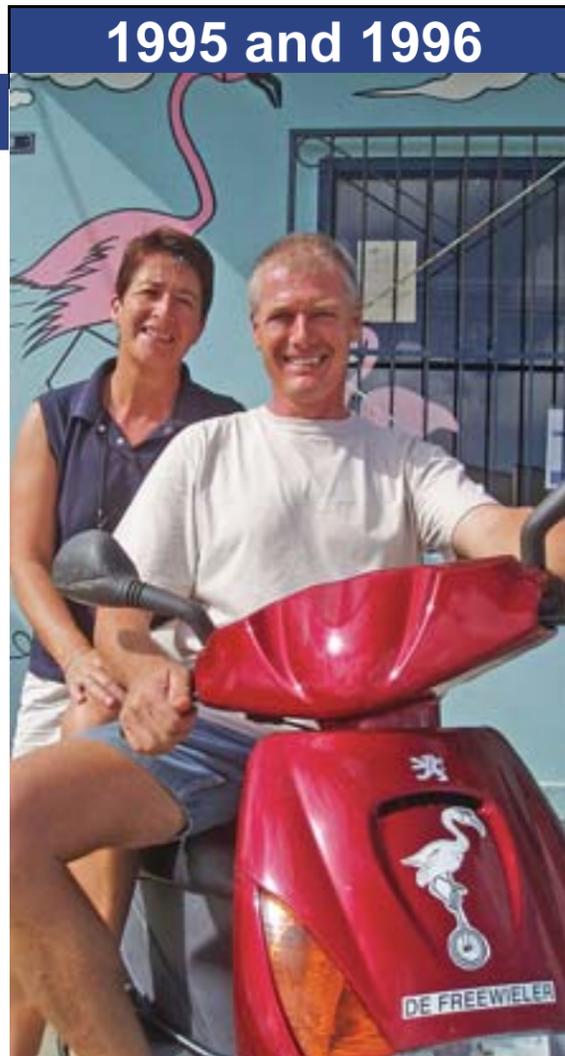
worth it. I always enjoy it; I just like to be underwater.” “It’s a place,” *Wilma says*, “where you don’t think about daily life or work.”

After working for four years for Kolegio Reina Beatrix I was asked by SEK to conduct a course on new educational methods for the primary and kindergarten teachers. I also worked for APEBON, a one-time school of educational school, teaching 23 students, 18 of which have become teachers on the island.

I’d been asked several times to start a Dutch primary school here, but I felt it wasn’t the right time yet. But last August the *Pelikaan School* opened its doors. It’s a non-subsidized primary school. It costs Nafl. 250.- per month per child. I know that’s a lot of money for some people and for others it’s nothing. At the moment I have one group of 26 children, ages four to eight. There’s a waiting list of 40 children and we’re in the process of recruiting a second teacher. Once that’s done we can place all the children, up to 12 years, who are on the waiting list. For the time being I’m doing it alone, but there’s always someone available to replace me. It appears that there’s a need for our school. Since 2002 **foundation based education** has been introduced in the primary schools on Bonaire and the early instruction language is Papiamentu. It starts at kindergarten, but over the years the instruction language will be Papiamentu up to the sixth grade. That’s not suitable for everyone, as there are Dutch people who come here on three-year contracts and whose children have to return to Holland after that. But also there are Antillean people whose children eventually will go to Holland to study. There are seven nationalities represented at the school now: Aruban, Dutch, American, Venezuelan, South African, Swiss and Antillean. The instruction language is Dutch.

To us, not only is the language important but also the way the children socialize with each other and the way the teacher relates to the children. Another important aspect is the way children themselves develop. We’re teaching

1995 and 1996



Wilma and Frank Bohm

according to a progressive method whereby each child, in his own time and way, has the opportunity to learn about a subject. I must say it’s fun, it’s really great!

I also give classes at NA-CSI, an institute for school improvement for teachers from all the Dutch Antilles who work at primary and high schools. I’m one of their local trainers; I’m doing it to associate with adults, to keep up to date with the developments in education and to learn more about my profession because I am a curious person. Yeah”, *she smiles*, “Bonaire has been good to me and I don’t feel the need at all to look for another challenge somewhere else in this world. We have a piece of land in Bolivia and it is my biggest wish to build our own house there. Will we always stay here?” “I will!” *Frank says*. “I will too!” *Wilma adds*, “Then when the time comes we’ll go straight into the old people’s home!” *she laughs*.

“And by the way: Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone!” □ *Greta Kooistra*



Greta Kooistra

THE BONAIRE GARDNER



I hope you have all recovered from the rains and hopefully, so has your garden. Plants are growing like crazy right now and Bonaire is really green!

Now you can also see which plants are true drought lovers. We get a lot of questions about certain plants that look bad now. A lot of **Bougainvillea** that have had a lot of water have lost their leaves and look bad. They won't die. Just trim them back and they will sprout out again. Adding a little fertilizer also might help.

A lot of the **Magdalena** (*Vlijtig Liesje* in Dutch) have died; they don't like too much water. Don't feel sad, they have probably dropped seedlings that will re-

place the old ones in no time. If not, please wait a few weeks before planting new ones. Also a tree like the **Erythrina** (*Bonchi di Kabai*) can lose all its leaves, also because of too much water. They also will come back; make sure they are not standing with their roots in water all the time.

A plant that likes all this water a lot is the one I started writing about some weeks ago - the family of **Jasmines**. As I said, there are a lot of different types. Some of them don't even look like a Jasmine. For example there is the **Azahar**, or *Murraya paniculata*. This type is probably the best plant for small hedges.

It grows like the well known **Dutch Buxus**. You can trim them to any height that you want and they will stay bushy and green all year round. Plant them close together for the best results. Twice a year they will give you the most fragrant white flowers you can imagine. They don't need a lot of water and don't attract pests.

Another nice one for borders or even hedges is the **Jasminum pubescens** or the **Star Jasmine**. They have nice star-shaped white flowers but are not fragrant. They are really good for border planting and will fill in an open spot in a very short time. Again, I have not seen any pests on them (yet).

One that has really fragrant flowers all year round is the **Jasminum "Maid of New Orleans"**. I don't know any local

name for this one. It will be a nice shrub of four to five feet high, a little bit open, but also nice as a border plant. This type is one of the best to plant in a nice terracotta pot, close to a window, where you can smell its flowers, although sometimes in the morning they smell so heavy that after a long night before you might get a headache!

Next time I will describe some more types and give you some good tips how to use them and how to keep the nice plant that you had in mind! □ *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 terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410. **NOW OPEN SATURDAYS, NON-STOP 9 TO 4.**

2nd TRIATHLON
A JONG BONAIRE EVENT

December 19th
Race starts at 7:00 AM

Sign-up 18 december 17:30
at City Café followed by
a Pasta Party for participants

For individuals or teams of three as a relay

* Entry fee \$45 (15,- per person at 18:00) - per relay team
* Each relay team must have at least one member under 18 years of age
* If your team does not have 3 team members call Jong Bonaire (717-4200) and we can find someone for you
* The price includes the Pasta Party, T-shirt, water and fuel along the route and an information package



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

The Winter Solstice And Why The Shortest Day Of The Year Doesn't Feel Like The Shortest Day Of The Year

Next Tuesday, December 21st is the winter solstice, the so called first day of winter because at 7:42 am Sky Park Time the Sun will reach its farthest point south of the celestial equator.

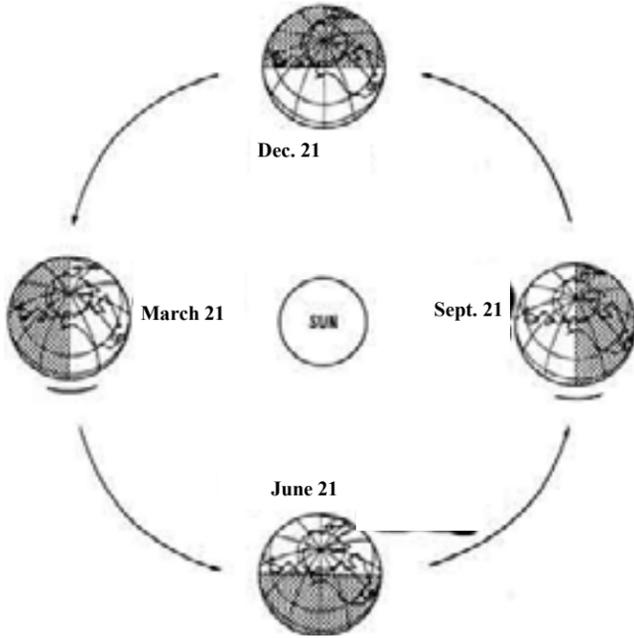
And although most

of us were taught that the winter solstice, the first day of winter, is the shortest day of the year, to many people it doesn't feel like the shortest day of the year. Why? Let me explain.

On first day of spring in March, which astronomers call the vernal equinox, the hours of daylight are equal to the hours of darkness. The Sun also rises exactly due east and sets due west on the equinox. After which it rises and sets each successive day just a little bit farther to the north of east until the first day of summer, the summer solstice, when the Sun reaches its northernmost point along the horizon and actually seems to stand still for a couple of days. In fact the word solstice means "Sun stands still". And most of us were taught that the first day of summer is the longest day of the year meaning the day of longest daylight.

Now after the solstice the Sun appears to reverse its direction and rises and sets just a little bit farther south each successive day. And the amount of daylight gets a little less each day. Then on the first day of autumn, the autumnal equinox, the Sun will once again rise due east and set due west and the amount of daylight will be equal to the amount of night. Then the Sun will continue its journey rising and setting a little bit farther south each day and the amount of daylight will continue to get shorter and nights longer until the first day of winter, the winter solstice, when the Sun will reach its farthest point south and once again appear to stand still. And we will experience the shortest day of the year meaning the day of least sunlight and most night. But experience is a strange word because even though the first day of winter is the shortest day of the year, nevertheless it doesn't feel like it to most people. This feeling can be explained.

You see, more people experience sunsets than sunrises and at northern latitudes the earliest sunsets occur during the first week of December. Sunset actually occurs a little bit later each day as we move closer to the winter solstice. So although the days really are getting shorter it's because the Sun is rising later each morning and since most people judge the length of a day by sunset time and not sunrise this is why the days at the beginning of December usually feel shorter than the actual shortest day of the year. It's simply a matter of human perception. If however you're an early riser and get up with the chickens then the first days of January will feel like the shortest days of the year because that's when the days of latest sunrise occur. Are you a morning person or an evening person? What feels like the shortest day to you? □ Jack Horkhimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:

December 17-23, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your creative ideas must be put to good use. Be sure to cover all the necessary groundwork before signing binding contracts. You will meet new romantic partners through the company you keep. Be careful; your ideas are good but make sure that you're realistic and start off on solid ground. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) If it can make you extra cash, it will be even better. You may want to make changes that will turn your entertainment room into a real family affair. You will find that valuable knowledge can be gained if you are willing to listen. Be sure to spend time helping children with projects that are too difficult for them to accomplish alone. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Changes at home will be necessary. You have worked hard and the payback is now. You can make adjustments in your domestic scene this week. Visit friends or relatives you rarely see. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Sentimental feelings may make it difficult to get much done at work. You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. You will feel tired and rundown if you have allowed yourself to get into a financial mess. Physical activity will help defuse your frustration. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Opportunities to get involved in self improvement projects will be rewarding. Your home environment may be volatile if precautions aren't taken. You may find yourself in an emotional fix if you interfere in other people's problems. It's time to reevaluate your motives. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Plan a nice evening for two. Leave things as they are for the moment and focus on reaching your highest potential at work. You may want to make drastic changes concerning your personal partner. Do your chores and get on with the things you enjoy doing. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your unique contribution to the organization will enhance your reputation. You will take on too much if you aren't careful. Stick to basics. Don't let others bully you into agreeing with them. Be willing to listen, but don't be fooled. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Deception may cause disputes you can do without. Problems with gas, oil, or water in your home may disrupt your routine. You could be misinterpreted if you're not careful. Romantic opportunities will be plentiful if you go out with friends. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) A passionate encounter with your mate should help alleviate that pent-up energy. Don't let someone take the credit for a job you did. Get involved in philosophic groups that will enlighten you. You are best to avoid confrontations. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may have the energy to clear up that mound of paperwork facing you. Don't let your personal dilemmas interfere with your goals. Children could cost you more than you can afford. Your stubborn nature will backfire if you give your mate an ultimatum. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your talent will be recognized. Don't jump as quickly as you usually do. Don't be too eager to buy things for those who really don't deserve it. Situations could easily get blown out of proportion if you have made unreasonable promises. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't count on your friends to be loyal when it comes to doing things. Controversial subjects should be avoided at all costs. Your emotional stability may influence the changes taking place in your personal life. Don't be too quick to judge partners or those you work with. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. □



Fundraising Evening for King of the Caribbean 2005.

Holiday Concert by the Freewinds Band.

Enjoy Live Music

Date : Monday, December 20th, 2004
Time : 7:00 - 10:00 PM
Where : Freewinds
Price: 17.50 NAF/10.00 US\$ Per Person

Tickets available at TCB & The Bonaire Windsurfing Place.
See you there!