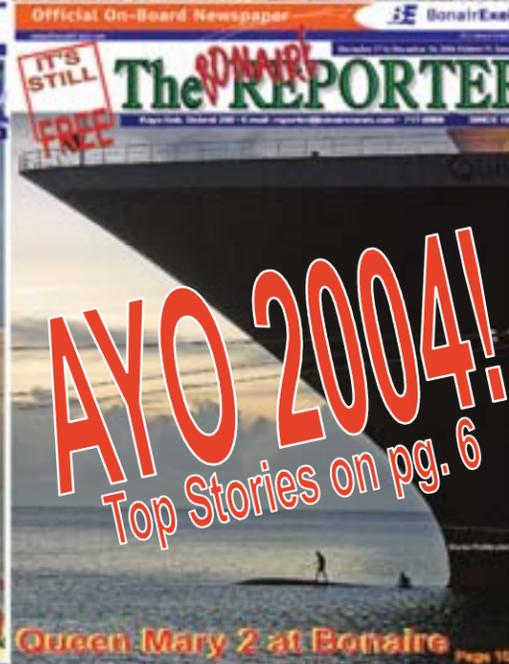
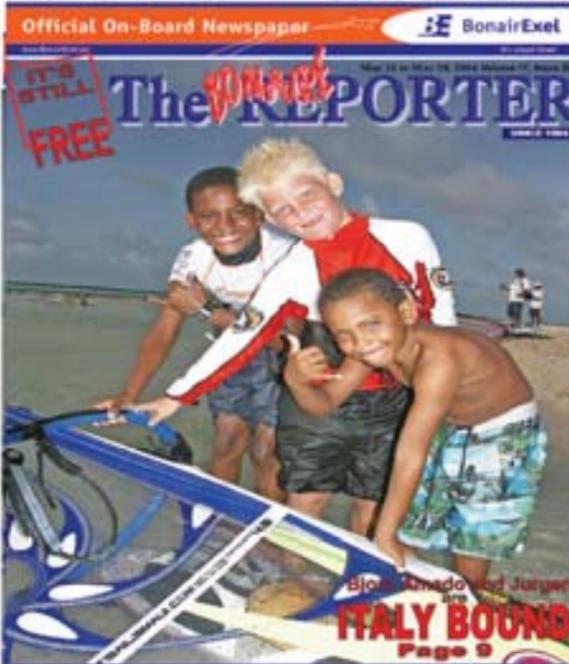
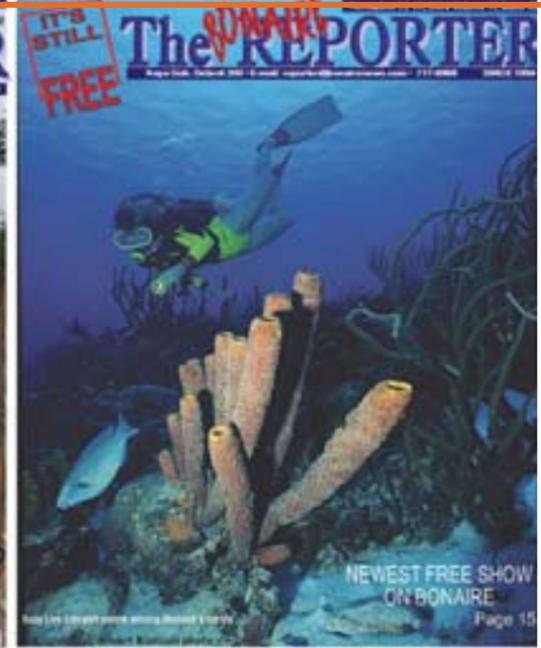


IT'S STILL FREE

The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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

SINCE 1994



AYO 2004!
Top Stories on pg. 6



FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Some 40 detectives from Holland will be sent to the Netherlands Antilles, starting in February, to assist local police in fighting crime. That's one



agreement reached after talks in Curaçao between Dutch Kingdom Relations Minister Thom de Graf and the Antillean Cabinet, represented by Prime Minister Etienne Ys and Justice Minister Norberto Ribeiro.

In addition to providing the detectives for a limited period, the Dutch Government will assist in expanding the capacity of the lockups to prevent criminals from being released back on the street too quickly. Up to **20 Dutch police officials** will also be made available to support the operation and management of the judicial system. For border control teams, Holland will provide **13 Royal Marechaussees (military police)** and **12 Customs agents** as well. In total, some 85 Dutch officials will be sent to the islands. Antillean police officers will be free to patrol on the streets.

Holland and the Antilles also plan to work together to sustain the fight against crime. The main ingredients are the recruitment, selection and training of police officers and prison personnel, strengthening and expanding the police cells and holding facilities for illegal

aliens. The two countries hope to sign the agreement on January 11, 2005.

► **The Antillean police union does not agree with the idea of bringing in the 40 Dutch detectives** to help fight crime because they would fall directly under the Attorney General and bypass the normal police chain of command. In their opinion it amounts to a second Kingdom Detective Team (the RST).

A union spokesman said, "Instead of looking for police in Holland, we need to look for politicians, senators and ministers there, because those who govern this country have not done their job as they should. The population, which is suffering from the crime wave, must hold government responsible. If they had listened to us and the police command in the past, we would not be in so much trouble now."

► **State Secretary Erno Labega has been given full authority to handle judicial matters in all the Antillean islands except Curaçao.** According to Labega, it is the first time a state secretary has been granted that power. Through a ministerial decree Justice Minister Nor-



State Secretary
Erno Labega

berto Ribeiro gave Labega authorization to act on his behalf in dealing with the four islands. This includes matters involving the police, prisons, Court of Guardianship and the Prosecutor's Office.

"The Justice Minister wants the proper policy and right state secretary in place," said Labega. "Now he will have more freedom and time for the Civil Defense program and major issues in Curaçao, without shortchanging the other islands." As for Bonaire, Labega said it was a "small island" that "needs a lot of attention."

► Julien Larmonie, Director of the General and Judicial Affairs Department (AJZ), says if the Netherlands Antilles is abolished, **75% of the Central Government's debt of NAf4.8 billion will be the responsibility of Curaçao**, based on the population size and the income per head of family. However, he added, based on a study conducted two years ago, abolishing the extra layer of government would mean a savings of NAf100 million annually.

► Antillean authorities have **already confiscated more than 500 passports of drug couriers** since the policy was initiated. Once the passport is confiscated all Dutch embassies are notified so that they don't issue another one. The passports are normally held for a two-year period as part of the (alternative) sentence for convicted drug couriers. "If all these people had to be locked up, they could fill an entire

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HAPPY NEW YEAR
from the
REPORTER STAFF

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
new prison," commented Justice Minister Norberto Ribeiro.

► **The Exel Aviation Group has a new Chief Executive Officer.** He's Bart Drechsel, formerly with KLM and Jet Airways of India. Drechsel succeeds Harm Prins who is under indictment for money laundering, extortion and forgery. Exel has severed all ties with Prins, who was recently released from detention, pending trial. Prins has returned his 15% share in the company to major shareholder Erik de Vlieger.

► Prior to his departure from Bonaire (see story on page 7), KLM Director Peter Hartman announced **that formation of a regional hub in Curaçao has been delayed, but that it will happen in 2005.** Last month our source for KLM information said KLM was not interested in the Caribbean for its own operations. However, hopes in Curaçao are high that the airline would increase its involvement on Curaçao.

► Just before Christmas **Bonaire's Customs officers walked off their jobs** because, among other things, the air conditioning and telephone system in the Customs building were not working. They agreed to stop their job action only after two new air conditioning units were installed. Even though Customs is a Central Government function and responsibility, it was the **Bonaire Government that provided the aircos.** It was concerned that local businesses and markets would not be able to receive their supplies for the holiday season.

► **The world's fifth strongest earthquake in a century hit southern Asia on Sunday**, triggering a speeding tsunami that crashed into Sri Lanka and Asian and African shorelines, drowning tens of thousands and swamping tourist islands in Thailand and the Maldives. A wall of water up to 10 meters (33 feet) high set off by the magnitude 9 (Richter scale) earthquake swept into Indonesia, over the coast of Sri Lanka and India and along the southern Thai tourist island of Phuket, leaving at least 1,500 feared dead, officials said. Tsunami related deaths were reported in Kenya and Somalia, Africa, thousands of miles away. Two-thirds of the Maldives capital, Male, was flooded, and officials voiced fears for the fate of dozens of low-lying, palm-ringed coral atolls crowded with international tourists for the peak Christmas holiday season. Some of the popular dive resort islands were affected. The disaster spared no one. Among the more than 60,000 victims were Western tourists killed while sunbathing on beaches. Poor villagers in homes by the sea and fishermen in flimsy boats drowned. The 21-year-old grandson of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej was killed on a jet-ski. The death toll has exceeded that resulting from the eruption of Krakatoa in the 19th century.

The earthquake of magnitude 9 as measured by the US Geological Survey first struck at 7:59 am (0059 GMT) last

► KLM's management, while celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the airline in the Antilles, suggested they were **looking for a "trustworthy connection" in the islands.** Peter Hartman, KLM's second-in-command, said, "The best way is to find a partner. We are looking within our group of companies to find one: Air France, Northwest, Transavia. And up until now Bonaire-Exel is proving to be capable of offering trustworthy connections. This morning we departed on time." At the same celebration KLM announced that its Business Class passengers will be offered a ceramic model of the Pehna House. It is the 85th in the series of the coveted gin-filled mementos and the first of a non-Dutch house. *Marius Noort*

► **The seven days of Kwanzaa is upon us** (December 26 to January 1). Kwanzaa is an African festival tradition that was reintroduced in the US by Maulana Karenga during the 1960s. Kwanzaa is a harvest festival and a combination of other festivals practiced in various parts of Africa. It is one of the most ancient forms of celebration and has been conducted for over 15,000 years.

► **POLICE UPDATE:** According to reports from the police union, Minister of Justice Norberto Ribeiro has put the **transfer of St. Martin Police Chief Richard Panneflek to Bonaire on hold.** Panneflek had been in Curaçao awaiting the official transfer to Bonaire. The Minister informed Bonaire's current Police Chief Gerold Daantje in a letter dated December 15 that effective immediately he would move to a new job in Curaçao in two days and that



► **Bonaire teens made it another "Shining Christmas" for their less fortunate neighbors.** But this time their neighborhood extended all the way to Aruba! For the fifth year in a row the "Goodhearted Youngster Group" made Christmas happier for disadvantaged children. On Saturday, December 18th they traveled to Aruba and distributed gifts to 300 children. After flying to Curaçao on the 19th they gave out more gifts to another 668 children there. Finally on Friday, December 24th 280 Bonaire kids got their gifts. This was all made possible by a grant from AMFO and local businessmen. Special thanks go to the Bonaire Rotary Club and the Venezuelan Consulate.

Panneflek would take over as of that date. Police officers in Bonaire protested against Daantje being replaced by Panneflek and the transfer never happened.

► **Last week *The Bonaire Reporter* increased the number of copies it prints by about 15%** in an effort to ensure that all who want a copy during the busy holiday period were able to get one. This was a sort of gift to our loyal advertisers who bear the cost of producing the paper by supporting us with their ads.

As you readers are aware, costs are rising, especially for paper and printing. If you appreciate this newspaper and still want to "keep it free" please visit the establishments that advertise in our pages and patronize them. **Let them know you saw their ad in *The Reporter*.** □ G./L.D.



Earthquake location

Sunday off the coast of the northern Indonesian island of Sumatra and swung north with multiple tremors into the Andaman islands. There is no tsunami warning system for that area of the world. There is also no warning system in the Caribbean.

"Nothing like this has ever happened in our country before," said Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Bonaire will host a tsunami workshop in January, 2006. Refer to *The Bonaire Reporter* articles in the December 10th and 17th issues for a history of Caribbean tsunamis.

Next week we plan to report on the progress towards getting a tsunami warning system operational in our region.

LETTER

We are publishing this letter because of the wonderful advances of Bonaire's Sea Turtle Protection Program over the last several years that Robert van Dam was directing research. He has made many friends and leaves a legacy for others to follow.

Dear Friends,

Our last nesting turtle of this season, Hawksbill 'Funny' is now over 1300 km from Bonaire. She continues to move at a pace of 80 km per day, turning slightly towards the north in the direction of the Cayman Islands. 'Funny' is now approaching the extensive shallow-water banks located between Honduras and Jamaica, with the closest being the Seranilla and Rosalind Banks, which are probably good feeding grounds for turtles. In the next few days it should become clear whether this is her destination or she chooses to continue onwards and upwards.

On a different note, as many of you are aware, I will be leaving the post of STCB Project Director as 2004 comes to a close. In charge of continuing the Bonaire turtle-ops will be Mabel Nava (now with Jong Bonaire) together with 'Funchi' Egbreghts, of course. Mabel brings with her incredible energy, enthusiasm and plenty of new ideas for all aspects of our turtle cause. As a full-time resident of Bonaire, Mabel will be able to dedicate much more time to our

many activities, and especially to those that I have neglected during the last two years. I look forward to seeing how the STCB program evolves in Mabel and Funchi's hands. While I expect to remain involved mostly at a distance, I do hope to return to the island plenty in future for "special projects" such as the turtle tracking.

This past year has been an exceptionally good one for our organization, with lots of very positive achievements. Of course, the turtles have helped, allowing us to showcase their spectacular long-distance migrations, record their ever higher nesting numbers, and even having a rare leatherback come to lay a few nests. But only the persistent efforts by a group of very good people can lead to such publicity highlights as the fantastic DCNA awareness campaign, "Protehá Nos Turtuganan," now underway, and which will no doubt become a model for other turtle conservation programs in the Caribbean to fol-



Robert van Dam

**Obituary:
Diane Marie DiBona
1956 - 2004**

My daughter, Diane DiBona, lived on Bonaire for the past 11 years. She passed away Saturday, December 18, at 3 am. She had been sick for a while and was waiting to go to Curaçao for more tests, but she died suddenly without any warning. I believe it was from a tumor on the lung that had showed up in an X-ray here in Bonaire.

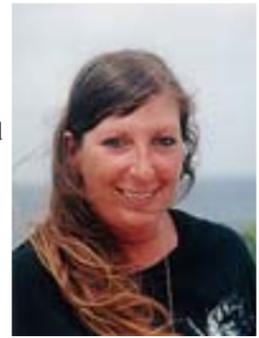
My daughter was a lover of horses and worked at Kunuku Warahama as manager for a number of years. Diane would always put out a helping hand to anyone who had a sick horse, dog, bird or other pets. She was a great teacher for children or grownups who wished to learn how to ride a horse.

She was the first to start donkey races on Bonaire. There are still people on the island that have some of the donkeys she raised.

We will all miss her very much. She had many friends on the island.

She lived with a Bonaire person that she loved very much, Eddy Bernabela. Let God bless her and keep her in his love forever. □ *Alonzo Curry*

May we add our condolences to Diane's family.



Diane DiBona

low. To all who make our program possible -and you know who you are- I am very, very grateful. Because of you I can now start on my own homebound migration, not like some of our nesting turtles hungry after their two to three-

month fast, but with a belly filled with satisfaction.

Thanks and I hope to see ya' out on a turtle beach sometime.

We will keep you posted,

Robert P. van Dam

The Bonaire Reporter welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number or e-mail address. Letters without that information will not be published.

If a writer wishes to remain anonymous or just use initials we will honor the request. Letters should not be more than 400 words in length and may be edited at the Editor's discretion. Send letters or diskettes to The Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire; via fax 717-8988 or E-mail: letters@bonairenews.com

THE REPORTER'S TOP STORIES OF 2004

1. **The Referendum** – In July Bonaire's residents were asked to select their preference for a future form of government. By a margin of over 2 to 1 over any of the other choices, 59% of the voters said they wanted a "Direct Link" with Holland. The next most popular was an Aruba-style status aparté with 24%. Only 16% voted for the status quo and <1% wanted independence. All this was against a background of criminal convictions at the highest levels of the Curaçao dominated Central Government.



2. **Crime** – Violent crimes stirred the population to demand action from their leaders after a victim allowed a photo to be published of the effects of a beating she received from the men who broke into her house demanding money. The attackers were apprehended, but a new awareness of an escalation of crime and violence motivated public meetings and strong statements by the Governor. At the end of the year the Chief of Police was reassigned to Curaçao, but the order seems to have been suspended. Expert anti-crime support is on the way from Holland.

3. **Ivan the Hurricane** narrowly missed Bonaire at the last minute. Although the island was battered down it was obvious that had the Category 5 storm scored a direct hit there would have been incredible devastation. As it was, some waterfront facilities were destroyed or damaged, there was severe beach erosion and the windward coastline was rearranged.

4. The Bonaire Animal Shelter conducted a most successful **program to sterilize dogs**. During the two-week-long effort 151 animals were neutered free of charge. It took a concerted effort of the Shelter Manager, volunteer

vets from Bonaire, Canada, Holland and the US and a great number of Bonaire residents to make it happen.

5. **Airlines** were at the top of the news all year - The collapse of DCA and Air Holland, the expansion of the Exel family of airlines and the appearance of South American carriers changed the complexion of air travel for Bonaireans. KLM continued using the island as a technical stop for flights to Ecuador and Peru, which provided travelers to our island daily non-stop connections to The Netherlands. KLM celebrated its 70th anniversary for flying to the Antilles as well.

6. **Care for its less advantaged citizens**, always a distinguishing quality of the people of Bonaire, reached new heights – Fueled by direct grants from Holland through AMFO, several caregiving groups were able to carry out worthwhile social and environmental projects; Bonaire's Special Olympics team competed in the Caribbean Games in Jamaica thanks to generous donations; and the FKPD (handicapped center) celebrated its 25th anniversary and announced an expansion of its activities and housing facilities.

7. For the second year in a row the **improvements at Washington-Slagbaai National Park made the top 10**. Additional facilities at the front gate, new trails, mountain bike access, overnighting at the historic Slagbaai buildings and many other enhancements, especially at the museum, make it a Caribbean park second to none.

8. **An exceptional rainy season** with a record one-day downpour turned desert-like Bonaire into a swamp for a week or more. Roads were washed out, infrastructure damaged and all the island's leaky roofs did their thing. As we go to press we still are having rain almost every day.

9. Several stories **tied**. They included:
 - The opening of the **Pelikaan School** - Bonaire's first successful private primary school.
 - The upgrade of the **Port of Bon-**

THE FIRST "DUTCH KINGDOM CURRENCY" STRUCK

Last week in Utrecht, The Netherlands, the three first "kingdom" coins were struck. They commemorate the signing, 50 years ago, of the Statute (ERNA) that forms the legal basis of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruban autonomous governments. They are, respectively five euro, five guilders and five florins, for each of the members of the Kingdom.



Photo by Nico of the ven/Antilles house
 L to R: the Minister-President of Aruba, Nelson Oduber; Minister-President of the Netherlands Antilles, Etienne Ys; and Minister of Kingdom Relations, Thom de Graf.

The designers of the statute currencies are Rudy Luijters (euro), Ans Mezas-Hummelink (Antillean guilder) and Evelino Fingal

(Aruban florin). The currencies became available on December 15. Gold and silver commemorative coins were also struck. They are legal tender in the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. □

aire to meet international security standards. This allows ships like the Queen Mary 2 and other liners to call at our island.

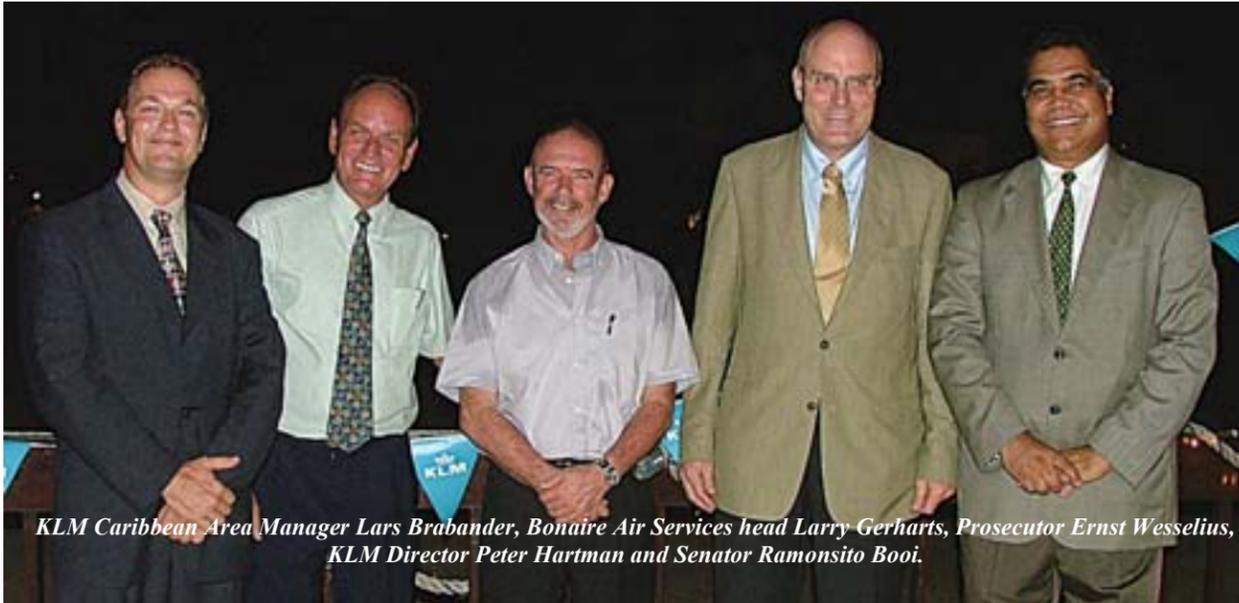
- The opening of Bonaire's unique, privately supported art gallery – the **Cinnamon Art Gallery**. Now our talented artists have a showcase for their skills.

- Bonaire started production of its **own goat cheese** from its own goats. It was about time... and it's delicious.

10. *The Bonaire Reporter* celebrated **10 years of publication**. This was big news to those who predicted its early demise. Even though Americans and other native English speakers constitute only about 5% of the population, *The Reporter* seems to be read by nearly everyone – residents and tourists alike. And **"It's Still Free!"** So please remember to visit our advertisers (who pay the bills) and say "*The Reporter* sent me."

The Reporter said **final farewell** to several friends including Jim Brandon, Rody Emerenciana, Jan Mol, Lan Lan Clarinda, Bam Bam Sint Jago and Diane DiBona. □ *G.D.*

KLM 70TH ANNIVERSARY VISIT



KLM Caribbean Area Manager Lars Brabander, Bonaire Air Services head Larry Gerharts, Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius, KLM Director Peter Hartman and Senator Ramonsito Booi.

A top heavy delegation of KLM brass hosted a cocktail party last week at the Plaza Resort to commemorate the 70th anniversary of KLM's flights to the Antilles. Attending the party, in addition to the KLMers, were Bonaire's Governor and First Lady Herbert and Lena Domacassé, ruling party leader Ramonsito Booi, Director of Bonaire Air Services Larry Gerharts, Public Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius, several Bonaire elected officials, the press and invitees.

Peter Hartman, KLM's Deputy Director, made a short address explaining the purpose of his visit first to Bonaire and then to Curaçao and Aruba. "Our visit revolves around the 70th anniversary of KLM's inaugural flight to the islands - one of the high points in Dutch civil aviation history. It was the first transatlantic flight to this region." The aircraft 'De Snip' landed at the Hato Plantation on Curaçao on December 20, 1934, whereupon Governor van Slobbe named the four-man crew to the Order of Orange-Nassau. The Christmas mail for the people of Curaçao was unloaded and distributed there and then. The next day *De Snip* flew on to Aruba to deliver the Christmas mail there. At the urgent request of Bonaire's "L.D." Gerharts, the aircraft also circled over Bonaire a couple of times, but was unable to land because there was no suitable airstrip. The Christmas mail for the island was

therefore shipped over from Curaçao aboard the *Dialma*, a single-masted boat that took **eight days** to make the crossing." Hartman quipped, "I don't know if that was due to any alcohol on board."

A lot has changed since then. L.D. Gerharts arranged a meeting in July of 1934 with KLM's founder, Albert Plesman, at a sunny sidewalk café on the Leidseplein in Amsterdam, where he was promised that KLM would come to Bonaire. But it took another two years before the first KLM flight (the airplane *Oehoe*) touched down (May 9, 1936) at a tiny airstrip that had been prepared under the watchful eye of L.D. near Subí Blanco, a rather desolate spot between Playa and Rincon.

"In those days Bonaire was last in line, but today we have come here first - which just goes to show how much has changed since the days of *De Snip*. The choice was simple because KLM now operates 12 flights a week to this island and will increase to 14 in March, 2005," Mr. Hartman told the audience. "Bonaire has taken the lead in modern times because it now has a well-equipped airport."

Mr. Hartmann continued, "I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the island of Bonaire on the manner in which it pulled together to provide the necessary facilities. For the past two years, Bonaire has been the

hub for our services to Lima and Quito which stop here on the outbound and homebound trip on an almost daily basis."

He directed special thanks to three people without whose dedication and perseverance all this would not have been possible: the third generation of the Gerharts family, **Larry Gerharts**, Director of BAS, the company that handles the KLM flights; the undisputed political and administrative force behind this success, **Ramonsito Booi**; and Public Prosecutor **Ernst Wesselius**.

"In closing, I would like to thank you for allowing us to bring our passengers here and take them home again after a very pleasant holiday," Hartman said. "As a child of the Antilles (Hartman was born in Curaçao), I thank you for the many decades of hospitality on *dushi Boneiru. Mashi danki* for joining us here today." □

Photo and story by Marian Walthie

FOR A NEW EXPERIENCE DIVE THE WILD SIDE

A totally new diving experience has been perfected by Larry Baillie, a Canadian-born, 53-year-old dive instructor who's been on the island for five years. It's Larry's Wild Side Diving - a way to dive the usually rough east and north coast of Bonaire. Until now divers had to wait for calm weather to explore those coasts. Not anymore. Larry explains, "I did research for three and a half years for the perfect vessel to dive it safely and comfortably. Eventually, I spent 10 days at the Zodiac boat dealer in British Columbia to come up with a design fit my requirements. It's based on a concept used by the Canadian Coast Guard."

"Wildside Diving began in March this year," the tough looking, but 'big hearted,' Canadian continues. "It's all about safety, which is my main concern. People are intimidated by the waves; I want the divers to feel at ease."

And I can tell you (I dove with him) Larry did a great job on that. Getting back aboard the boat after the dive is very smooth. Even rolling on the high waves it stays flat. The inflated tube of the boat is pushed aside, the stepladder on the side of the boat (so it doesn't come out of the

water by the waves) appears and you simply hop back on the boat. Everything on the boat is well thought out. In addition, Larry and his dive-master, Martin Heinrich, make you feel comfortable.

Before the dive starts you get a thorough boat and dive briefing from the highly qualified guys. For 12 years Larry was an army combat diver, four years a commercial diver, and after that he did eight years of sports diving in Vancouver, Canada. He's made thousands of dives.

In 1999 he decided to leave his homeland to start a new life. He used the Internet to look for a job as a dive instructor at various islands, then set foot ashore on Bonaire where he started to work for the Carib Inn. "I picked Bonaire because of the clean water, stable government, laid back atmosphere - no hussle bussle - and last but not least the cold beer!" Larry (who has been living with artist Janice Huckaby for four years) says, grinning. "Bonaire grabbed me! The people are just great, very easy and pretty amazing. I felt embraced." Larry is moved as he tells about his reception here.

Martin, according to Larry, is an honest and straight guy and has all the PADI



After each dive the boat is towed ashore

dive certificates. And, what makes it even more interesting for Martin to be in Bonaire? "I have degrees in marine and microbiology. When I find something unusual I report it to STINAPA and the Marine Park." Martin, who knocked at Larry's door two months ago, says, "I met Larry briefly in the dive shop in Vancouver." He passed the preliminary boat operation test by rounding Bonaire where he faced all different kinds of seas.

Why choose the east coast? Larry continues in his 'Canadian-cowboy slang,' "Because of the abundance of sea life, larger and more frequent. Where you see 'out west' maybe one ray a week. 'Out east' you'll have the chance to see 14 a day! Not to mention the schools of approximately 70 to 80 tarpons, six- to 10-foot-long sharks, large turtles and rare Nassau Groupers." Larry gets more and more excited when he talks about the sea life on the east coast. "The abundance of fish is due to the perfect nursery and habitat in the mangroves adjacent to the east coast; it's a protected area where juveniles can grow up in peace."

I can confirm Larry's statements. In each of the two dives I was overwhelmed to see a six-foot and later on a 10 (!)-foot nurse shark. Impressive! Due to the rain which limits visibility, we missed the rays but 'stalked' two large turtles and an even larger green moray. The (soft) corals form a beautiful underwater garden where it is a pleasure to float through. Larry promised me to show the large tarpon gathering another time.

For Larry and Martin every day is a new adventure. And that is what they want to share with the divers. A two-tank dive costs \$100, a bit more than a boat dive on the west coast, "but," Larry assures us, "it's a better bang for your buck." Larry says once the divers (from 10 to 70 years old) take the trip they realize the value and then they come back several times. □

Story and Photos by Marian Walthie

Bookings: Larry's Wild Side Diving:
Phone: (+599)-790-9156 Phone/Fax:
(+599) 717-5246

E-mail: info@larryswildsidediving.com
Internet : www.larryswildsidediving.com



Larry welcomes you aboard

WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON

INDOOR WINDSURFING?



Local surfers Reuben, Tati and Tonky mix with a couple of foreign surfers

Bonaire's own Taty and Tonky Frans, Amado Vrieswijk and Jurgen and Bjorn Saragoza head to the United Kingdom in January to windsurf in a pool. Yes, you heard it right, in an indoor windsurf arena. While all of windsurfing takes place in some of the windiest ocean venues, there is a very cool alternative to what Mother Nature can offer. Two man-made windsurf pools exist in the world: one in Bercy, France, and one in London. The London site is where our local heroes will visit in January. Located in London's Docklands, this is a premier indoor purpose built pool. The pool is 70x30 meters. With man-made wind thanks to giant fans, winds of 30 knots will create interesting windsurf conditions for freestyle.

The Schroders Boat Show is hosting the 2nd Annual event, and now home boys from Bonaire will show what they can do in an indoor arena. Taty and Tonky will compete for the prizes of more than \$75,000. Top international competitors all set to compete include Nik Baker, Robby Swift, John Skye, Kauli Seadi and Ricardo Campello. All of these talents have competed multiple times in Bonaire and are expected to attend the May 15-22 World Cup Event, King of the Caribbean, being held in Bonaire. Sadly, one absent this year will be last year's top five finisher and local favorite, British windsurf champion, Andy Funnel. Andy died in a jet ski accident off the waters of England this year. The Bonaire pros know Andy from attending King of the Cape two years ago.

To create perfect indoor conditions in

this 3,000-seat arena, wind specialists were hired to design the perfect pool to maximize the wind for the event. This sell-out event is slated for January 14-16. Young guns, Amado, Jurgen and Bjorn will be on hand, thanks to their international sponsors, Starboard and Hot Sails Maui. They will put on a show just for fun to entertain the crowds and once again show the windsurf world the talent that comes from Bonaire.

What's really cool is this year it's really going to be a playground for kids. Over 400 children are expected to attend the arena to try their hand at a number of water sports at the Schroders International Boat Show, thanks to Dorset's Rockley Watersports. This will allow the perfect opportunity for kids to try windsurfing. It will also be a great time for kids to see our Bonaire boys do their stuff. When they see peers doing tricks and more they may be more apt to want to pursue this hip sport themselves. □ *Ann Phelan*

Check out www.pwaworldtour.com or http://www.schroderslondonboatshow.com/watersports_arena/windsurfing_championships.asp for more information.

Ann Phelan is the Bonaire based owner of Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations, a windsurf and eco tour specialty travel service. She is also the Event Coordinator of the Annual Bonaire PWA King of the Caribbean. To book a trip or consult with Ann email her at: ann@bonairewindsurfing.com

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

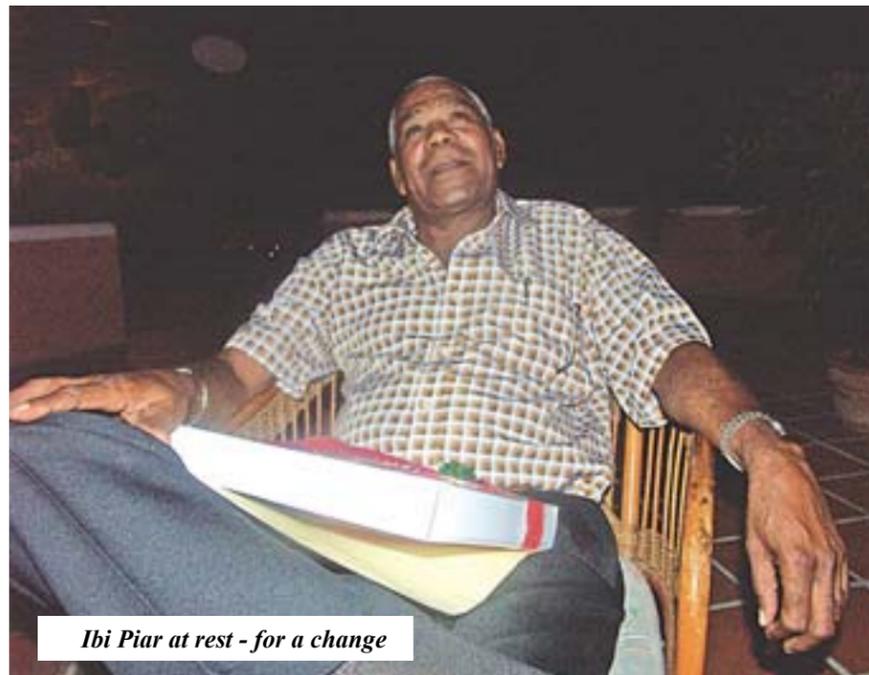
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
1-01	1:12	0.9FT.	15:01 1.5FT.
1-02	0:52	1.0FT.	9:52 1.5FT.
1-03	0:10	1.0FT.	8:38 1.6FT.
1-04	8:43	1.8FT.	18:25 1.1FT. 19:20 1.1FT.
1-05	9:10	1.9FT.	18:32 1.0FT. 21:30 1.0FT.
1-06	0:01	0.9FT.	9:43 2.0FT. 19:10 0.9FT. 23:48 0.9FT.
1-07	10:18	2.2FT.	19:54 0.8FT.

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

SPORTS JOURNALIST HONORED

Congratulations to our colleague, Ibi Piar, who was given a special award for his work as a sports editor for the year 2004. The award was made by the Bonaire Sport Federation (BSF).

No matter what the active sport or what the age of the participants Ibi is always on the scene, taking photos, interviewing and later writing up the stories. Upon receiving the award Ibi said, "My goal is to serve as a stimulus to continue the good work for the welfare of the young people and the community. Our children should begin to prepare themselves (for sports)," he continued, "and the other members of the media should give more attention to these activities. Especially during these difficult times we should promote sports as a principal means to help combat criminality and the negative influences that hang over the heads of our youngsters." □ *L.D.*

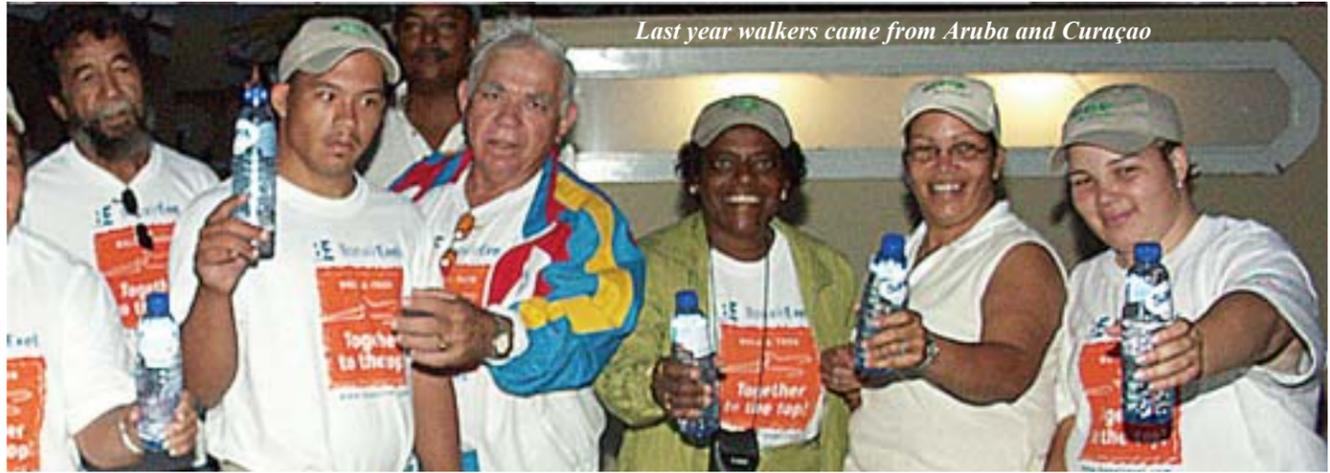


Ibi Piar at rest - for a change

Angie	Inspiration	Siddhartna
Alegria, USA	Isukara	Sirius
Aleuya	Kukara	Sylvia K
Angelique	L'Aquila Venezuela	Surprise
Arctic Lady	Letrancer	Sutamom
Bettina, Venezuela	Luna C. USA	Ta-B
Bingo	Maebelle	Tartufo
Bright Sea	Mahi Mahi	Ti Amo, USA
Camissa, Chan Is.	Maggi	Tsih
Cape Kathryn	Moon Rice	Tartufo
Coral Moon	Nana Marie	Tween, Netherlands
Dallia	Natural Selection, USA	Ulu Ulu, USA
Delphinus	Nechtan	Unicorn, Norway
Desire	One Way Wind	Varedhuni, Germany
Dulcinea	Odetta	Ventura II, Costa Rica
Flying Cloud, USA	Oniro	Verena
Galandriel	Plane Sailing	Voodoo
Gammmler	Precocious Gale, USA	Windmiller, Canada
Gatsby, USA	Pura Vida	Windswept
Grey Lady	Sandpiper, USA	Ya-T, BVI
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Sea Wolf	Zahi, Malta
Jandreso	Serendipity	
Josina	Serenete	

SIGN UP NOW! SPECIAL OLYMPICS WALK-A-THON

It's the **THIRD ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS BONAIRE-EXEL WALK-A-THON** – Sunday, **January 23**. It's been Bonaire's most popular fund raising event and it all goes to a great cause – sending our Special Olympic athletes to compete in international games, the next one here in Bonaire in April: the First Inter-insular ABC-St. Martin Bowling competition, sponsored by MCB. Our teams travel again in November to Aruba for the National Games. Then in 2007 the games are in Shanghai, China.



Last year walkers came from Aruba and Curaçao



**22 days
to go to the
WALKATHON.**

When you sign up, not only are you contributing to a good cause, but you'll have a good time. The past years' Walk-a-Thons have been great fun. Groups have gotten together to walk and have gotten others to sponsor them. This year, walkers from Ennia Insurance will be getting together with those from North Saliña's Kunuku Bieu. Selibon is putting together a group too. There's even a group coming from Aruba. The Walk-a-Thon organizers say they will most likely offer prizes to the winning groups.

You may walk, you may run or bike or even roller blade. Everyone meets at 5 am at the Slave Huts at the south end of the island, and the 30-kilometer walk begins. An added bonus is that you get to see a Bonaire sunrise along the way. It's heavenly.

You'll follow the route of the slaves who worked in the salt pans then made the trek during the weekend to their homes in Rincon where they lived. The Walk-a-Thon's final destination is Pasa Dia in Rincon. It's a scenic route and every five kilometers there will be a "refreshment station" where you'll be offered water, fruits, snacks and lots of encouragement. And at the Pasa Dia you'll receive a certificate and a delicious BBQ and drinks and time to re-hash the day.

Tickets are NA/25 and include a T-shirt, canvas bag, water bottle and the BBQ in Rincon. Get your tickets at TCB (717-8322), Croccantino Restaurant (717-5025) or from any Special Olympics Bonaire board member. Or email info@specialolympicsbonaire.org. □ *L.D.*

GET YOUR TICKETS FROM:

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erenciana
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Brasserie Bonaire
Capriccio
Chez Lucille
City Cafe
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Wil's Tropical Grill
Garden Café
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Lost Penguin
Lover's Ice Cream
Pasa Bon Pizza
Seahorse Cyber Café
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DeFreewieler
Inpo
Paradise Photo
Photo Tours, Playa

Exito Bakery
Bonaire Super Store (old 7-7)

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Capt. Don's Habitat
Carib Inn
Caribbean Club Bonaire
Dive Inn
Divi Flamingo
Eden Park Hotel
Harbour Village
Lion's Dive
Plaza
Sand Dollar

Supermarkets:
Cultimara
Consales
More for Less
Progresso
Sand Dollar Grocery
Tropical Flamingo
Warehouse

Others:
Bonfysio
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COUNTDOWN... STUDENT CHEF COMPETITION

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Friday, January 14—COMPETITION -at the SGB Hotel School, Chez Nous. Nine teams from ABC islands and St. Martin. The public invited to two demonstrations at Chez Nous:

**Bartending at 4 to 6 pm
Cooking – time to be announced**

Saturday, January 15 – GALA AWARDS DINNER – Buffet with “food stations,” each representing a different theme: Italian, Caribbean, Dessert, etc. Attire is “Caribbean Elegance with lots of Color!” All proceeds go to funding the event. At Harbour Village Beach Resort. There is a limited number of tickets so reserve now. They’re NAf55.

Call Liz Rijna at the school at 717-8120; Sara Matera at 786-9299; or Laura DeSalvo at 791-7252.

Teams of culinary students from the ABC islands and St. Martin will be gathering on Bonaire on Friday, January 14, to participate in an International Culinary Student Competition at the SGB hotel school, Chez Nous. The idea behind the competition, which began on Bonaire as an intramural event in 2002, is to develop professionalism, pride and creativity in the students. Nearly everyone in the culinary business on the island knows about it and is looking forward to the big day on January 14 when nine different teams will come together to vie for the top place: two teams from Bonaire, three from

Curaçao, three from Aruba and one from St. Martin.

The competition is set up exactly as are international culinary competitions for professionals. The students must present three original dishes: an appetizer, a main course and a dessert, preparing five plates each for judging. International culinary judges will pick the winning team.

The logistics of putting on a culinary competition are complicated and time consuming. Judges must be found and asked to come. Sponsors must be found. Shopping must be accomplished on an island not always well stocked. The

SGB teachers agree that this competition is positive publicity for the students, the school and Bonaire. It’s good for the people of the island to see what the students are doing. And the competition shows the students that they can be something, somebody!

Next week in *The Reporter* – Find out who the team members will be for Bonaire. □L.D.



How many medals will SGB bring to Bonaire this year?



2002 was a very good year!



Albert Bianculli photo

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follow you home*

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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>

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

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 For more information on any of these items, please call 717-2848.

IkeLite housing & Nikon 800SLR. US\$3000. Excl. condition. Complete system. 2 ports, 2 strobes, 3 lenses, accessories. Inquiries: ddiivveerr@cs.com

2 steel Scuba Tanks with boot, good condition but need the '5 year pressure test'. NAf50,- each. Phone 717-5038

RENTAL PROPERTY/TIMESHARE

For Rent: Perfect Location! 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom apartment located just 1 block from the ocean and 5 blocks from the center of Kralendijk. The apartment features an updated kitchen, large living room and two good sized air conditioned bedrooms. Hot ticket... Apartment will go fast! **Call 717-7362**

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 Cucepoy Beach. Available year round, but subject to availability. US\$350 for the week (taxes additional). **please call 717-2848**

HELP WANTED

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

PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER in Shijiazhuang, China



Jeff Bourgeois and Dianne Buhrow are frequent visitors to Bonaire. They love the island and are already planning their next trip. This photo was taken at a city park in Shijiazhuang, China, where they now live. We think Diane will have plenty of time to read *The Reporter* before her opponent makes his next move. □

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.) □

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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

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WANTED

Wanted to buy, borrow or rent: a wheelchair in good condition with big wheels and foot support. Also a walker. Call 786-0956.

Work pick-up truck wanted. Prefer Hilux type with 4 doors. Older is fine, must be in excellent mechanical condition. Looking to no more than NAf2.000. Call 790-0959 ask for Renee or email eginocchio@comcast.net

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

FOUND

These **two male dogs** were found wandering the street in the area of Habitat, Buddy Dive, and on down to the Water plant. Both dogs have collars and it is apparent that they were raised together, as they appear to be good friends. If you happen to know who owns them, please tell the owners that they can pick up their dogs at the Animal Shelter, on Kaminda Lagoen. Phone #717-4989. Open Mon. through Fri., 10 am to 2 pm; Saturdays until 1. Phone #717-4989



FKPD GALA DINNER



Lucille Soliana gives a big hug while Hellen Agostien looks on

It was truly a “gala event” All the members and staff of the FKPD “Pasa Dia” (handicapped center) in Rincon were dressed in their best finery to enjoy the evening of awards and dining at Chez Lucille’s at Harbour Village.

Each section leader was asked to choose the person in his or her group who had been outstanding during the last year. The leaders stood and told why their choice was deserving. There were hugs; there were kisses and lots of love, affection and applause as the winners received their gifts.

The evening’s top winner was Hellen Agostien, who is also known for her participation on Bonaire’s Special Olympics Bocce Team in Dublin, Ireland, for the International Special Olympics Games 2003, and in Jamaica this summer for the Caribbean National Games. She received her award first from her leader, Mirelva Beaumont, another from Farina Thomas and finally from Maria Elena Domacassé, the wife of the governor and the “Madrina” (godmother) of the FKPD.

□ L.D.



Swinda Offerman shows her gift proudly



Rohini Martis gets her gift



Hellen with Farina Thomas

BONAIRE'S "WINDOWS": 18TH PALM

Captain Don reminisces about 18th Palm, a dive site that was as beautiful and popular then as it is today. Dive site descriptions were an innovation back then. When you read the story keep in mind that since the "Flamingo Paradise" waterway in front of the airport was cut, the road along the water to the airport no longer exists and the palms are gone, however, the site retains its name.

1966

“A small cove at the south end of the island shelters a fun complex of dives. The dives are known as 18th Palm, Sand River and Windsack Steep. All of these dives are very close together, but each gives a very different type of feeling. The coral is profuse and healthy.

The angle of decline at the drop off is about 30 degrees, so it is a very mild drop off, very lovely and an easy dive.

The shape of the 18th Palm site is similar to a scorpion's tail, where the reef runs out perpendicular from the shore and gradually curls to the right. It is in this scorpion's tail that there grows a magnificent Chinaman's coolie hat that has been one of the fun attractions of this reef. On the inner side of the tail is an extremely beautiful sand lake which lies at 82 feet. The lake itself is pure sand without a bit of coral, giving the impression of a mountain lake under the sea. Picture a forest glen where the trees end abruptly at the water's edge. In about a five-minute casual swim, with the wall to your back, you will notice the usual type of sloping drop off on your left side. At this writing (1966), I know of no similar reef profile on Bonaire. As you continue toward the airport at about the 22nd palm, you will note some reef "garbage" deposited on top of the coral by Hurricane Janet in 1957. This is my entry to Sand River. You cannot see it from the beach, but I have cut a channel on the right side of the debris. Sand River has an extreme abundance of coral which is bisected by rivulets of pure sand sliding down from.....”

“Hey, Don! What ya doing?”

Paul Tzimoulis, then editor of *Skin Diver* magazine, was my guest at the Flamingo Beach Club. And right now, he was fooling around with my writing machine, my wonderful ol' Olivetti typewriter.

“Seriously, Don, what are you writing? Reef descriptions? Who are you doing it for?”

I scrolled the paper back to where it belonged in my typewriter and turned around to face Paul. “I've been asking you for the last year if you were interested in the Bonaire Reef Descriptions.

You weren't... So...”

“Who wants it?” he probed.

“Okay, if you must know, it's *International Diver*, a Florida pulp edited by Timothy O'Keefe. They have a new summer issue coming out the end of June. Saw some of the proofs, and they are great.”

Paul, I think, didn't like the direction of the conversation and asked, “Is that the famous typewriter that I've heard so much about?” He pointed at my little Olivetti. “The one you dove up from your ship, soaked in diesel oil for a week, dried in the noon day sun, put a new ribbon in, and presto, the all American novel.”

He leaned over my shoulder to look more closely at the Olivetti. Indeed, it did show signs of having lived in the deep for a couple of weeks. A trace of fire coral had just started on one side of the cover, but other than that, it was perhaps better now than when it went down with my old *Valerie Queen*. Better it than the Captain, tradition notwithstanding. Paul, who had been silently watching from behind, interrupted, “Mind if I suggest a little 3 in 1 Oil before you start?”

A woman, whom I hadn't seen peering over my shoulder, asked, “Captain Don, what's this dive site you are writing about? Is it good? How can we get there?”

“Well, “I said, “drive down towards the airport. Start counting the palm trees and pull off the road at the 18th palm. Gear up and walk toward the sea. You will see a big piece of driftwood and on it there will be a pelican. Enter the water to the left of the pelican.”

“Well, if you don't want to tell me then don't, but quit making fun of my question!” and she stalked away.

Paul moved off to the bar, and I sat down again, gazing at my lost friend from Davy Jones' locker. I entered a new sheet of paper, shrugged, and started my new novel in earnest.
□ /don

For the latest news on Captain Don's return to Bonaire see the next column.



Captain Don



Captain Don snuggles up to the Golden Verarder, a ship's figurehead that decorated his many hotel bars in times past.

CAPTAIN DON IS HOME



Don's special friends gather round

Following rapid recovery from the surgical amputation of his right lower leg, Captain Don returned to Bonaire last Thursday, December 23rd on the noon BonaireXel flight. He was escorted by his partner, Janet Thibault, who said, “This flight was a lot better than the air ambulance flight to Curaçao, and we're glad to be back in Bonaire.” Several weeks ago Captain Don, because of imminent congestive heart failure, was evacuated by air to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Curaçao. His heart problem was soon resolved, but the infection in his leg, a 25-year-long problem, persisted. Heeding medical advice, the Captain opted to have the troublesome leg removed, all other tries at curing the problem having failed. In short order Don felt better and was free from pain for the first time in many months. Within a few days of the operation Don was practicing on his new prosthesis which he waved to the crowd after landing at Flamingo Airport. “That damn old foot was poisoning my whole system,” Don ex-



Captain Don holds his prosthesis on arrival in Bonaire as he and Janet are welcomed by Habitat Manager Jack Chalk

claimed.

On hand to welcome him back were dozens of his closest friends. The Bonaire Motorcycle Club provided an escort from the airport to his home. It sure is good to have Don back. We don't want him to miss his 80th birthday celebration next June. □ G.D.



Captain Don's motorcycle escort in front of Captain Don's habitat

TURTLE TRAVELS

Female Hawksbill turtle 'Funny' is continuing on in the direction to the north-west. She's averaging 80 km a day and is now approximately 1,500 km from Bonaire.

Green turtle 'STINAPA' continues to transmit from her feeding ground about 80 km off the coast of Nicaragua. Although our turtle seems to be doing well, we recently received a very sobering update on the general turtle situation on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua from Cynthia Lagueux, who has for years been working with local communities addressing turtle issues there. She is concerned about the turtles being slaughtered for food by the local Indians and the foreign shrimp boats that net turtles as a byproduct of their fishing, which kills the turtles. For more info go to www.wcs.org. □ *Andy Uhr*
PS: Another of Funny's nests hatched Monday night. About 98% of the babies made it!



STCB - A Banner Year



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) reports 2004 was a very busy and successful year thus far and for the sea turtles that live around or visit Bonaire. To date, we have recorded over 100 nests for the nesting season that is just drawing to a close. Over the year, we tagged 85 sea turtles and recorded and studied 17 sea turtles that were tagged last year. Since data about size, weight, etc. are recorded for each turtle tagged, we will soon be able to start analyzing the new data on the recaptured turtles and compare it to the data from last year.

The highlight of the year has been our turtle satellite tracking program. We fitted four sea turtles with transmitters and achieved a number of firsts for Bonaire. Last year, we tracked two female Hawksbills. This year we tracked or are in the process of tracking a female Loggerhead, a male Hawksbill, a female Hawksbill, and a female Green turtle. The Loggerhead and Green turtles traveled back to their home feeding grounds off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua. Each covered over 2,100 kilometers in the course of their journeys. Unfortunately we lost the signal from the male Hawksbill before he reached his final destination.

The satellite tracking program has generated a great deal of excitement in Bonaire as well as in Curaçao and Holland. The program was even covered in the Dutch edition of the *National Geographic*! Owing, in part, to interest in the program, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) was able to secure a grant for an outreach and educational program on sea turtle conservation. The program will reach all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles with the exception of Curaçao. Here on Bonaire, the program was launched officially on November 1 and will continue for the next 14 months. STCB is working closely with DCNA and STINAPA on the project.

For more information on Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, please visit the STCB website at www.bonaireturtles.org. Click on the links to *Nest Counter* and *Turtle Tracking*. STCB. □ *Andy Uhr*

JONG BONAIRE'S TOP KIDS



Itala Seket- Outstanding Youth of the Year



**Arunel Gonzales- Miss Jong Bonaire
Yeluish Nicolaas- Mr. Jong Bonaire**

On the Saturday before Christmas Jong Bonaire selected its outstanding members for 2004. This year the winners were:

For Miss Jong Bonaire the runners-up were:

First Runner-up **Thasjanara Rosario**; Second Runner-up **Sharisma Josephia**
Third Runner-up **Flavia Molina**; Miss Popularity **Sherduena Bernabela**

For Mr. Jong Bonaire the runners-up were:

First Runner-up **Yelrig Nicolaas**; Second Runner-up **Marino Leonicia**
Third Runner-up **Leonard Rojas**; Mr. Popularity **Yelrig Nicolaas**

Congratulations to all the participants and their parents, their supporters, the Jong Bonaire youth leaders and all the members of Jong Bonaire. □ *Rudsel Chirino*



With so many wonderful dogs at the Shelter, you may just fall in love with one on sight, and live happily ever after. However, it can't hurt to take a look at your lifestyle and abilities, and evaluate what you want in a dog, before you go. Consider the following:



Age: Do you have the time and energy and patience it takes to care for a puppy? Do you have other dogs at home? Small children, cats?

If yes to all these, then a puppy would be a good choice for you. Two to four months old is the ideal time to expose a dog to a wide range of experiences and, because they are dependent on you, puppies are easy to obedience train. Also, most adult dogs will instinctively accept, or at least tolerate, a young puppy, and if your adult dogs are well-trained they will be a great help to you in training your new puppy (if they aren't, they won't!).

But don't dismiss the option of adopting an adult dog. There are so many in need and deserving of loving homes. You get to skip those pesky teething and potty-training stages, and you won't have to wonder about how big that puppy is going to be. However, you will need to evaluate the adult dog for sociability with strangers, other dogs, cats, and small children. You also may need to spend a little more time on the basics of obedience training, and/or dealing with issues the dog may have as a result of his past.

Fortunately, most adult dogs can be successfully trained as long as you are consistent and patient. If you have other dogs, it is advisable to get a dog who is younger than they.

Sex: Either sex can be dominant or submissive, friendly or shy, territorial or protective. However, if you have a dog already, it is usually better to choose a dog of the opposite sex, particularly if you are adopting an adult.

Size/activity level: If you have a small home, no yard, and/or work long days, you may think you need a small dog because large dogs require lots of space and exercise. Actually, most small dogs require a lot of attention and activity, whereas a large, heavy-boned dog may be quite content with sleeping on the sofa all day and a brisk walk around the block with you morning and evening. Most medium sized dogs will want plenty of space and exercise.

Intelligence: Everyone wants a smart dog, right? But intelligence does not always equate to trainability. Smart dogs always ask "why should I?" And along with intelligence can come some problematic skills (like opening gates and food bins...). Smart dogs are often easily bored, requiring more attention and activity, and when they don't get enough of both they generally get up to no good. However, if you have the time and energy, a smart dog could be a better companion for you than a dog of less than average intelligence.

Temperament: Many people want a dog who is both friendly and protective...a rare combination, so decide which is more important to you. Any dog who is territorial will make a good watch dog (small dogs are excellent at alerting you to intruders), without necessarily being protective. What you really want to consider is the dog's trainability, how attentive and cooperative he is, and how he copes with different situations and stimuli. Also, if you have children, cats, and/or other dogs, bear in mind that some dogs simply do not play well with others. This is not a training issue; it is just a fact of life.

Grooming: Fluffy little dogs look cute, but they need daily combing and regular clipping. Large, long-haired or dense-coated dogs are beautiful but require hours of maintenance per week to avoid matting and chronic skin conditions. They also take forever to dry. On the other hand, if you object to hair all over your house, you should know that many short-haired dogs shed more than longer-coated dogs.

Remember that no matter what type of dog you get, you will need to TRAIN him! Next time: Puppy Testing. □ 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: bandbfarm@yahoo.com or call 717-2620.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

Bridget Jones:

The Edge of Reason
(Renee Zellweger)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

Polar Express

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

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:

The Polar Express by Robert Zemeckis, starring Tom Hanks in several roles. This computer animated movie is made for IMAX 3D and it must be overwhelming on such screens. In Bonaire, however, we have to do with the 2D version, which gives you the feeling that the film is slightly out of focus. Or is the operator in need of new specs?

The filming and scenery are really beautiful and the colors are brilliant. The steam train skidding over an ice lake is a must-see. However, unless you've grown up with the story or you're max 14 years old, I don't think this movie will really thrill you. □Dodo

THIS WEEK

Friday, December 31 - Many stores and Government offices will close at noon.

Friday, December 31 - 5k San Silvester Run. Sponsored by Comcabon. Call Richard Pietersz, 717-8629

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

Saturday, January 1 - Maskarada-a Bonaire tradition—Mysterious costumed characters who dance, play tricks and do skits start the New Year at the Governor's house in the morning, then proceed on to the neighborhoods.

Wednesday, January 5 "Talking With Fishes" at Captain Don's Habitat, 7:30 pm. Winner of numerous film awards. Free admission (free will donation). Call 786-5072 for more information

Now through January 5 - 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.

Now through January 27 - 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 Bon-gos Beach at Eden Beach Resort. Entrance Fee \$5 (Bonaireans free)

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Jan. 11-Aida Vida

COMING

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

Saturday, January 8 - Crossfyr Soca Band / Fundraiser for Regatta in Playa - Call Elvis Martinus (790-2288) for details

Friday, January 14 - Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005 (students from ABC islands and St. Martin)- Chef demonstrations -Chez Nous, SGB- See page 12

Saturday, January 15 - Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005 Gala Awards Dinner and Cocktail Reception - NAf55, place to be announced. See page 12

Sunday, January 23—3rd Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon - You can walk, run, bike, roller blade—Entry fee is NAf25, includes gifts, BBQ at end & more. Get tickets from Croccantino (717-5025) TCB (717-8322) or from board members. See page 10

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

February 5 & 6 - Bonaire Windsurfing Freestyle Frenzy & Beach Bash - two days of the hottest fun freestyle. Ann Phelan (786-3134) or Elvis Martinus (790-2288)

May 15-22 -King of the Caribbean!!! 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

Saturday 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

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.

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.

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

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

PET of the WEEK

What a fantastic profile! Can you see the deep character in this photo of "Fluffy?" The name is strange because there's nothing "fluffy" or "silly" about this dog. She's a shepherd mix with longish hair - more silky than "fluffy," but then who knows how she came up with such a name. This name has got to go. She's more like a Rachel or Tanya or even Ingeborg. But if you are the person who decides to adopt this very kind and loving dog, feel free to change her name. I'm sure she'll thank you for it. She's about two years old, sweet, very social, and she's been sterilized and is in excellent health.

You may see her and the other healthy, adoptable dogs and cats at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



Attention Pet Owners: If you haven't already, please make arrangements to protect your pets from the



"Fluffy"

onslaught of the fireworks that culminate on New Years Eve. So many cats and dogs who are terrified of the noise take off running and end up in places so far away that they can't find their way home. Keep your animals inside or in a sheltered place where they can be protected from the loud explosions. If you have a very nervous animal, ask the vet for some tranquilizers. And offer your dogs something to chew on to relieve their nerves. If you do lose an animal or find a lost one, call the Bonaire Animal Shelter. They'll be acting as a headquarters for lost and found pets. They're located on the Lagoen Road, telephone 717-4989. □L.D.

Special Olympics - Contact Delno Tromp, 717-7659

* * * *

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

Sunday - Bonaire Holiday -Multi-media 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 Tippy 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 Bonieriano*) 717-5246 or 717-7117

The Bonaire Swim Club - Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.net

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.

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.

Ocean Adventures Discover the world of low bubble, quiet diving. Learn, use, and try our Dräger Rebreathing equipment. At Dive Inn. Interested? call 717-2278

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 a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

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. Expansive selection of jewelry, collectibles and top name watches. 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

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 divers.

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 guilder.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

Retired Police Chief Eithel George Ammerlaan

“I’ve always been a policeman to the core. I always wore my uniform during the time I was the chief, and I always had time for my colleagues. And even though it wasn’t my job anymore I would find time to solve problems in the community. I’ve been hard on myself and others. The politicians were always on top of me because I was from Curaçao and hadn’t studied in Holland, but I’ve always been straightforward.”

So says Bonaire’s retired Police Chief Eithel George Ammerlaan, a very fit looking, robust and dynamic man. (In Bonaire retirement is mandatory at 60 years)

“I was born in Curaçao in 1941. My father was a certified plumber from Surinam. That’s what he did in his free time, but his regular job was as a skipper on the pilot boats in Punda. My mother was from Curaçao; she was very independent and had her own *toko* (shop). I was one of eight children: two girls, six boys. We didn’t have much and mother was very strict, but my boyhood was just great. I have always been involved in sports: volleyball, basketball, ping-pong and weightlifting. Every week I would dive the wild north coast of Curaçao with the aqualung. We lived at Caracas Bay and on the weekends we’d go on our bikes to Brakkeput to go sailing. During the last years in high school I joined the Sea Scouts. I think we had the first Sunfish of all the Dutch Antilles. We used to sail nearly every Sunday from Spanish Water all the way to Santa Barbara Beach. It was a very positive, wonderful childhood.

After high school I worked for two years as a clerk with the Maduro and Curiels Bank, but I didn’t like office work; it bored me. So I joined the Dutch Antilles Police Corps and went one year to the police academy in Curaçao, after that straight to Aruba. I stayed there for five years, married an Aruban girl, then we were transferred to St. Martin. It was there that our daughter Mignon was born. In those days St. Martin was far more sophisticated than Curaçao or Aruba, but a group of local boys from St. Martin who had nothing to do with the police took care of us. They showed us around and organized events to make our stay worthwhile. We were there for three years, and thanks to those people we had an unforgettable time.

In 1970 I returned to Curaçao and studied to become a sergeant. My wife and I were divorced, and she went with our daughter back to her family in Aruba.

In 1972 I was transferred to Bonaire. The police chief at the time knew me. He’d been my mentor in Aruba and he’d asked for me. It was great! For years I was the second man, but after I took my courses to become superintendent I became the Chief of Police on Bonaire in 1992. It was nice to work here, and as long as you behaved like a regular person everybody was satisfied. The Bonairean

community doesn’t like someone from Curaçao to be boss around here, and I think they are absolutely right. If you behaved properly and did a good job, showed respect and immersed yourself in the culture, it was okay.

There wasn’t much crime in the early years, just small thefts and domestic problems. The big issue was mainly that people would steal each other’s goats. However, 20 years ago the drug traffic started, slowly at first. The drug couriers came from Curaçao, and little by little, more drug related crimes took place on Bonaire. What was going on Curaçao was imitated by bad Bonaireans, and so it went on and drugs changed the whole island. There were politicians who were using drugs, and the weaker members of the community thought, ‘If they can do it while they’re in the government, we certainly can do it too.’ What can we say about values and rules if even a governor was involved in drugs? Of course there were also good politicians. For me it didn’t make any difference, I did my job regardless of who they were.

“The fact is, we’re here in a South American-Caribbean culture and we have to adjust to the Dutch judicial way of thinking, like rehabilitation and feeling sorry for the criminals. But in Holland it never worked out. On the contrary, it became worse than ever, so how can this system make us better?”

About two years after we were divorced my ex-wife died in a car accident on Aruba. I went there to study for eight months then brought my daughter home to Bonaire with me with her grandmother and aunts’ permission. I was living with a woman and her little daughter. From the time she was nine my daughter Mignon stayed with us until she finished high school and went back to Aruba. Then her aunts sent her to Holland where she finished school and got married.

I spent my free time with the Juventus soccer club, and together with Pastor Alciwar organized tournaments in Rincon for the brothers and playmates of the boys who were in Juventus.

I think that two things have influenced police work on the islands negatively. First: A new criminal procedure was introduced and the manner of investigation was changed, the way I see it, to the advantage of the criminals. Second: A lawyer investigated the criminal’s position

and came to the conclusion that police brutality was being used against the criminals. To me a policeman is bad when he steals, when he’s not reliable, when he uses drugs and when he drags the name of the Corps down because of a bad attitude. And if a policeman does wrong he deserves to be punished. The Corps should have that flexibility. But the outcome of the changes was that people be-

came rude and disrespectful. Before, when we would suspect a person we would go out and arrest him. Now we need a signed declaration of one or more witnesses to show the Public Prosecutor before we get permission to make the arrest. Of course those witnesses don’t have any protection at all, so hardly ever does someone step forward.

The fact is, we’re here in a South American-Caribbean culture and we have to adjust to the Dutch judicial way of thinking, like rehabilitation and feeling sorry for the criminals. But in Holland it never worked out. On the contrary, it became worse than ever, so how can this system make us better?

The law abiding, good people keep complaining, but the hands of the police are tied... handcuffed. My question is: What rights do the victims have? What do they get? They don’t get anything; they have no rights at all! After 50 years under the Statute (the ‘Constitution’ of the Antilles), one politician in Curaçao woke up and says now, ‘We have a right to defend ourselves in our own home.’ Finally they’re working on that law, but I don’t understand why they took so long! I’m speaking for myself, someone who’s born on Curaçao. Of all my 35 years as a police officer I only worked in Curaçao three years, and I never liked working there. I’m speaking as a policeman.

I love Curaçao. I’m not throwing my island away; I got my education there from the friars and European teachers and I’m tremendously grateful for that. We had a beautiful family, and all of us respected other people’s rights. My mother never got a medal for it, but she and the other mothers who raised their children well should be decorated for that! Not the politicians!

And it’s not only about mothers. What about men who make a child with a



Laurianne, Eithel and Mavis

woman and then run off? As a father, whether you like it or not, you have your obligations and your duty too. How can a child ever respect someone if his own father let him down, disappeared from his life? That’s when all the misery starts! For 12 years I’ve been living with Mavis Pietersz, and we have a 12-year-old daughter, Laurianne. I make time for my daughter; I help her with her schoolwork and I provide for her, and her mother takes care of her in many other ways. A child has a right to that.

Well, in my career I had many setbacks and I built a lot of walls around me in order not to fall apart. While I was the chief on Bonaire I always slept with both eyes wide open. But I’ve also had great support: from the Chief Commissioner of Police in Curaçao, Wim Tweeboom, and during my years as chief of police on Bonaire I had a strong bond with the Governor, Mr. Frits Goedgedrag, who’s now the Governor of the Dutch Antilles. He trusted me completely, and I’m very proud that I’ve worked with such an outstanding man. And... for everything else in life I had the best mentor I could have wished for: my friend Win de Grijze, a Bonairean of great caliber.

Since I’ve retired I sleep well, with both eyes closed; it doesn’t matter anymore. I have a wonderful family, a great group of friends and I’m proud of myself, real proud and the way I see it if everyone could be proud of themselves, we might make progress!” □

Greta Kooistra



MCB (Maduro Curiels Bank) – Truly Bo Banku Amigu (Your Friendly Bank)



MCB Bank officers Evert Piar, Gabrielle Nahr, Rudy Gomez and Orphaline Saleh flank Jong Bonaire's Bilha Thomas and Glenda Bernabela.

Last week Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire, a great friend and mentor to the Bonairean community, held its third annual press appreciation party, this year at Harbour Village. At the same time they made their Annual Award to an organization that has had an impact on the community.

Evert Piar, Managing Director, explains, "In 2002, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of our bank on Bonaire, we started this traditional end-of-year get-together...by showing our appreciation of the work that members of

the press do throughout the year – work that is of utmost importance to our community." He continues, "We use this opportunity to give special recognition to a local organization which in our view has provided a remarkable contribution to our community during the past year."

In 2002 the Bank made their first award to the Bonaire Sailing Foundation because of their great job with the yearly Bonaire Regatta and for organizing the first windsurfing world cup finals – PWA – King of the Caribbean –

to be held on Bonaire.

Last year, in 2003, the award went to Special Olympics Bonaire for not only the terrific work the board and volunteers have been doing daily for many years but for their participation in the 2003 Special Olympics Games in Ireland.

Mr. Piar continues, "This year there were a great many organizations which excelled through their activities for our community. The list of nominees was long, but as we cannot give the award to all, we had to pick one"

This year, according to Orphaline Saleh, MCB Assistant Managing Director, the Award is going to Jong Bonaire, "which for several years now has been offering after school activities for youngsters, providing guidance for proper development and so creating a sound foundation for our community's future. With its activities the Center not only forms capable leaders of tomorrow but keeps youngsters off the streets and away from negative influences, thus contributing to crime prevention....The Center now has 160 youth members and caters to a great many others with separate programs.

It offers a fully equipped computer/Internet center, in addition to a large



Bilha Thomas accepts the MCB award

number of sports and athletics, art, music as well as homework assistance, all under professional guidance. Considering that the Center's budget consists mostly of private donations, these achievements are truly remarkable, and the very dynamic Board and management of Jong Bonaire deserve high praise for the well-managed and often innovative manner in which they accomplish this." □ L.D.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

All Five of the Naked Eye Planets Ring In the New Year

Happy holidays, Sky Park fans. We have a fine way to ring in the New Year because through the first half of January all five of the naked-eye planets will be visible at the same time in pre-dawn skies. Don't miss this because we won't have a five-planet, pre-dawn sky show as good as this until January and February of 2016.

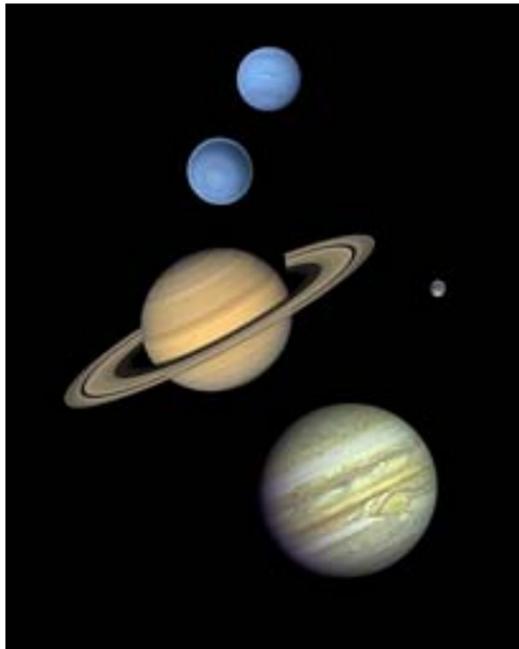
About 45 minutes before sunrise, anytime during the first two weeks of January, face southeast where the brightest thing you'll see will be our old friend, Planet Number Two, 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**. And directly above it and much dimmer Planet Number One, the tiny pink planet, 3,000-mile-wide **Mercury**. And up to their right, close to the top bright stars of **Scorpius**, the 4,000-mile-wide, reddish-orange planet **Mars**, which is always fun to compare with the heart star of Scorpius, **Antares** whose name literally means the rival of Mars, because they frequently look the same brightness and color, although not at the moment.

Now if you're watching early in the month Mars will be close to the three stars that mark the top of Scorpius. But if you observe later in the month Mars and Antares will be side by side. And don't worry about Mars looking so dim right now because it is speeding toward us and getting closer every single day and will become super bright once again in November when it will become one of the brightest objects in the night sky. It will only be outshone by Venus and the Moon. So start your Mars watch now.

To find the other two of our five planets look close to overhead for the king, giant 88,000-mile-wide **Jupiter**. And lastly if you look northwest you'll see the planet which comes into opposition and is its closest next week - the 75,000-mile-wide ringed planet **Saturn**.

And may I suggest if you have a relatively clear horizon that, just for fun, draw an imaginary line from Saturn back up to Jupiter, then back down through Mars, Mercury and Venus. In so doing you will have drawn what astronomers call the "ecliptic," which is the narrow path of the planets along which all the planets orbit, including our Earth, in their journey around the Sun. So if you're having a hard time finding Jupiter or Saturn, first find Venus, Mercury and Mars, connect them with an imaginary line, then extend that line and you'll bang right into Jupiter and then Saturn. And think of this. If we were on any of those planets looking back at Earth we would see Earth also on that line because the ecliptic, the path of the planets, is the mutual orbital plane all the planets share. And keep in mind that even though the planets look like they're all the same distance away from us, if we could go out into space we'd see their true relationship to one another: Earth here, Mercury here, Venus here, Mars here, Jupiter and Saturn.

So get out before sunrise the first two weeks of this month and if you got a small telescope for Christmas now is the time to use it. What a way to ring in the New Year! □ *Jack Horkhimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:

December 31- January 7, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will need to spend extra time sorting through your work. Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments. Your family may be feeling neglected and unloved. You're in the mood to do things such as competitive sports, or perhaps a night on the town. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. Deception is likely. Don't jump too quickly if someone tries to make you join in on their crusade. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You're eager to learn. Promotions will be yours if you have acted professionally in times of crisis. You can make new friends by taking part in social events involving colleagues. Make changes in your domestic scene. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Balance is required if you want stability. Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. Channel your energy into projects that will enhance your home. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your self esteem will benefit. Friends will be loyal and caring. Do some research if you want to find information that you can apply against the opposition you face. Your words will be taken out of context if you're evasive with co-workers or employers. Compromising could be on the agenda this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You could find yourself having problems with co-workers and employers. Overexertion and negligence will be your worst enemies. Don't get upset. Plan your day carefully. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Strengthen your position among your peers. However, you may not attract the kind of interest you had in mind. Join a choir or a drama club. You may be considering moving to larger quarters. The locks, stove, gas, or electric wires may not be secure. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may find yourself in the limelight for the wrong reasons. Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. Difficulties at an emotional level may be likely. Think hard before going into business with friends or family. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Do something constructive outside. You will have splendid suggestions for fund raising events. Socializing will be more than just entertaining. Get rich quick schemes will not be successful. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Get together with friends and do something entertaining but not too expensive. You will have a problem holding on to your cash this week. Your lack of interest in your partner is a problem. Be aware of any emotional deception. Do not sign legal contracts or documents this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about romance. You can make changes to your home that will be pleasing to all concerned. You'll have amazing ideas, but superiors may try to block your attempts at implementing them. Be prepared to deal with groups and organizations of greater magnitude. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Make a point of working on yourself. You will be in the mood for entertainment. You may find that purchases or entertainment could be expensive. Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. □