The Circus Comes to Bonaire

SEE PAGE 18.
Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA) has
been in contact with the other suspects in
Maarten. Though it is unclear why he is
transferred to Pointe Blanche prison on St.
land’s mother Xiomaira Bakhuis, had al-
ready been prolonged. The case centers on
detention of the other suspects, former FOL
co-suspects in the Campo Alegre brothel
corruption investigation, FOL advisor
Nelson Monte, Campo owner Giovanni
van Ierland, and Leslie Franklin, were
also formally placed under arrest even
though they are already serving sentences in
prison. Because they have been rear-
rested in this case, the time they serve now
will not be deducted from the sentences
they are serving for other convictions. The
detention of the other suspects, former FOL
justice minister Ben Komproe, his then-
assistant Gilbert de Windt, and Van Ier-
land’s mother Xiomaira Bakhuis, had al-
ready been prolonged. The case centers on
a letter with which Komproe allegedly tried
to finance projects to combat poverty
and crime. Part will be used for a “quick
study” into poverty. The United Nations
Development Programme (UNDP) and
World Bank, which are currently also con-
ducting a comprehensive study into poverty
in the Netherlands Antilles, will carry out
that quick study, which should be ready in
two to three months. A comprehensive
study is also being conducted, but it will
not be completed until the end of 2005 or
early 2006. “We can’t wait that long, so it
has been agreed to have Reda Sossial start
with NA/$5 million and to have a quick
study so that we can start with some pro-
jects,” said Ys. Also co-financed with the
NA/$60 million will be a larger project to
improve “social forming” of less privileged
youngsters. That project will cost NA/$25
million and will cover three years.

In Curaçao, procedures have begun
to extradite 61-year-old main suspect J.
Y. “Matador” V., and other alleged mem-
ers of the Valencia drug gang to the
United States. The authorities searched
jewelry stores owned by Matador in Cura-
çao and in Philipsburg. During these
searches heroin, firearms, computers and
documents were confiscated. According to
the US, Colombian suspect “Matador” V.,
his sons M.A. and J.M., their compatriots
belong to the ‘Valencia Organisation’ and
were nabbed in Curaçao in March, after a
search for drugs, telephones were tapped in
United States.

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edge, accurate and up to date. That's not to
presented here is, to the best of my knowl-

While the process isn’t going to require a
genius IQ, it will require some co-
coordinating skills and, most importantly, a
LOT of patience. You might as well begin
increasing your ‘patience quotient’ as
things move slowly on Bonaire, and if your
expectations lean towards a rapid response
process.

In researching this article I consulted
both the Office of Immigration and the Of-
fice of the Lt. Governor. The information
presented here is, to the best of my knowl-
edge, accurate and up to date. That’s not to
say, however, that there will be no changes
made in the near or distant future. An offi-
cial brochure dealing with the Residency
Permit subject has been discussed in the
past but so far it has not become a reality.
In the meantime you will have to make do
with my best efforts.

Paperwork requirements:

1. A copy of a valid passport.
   Be sure that there is more than one year
   left on your passport as it must be good
   for at least one year at the time your
   application is considered. Applications
can sometimes take up to 90 days to
   process.
2. Two (2) recent passport-size pictures.
3. Your most current bank statement at
   the time you submit your application.
   Your monthly statement must reflect
   enough money that when multiplied by
   12 it will show a minimum of
   NA$45,000 per year available to you
   for living expenses on Bonaire.
4. A medical certificate from your doctor
   saying you are in good health and giv-
   ing the results of tests for HIV and
   Hepatitis B. These tests cannot be
   more than two months old.
5. A “good conduct” or “visa application”
   letter from your local police department
   attesting to your good character. This
   cannot be more than two months old.
6. A birth certificate legalized with an
   *apostille certification. The certification
   cannot be older than one year.
7. If you are married, a legalized copy of
   your marriage license with an *apostille
   certification. If you are divorced, sin-
   gle, or widowed you must have an
   *apostille certification for your cate-
   gory.

Now here comes the part where you get
to apply your co-coordinating skills and, at
the same time, increase your ‘patience quo-
tient.’ Your collection of paperwork can be
presented at Government House on Tues-
days, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between
8 am and 10 am. If you are on the island
and submit the paperwork yourself you
must then leave the island as soon as possi-
ble. You are not allowed to remain on the
island while your application is being con-
sidered. If you are not on the island and
want someone to submit the paperwork for
you, your paperwork must be accompanied
by a letter authorizing that person to act on
your behalf. While your application is be-
ing considered you may not visit Bonaire,
period. No. You can’t come here or to any
island of the Netherlands Antilles until you
have been granted the permit or been re-
jected. The reason given is as follows. If
your permit is denied and you don’t have
enough money to leave the island, the Gov-
ernment would have to pay to deport you
and they don’t want to do that. Strange but
true.

Because of the time limitations on some
of the documents it is suggested that you
first gather your marriage license (divorce
deece), etc., passport copies and pictures,
then immediately get the paperwork with
time limits, i.e., medical certificate, bank
statement, and police report. FedEx all of
friend or whomever is your representative
on the island. That way your entire pack-
age will fall within the accepted time limit
and you’ll be on your way.

The Exit Letters

Here’s more information that while not
directly related to applying for a permit, is
pertinent for when you become a resi-
dent. If you have a residency permit and
want to leave the island you must go to
Immigration with your residency permit,
your sedula (residency card), your passport,
and your plane ticket and request an exit
letter. You may leave for a maximum of
30 days only. If for health, business, or any
other reason you want to be gone longer
you must apply for an extension at Govern-
ment House. If you are working here on
the island you must also bring a letter from
your employer stating your reason for be-
ging gone and that you will have a job when
you return. There has been much discus-
sion about whether or not this rule is being
enforced. The answer is yes it is and no it
isn’t. When you return to the island and go
through the Immigration line sometimes
you are asked for your exit letter and some-
times you’re not. The penalty for not hav-
ing an exit letter, if Immigration chooses to
enforce it, is the loss of your residency
status. You will then have to leave the is-
land and reapply. It’s sort of like playing
Russian Roulette – you never know when
that bullet will have your name on it. It’s
no big deal to get your ‘get out of town’
letter so better to be safe than sorry.

Good luck in your quest…enjoy the chal-
enge…because life here in Paradise is
worth every bit of what you’re going to go
through.

Dabney Lassiter
A CALL FOR DONATIONS

The BONHATA Hurricane Relief Fund Account

As we all breathe a sigh of relief and rejoice in getting back to normal, we must not forget that there are many of our colleagues on other Caribbean islands that were not as fortunate as us. Many have lost not only their businesses, but also their homes and all their possessions and possibly loved ones. I realize there are times on Bonaire that we complain about this and that, but in the grand scheme of things, we should all consider ourselves as some of the luckiest people in the world... lucky that we live on island so blessed as Bonaire, lucky that we have our health, our businesses, our homes and our loved ones.

I was taught from a very early age that you "reap what you sow", and now is the time to sow some seeds of compassion, goodwill and brotherhood to our Caribbean neighbors so catastrophically affected by one of the most disastrous hurricane seasons in our recent history. Therefore as a result of a vote by the Board of Directors of BONHATA, a BONHATA Hurricane Relief Fund Account at Maduro & Curiel's Bank has been established. BONHATA received the following from the Director General and CEO of the Caribbean Hotel Association, Mr. Alec Sanguinetti.

The Caribbean Hotel Association has received hundreds of queries from allied, hotel members and national hotel associations, pledging their support and desire to help our colleagues in the Caribbean affected by the passing of hurricanes Frances and Ivan. We are genuinely moved by the spirit of support and camaraderie. Following discussions with CHA hotel members affected, as well as representatives from organizations actively providing relief assistance, it has become clear that the most efficient way to contribute is by supporting the recovery programs implemented by the governments of the respective destinations.

To that end, we will keep the BONHATA Hurricane Relief Fund Account open until such time as it is no longer needed. Our treasurer will monitor the account and as funds are available we will distribute them to the appropriate Caribbean island agencies for Hurricane Relief.

We are asking that you please dig deep and donate generously to the fund and ask others to do so as well. You may make a direct deposit to the BONHATA Hurricane Relief Fund at the Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire or to the BONHATA Office. The account number is mcb 112.077.08.

BONHATA would also like to thank MCB Bonaire for being the first to make a deposit to the account in the amount of $500.00.

Remember, "you reap what you sow"... for next time we may not be so lucky.

With Thanks That We Are All Safe,
Jack Chalk, President
Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association

SHOULDERING THE BLAME

There have been quite a number of complaints about the difficulties for foreigners to vote at the referendum.

About a week before the elections the official government advertising about the upcoming referendum was in the Algemeen Dagblad, the Extra and the Amigoe, so I would think also in the few other newspapers. In that announcement it was clearly stated that non Netherlands nationals have not only to bring an identification as cedular or drivers licence but also the residence or work permit. Even if they live longer than 10 years on the island, these persons should all have the permanent residence permit which is handed to them once they do not need a yearly permit anymore.

And if they don’t read this government announcement, it is a pity, but it is still not fair to blame anybody else.

Kind regards
Brigitte Kley
Editor. After the required ten years many residents were not ‘handed’ permanent permits. They were told they no longer needed permits. Other voters were turned away when they presented the temporary document that is supposed to confirm their residency while their new permits are being processed.

X

Recent announcements from St. Maarten may shed light on two matters that have been troubling residents of Bonaire.

The first revealed that United Telecommunication Services (UTS) has offered to install a new state-of-the-art telephone system at police headquarters in Philipsburg. ‘I believe that the problem with the faulty telephone being used by police will be solved within a short while, as I have received confirmation from UTS that they will donate the new state-of-the-art system, which they will also install for police,” said State Secretary Erno Labega. The St. Maarten Police Force had been accused of neglecting telephone calls from the general public for some time, until it was discovered that the system it is using is outdated and many of the calls made to the telephone number 542-2222 are dropped, never reaching the intended persons within the department. Many Bonaireans have reported that calls to the police here have gone unanswered as well.

The second announcement revealed that the island government of St. Maarten will acquire, at its own expense, a machine that will produce credit card-size ID cards, or sedulas. Previously Commissioner Louis Laveist told reporters that St. Maarten had been trying to get a machine for some time.

(Continued on page 8)
One of the few that I hadn’t attended, I got the report back from Janni that a young man, who obviously knew that she was my lady, approached her saying, “It wasn’t me, it was my brother,” and disappeared into the crowd. Janni failed to comprehend his meaning or motivation until she was told that the lad’s name was Binkhorst. Then the penny dropped, since Janni had known the story of the trapped penis for years.

As a further follow-up, in April of 1999 a letter arrived from Dr. Binkhorst, the young man’s mother. She wanted me to know that Gordon, whom I had rescued some 30 years before, had obviously suffered no ill effects from my ministrations since he was now the proud father of four children, one a set of twins.

“Baldi, get your people back on the truck. Let’s go diving.” In 1968, divers were still a novelty and heads turned as we moved through the heart of town and finally to the Queen’s new tourist road which ribboned north and made the entire shore line available. Near Barcadera, a small coral clustered beach about 85 feet below the road, stone steps had been built. The truck pulled off the road near Radio Holland’s transmitter site opposite the steps. Horrified, I ogled the modern dive gear falling out of the truck, all over the road. Certified divers sometimes surprised me. One of my lady divers nicknamed the Goat, who was diving with us that day, a real Captain Don diver. Steel tank high and firm on her back, snorkel through her belt, mask strap hung over the snorkel, and the flippers where they belonged, on her feet. She was already moving down the steps while Baldi’s people were fumbling and dragging their gear down the steps, one piece at a time.

Barcadera, like most other beach entries, had been totally blocked by antler coral which grew tight to the beach, and I had cut paths to deeper water where antler coral gave way to star coral and gorgonians. Baldi, the group leader, stuck his head over the side of the track. “What’d she say? What’d she say?” I briefly considered my options, then greedily read a literal translation. “Budi, she just told me that Doctor Binkhorst’s kid has his penis caught in his zipper. Now, why don’t you grab your tool box and get your butt down here and give me a hand.”

I won’t give you the details; after all, it was just another day in the hotel business. Things ended well, though, and many years later at an island reception, warm beer. I moved on down the beach to give Baldi the shade of the tree and some private time with his divers. Suddenly came some loud words, some bad, a few in Italian, and then the coral stones commenced to fly, bad luck for me. I became a shield for the guy who was the target. The first two stones missed everything, the third killed a cloud, and the fourth clobbered me. I never saw it coming. Moments later a red Texas gusher welled from my head. The guy behind me said, “Oh, Christ!” And Baldi said, “Hey! Why the hell did you get in the way?”

The Goat said, “That’s a big hole, Captain Don. I can see inside your head.”

The last of my secrets gone! “Okay, fix it.” She replied, “A piece of cake,” and gathered some hairs from each side of the hole, twisted them together to form string, then pulled the string until the cut closed, poured some more beer over it, and said, “Come on, Captain, let’s go swimming.”

It was 20 minutes before the truck was loaded, and I nodded at Ephraim to get going. One guy said, “Great dive!” The redhead said, “Boy! That was sure some nifty first aid work.” Baldi said, “Why’d ya get in the way?” A guy with sea urchin spines in his hand said, “That’s a bunch of steps, must be a thousand of them.”

“Only 67,” I corrected. He looked up at me and replied, “Yeah, down! And 933 back up!”

I glanced at the Goat who was laughing. “He’s right. 1,000 steps!”

I signed 11 logs that afternoon. “Dive location—1,000 STEPS.”

In this issue we continue a series of stories by Captain Don Stewart—one of Bonaire’s “Living Treasures” and the man credited with focusing Bonaire on Dive Tourism.

1968

Hattie, the breakfast waitress, roughly set another beer on the table in front of me. I stared at it, then at the Queen’s Birthday party clatter lying ankle deep in the dining room and pleaded, “God, Hattie, a lotta ice.” I looked out the window at the blue Caribbean and wondered if the coin from the party had been worth it.

As I watched two divers jump off the end of the pier and swim the few feet into the reef, I could see the exact place where my wonderful ship the Valerie Queen had sunk. Growing nostalgic, I thought about our days in San Francisco, the craziness of the weekend parties in Sausalito, drinks until dawn at the No Name Bar and how some things never seem to change.

Baldi, the leader of a small group diving with me, pulled up a chair, sat down, looked at my beer, and hollered, “Hattie... Beer and a lotta ice.” Then I suddenly became aware of naked flesh in my proximity. I turned to find Baldi’s traveling companions, bikini clad and pretty, at my elbow. Pointing to some empty chairs, I tried a smile and ordered, “Sit.”

The tall one said, “Happy Birthday, Captain!”

I muttered, “Thanks. It was our Queen’s Birthday, but I’ll pass it along.”

The redhead asked, “Captain Don, were you really a pirate?”

I replied, “I have been called that when checking out guests.” The Queen’s Birthday was beginning to tell on me, and I wondered how I was going to make it through the day. I watched Baldi knock back his beers across the table and knew I had found a guy crazier than myself. Good with people, he taught diving well, had found a guy crazier than myself.

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The rented garbage truck finally arrived. “Okay, Ephraim, load up and let’s go diving.” In 1968, divers were still a novelty and heads turned as we moved through the heart of town and finally to the Queen’s new tourist road which ribboned north and made the entire shore line available. Near Barcadera, a small coral clustered beach about 85 feet below the road, stone steps had been built. The truck pulled off the road near Radio Holland’s transmitter site opposite the steps. Horrified, I ogled the modern dive gear falling out of the truck, all over the road. Certified divers sometimes surprised me. One of my lady divers nicknamed the Goat, who was diving with us that day, a real Captain Don diver. Steel tank high and firm on her back, snorkel through her belt, mask strap hung over the snorkel, and the flippers where they belonged, on her feet. She was already moving down the steps while Baldi’s people were fumbling and dragging their gear down the steps, one piece at a time.

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Just like humans, dogs can suffer from anxieties and phobias. A typical example is “stranger anxiety.” The dog is afraid of anyone new; he runs and hides, trembles and cowers. (This is not to be confused with dogs who are both fearful and aggressive, or “shy-sharp,” and dogs whose exposure to life outside the home is limited.) It may be compounded by factors such as prior abuse. Some dogs are innately “shy.” Others learn to be this way, taking their cues from experience, other dogs, and humans (even well meaning ones).

The First Step
In any case, the most effective approach involves a program of retraining. The first step is to reinforce a “dominant” relationship with your dog, creating an environment in which the dog looks to you for guidance and approval. This includes obedience training and, ideally, a dog who is treat motivated. If you do not have this basis, you will not be very much help to your fearful dog.

The Second Step
The second step is to eliminate any cues or reinforcement which may be coming from you. Don’t make a big deal out of meeting new people with your dog, and don’t invite them to pet him, or coax him to allow it. The more indifferent you are, the more confident he will be. Never reinforce fearful behavior by petting him or otherwise praising him.

The Third Step
The third step is to develop a protocol for when strangers come to your door. Start by enlisting a friend (known to the dog) to help you by visiting regularly in your absence. Once your dog begins to realize that you will be there, you can gradually introduce the stranger.

You will need the cooperation of friends and family, delivery people, everyone, for this training to be successful.

You will need the cooperation of friends and family, delivery people, everyone, for this training to be successful. Eventually, your dog will associate strangers at the door with treats and nothing but treats, and he won’t remember what it was he was so afraid of. The final step is to carry treats with you when you venture out (without touching them). Remember, don’t make a big deal out of it, don’t coax him, and never pull him towards a stranger. Stay quiet and unconcerned, and if he shows any interest in a new person, make sure he gets rewarded. Some fears are easier to address than others. We can control who our dog meets and how, but we can’t control the weather. Next time we’ll discuss “thunder phobia.”

Susan Brown

Susan Brown is a professional dog trainer on the island who has been in the “pet business” for 28 years. “I do anything related to pet care,” she says, “training, pet sitting, grooming, even help with the after care of recuperating animals.” For all your dog training or pet care needs contact Susan at the Pet Professor, e-mail: bandbfarm@yahoo.com or call 717-2620.
but uncooperative civil servants in Curacao kept "moving the goal posts." The machine was supposed to cost NA$60,000, but now the cost seems to be only NA$14,000. Bonaire has also been without an ID making machine since before December, 2003.

The Regatta Committee invites:

Diving, fishing, sailing, pleasure boats, visiting yachts, glass bottom boats and all other floating, moving objects to take part in the 2004 Boat Parade October 7, Thursday. The parade will start at the Regatta House 5:30pm. The route will be: Regatta House to Capt. Don (turn around). Then south along Playa (speed 2.79 kn.) to Plaza Resort. Turn around again, going north to Regatta House. Boaters are asked to use a lot of lights, have fun and make a lot of hubalubu! Also to decorate the boat and crew if you have a chance. If you want a "good" position in the Parade or more information: Call or E-mail Capt. Ulf Pedersen on "Woodwind" today: Ph: 786 7055 or E-mail: woodwind@telbonet.an

Volunteers are needed Sunday, September 26 for STINAPA’s Annual Clean-up of Klein Bonaire. If you want to help, please sign up at STINAPA offices, Tel. 717-8444, or 717-4163. On Sunday, two boats will leave for Klein from Harbour Village, at 6.30 and 7.30am. There is no place to beach the boats, so plan on a wet trip getting from and to the boat (you’ll want to leave your cell phone at home). The plan is to clean the coast from Nearest Point south. They expect to be done by 12 noon. Bring water, sunscreen, a pair of gloves. Plastic trash bags will be provided. The volunteers signed up so far include a group of school children.

The Bonaire Dart Club has started its new season playing every two weeks at City Cafe. Their next event will be on Sunday, September 26th starting at 6.00 pm. All events are open for those are interested in an afternoon of dart-playing and sportsmanship. There’s no entry-fee.

Bonairenae Aquatics Club now has a new Adult division open to fitness swimmers. Please contact Valarie Stimpson at valarie@telbonet.an if you are interested in participating. D.R./B.L.

And the reef cleaning continues. Dive Inn reports that their housereef looks much better. They have been fanning the sponges and turning over a lot of coral colonies. Because the tissue is still alive, the colonies have a chance to survive. If divers want to help, they may pickup a tank at the Dive-Inn. Divers are asked to take a pre-cleaning orientation because extra caution is needed for the next few weeks. Many creatures and fishes are in a state of distress right now because their homes and territories have been rearranged by the storm. Babs Meulink
Bonaire is well known as the premier Caribbean windsurf destination thanks to a radical group of windsurfers who have made the scene hot. They use the natural elements of air and water to enjoy one of the most visually appealing sports. The newest most challenging sport to come to Bonaire is kiting. Kites use the wind and the water but instead of a sail, they have a large parachute type sail that allows them to glide over the water. Several kiters in Bonaire used to windsurfers but once they crossed over to kiting, they never went back. Kiting is not only hot in Bonaire, it’s the fastest growing sport on the market all over the globe.

Kitesurfing is the newest sport on water. In fact, in 1999, there were probably only a few hundred kitesurfers in the world. Today there are tens of thousands. The population of kiters sailing the south coast waters almost daily. Meet Jeroen Roveros. As with anything new, there is controversy surrounding this extreme sport. Naish Kites.

Jeroen makes the sport look easy. It seems effortless as he floats high in the air, performing some dazzling aerial tricks. A physical education teacher at SGB, he considered the sport a way of life. He started windsurfing 15 years ago in Holland and graduated to kiting. Jeroen says, “I was addicted to this sport. I still think it’s a cool water sport.” He traveled all around the east coast of Holland but lives here now, kiting near Atlantis and Pink Beach. This expert kiter is impressed with the conditions here. “Kiteboarding on Bonaire is great because the trade winds are blowing almost every day,” says Jeroen. He also ventures to other regional kite sites such as Aruba and Venezuela. Currently his favorite site to sail is secluded Las Aves, one of the little island groups east of Bonaire. Jeroen is so good he has the support and sponsorship of Brunotti Boards and Naish Kites.

As with anything new, there is controversy surrounding this extreme sport. There are some hazards. Many beaches in the world monitor the times kiting is allowed or have even issued bans on kiting. Bonaire is one such destination. The authorities here have decided Lac Bay is not safe for kiting. It’s currently allowed on the southwest coast where offshore winds prevail. Jeroen’s outlook on the ban is reasonable but concerned. “I think that in most places where kiteboarding has been banned people made a right decision. On crowded beaches and places where lots of people are swimming in the water, you should ban kiteboarding. In more and more places, kiteboarding is not being banned because people figured out some kind of regulation of the sport.”

He goes on to say, “Also on Aruba, where because of the very gusty winds it’s a good idea to keep the windsurfers apart from the kiteboarders. So they banned kiteboarding from 11 am till 5 pm. I think that’s a very good idea,” says Jeroen. He has a realistic view and a solution which avoids bans but creates structured times to ensure safety. The same applies in Maui. Surfers and fisherman have the water until 11 am; then kiters and windsurfers are allowed to play. It’s all about a balanced compromise to ensure safety yet equity.

Kiting is a beautiful sport and enhances the sporting community of Bonaire. There are a handful of responsible kiters who take to the southwest shores to challenge their skills in the pristine waters that surround Bonaire. This is a not-to-be-missed spectacle, so head southwest, anywhere from Pink Beach to Atlantis and you will be in awe of the colorful kiters that grace the skies. You will also have the opportunity to see one the region’s best kiters. Jeroen and his team of kiter buddies will astound you. Ann L. Phelan

Ann L. 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

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**KRALEN DIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)**

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**VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:**

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**YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS PAGE**

**KITESURFING - HOT IN THE WORLD, HOT IN BONAIRE**

Bonaire Reporter - September 24 to October 1, 2004
What can this pose do for you?

So, the history of yoga tells us, 5000 years ago yoga postures came from watching animals and other natural structures. Watching my dogs stretch themselves after their sleep, I am amazed at the similarities of their stretch to our downward dog pose in yoga. They are stretching and lengthening out their spine, shoulders, chest, back of their legs, opening and stretching out their claws, their tail gets to stretch, and then they have the tendency to open and stretch out their jaw by yawning. Then they go about their daily activities.

Generalizing, we humans don’t stretch after we sleep, so our bodies start out each day neglected. As the day goes on we bend, twist, stand for long periods of time, and sit behind computers for hours. We then wonder why we feel tired at the end of the day.

The Downward Dog (Adho Mukha Svanasana) is one of the best yoga-based exercises you can do. It promotes a true balance between flexibility and strength. And when done well it is a beautiful pose. If you are doing the Downward Facing Dog correctly, you’ll feel a primary stretch in the center of your hamstrings. You should also feel a broadening of your shoulders and a lengthening and opening of your chest. Your torso, abdomen, spine, arms, legs, and neck should feel long and expanded. If you feel any pain or discomfort behind your knees or back, bend your knees and lift up your heels.

Take a few minutes out of your day—go ahead try a downward facing dog pose—feel and experience the difference it can make in your life. My challenge to you is to do this for one minute each day for a week. Give change a chance, Desirée.

“The soul that moves in the world of the senses and yet keeps the senses in harmony… finds rest in quietness.” Bhagavad Gita

Don and Desirée of “Yoga For You” offer classes from beginners to advanced. Call 717-2727, 785-7688

Angélique Salsbach
Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire’s Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Write her at dietitian@bonairenews.com
Last week’s hurricane warning was my first… and along with many residents of the island, I did venture to the coast to witness the fury of the Caribbean Sea as Ivan slowly (and luckily) changed its course. As our everyday lives returned to normal, again I was one of the many residents who scouted the island to see the changes in the coastline. Some of my secrets spots are gone… however, some of the so-so beaches have changed for the better and Playa Manteka is a good example.

Playa Manteka
Not long after the hurricane watch was lifted, I started hearing of a new and improved beach… so I had to check it out. The power of the waves from Hurricane Ivan flattened and cleared Playa Manteka from all the debris that the Caribbean Sea rejected over the years. As you may know, Playa Manteka is just after the hatchery when you drive south from Sorobon Beach. As you drive along the shore road, you will notice that you can now see the beach whereas before, there was an embankment blocking the view. I spent quite a long time strolling along this incredibly long beach, discovering the many sandy spots along the water’s edge, and taking in the incredible view of water crashing on the reef at Lac Bay with the distant backdrop of the mountains of conch shells at Lac Cai. When you visit Playa Manteka, I hope you will notice as I did, that some of the beaches have pink coral specks mixed with the white sand giving them an amazing pink tint, while other beaches are of beautiful white sand. The waves were still too strong to enter the sea safely the few times I’ve visited Playa Manteka since its new face-lift, but the constant roaring of the moving water, the crashing of the waves and the blowing wind did provide me with a wonder haven of peace and quiet.

Ol’Blue
I visited Ol’Blue with a new friend I’ve made earlier this week. I met Franklyn along the water’s edge near Jeff Davis. I was hoping to find new beaches as a result of Ivan’s fury… he was looking for coquillages. He mentioned to me that Ol’Blue is one of the most under-used beaches on the island. As I admired the most beautiful aqua-colored water I’ve seen in a long time, Franklyn explained that because the beach’s location the currents and tides rarely affect the beach’s calm waters. The actual beach is located at the bottom of a one-meter cliff and is about 150 meters long. Ol’Blue is made up of mostly loose coral; however, you will find it easy to stroll this 150-meter beach if you walk along the water’s edge. Small sandy spots along the shore make entering the sea extremely easy compared to some of the beach I’ve visited recently. Visitors to the beach will need to swim quite far to find some good snorkeling sites, but the calm waters make the swim enjoyable. The top of the cliff is all of fine white sand and an ideal location to set up for a picnic, relax and enjoy the magnificent vistas that only Ol’Blue offers. Most of the people visiting Ol’Blue are avid divers -- only enjoying this beautiful location to set-up before disappearing into the water. I do hope that you will, as I did, consider Ol’Blue as an alternative to your favorite beach, the peaceful environment you will find at this beach will quickly win you over.  

Josée Bolduc Froost

Nukove before Ivan

Nukove after Ivan

Nukove before Ivan

Nukove after Ivan
Two rollicking brothers are blond “Gary” and black and brown “Rudy.” These adorable puppies are a little over two months old and were found dumped into someone’s yard. These guys are funny and full of pep. Both will grow up into medium sized dogs. One dog is fun to have, but two are doubly fun when you see what silly antics they can get into with each other. Another nice thing is that they keep each other company, so you don’t have to leave the house riddled with guilt that you’re leaving your precious puppy all alone. If you’d like to see Gary and/or Rudy, stop by the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

L.D.

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

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

LUNCH TO GO - Starting from NAƒ5 per meal. Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS Interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy healing. China trained, Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-0013.

WANTED: 2-3 bedroom furnished house needed Jan. 10- June 10. Budget is 500-700,00 NAF per month. Please email tysonpoor@hotmail.com or call 785-6820. Island references available.

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

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

BOATS & ENGINES for SALE JUST IN TIME FOR REGATTA Traditional Bonairean Sailing shop. Wood, traditional construction, about 21’ long. Fiberglassed in and out for minimal maintenance. Two time winner of Bonaire Regatta, Class A. A dream to sail. Bargain at NAƒ9,999. One of the last of its kind. Call 717-8988.
Anouck and Benji just returned from their latest European vacation and took along a Reporter. The beautiful castle in the background is called "Neuschwanstein" and is located in southern Bavaria, Germany. They felt like doing a really touristy thing and joined the crowd on the tiny steel-frame 1890s bridge that crosses a 300-foot-deep gorge across from the castle. Since Benji is very agoraphobic, he didn't have much time to direct the volunteer photographer.

Painting your mailbox can be a very creative project. First you will need to think of a design that is appropriate for you and your family. Think of things you enjoy and colors that you like. Plan a design that will make going to the mailbox a pleasurable experience. There seem to be a lot of bills in the boxes these days, and to have something to smile about before you open the mailbox can take away the stress!

You can use the mailboxes from the hardware stores, or build your own if you happen to have carpenter skills. I used an aluminum box from the hardware store. Mailboxes found in Bonaire have several different finishes: plastic, enamel painted metal, and flat aluminum. All three can be used for this project.

Here are the steps taken for the Mailbox pictured:

1. Sand the mailbox to get a rough surface. An electric sander works best to get a quicker start on the project. Sanding gives the paint a surface to adhere to and prevents premature peeling.
2. Start with one layer of white water-based acrylic or latex paint. Let it dry.
3. Next paint your background color. You may need several coats to build up a solid color foundation. The key is to paint each coat lightly and let it dry thoroughly before applying the next layer.
4. Draw your designs on paper or lightweight cardboard.
5. Cut out your designs and put a piece of rolled tape on the backside. Move the design around the box to find the best placement. Be careful with the tape, it can lift up your paint if you stick it on too hard.
6. Draw around the designs with pencil.
7. For lettering take advantage of Word Perfect and print your letters on the computer, then transfer with carbon paper on to the box.
8. Now paint!
9. Let the paint dry and apply a coat of water-based varnish (available at Global-Kriooy Paint).
10. Install your box in front of your house and wait for fun mail to arrive – or at least have fun looking at your new mailbox when the bills come in!

Alternate Ideas:
- Splatter paint or dribble paint on your box with various colors.
- Let your kids do free-style - they always amaze me with their artistic talents when given a chance.
- Use pre-cut plastic stencils to paint your designs (found at Firgo’s and Flamingo Bookstore)
- Glue on small driftwood and sea glass pieces for a natural look.

Mailboxes are a definite avenue to “Art for Fun!”

Please feel free to come by the JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7, to see the mailbox featured here! Janice Huckaby, JanArt

This article is part of a series by Janice Huckaby of JanArt. Call 599 717-5246 or 791-5246 for information on art lessons or to view her artworks.
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<td>NINA SKY</td>
<td>MOVE YA BODY</td>
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<td>MC FARAH</td>
<td>WEGI BASEBALL</td>
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<td>NELLY FEAT. JAHEIM</td>
<td>MY PLACE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CELINE DION</td>
<td>AIN'T GONNA LOOK</td>
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LISTEN TO THE TOP HITS EVERY SATURDAY FROM 12 NOON - 1 PM
This list is compiled by the staff of Digital FM 91.1 and shows this week's (TW) and last week's (LW) songs.
WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEAKLY MOVIE SHOWS

NOW! Usually 9:00 pm
The Bourne Supremacy (Matt Damon)
Early Show (usually 7pm)
White Chicks
Kaya Princes Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2900
Tickets - NA$10.50 (incl. Tax)
High Schoolers - NA$7.75

NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY
Saturday 4 pm Two Brothers
Sunday Matinee 4 pm
King Arthur

Friday - Open House with Happy Hour at the JacArt Gallery at Kaya Gloria 67, from 5-7 pm.
Saturday during summer Rincon Maršèl opens at 6 am - 2 pm. Enjoy a Bio- nairian breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music.
Every day by appointment - Root Lemontium Kikuno Park Tours Authentic Bonairian kikuno. $12 (NA$12 for Bonaire residents). Tel 717-8495, 540-9800.
Daily - The Divi Flamingo Casino is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and blackjack. Monday to Saturday at 6 pm - end and Sunday 7 pm - 3 am.
FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS
Sunday - Discover Our Diversity Slide Show, Buddy Dive at the pool bar, 7 pm 717-5808
Wednesday (2nd and 4th) Tropical Conservation Slide Show by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm
Friday - Week-end Review Video Presentation by the Tocoan Dive Shop at the Plaza’s Tipuy Seagull, 3 pm 717-2950.
FRIDAY, The Captain Don Show - Conversation, fun, a few slides. Guaranteed 85% true. Aquarius Conference Room.
Captain Don’s Habitat 7 pm 717-8290

Volunteer Opportunities - The Bonaire Swim Club - Contact Valerie Simpson at 788-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.an
Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. Contact Wendy Horn, at 791-3982 or 785-9870.
Bonaire Animal Shelter - 717-4989.
Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7067.
Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4930.
Sister Maria Happener Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.
Special Olympics - Contact Delno Trimp, 717-7659

CLUBS AND MEETINGS
AA meetings - every Wednesday, Phone 717-6110; 705-7076 or 717-3002.
AS Meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 796-0727.
Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Konora, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman. All levels invited.
Darts Club plays every other day at City Café. Registration at 4 games at 5.
Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm.
Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions are welcome.
Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Rendez-Vous Restaurant, Kaya L.D. Gerhards #3. All Rotarians are welcome. Tel. 717-8454

BONAIRE’S TRADITIONS
Mangere di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from “The King’s Stonehouse” while learning about Bonaire’s history and culture and visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 or 790-2018.
Go to the source. Visit the Bonaire Museum on Kaya L.v.d. Rust, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon; 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868.
Sunday at Cai - Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Luc Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire’s popular musicians.

HISTORY OF AMORC
The origin of the Rosicrucian philosophy is the one tradition, philosophy and mystery school of ancient Egypt. Thousands of years ago in Egypt schools were founded to study the laws of life and the universe. Only serious students were admitted to these schools, where they were initiated into the so-called ‘mysteries.’ These were really natural laws, but to the ignorant they were mysterious. Today some of these laws are widely known, such as the law of the Rein- carnation. But although many people talk about these laws, they do not always have a deep understanding of them. The Rosicrucian Order AMORC, an international non-profit organization, can help you explore these topics. On 24 September the Rosicrucian Bonairean section of AMORC, the foundation Parishen AMORC Bonaire, is organizing a public lecture on some aspects of the Rosicrucian philosophy. The lecture is enti- tled: ‘Verlichting is verplicht.’ (Enlightenment entails obligation) and will be held by Mr. Michel Bijkerk. The lecture will be in Dutch, but anybody should feel free to ask questions or join in the discussion in English or Papiamento. The lecture starts at 7 pm in one of the rooms of Jeugdins Jong Bonaire. The evening will end before 11 pm. Anyone interested is wel- come. Entrance is free. M.B.

BONAIRE NATIONAL PARK - The heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. $20-Call Tel. 717-7635.
Monday - Rum Punch Party on the beach at Lion’s Dive. Dutch National Products sponsored by Budget Rent a Car.
Tuesday - Wednesdays - Meditatie at Donkey Beach from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Open to all. Call S. H.V. 790-9450
Wednesday - Sand Dollar Manager’s Cocktail Party, Mango Bar and Restaurant
Friday - Manager’s Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort. 6:30-8:30 pm.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

GETTING READY FOR REGATTA

Rincon Marshèl - every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Bonaire’s historic town. Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area. All Mira Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am. Town Walking tour at 7:00 am. Bus Tour at 10 Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.

CHRUCH SERVICES
International Bible Church of Bonaire - Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) Service Times - Saturday 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm in English. Tel. 717-8322.
Protestant Congregation of Bonaire - Wilhelmina plein. Services in Papiamento, Dutch and English. Tel. 717-560-7530.

Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm. Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamento, Spanish and English.

Catholic San Bernadus in Kralendijk – Services on Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamento. 717-8364. Saturday at 6 pm at Our Lady of Coronoto in Amstel, in English. Mass in Papiamento on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.
Assembly of God (Assembleia de Dios), Kaya Triton (Dios Cheo). Services in English, Dutch & Papiamento on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194.
New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch.

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

ESSENTIAL DIVE EQUIPMENT

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The Best Guide To Bonaire For Shore Diving

Bonaire Reporter - September 24 to October 1, 2004

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## DINING GUIDE

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<td>Bella Vista Restaurant</td>
<td>Moderate, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open every day</td>
<td>Magnificent Theme Nights: Sunday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager’s Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q.</td>
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<td>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</td>
<td>Moderate-Expensive, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days</td>
<td>Get a view of the beach and beautiful turquoise setting when enjoying a breakfast buffet or a la carte lunch and dinner at the ‘Chibi Chibi’ restaurant &amp; bar. Enjoy inspiring vistas and a high standard of international cuisine.</td>
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<td>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</td>
<td>Moderate-Expensive, Dinner Closed Monday</td>
<td>Skilled chef direct from Tuscany prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a total delight. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.</td>
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<td>Garden Café</td>
<td>Moderate, Monday-Friday, Lunch &amp; Dinner Saturday, Dinner. Closed Sunday</td>
<td>Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties. Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and Latin Paella</td>
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<td>La Balandra</td>
<td>Open every day 30 am to 10:30 pm, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</td>
<td>Cuisine by Chef Alberto Roldan of the Bonaire Culinary Team. If you are using the NA25 Beach Pass, a NA15 credit is given for meals Bonaire’s best seaside location.</td>
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<td>The Last Bite Bakery</td>
<td>Low-Moderate, Orders taken 8 am-4 pm, Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>The Lost Penguin</td>
<td>Low-Moderate, Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays &amp; Wednesdays</td>
<td>Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef’ and his wife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nhon’chi at Cultimara</td>
<td>Low, Open 5 am-8 pm Monday-Saturday</td>
<td>Delicious local and international food to take out, or eat there. Everyday a different combo. Sandwiches and roast chicken too. Lunch from NA7-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pasa Bon Pizza</td>
<td>Low-Moderate, Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Seahorse Cyber Café</td>
<td>Low-Moderate, Open 7 am - 7 pm Closed Sunday</td>
<td>Tasty breakfasts, pastries, fresh tropical juices, homemade bread, special sandwiches, delicious desserts and more make this a favorite.</td>
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## SHOPPING GUIDE

| AIRLINES | BonairExel: Bonaire’s own ON TIME airline flying between Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. Look for The Bonaire Reporter on board. |
| APPLIANCES/FURNITURE/COMPUTERS | City Shop is Bonaire’s mega-store for TV, Stereos, Air conditioning, large and small kitchen appliances, computers. Name brands, guarantees and service center. |
| BANKS | Maduro and Curiel’s Bank provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance. |
| BEAUTY PARLOR | Hair Affair: Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care. |
| BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS | De Freezsal rents scooters and quads; profession- ally 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 way to remember Bonaire and the islands at their best. At Photo Tours and many other island shops. Bonaire Dancing Made Easy, Third Edition, is an essential in your dive bag. The latest information on Bonaire’s shore dive sites. |
| BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION | APA Construction are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement. |
| CYBER CAFES | See Restaurant Guide for The Seahorse Cyber Café. |
| DIVING | Carb Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q. Dive Inn Seven studio apartments and dive shop/ school directly on the waterfront in the heart of town. Friendly, highly experienced with an exceptional staff. |
| FITNESS | Bonyvio 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 train- ers, fitness machines and classes for all levels. |
| GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES | Golden Reef Inn is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute dive to the diving and the sea. |
| HOTELS | Golden Reef Inn is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute dive to the diving and the sea. |
| METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP | b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V., offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, includ- ing stainless. Complete machine shop too. |
| PHOTO FINISHING | Kodarama- the only digital lab and studio handles all digital media and offers the largest variety of profes- sional services across from MCB Bank. |
| REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS | Harbourfront Real Estate is Bonaire’s oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional cus- tomer services and top notch properties. |
| REPAIRS | Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snor- keling and exploration. |
| SAILING | Woodwind has it all: Smooth trimaran sailing, to Klein Bonaire, affordable prices, snorkeling with equipment guide, drinks, snacks. Call 560-7055 |
| SECURITY | Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reli- able. Call 717-8125. |
| SUPERMARKETS | Tropical Flamingo is convenient, clean, modern, ef- ficient and has the lowest prices on Bonaire. Located behind NAPA. Visit Warehouse Bonaire to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You’ll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning. |
| TOYS AND GAMES | Laur’an is a store dedicated to providing quality toys and games to Bonaire. Find them at Kayaa Usharts in the Lourdes Shopping Mall. |
| WATER TAXI | Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Call Bonaire Nau- tics at 560-7254. Ride the Kantika d’Amor or Skippy. Hotel pickup too. |
| WINES | Antillean Wine Company. You’ve tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. |
| YOGA | Yoga For You. Join certified instructors Desirée and Don at Jong Bonaire for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too. |

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ON THE ISLAND SINCE...

Jan-Pieter and Roosje van der Hoek

April 1, 2004

“In the first time I came to Bonaire was in 1992 when I worked as an intern for six months with “Bejoita,” a construction company. I liked it so much that after I’d been in the military service I came back in 1995 to work for the same company as the assistant manager. After, the company went bankrupt after two years and I moved to Curacao in 1997 where I started working for Habib & Maia architects. Four years later I moved on to another company, IMD (design). One day some interns who were working for IMD asked me to come with them to Bonaire to give them a tour, as I had lived there. They went by boat, I went by plane and somehow we missed each other until I found them back at Karel’s. I started talking to some old friends of mine while the interns moved on to City Cafe and there comes this girl straight towards me and she says: “Hey, how are you doing?” I said: “Okay, but do I know you?” Then she realized she was talking to the wrong guy and she apologized, we introduced ourselves and we started chatting and she told me she was studying in Holland and worked for the time being as an intern with ToerCoT.B. That was Roosje Goeloe from Bonaire. I thought she was a nice girl, cute too… and it hadn’t been very often that a girl had made a pass at me.” “We actually met”, Roosje says, “because I thought Jan-Pieter was somebody else. That somebody that night and I ended up talking to two Dutch boys and I didn’t really know either one of them. It was August 24, 2002. We exchanged our phone numbers and when Jan-Pieter went back to Curacao the next day I called him to wish him a good trip.” “I thought it was very thoughtful of her to call me,” JP says, “but in Curacao it was back to the old routine. Three weeks later Roosje returned to Holland to complete her studies and life took its course again. But somehow, in those two little hours that we’d been talking to each other we’d exchanged much information that we kept in touch by phone and E-mail. Slowly but gradually we found out that we had a lot in common; the same upbringing, the same standards and values, the same way of thinking and the same interests.” “Funny thing was,” Roosje says, “that when we were chatting, I was typing something without looking at the screen and when I looked up I saw JP had written what I’d been writing! Scary! Still, at that time there were no butterflies… yet! What we did have was a foundation, a friendship that became more and more solid. I realize and feel very strongly that it was a blessing the way Jan-Pieter and I met in Bonaire when neither one of us was living there at the time. I was born in Bonaire in 1979, I have a brother, Paulo, who’s 15 and my sister Angela is ten years old. When I was little I always wanted to become a secretary, just like my mom. Later on I thought of becoming a lawyer as I was very capable of defending myself in the battles I had with my mother! When I finished HAVO I went to Holland in 1997 to study Tourism and Recreation at Breda University of Professional Education. I lived in Holland for five-and-a-half years, but always with the intention to come back to Bonaire.” “I was born in Amsterdam in 1970, but I grew up in Enschede, in the eastern part of Holland,” says JP. “I’ve one brother who’s 30 years old. First I studied MAVO, then I went to Polytechnic School and after that to Higher Professional Education where I became a Bachelor of Science in construction engineering. My father was a policeman, my mom a housewife. She never came to the Antilles because of a lung disease that wouldn’t allow her to fly. Sadly, she passed away this year, February 16th. My father and brother used to visit us frequently and my dad always carried his video camera around saying: ‘I’m coming here with two pairs of eyes… as he put it, I will be there for you; to talk to, to adore you, to comfort you; to talk to, to comfort you, to adore you, to long for you and to love you with all my heart.’”

Greta Koosstra

“As we had to fly back and forth all the time in order to see each other, we realized that something had to be done; somebody had to move so we could be together.”

That’s exactly what happened. On December 24th 2003, she’d proposed to me during a dinner at Mai Mai. She’d given me a beautiful watch and I was totally speechless! It was a wonderful experience! Later on we heard that my parents were engaged the same day, 40 years ago. I didn’t want to tell my mom about the engagement as she had started reacting. Now she’s fine, mentally, physically she will never be the same, but she’s fighting, she’s a fighter. I wasn’t prepared to come and work here and had to look for something. When I heard Bonaire/Exel was looking for stewards, I thought: Why not! I sent them my CV and it appeared that I was over-qualified, so I became the sales & marketing assistant. Now I’m their sales representative. As we had to fly back and forth all the time in order to see each other we realized that something had to be done; somebody had to move so we could be together. We tried Aruba, it was so close, but we couldn’t find anything there. Jan-Pieter applied for a job with Fundashon Cas Boneiriano, with Taxahob and Jacobs Architects on Bonaire and it was Jacobs Architects who wanted him as from March on, but he still had to resign his old job, so he started with Jacobs Architects April 1st 2004.” “I really had a great job with IMD and I liked my boss a lot, but I wanted to be with Roosje,” Jan-Pieter says. December 24th 2003, she’d proposed to me during a dinner at Mai Mai. She’d given me a beautiful watch and I was totally speechless! It was a wonderful experience! Later on we heard that my parents were engaged the same day, 40 years ago. I didn’t want to tell my mom about the engagement as she was hospitalized and I was afraid the excitement would be too much for her. We went to Holland but the day we left my dad called me to tell us that she’d passed away. I felt sad, I wished Roosje had met her, could have hugged her, they only knew each other through phone calls, but even so, my mom was crazy for her.” “I felt very disappointed that I’d never met his mom,” Roosje goes on, looking at JP, caressing his hand, “but JP told me: ‘Don’t you worry, because now she’ll be at our wedding. She could never fly, but this time she’ll be there…” And at the cremation in Holland the whole family embraced me and told me: “She loved you and she wanted to meet you so badly.” We got married 24th 4th 2004.” “It was a special wedding,” JP says, “my brother Marcel told me: ‘Traditional is for people who can’t be original,’ and that tells everything in a nutshell about the wedding. We didn’t need God’s blessing spoken by someone we didn’t know. Our parents blessed us and we felt blessed, we are blessed…” He looks at Roosje with so much tender- ness: “I am rich, I’ve got a wife who’s beautiful, inside and out, I can eat a sandwich every day and I have a roof over my head, that’s enough and it’s the same way for Roosje; we’re happy.” Roosje kisses his hand: “It can only get better. Sometimes I am afraid of so much happiness, but the last words of my dedication during the wedding were: ‘I don’t know where life will take us, but I know I will be there for you; to talk to, to listen, to laugh and to comfort you, to adore you, to long for you and to love you with all my heart.’”

Greta Koosstra
Circus Suarez of Mexico blew into town about the same time as Ivan. Fortunately it stayed longer.

Many circus seats were filled through the generosity of Maduro & Curiel’s Bank (Bonaire) n.v. They invited groups of 60+, children from the Maria Hoppner Home, visitors from FRPD and the Sosiego Home, and pensioners.
**The Five Nights Of The Harvest Moon!**

And Two Fun Things You Can Do With It!

Next week we will be treated to several nights of the Harvest Moon. But what exactly is a Harvest Moon? Let me explain. A harvest, according to the dictionary, is simply the act of gathering in a crop or the harvested crop itself and for centuries at this time of year across North America and Europe the fall harvest took place. So traditionally the full Moon closest to the first day of fall, the Autumnal Equinox, was called the Harvest Moon. And since the Autumnal Equinox occurs this week on Wednesday the 22nd, next Tuesday night, the 28th, will be the official night of the Harvest Moon. Traditionally though, the Harvest Moon doesn't last just one night but also includes the almost full Moons two nights before the full Moon and the almost full Moons two nights after.

You see the Moon normally rises approximately 50 minutes later each successive night except for the Harvest Moon which rises only 20 to 25 minutes later each night. The astronomical reason for this is that the path of the full Moon closest to the Autumnal Equinox makes a much smaller angle with the horizon than at any other time of the year. Now before the invention of electric lights this was very important to farmers at harvest time because it meant that they could work after sunset for several evenings in a row gathering in their crops by the bright light of the Harvest Moon. Today however, with mechanized farming and artificial lighting, harvesting goes on 24 hours a day. So the Harvest Moon has lost its original significance.

One thing, though, it will never lose its incredible beauty because for five nights we will see it rise shortly before or shortly after sunset. And all rising full Moons always look bigger and more colorful, usually orangeish like a pumpkin, than when they're overhead. The reason the Moon looks more colorful as it rises is because we see it through thicker and dustier layers of our Earth's atmosphere than when it's overhead. And although it looks bigger at the horizon it is just an illusion, which you can prove to yourself.

In fact, if you take a dime and hold it out at arm's length when the Harvest Moon is close to the horizon you will see that it covers exactly the same amount of the Moon as it does when the Moon is at its highest. And if you want to try another Moon illusion, simply bend over at the waist and look at the rising Harvest Moon upside down between your legs and bingo! It will instantly look smaller than when you look at it right side up.

So don't miss the five nights of the Harvest Moon next week, beginning on Sunday night the 26th, through Thursday night the 30th. Believe me it will be more than a dime's worth of fun and a dozen times more beautiful! Jack Horner

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**Moon Info**

- New Moon September 28th
- First Quarter October 6th
- Full Moon October 14th
- Last Quarter October 20th

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**For the week:**

**September 24 to October 1, 2004**

_By Astrologer Michael Thiessen_

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 - April 20) Empty promises are evident. A long, quiet walk alone may help you sort out your thoughts. You should be raising your self esteem and confidence in order to promote your work. Do not react too harshly when dealing with partners. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 21) Don't be afraid to talk to close friends or relatives about pressing personal problems. Moneymaking opportunities will surface. Think about your priorities. Don't push your mate if you want to keep this union going. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21) Try not to argue about trivial matters. Your bankbook will suffer and your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship. You must make sure that all your personal documents are in order. Your charisma will not doubt attract a lot of attention. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 22) Make sure that you make reservations early. Don't be too hard on your mate. Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. Sort situations out as best you can. Watch your spending habits. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug. 22) Don't push your mate away. Don't let individuals with wild schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful. Keep busy and let them fume while you're not around. Don't hesitate to go ahead with any plans for entertainment. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23) You may have more to do with children this week; keep an open mind. You can make new friends and get involved in new hobbies successfully. Don't overextend yourself in order to add luxury items to your entertainment center. Communication must be open, precise, and honest. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) You need to take a break with the ones you love. You will be up and down emotionally. You are best to get out of the house this week. Compromise if you wish to have any fun at all. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20) Your unique approach to life will interest others. You will easily charm members of the opposite sex. Your goals will be in reach if you direct your energy wisely. Acknowledge your lover's needs. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) You could overreact to emotional situations regarding your relationship. You should channel your efforts into getting rid of bad habits. Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool if someone backs you into a corner. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20) You will have to control the way you feel. Attempt to face key issues with lovers or problems could escalate. Don't spend too much on products that promise amazing cosmetic results. Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.
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