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April 9 to 16, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 15

# The **BONAIR** REPORTER

SINCE 1994

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STILL  
FREE**

## PsittaScene

MAGAZINE OF THE WORLD PARROT TRUST



IN THIS ISSUE:  
Yellow-shouldered Amazon of Bonaire  
Black-cheeked Lovebird in Zambia



**WORLD PARROT TRUST  
CONCERNED OVER  
OUR LORAS Pg. 12**

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Amigoe Photo

*The leaders of the now defunct Central Government: Prime Minister Mirna Godett, on her right is Justice Minister, Ben Komproe, to her left, above, Errol Cova, Economic Affairs Minister.*

**W**hen Justice Minister Ben Komproe failed to resign at high noon on Sunday, PNP (the Curaçao National Peoples Party) leader Ersilia de Lannooy withdrew her party's support and the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles collapsed. De Lannooy officially informed the Governor of the Netherlands Antilles Sunday night around 8:30 that her Curaçao party no longer supported the Louisa-Godett Cabinet. With that she effectively brought down the FOL-led Central Government. Komproe, the Justice Minister has been surrounded by controversy since it be-

came public that he had allowed a convicted member of his FOL party, Nelson Monte, to stay in a first-class wing of St. Elizabeth's hospital rather than be locked up in the Bon Futuro prison. Despite the fact that every non-FOL Minister has resigned, at press-time Prime Minister Godett and the FOL party seem to be ignoring the cabinet shambles around them and have not officially informed the Governor of the Antilles of the situation. FOL leader Anthony Godett said on the radio that if everyone else resigned, there would be enough FOL administrators left to run the country. "We won the elections

twice. We are here to stay." Godett took the stance of not caring about the fact that the ministers want to leave. "If they want to go, let them go! You don't need a friend like (Bonaire) DP-leader Jopie Abraham."

A sticking point in forming a new government built on the results of last year's elections would leave out the criminally convicted FOL party, the clear winner of the last two popular elections in Curaçao. If not handled most delicately, it could be a cause for civil unrest especially if Godett is able somehow to persuade the masses who voted for him and his party that there is some kind of conspiracy against "the little man."

In the event of new elections, recent surveys by University of the Netherlands Antilles have shown that support for FOL has diminished because of the legal problems of party leadership, but it is still strong. Anthony Godett remains the most popular Curaçao politician. Godett and FOL advisor Nelson Monte have appeals coming up in two weeks.

► **Don't try to pay your sales tax or social taxes at the Ontvanger's office, or any payment to the Central Government (Land). It seems that the Central Gov-**

Amigoe Photo



*Ersilia de Lannooy*

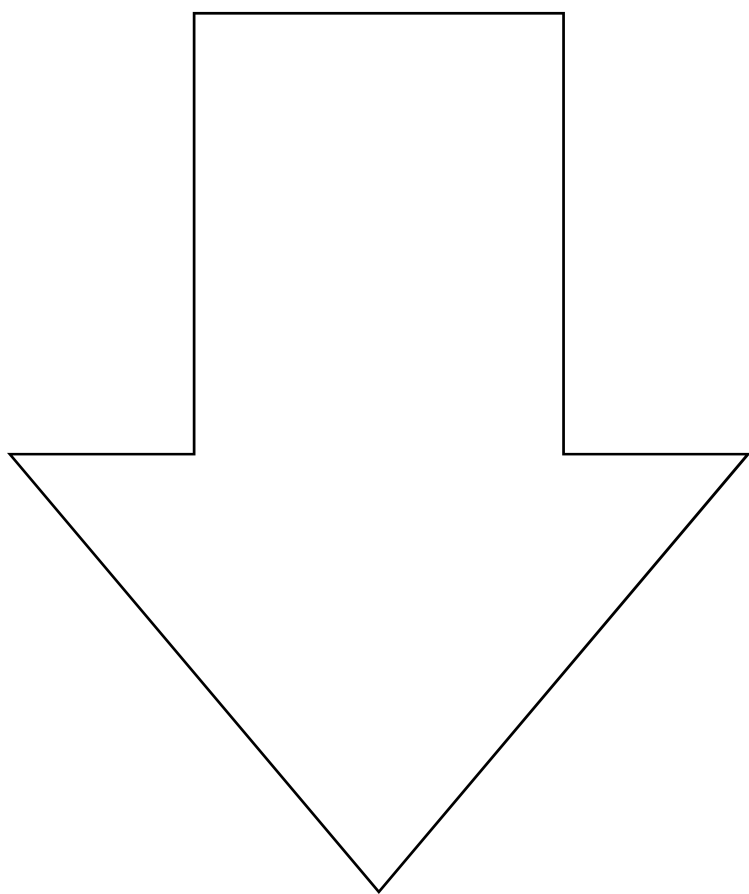
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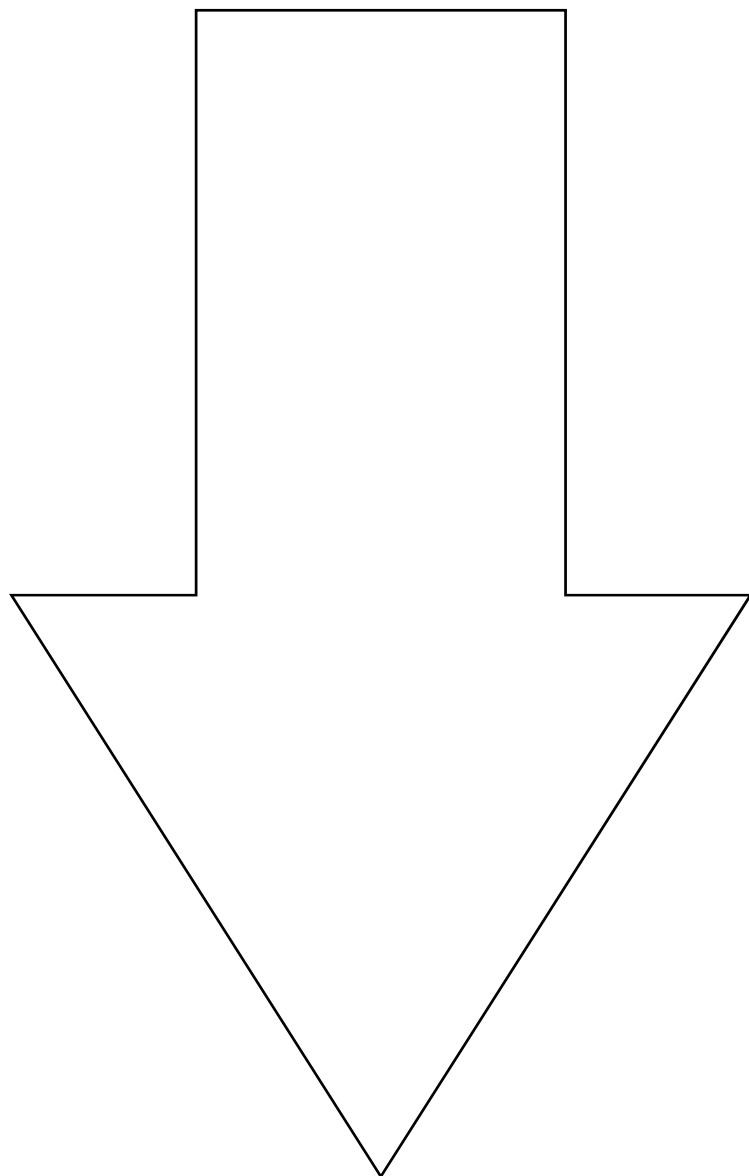
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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)  
 ernment doesn't trust the island of Bonaire to collect its taxes any more. The "official" word is that the Central Government's Finance Minister, Ersilia de Lannooy in one of her last official acts, without notice, banned Bonaire's "Island Ontvanger" from collecting Central Government monies. Reportedly, she thinks Bonaireans were doing a bad collection job. Precise details are not available at press time, but Bonaire Senator Ramonsito Booi thinks that it may have something to do with a lien BonairExel put on Central Government income to get the money from the fines ordered by the Court. Unfortunately, citizens aren't relieved of their requirement to pay taxes on time. They should be paid directly to the Central Government accounts at the banks, but for some payment transactions it may be difficult.  
 Although a "Land Ontvanger" for Bonaire has been named by de Lannooy, he has no staff, office or equipment. With no financial policy maker in the Central Government it may take months before the ruling can be rescinded.



► After a long history KLM announced they will be stopping their flights to Caracas in favor of Air France. Air France's public offer for the Dutch carrier KLM began on April 5 and will run until May 3, the French airline said. The transaction calls for the exchange of 11 Air France shares and 10 subscription certificates for 10 ordinary KLM shares and would create the world's largest airline by sales. The takeover will also result in Air France being privatized. Interestingly, KLM is the only airline to have used all DC aircraft, from the DC-2 though the DC-11, including the advanced DC-5 (see photo below) which was shelved for most uses by WW II.



File photo- DC-5

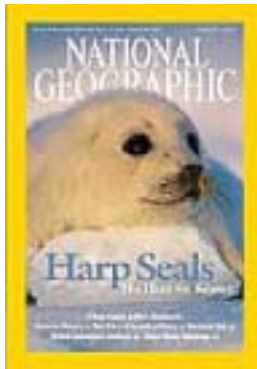
► DCA was offering some great Internet-only deals for Easter to fly to their foreign destinations last weekend. There's one problem, however. The website said the it was out of order for maintenance. Who would buy a seat from those people? The Fly DCA website is at <http://www.flydca.net/>.

► Is every Caribbean island starting its own airline? Venezuela's Deputy

Tourism Minister, Dalila Monserrat, has announced a new Venezuelan national airline named Conviasa, replacing the defunct Viasa Airlines ... which some people were glad to see go, owing to its inefficiency, loss of baggage and plain, simple and permanent bad manners on the part of its staff. The new national airline will have its hub on Isla de Margarita, and initial flights starting on July 5 will be limited to two a day to cities in Venezuela and then spread to Caribbean, Latin American and European destinations. Look for St. MartinExel to join BonairExel and ArubaExel very soon.

► Seventeen bakeries on Curaçao joined Bonaire in urging Economic Affairs Minister Errol Cova not to reintroduce market protection on flour, cornmeal and other wheat products. They contend that the elimination of the market protection not only led to a drop in the prices of bread and other flour products but also to an improvement in the quality of the products. The gradual elimination of the market protection over the last four years caused prices of flour products to drop by 25%.

► Bonaire resident Tish Dace asked if we'd seen the March issue of National Geographic. An article by Jonathan E. Tourtelot called "Destination Scorecard: 115 Places Rated"



gives Bonaire a rating of 70, putting it among the top scoring group. We are the ONLY Caribbean island in this group. We received this rating based on environmental conditions, but also got a warning on "social/cultural Integrity." Can't tell from the article what that category means. We tied, right at the bottom of the top scorers, with Baden Baden, Germany, the Bavarian Alps, and the historic center of Krakow, Poland.

St. John, US Virgin Islands, scored only one point lower than Bonaire, but that landed it in the middle scoring group, where you will also find the Galapagos, the Great Barrier Reef, Amsterdam's historic center, the British Virgin Islands, the Grand Canyon, Cape Cod, Fiji, St. Lucia, the Sea of Cortez, the Great Wall of China, Bali and Belize, among many other attractions. The lowest scorers include Aruba, Tahiti, the Acropolis, Venice, the Caribbean coast of Mexico, Negril (Jamaica), the north coast of the Dominican Republic, St. Thomas, and Key West, among others.

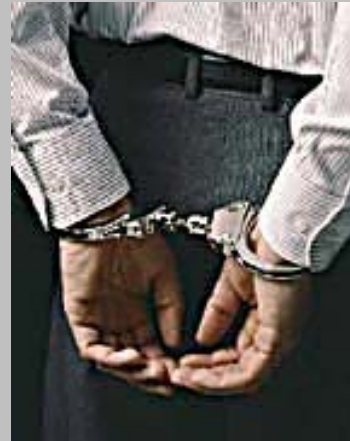
► Holland America Line recently launched "Personal Postage," a unique new product of the Antilles Postal Service which allows cruise passengers to mail postcards and letters with legal stamps bearing their own likeness for delivery worldwide from any Netherlands Antilles port, including Bonaire. The Antilles Postal Service is operated by Canada Post International Limited, a

(Continued on page 11)

## POLICE UPDATE

According to Assistant Public Prosecutor Justine Gongrijp last week was very busy.

1. In the City Cyber Café, -Tjin N.V. Bonaire Access case a fifth suspect was arrested. Four of the suspects were employees of Tjin. Articles worth NAf25.000 were taken. The case is still under investigation.



2. On Tuesday evening between 9 and 9:30 pm there was an armed robbery by three masked and black-garbed people at the home of the Super Store manager and his family. The assailants asked for money from the Super Store, but the manager had only his own wallet with NAf25 which they took. No other items were taken.

3. Eight drug smugglers were apprehended at Flamingo Airport during the week. Most of them are Curaçao-born but live in Holland. During the weekend a couple with a three-month old baby was caught trying to smuggle drugs in the baby's stroller. They had priors, but not enough to hold them, so

they were released. (Suspects other than Antilleans are immediately deported, but if Antilleans, after being released by the police, want to leave they must re-purchase their plane ticket, having lost the one they bought originally because of not showing up.

They can be sure that Customs will check them over even more diligently when they try to leave the second time.)

4. An elderly man in Rincon was randomly shooting a gun there last week and was apprehended by the police. He was found to have mental problems and is now in a clinic in Curaçao.

The Public Prosecutor stresses that it's extremely important for the public to report any suspicious behavior to the police or to the Prosecutor, otherwise these crimes may not be solved.

Remember: the Police Emergency number is 911. To report suspicious activity call the Police Hot Line at 9208 (you may remain anonymous). The Police main number is 717-8000.

EDITOR'S NOTE: When a reader tried to phone 911 at night, it was answered in Curaçao. Fortunately they then tried the 717-8000 number which was answered in Bonaire.

LETTERS



“KEEPING BONAIRE SAFE II”  
“TENE BONEIRU SIGURIDAT II”

Dear Editor:

Experts think that the absence of fathers can be linked to criminal behavior. “Fatherlessness is the most destructive trend of our generation,” argues author David Blankenhorn. “Dad is Destiny,” shouted a *US News and World Report* headline; and internationally renowned Bahamian Pastor Myles Munroe, adds, “The absence of fathers is linked to most social nightmares—from boys with guns to girls with babies.”

If you want to live in a safe place then you must help to ensure the promotion of strong healthy two-parent families. Pastor Munroe tells us in his book, *The Principle of Fatherhood*, “Raising marriage rates will do more to fight crime than building prisons or putting more cops on the streets.” He notes, “studies show that only 43 % of state prison inmates grew up with both parents and that a missing father is a better predic-

tor of criminality than race or poverty.” Munroe goes on to say that having both parents in the home is a better antidote to teen pregnancy than handing out condoms and birth control pills.

I agree that the presence of a strong positive male figure in the home is vital to the development of healthy children and particularly healthy boys. Males are most responsible for crime, so having an emotionally healthy father living at home may be the single most important factor in reducing the incidence of criminality within communities.

An absent, disinterested or abusive father will profoundly impair the emotional development of his children; so all males must be helped to understand their power as models for their sons, grandsons, and all future generations. Living and teaching values like respect for self and others will go a long way in promoting honesty, integrity and emotional health within our children. You can’t teach it if you don’t live it. They learn more by your behavior than by what you say. You can’t call in sick when you’re healthy and then tell your children they must not tell lies. Children have very powerful radar for detecting lack of parental integrity.

Having babies without a committed father often indicates that the mother lacks sufficient respect for herself and her future children. Women must help ensure that their children will have committed fathers who are emotionally and financially helping to support their

children.

Likewise, women must recognize their power and influence upon their children. Such things as preventing premature pregnancies among their daughters have much to do with what kind of mothering they provide and what kind of roll model they are to both their daughters and their sons.

When the mother fails to respect herself and to garner the respect of her husband and others, she sends out a strong negative message to her children. If a girl doesn’t learn how to acquire self-respect from watching her mother, she will give out and tolerate the same kind of disrespectful treatment that her mother accepted.

When a boy sees his mother tolerate disrespect, she is teaching him to treat her and all the future women in his life in the same disrespectful manner. This perpetuates negative behavior, generation after generation.

Parents who don’t insist on being respected typically don’t treat their children with respect either. There can be no emotional health without respect. Respectfulness is a behavior that ideally grows out of trust and love but may require assertiveness training to help develop it.

We need to refocus our priorities and turn the tide against crime by raising emotionally stable, respectful youth, capable of assertiveness to meet their own needs and to recognize and focus on the importance of gratitude for what-

ever is good in their lives.

Laraine Abbey-Katzev  
Registered Nurse-Certified Nutritionist  
Email: marevivo@aol.com

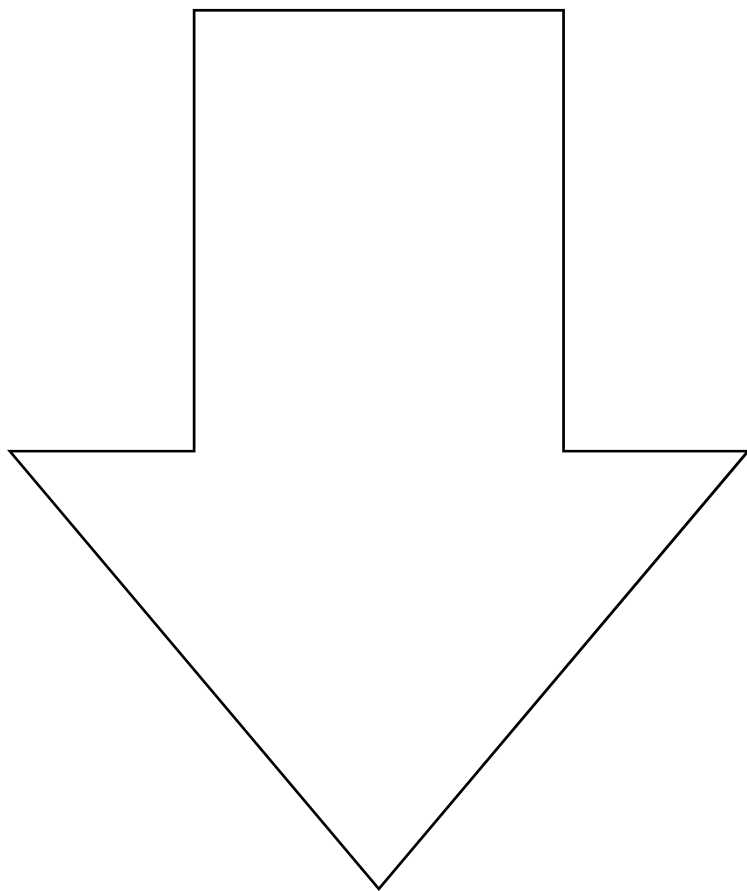
SEWERS, S/

Dear Editor,

In the Flotsam and Jetsam section of your April 2, 2004 issue, you had a short report on Bonaire's Sanitary Sewer Project. You mentioned that the project sponsors in the EU raised concern that there was "not much popular support for the project except from Bonaire's environmental organizations." You further went on to state that "the cost burden of connecting to the sewer pipes and the monthly charge for waste water disposal is of concern to these people."

I feel your last statement is somewhat misleading. I can't speak for the water-front homeowners; however, I do feel somewhat qualified to speak for the resort owners. While cost is, of course, a concern in any project such as this, it is certainly not the main concern of most, if not all, resort and dive operation owners. I would like to remind you that over the past 10 to 15 years, the resort and dive operation owners have been one of the most vocal groups in calling for a sewerage treatment plant on Bonaire. Some resorts have

(Continued on page 21)





## WHY NOT TWO?

As was reported in last week's *Referendum Chronicle*, the main issue dividing the island's political champions is one of timing. Bonaire's main political parties are at odds over the Referendum, but to us it's more about the timing involved rather than the issues.

Ramonsito Booi and his Patriotiko party want a decision before summer while the tide is running with those who want to distance themselves from the N.A. Central Government, and everything the now defunct FOL-led administration stood for (or did not stand for). Jopie Abraham and his Democrats, want more time to study the alternative complex choices and explain them to the public.

Both perhaps could use some breathing space to engage in some backroom negotiations with Dutch supportive parties, or the EU.

And both are right, in a way.

It is difficult to enter negotiations with Holland on the basis of an as-yet-undeclared preference of the Bonairean population. And also it is difficult to present the Bonairean people with a full menu of complicated choices which are interdependent. Besides the UN, the EU, and the Dutch government have advised that more time is necessary to get ready for the Referendum. If it's ill prepared, they may wash their hands of the results.

Now that the Godett administration is no more, and Jopie and Ramonsito are talking, the time seems ripe for a creative solution.

Why not have two Referenda, one in July, as presently scheduled, and one in the fall, based on the outcome of the first? The first Referendum would offer a choice of three clear options, understandable to every literate Bonairean:

1. independence,
2. a continuation of the N.A. constitutional link between five islands and
3. a different kind of link with the Netherlands.

The second Referendum would have its choices based on the outcome of the first.

For Example:

If the people's choice was for a different kind of link (say #3), then the choices in the second Referendum might be:

1. as an (overseas) county or province, or
2. in a status aparté, with a sub choice for LGO or UPG status, and also perhaps even a sub choice for a dollar- or euro-backed currency.

The advantages of a two-stage Referendum seem clear:

- The two leading political parties find their timing **preference** reflected in this double-barreled approach. And if Bonaire is unified politically, hopefully it will have more impact in Holland.
- There is **more time** for analyzing and negotiating the more complex secondary choices.
- The UN, the EU commission and the Dutch government will be **happier** with this time frame, and finally,
- Holland can **support** the second referendum materially and financially which, according to UN rules, is not possible in any referendum that includes the option of independence (which should be offered to the voters as an option in a first round).

So: why not two Referenda? It may cost a few more guilders, but the issues are worth it. □ *The Chronicler*

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*This week the Referendum Chronicle team discusses the financial realities of some of the choices that may result from a reorganization of Bonaire's governing arrangement. It's called...*

### WHO PAYS FOR THE GOODIES? (Part 1)

In the early days of referendum talk, readers' letters in the regional press abounded with rosy images of what benefits would be wrought by whatever option had caught the reader's fancy. Politicians already knew better but prudently refrained from commenting on the preferred goodies, as this might antagonize part of their electorate – every vote counts here – much as a department store manager will not make light of any Santa Claus list at Christmas time, however fanciful.

As the information to the public gets better and more precise, the time has come to inspect the list of goodies attached to each option of referendum choice and critically comment upon them.

#### The Main Options

The main options evolve from a cascade of choices rather than from a menu of alternative dishes. We will, however, treat the main options as if they were of equal dimensions. If a referendum offers a complete gamut of options, the choice will be between:

1. Independence (full island autonomy)

2. Bonaire part of the N.A. (as now)
3. Bonaire obtains status aparté (as Aruba has now and St. Maarten is seeking)
4. Bonaire opts for the LGO status (associated Dutch EU territory)
5. Bonaire opts for the UPG status (EU territory)
6. Bonaire becomes an integral part of the Netherlands, either as a mini-*provincie* or as an overseas county (*gemeente*), both fully embedded in Dutch law and social security
7. Bonaire reverts to crown colony, crown domain or some such pre-independence status, such as Anguilla has sought and Saba may be seeking today

If a two-part Referendum (see leading Referendum Chronicle article this week) is chosen the choices will be the same, however, they can be presented in a simpler fashion

Option 1 (independence) is excluding all benefits except a one-time dowry, such as Surinam received in 1975, and Option 2 (part of the N.A.) reflects existing arrangements of mutual and Dutch support; therefore we will not discuss these options further.

Similarly, Option 7 (crown domain), being antique, farfetched, mostly impracticable, must be tailor-made, so nothing further can be said about this option. We will therefore contain our comments to Options 3 (status aparté), 4 (LGO), 5 (UPG), and 6 (*gemeente / provincie*).

Also, for the purpose of this article, we will limit ourselves to the direct economic and social benefits and not comment on sundry subjects such as law enforcement, judiciary, constitutional ties, taxation, coast guard, drugs control, investment climate, etc. etc., which will be the subject of a different article.

#### Status Aparté (SA)

SA is a constitutional choice, no more, no less. It means a direct link with the Kingdom and independence from the Curaçao-based N.A. administration. SA has no fixed economic or social menu. Every item has to be priced and negotiated, much as in a market.

Aruba took three years, from 1983 till 1986, to hammer out its status aparté with the Netherlands. We know of no post-colonial example of a separate status remotely comparable to Aruba's (some refer to Anguilla, which seceded from the East-Caribbean state, leaving St. Kitts and Nevis in the early 80s, but Anguilla effectively returned to the status of crown colony).

Status Aparté does not preclude a further choice for LGO or UPG status. It

all depends on the negotiation shopping list. So, no specific economic or social benefits can be attached to the SA option. It is a two-sided, self-service option, really.

#### LGO

LGO is short for "*Landen en Gebieden Overzee*." The term was probably modeled on the French DOM/TOM (*Domaines et Territoires d'Outremer*) and was devised to give the former colonial territories associated benefits in international trade agreements (such as the EG, the precursor of the EU), which the motherland had concluded.

Today, the LGO status pertains to the N.A. and to Aruba. These two form the majority of the Association of LGO, mainly isolated islands once belonging to a European colonial power. Former N.A. Justice minister Rutsel Martha chairs the LGO Association.

In theory, the LGO status guarantees free entry to the former motherland of all manufactured goods and produce of the islands. In practice we're talking about refined sugar, treated rice and some bananas in the Caribbean basin, there being no industrial or agricultural basis for other exports.

There was a loophole in the LGO regulations which treated exports as original products even if only the slightest treatment had been given to the imported produce from third countries. This has caused the EU commission to put quotas on notably rice and sugar, and this move spells the end of the LGO status as a moneymaking device, which only benefited a handful of creative tradesmen anyway, and not the population at large.

Curaçao is hopeful of an extension of the LGO status to mere transshipments and has installed a working party to this effect, but chances are nil that Brussels (the EU commission) will endorse such a gaping hole in its worldwide trade policy.

So far for the LGO. It is a dead horse, in our opinion.

#### UPG

UPG stand for "*Ultraperiferie Gebieden*," territories attached to, but outside of, the geographical limits of the EU.

The bottom line of a UPG status for Bonaire is that it would become an integral part of the EU through its links with Holland as an EU member, and the full body of law of the EU would be applicable, except for negotiated exceptions, adaptations and temporizations.

One should not think lightly of this. In an ever-widening range of subjects the heavy hand of "Brussels" is felt, from fishery quotas to cow's ear labeling, from car safety devices to tobacco advertising, from pharmaceutical ingre-

(Continued on page 7)

# Referendum Chronicle

*Referendum (Continued from page 6)*

dients to cheese origin branding. The main “goodies” that are stressed by UPG enthusiasts are the subsidies that would be forthcoming from the EU coffers, notably the agricultural subsidies and the structural support for economically backward regions. Now, Bonaire has no agricultural or livestock activity to speak of, with the possible tiny exception of aloe production and refining. As to the structural support, the N.A. (and Bonaire) are not far below the EU regional average, not counting the “golden belt” running from Finland to Northern Italy, and certainly the N.A. are above average in GNP and per capita income compared to most new entrants to the EU, mainly Eastern European countries. This may be hard to swallow for the average Bonairean, seeing the affluent tourists alighting from their KLM plane, but the plain fact is that the Bonairean’s standard of living is superior to that of a Polish farmer, a Czech industrial worker or a Lithuanian civil servant, and those people you won’t see coming off a plane at Flamingo Airport. So, the flow of regional structural support will probably amount to a trickle, and that will not be sufficient to pay for the extra civil servant body needed to supervise the implementation of EU laws. That is... unless our Dutch partners in the Kingdom manage to extricate from Brussels a far better package by putting

in play their vote on crucial EU issues; and that is only imaginable if the *makamba* bashing, notably strong on Curaçao, stops and is replaced by a friendly, businesslike partner’s attitude, to which Bonaire’s politicians and population are much better suited. Finally, as to improved social security benefits, like old age pension, unemployment and sickness benefits, these do not derive from any EU laws – this being the domain of the EU member countries – and will depend on the nature of the link with the former motherland. We will treat this in the second article of this two-part series. □ *The Chronicler*

*Interestingly three referenda are in the news today. It is a common method to democratically resolve questions:*

The British are considering a referendum on its future relations with Europe about how to defuse public hostility to the European Union.

The Government of Ireland has confirmed that the referendum on Irish Citizenship will take place on June 11. It will involve the restricting of citizenship rights for children born to non-national parents. Slovenians cast ballots on Sunday in a referendum on returning the right of permanent residence to some 18,000 people erased from Slovenia’s records in 1992. □

# CONCRETE KING SCORES AGAIN

**B**onaire “Concrete Construction King,” Asdrubal Marcano of APA Construction NV, has brought a proven building technology to Bonaire that will mean better, less expensive swimming pools, tanks and other structures.



*Pool Building in SABEDEC*

APA is already well known on

Bonaire for their concrete pavement that looks like stone flags, clinkers or bricks and the concrete “thatched” roof at Bongos’ Bar.

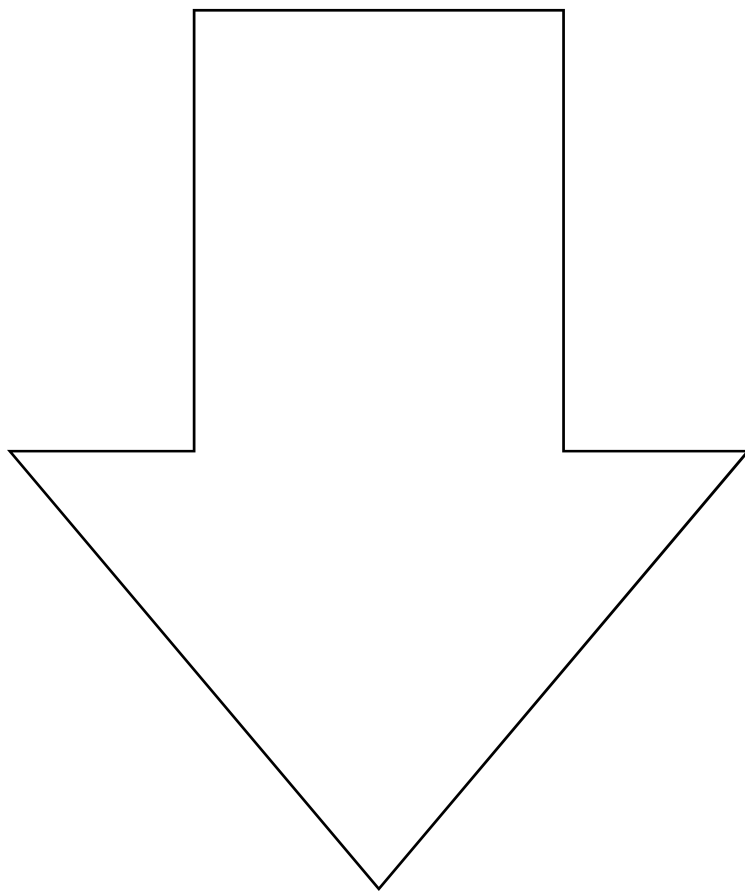
The technology is commonly called “guniting,” especially when used on swimming pools or “shotcrete.” It’s been used for more than 30 years in other countries. In the system, premixed fine concrete is pumped to a nozzle by compressed air that gets sprayed onto a substrate or base. It has a wide range of uses: casting new swimming pools, any kind of concrete tanks (water tanks, septic tanks, etc.), skateboards parks, earth retained structures, sculpted rocks, and more.

During the last year APA personnel visited Curaçao for training and to get the experience necessary to do it themselves. The versatility of this system allows building pools with circular lines with soft intersections and irregular shapes that imitate nature, while reducing the cost of the labor, casting and framing as compared to the other conventional systems used here. It also reduces the risk of cracks or construction joints because all the concrete is applied at once.

For more information call 567-0576, Fax 717-7629, e-mail APACON@BONAIRELIVE.COM. □ *G.D.*



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Cassette Deck DR-210, Bose -  
Speaker System, Please call or fax  
to: 717-3894

**Toyota Corona 2001-** Radio/AC/  
Automatic, Only 13.000 Km. Price:  
NAf24.000. Info Call: 564-1085

**Sofa set- 2 seat and 3 seat.** Brand  
new covers on both. Only NAf750.  
Carib Inn 717-8819

**Achilles 16' Inflatable with trailer  
and 25 HP Yamaha engine,** well  
maintained. NAF 8000 call Carib  
Inn 717-8819

#### BOATS FOR SALE

##### Traditional Bo- nairean Sailing

**Sloop.** Wood, tradi-  
tional construction,  
about 21' long. Fiber-  
glassed in and out for  
minimal maintenance.  
Two time winner of  
Bonaire Regatta,  
Class A. A dream to  
sail. Bargain at  
NAf10,000. One of the last of its kind.  
Call 717-8988 or 785-6125.



**Swedish-built (Albin "Singoala"-  
'71) cruising sloop Scramble.**  
Berthed in Plaza Resort Marina. 34-ft.  
long, sleeps 8. Good cruising equip-  
ment. The two owners lived aboard  
and cruised the south Caribbean for  
over 20 years but now live ashore in  
Bonaire. \$27,000. Write: PO Box 298,  
Bonaire. [Macamal@childergo.com](mailto:Macamal@childergo.com).

## PET of the WEEK

Where would the Bonaire  
Animal Shelter be with-  
out its volunteers? Thanks to  
their caring ways the cat and dog  
residents have a higher quality  
of life, physically as well as so-  
cially. Shown here are volun-  
teers Marjolein Voortman and  
Barbara Bianculli grooming new  
arrival "Monica," talking with  
her and making sure she is tick  
and flea-free. Monica, as you  
can see, is loving it. The ladies  
were very impressed with  
Monica, remarking how relaxed  
and good natured she is as they  
checked every part of her body  
for vermin! Monica, 8 months  
old, was left behind by her own-  
ers who were returning to Hol-  
land. She's obviously been well  
cared for and with that sweet  
disposition she'd be a willing



*Volunteers Marjolein Voortman and  
Barbara Bianculli grooming new arrival  
"Monica."*

addition to a loving family. You may meet her at the Shelter on Lagoen Road,  
open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until . Tel. 717-4989.  
Good news about the Shelter Sterilization Project slated for October 18 to 30: A  
full contingent of six veterinarians have given their commitment to come to per-  
form sterilization operations on dogs and cats, males and females. The Shelter is  
looking for serious volunteers who can help, people who can give their time dur-  
ing both weeks or for one week. The whole community needs to be behind this  
project. If you feed strays or know people who do, let the Shelter know so these  
animals can be added to the list. Or if you know people who have animals that are  
not sterilized, tell them about the free program. Call Shelter Manager Jurrie  
Mellema at 717-4989 for more information or if you can help.  
More good news: two of the ridgeback puppies shown in the March 19 to 16 edi-  
tion of *The Reporter* have been adopted. Congratulations to pups and people!  
There have been 49 adoptions already this year! □L.D.



**WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON  
LAC DRAWS SLOVENIAN SURFERS**

Ziga Hreck, SLO 99, and his team mate and travel companion, Dusan Sedey, are visiting Bonaire for their inaugural windsurf adventure. Seasoned travelers, the duo has sailed in some of the best venues including Margarita and Cabarete (Dominica Republic).



*Slovenians at Sorobon*

After reading much about Bonaire in the various European windsurf publications, they were excited to hone their skills where the world famous Bonaire Sailing Team trains. Ziga, sponsored by the shop, Freestyle in Slovenia, loves Bonaire but is disappointed with the light winds this past week. He likes the island but feels it is much more expensive to eat and stay here in comparison to Margarita and Cabarete. Alex, the former manager of Casino Royale, sponsored their trip with the support of Hotel Rocheline. Alex is from Slovenia so he was also instrumental in getting the pair to our island. Dusan describes Bonaire as "innocent spirit wise" with "warm and beautiful people and island charm." He is enjoying the island hospitality and the lovely sea. Dusan is also disappointed with the recent wind conditions but is resting and mingling with the locals when he is not sailing. The annual presence of King of the Caribbean has certainly impacted the visitor rate to Lac Bay thanks to the many publications covering the event and the sailing scene. This is an example of the power of this event as a marketing device and island PR scheme. We hope more Euro based sailors come to our lovely paradise. And let's hope for wind! □ *Story and photo by Ann Phelan*

**A GOOD EXAMPLE**

Back in January, six-year-old Merel Houthuijzen, while visiting the seaside with her grandparents, noticed something unusual in the water. It was a spear gun! As almost everyone on Bonaire knows their possession and use has been forbidden for years to better protect Bonaire's undersea creatures. Merel and her grandfather knew this and together with Merel's parents turned in the spear gun to the Bonaire National Marine Park. For this Merel was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for protecting the environment. □



STINAPA photo

*Merel Houthuijzen and interim Marine Park Manager, Fernando Simal*

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

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

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
4-09	4:14	1.9FT.	89
4-10	5:22	2.0FT.	80
4-11	6:19	2.0FT.	69
4-12	7:22	1.9FT.	60
4-13	8:13	1.9FT.	55
4-14	1:43	1.3FT.	56
4-15	3:39	1.2FT.	62
4-16	5:08	1.2FT.	70

**VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:**

Alegria	Hannah	Ramprasad
Acguatenace	Hero	Rhapsody
Avaroa	Honalee, USA	Rusty Bucket
Anju		Sandpiper, USA
Agre	Illusions	Santa Maria, Sweden
Baraka	It's Good, USA	Scintilla, Germany
Bird of Paradise	Jalapeno	Sea Swallow
Blauwe Crab, Curaçao	Jupiter	Seren Wer
Camissa, Chan Is.	Kiana	Sirius
Cape Kathryn	Kuan Yin	Slow Dance
Cappoquin	La Contenta	Surprise, USA
Caravela	La Escotilla	
Chulugi, Netherlands	Lady Diane	Ta B
Coconut	Lionstar	Ti Amo, USA
Columbine	Lucky Lobster, Curacao	Today, USA
Criterion, Canada	Luna C	Trade Secret
		Traveler, Canada
Dream Maker	Macaby, Netherlands	Triumphant Lady
Enya	Macoma	Tween, Netherlands
Flying Cloud, USA	Ma Janoko	Ulu Ulu, USA
Flying Scot	Natural Selection, USA	Unicorn, Norway
Gabrielle, USA	Nieke	Varedhuni, Germany
Galadrial, USA	Pegasus	White Whale, Anguilla
Gatsby, USA	Precocious Gale, USA	Ya-T, BVI
Global Ombaka	Queen of Hearts	Zahi, Malta
Goril Too	Quo Vadis	Zeno's Arrow, USA
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Raichel V, Belize	

# YOGA FOR YOU THE BEAUTY OF PRACTICE, PATIENCE AND PEACE

*If you have the patience to wait, gradually the muddy water becomes clear. If you can remain in non-doing, the perfect action arises by itself.*

*Lao Tse, the Tao Te Ching, Verse 15*

For me personally, finding the dedication to practice yoga on a regular basis creates patience and allows me to be aware of different challenges within, which allows me to find inner peace.

*Quiet, being in my pose and breath  
Silence, being nowhere but within*

Instead of concentrating on the external aspect of one's body, yoga allows you to look within and just be. You don't have to do anything, just breathe. You will be surprised by what arises.

During the past two weeks I was fortunate to discover many new challenges within my body. I have just returned from Puerto Rico where I attended a yoga teacher training course with internationally known Beryl Bender Birch.



*Natarajasana, the Dancer's Pose*

It was a very intense experience that I will never forget. My goal is to hopefully pass some of her teachings on to you. If you wish to look at Beryl's website the address is: [www. Power-yoga.com](http://www.Power-yoga.com)

**The pose in the photo is  
NATARAJASANA, Dancer's pose**

- Stand with heels together, arms at sides
- Raise left arm overhead, shift weight to left leg, and raise right foot behind you
- Reach back with right hand and

hold right foot. Left arm moves forward and pull right foot upward. Gazing point is over the middle finger.

Maintaining the balance is a challenge. **Practice patience** and repeated attempts will result in success and peace. This asana (pose) develops your back and leg muscles. It releases tensions in your spine; the arch in your spine will relax your nervous system. Your chest expands which stimulates your lungs. It gives you a feeling of balance and harmony.

May your life be filled with inspirations, compassion, love and laughter.

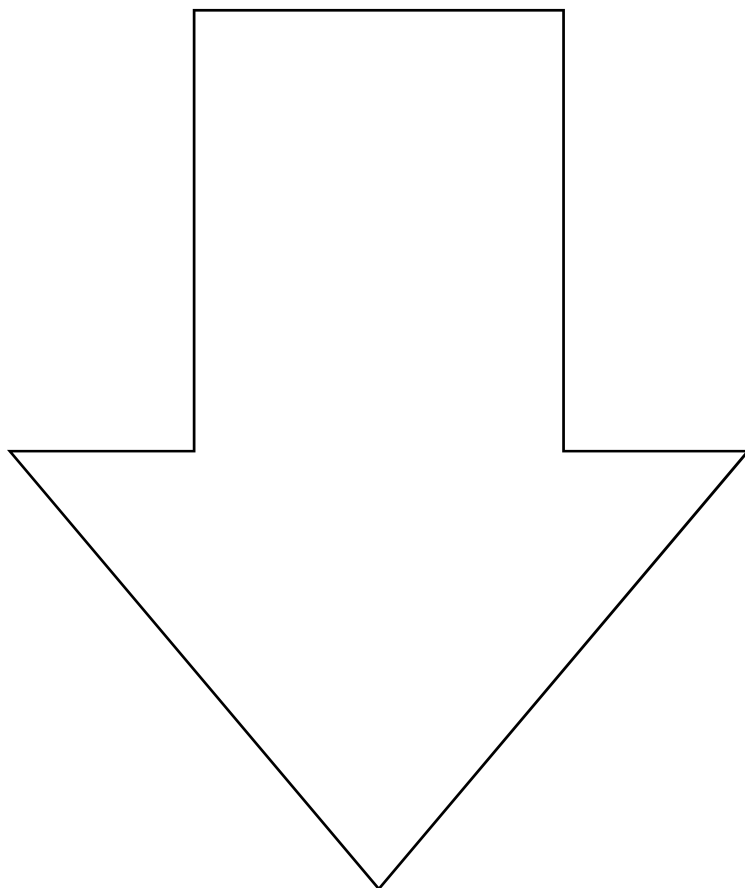
□ *Desirée*

On every first Saturday of the month at 6:30 a.m. there is a meditation at Sorobon beach by the wooden fisherman's hut.

New!  
Saturdays BEGINNERS Yoga class at Jong Bonaire started on the 3rd of April 10 am.

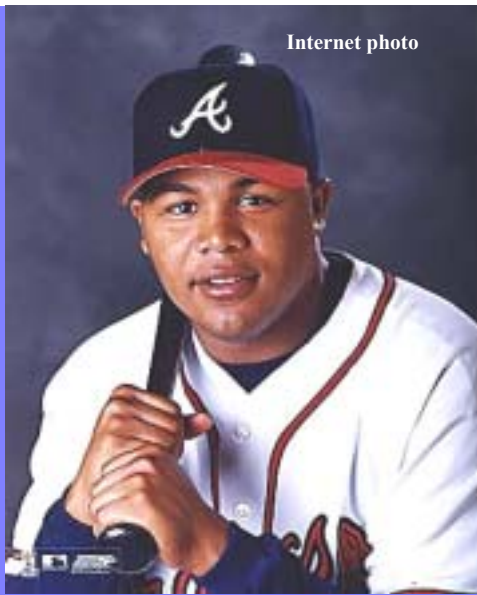


*Don and Desirée of "Yoga For You" offer classes in yoga, from beginners to advanced. See their ad on page 16.*



► Major league superstar **Andruw Jones is withdrawing his plans to construct a new baseball stadium in Curaçao** because of administrative delays. The baseball player from Curaçao sent in his request for a permit almost a year and a half ago. Problems that have recently surfaced with the other developers concerning the total project in the Rif area made Jones decide to withdraw as investor. Curaçao Commissioner Maria Liberia-Peters is trying to reverse the decision.

Last year Jones gave a presentation of his plans for the construction of a professional stadium appropriate for soccer as well as baseball, with a removable pitcher's mound. The stadium would cost approximately 10 to 15 million guilders with a seating capacity of 6,000. The stadium would also house a museum, conference center and a restaurant. □



Internet photo

*(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)*  
wholly owned subsidiary of Canada Post, the Canadian Post Office.

► **The Harbour Village Spa is indeed opening.** The group that will manage it, Intermezzo Group from Aruba, arrives next week to finalize the plans. There appears there will be a "soft opening" in mid April, and a "Big Bang of an Opening the middle of May," according to the group. "And everything will be just like before," they say. More information as it comes.

► At last **Bonaire will once again have a full-time art gallery.** Cinnamon Art Gallery will hold on-going exhibitions featuring the works of Bon-

aire-based artists. It opens this month in downtown Kralendijk. The opening celebration will be held on Saturday, April 24, from 7 – 9 pm, at Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, located just off Kaya Grandi behind Banco di Caribe.

The gala reception is open to the public and will include spiced sangria, appetizers, live jazz music and drawings to win art work and handicrafts.

Cinnamon Art Gallery is a project of the Bonaire Artists Foundation, which plans to showcase the work of local artists in a permanent gallery setting. The non-profit Gallery will feature a continuing exposition of pieces created by Foundation directors Avy Benhamron, Linda Richter and Jake Richter. Other local artists will be profiled on a rotat-

ing basis. The Foundation and the Gallery are supported 100% by private donations. For more information, call 717-7103 or 785-9700.

► On Monday, April 5th, **Selibon, Bonaire's waste management company, opened its new office on the second floor of the TCB building at Kaya Grandi 2.** Its location is much more convenient for most people than its Kaya Industria office. The departments at the new location include management, the cashier, administration, and the environmental police. The departments that handle the bulk trash, the emptying of cesspools, the renting of containers, the removal of dead animals and the service payments of Selibon will remain at the old address, but **all payments and administrative support are handled at the new office.** Hours are from 07:00 to 12:00 and 13:30 to 16:30 on weekdays. Phone 717-8159 (telephone), 717-7339 (fax) and also



via e-mail at [selibon@selibon.com](mailto:selibon@selibon.com). See their ad on page 10.

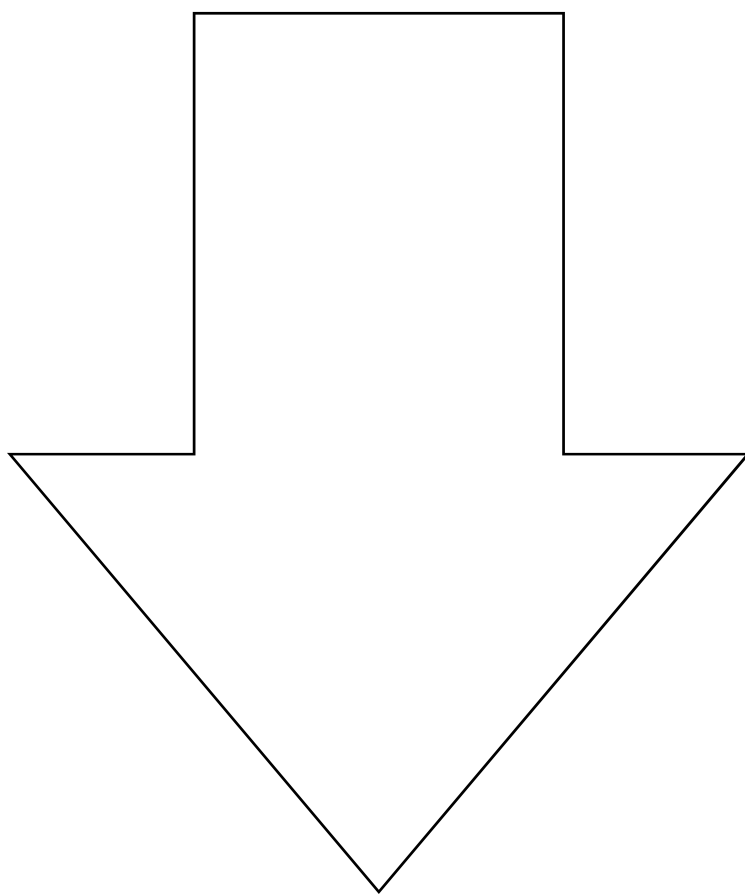
► **BonairExel**, which formerly had its administrative offices above the TCB office on Kaya Grandi is now in the heart of downtown above the Sunbelt Realty office. You can't miss the BonairExel signs ringing the building. Tickets are still available at Flamingo airport.



► **COUNTDOWN TO THE DIVE FESTIVAL - This year's Dive Festival is only 51 days away** and will be bigger and better than ever. It focuses on the protection of the world's coral reefs and marine ecosystems and educates divers and snorkelers about what role they can play in conservation efforts. Together with sponsors, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, CORAL and Rodale's Scuba Diving, Bonaire is hosting seminars, underwater photography, important environmental awareness projects, nightly cocktail parties, and last but certainly not least diving that will take you to a complete new level! And signup is free!

Instead of the traditional one-week event, this year's will extend for two weeks, from Saturday, June 5, to Saturday, June 19. This year's festival is honored to have Philippe Cousteau Jr., grandson of legendary Jacques. He will be giving presentations on his current and future projects as well as diving with the participants. Pass by the TCB office to get more information. Or check out the website at: [www.bonairedivefestival.com](http://www.bonairedivefestival.com). □

G./L. D.



# BONAIRE'S LORAS

## *PsittaScene Magazine*

COVER  
STORY



Sam and friend at work

Sam Williams, the parrot researcher who came to Bonaire last summer for four months and won the hearts of many of the island's people, returned to England to write the Bonaire Lora story which is the cover story in the February issue of *PsittaScene*, the magazine of The World Parrot Trust.

Sam, along with his girlfriend, Rebecca Tempest, spent many mornings getting up at 4:30 am, cycling over 15 miles before dawn to sit studying our loras for hours on end. They climbed trees, abseiled down cliff faces, looking for nests. In the *PsittaScene* magazine story, Sam wrote, "Loras are known to nest in tree and rock cavities. There are very few trees on the island large enough to form a cavity suitable for an Amazon, and unfortunately it seems any tree nest that was once active had also been poached."

Originally the research plan had been study the wild parrots, but after the banding program conducted by DROB last year it was found that there were more of these birds (600) in captivity than there were in the wild (about 350 to 400). As Sam explains, "This is despite it having been illegal to take parrots from wild nests. Hopefully the ringing work and enforcement of the Loras' protected status will now contribute to a reduction in poaching...(When) Lora owners were asked the age of their pet, the results were alarming: approximately half of the captive Loras are said to be less than five years of age and less than a quarter are over 10 years. These numbers suggest that **in the last five years around 300 chicks have been taken from the wild, but actually the figure may well be many more because this does not account for chicks that died.**"

"The low number of older pet birds," says Williams, "suggests that many of these captive birds are dying young, the obvious cause being poor care. If the level of care given to pet parrots was improved then it may serve to benefit both the captive and the wild birds. Firstly the captive birds would have a better quality of life, and secondly if captive parrots lived longer then the pressure on the wild nests would, in theory, be reduced (*read: 'poaching'*). **With this in mind a pet care campaign was launched.**"

The article explains that "the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot (*Amazona barbadensis*) is certainly not one of the rarest parrots in the world today. There are small populations on four Caribbean islands and a few more isolated populations are scattered over the northern coast areas of Venezuela. On the island of Bonaire there are estimated to be around 400 of these charismatic birds. Numbers, however, do not paint the full picture. The wild populations of the Yellow-shouldered Amazon have experienced habitat loss, drought, predation, and most significantly, intense poaching. There may be a few thousand individuals of this species in total and the population may appear stable, but **with so few young birds joining the wild adults each year as a result of poaching, the wild populations are ageing. If nothing is done then in a matter of years these populations will almost certainly crash.**"

Sam and Rebecca teamed with Bonairean Anna Pauletta who had been on the banding team the year before and together they visited parrots and their owners who exemplified good parrot care: having a large enough cage, giving the bird attention, providing fresh wood, and most importantly, diet. Each of these owners was designated "Owner of the Week," and photos of them appeared in *The Reporter* and *Extra* along with an article discussing why they had been chosen and why that aspect was important for good care. The articles were also aired on radio.

As Williams explains, "Promoting parrot care whilst not encouraging others to want to keep parrots proved challenging but we made sure that every article reminded the reader that the Lora is a protected species."

Sam and Rebecca made a lot of friends while they were on the island, and Sam impressed everyone with his knowledge, his care and concern for the well being of our Loras. He has been invited to return to Bonaire to continue his study and teach us even more. His research was made possible by the support of the World Parrot Trust. Additional support came from the Amazona Society USA and the Amazona Society UK as well as the Parrot Society of the UK. □ L.D.

# PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER

## STAGE OF BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, NEW YORK

Martin de Weger writes, "Last month we stayed in New York. During this trip our favorite magazine couldn't be left at home. Since we only have the digital subscription and are going to Bonaire after our visit to New York, we were glad Seb, a friend we met on BonaireTalk, gave us a paper edition from his trip to Bonaire. As proof we are sending you this picture that was taken on the stage where Beauty and the Beast plays. I am with my wife, Angela. We're looking forward to coming to Bonaire very soon for our eighth visit in four years." □



**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](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □

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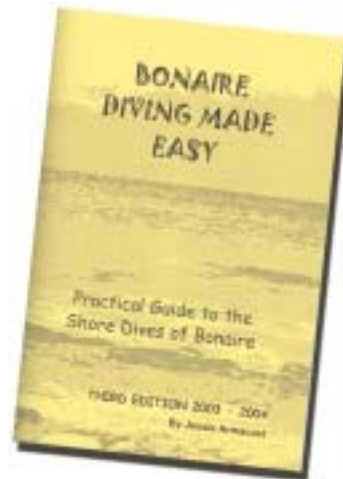
Also for postcards,  
logbooks, calendars and more!



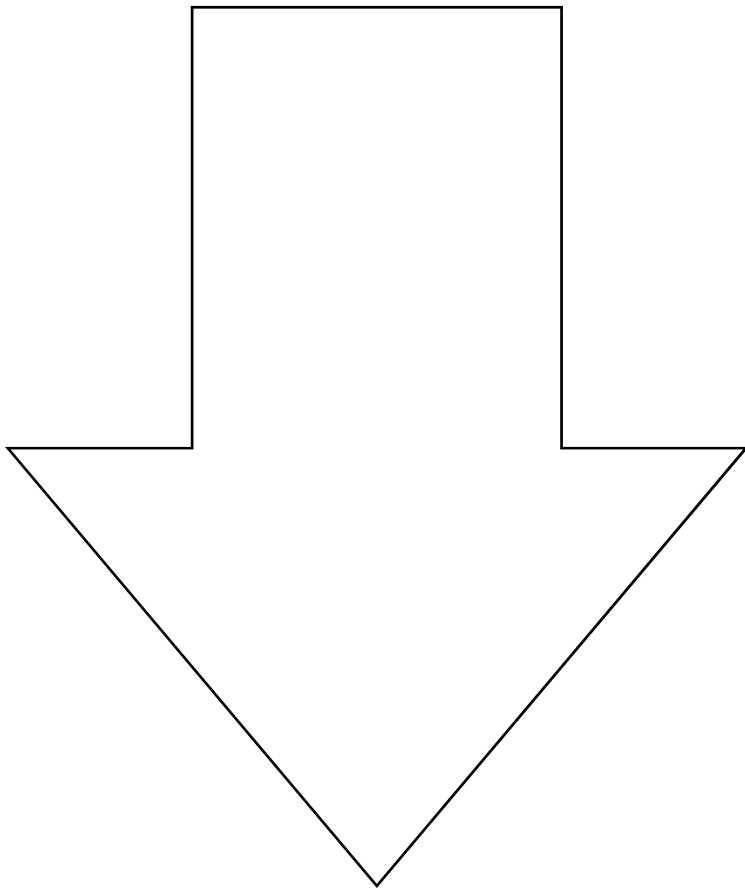
# ESSENTIAL DIVE EQUIPMENT

**UPDATED THIRD EDITION**

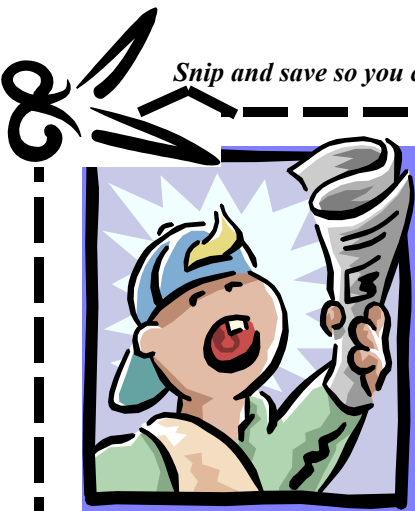
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**The Best Guide To Bonaire for Shore Diving**



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# WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

**Aboard Airline:**  
BONAIREXEL

**Airport:**  
Car Rental Agencies,  
Airport Arrivals Area

**Banks:**  
MCB (Playa & Hato  
branches),  
RBTT

**Bookstores:**  
Bonaire Boekhandel,  
Flamingo Boekhandel

**Realty Offices:**  
Harbourtown  
Remax  
Sunbelt

**Restaurants:**

- Blue Moon
- Capriccio
- Chez Lucille
- City Cafe
- Croccantino
- De Tuin
- Garden Café
- Kentucky Fried Chicken
- Lion's Den
- Lost Penguin
- Lover's Ice Cream
- Pasa Bon Pizza
- Seahorse Cyber Café
- Subway

**Shops:**

- Bonaire Gift Shop
- City Shop
- Paradise Photo
- Photo Tours, Playa
- Exito Bakery
- Bonaire Super Store (old 7-7)

**Hotels:**

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

**Supermarkets:**

- Cultimara
- Consales
- More for Less
- Progresso
- Tropical Flamingo
- Warehouse

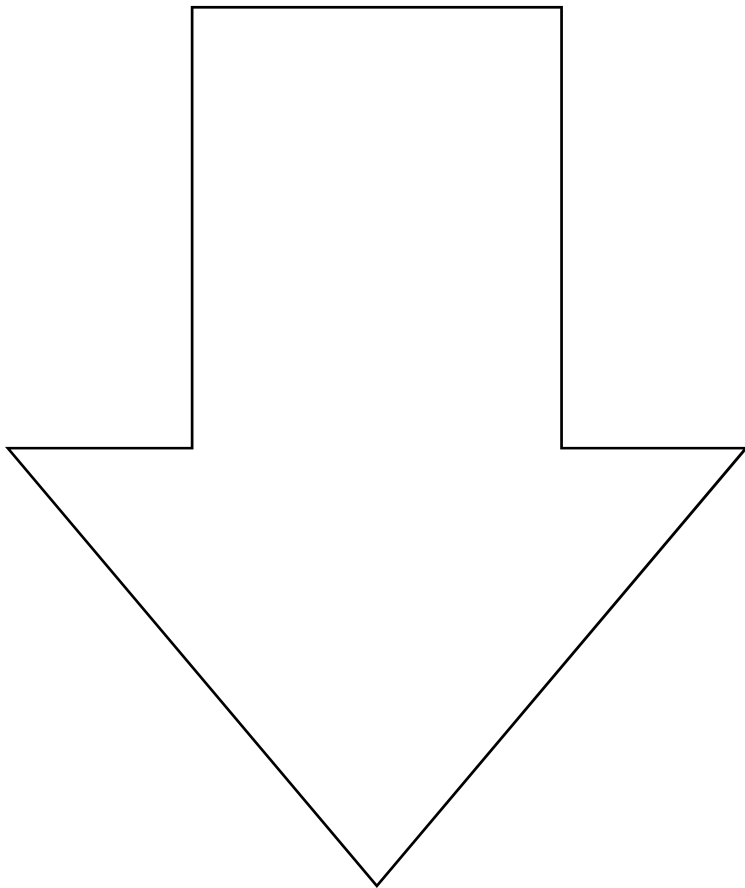
**Others:**

- Bon Fysio
- Botika Korona
- Bestuurscollege
- Caribbean Laundry
- Customs
- Hair Affair
- Harbour Village Marina
- Parliament
- Rocargo
- TCB
- Telbo

**RINCON:**

- Chinese Store,
- Joi Fruit Store,
- Lemari Grocery,
- Rincon Bakery.

*Still can't find a copy? Visit our office at  
Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6 or Call 717-8988*



# THE BONAIRE GARDNER

## CHANGE OF SEASON

I hope you have been missing my articles for the last weeks because that means you really read them! I was in Holland visiting my family. I was at my father's house, surrounded by a lot of nursery plants. It is springtime again, so everybody was very busy selling and planting plants. It is always amazing to see how much effort Dutch people go to to create a nice garden. Now that the economy in Holland has dropped a little, people seem to stay home more and spend more time in their gardens. And also the government is spending a lot of



### *Not Bonaire*

money in creating nice green environments in areas with a lot of houses. The nicest thing about visiting Holland at this time of year is to see the changing of the seasons. New fresh green growth is appearing on the trees and shrubs, and the famous Dutch bulbs like tulips are starting to bloom in abundant colors.

Speaking of seasons, here on Bonaire the season is changing also! After a very long period of rain we now have Bonaire's "normal" weather again: warm, windy, dry, with no rain. This last rainy period was much longer than normal I think, so all of our garden plants are looking very nice! But they have been a little "spoiled" with all the rain and all that fertilizer that works so well when the earth is damp. So now the plants have to go back to getting used to the normal situation. They all have a lot of new growth and fresh green leaves so it's important that you water them enough now, maybe even a little bit more than usual. Then, after a few weeks you can reduce the watering time.

This is also a very good season for some serious pruning. A lot of the fresh new growth can be cut, especially on trees and hedges like the Ficus, Oleander and Seagrape. If the Oleander is blooming right now, you can wait a few weeks before pruning, no problem. This goes also for other flowering shrubs like Ixora or Durante.

When planting new plants, no problem, but again remember that they probably have been growing faster than normal, so after planting you can trim back some of the branches, but make sure that you water them enough. It is very good to put in new plants now because the roots have been growing so well lately.

So make sure you water your plants enough. Next time I will continue writing about different groups of plants. □ *Ap. van Eldik*

*Ap van Eldik is the owner of Green Label Landscaping, a company that specializes in designing, constructing and maintaining residential and commercial gardens. He has two nurseries and a garden shop in Kralendijk which carries a vast array of terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410*



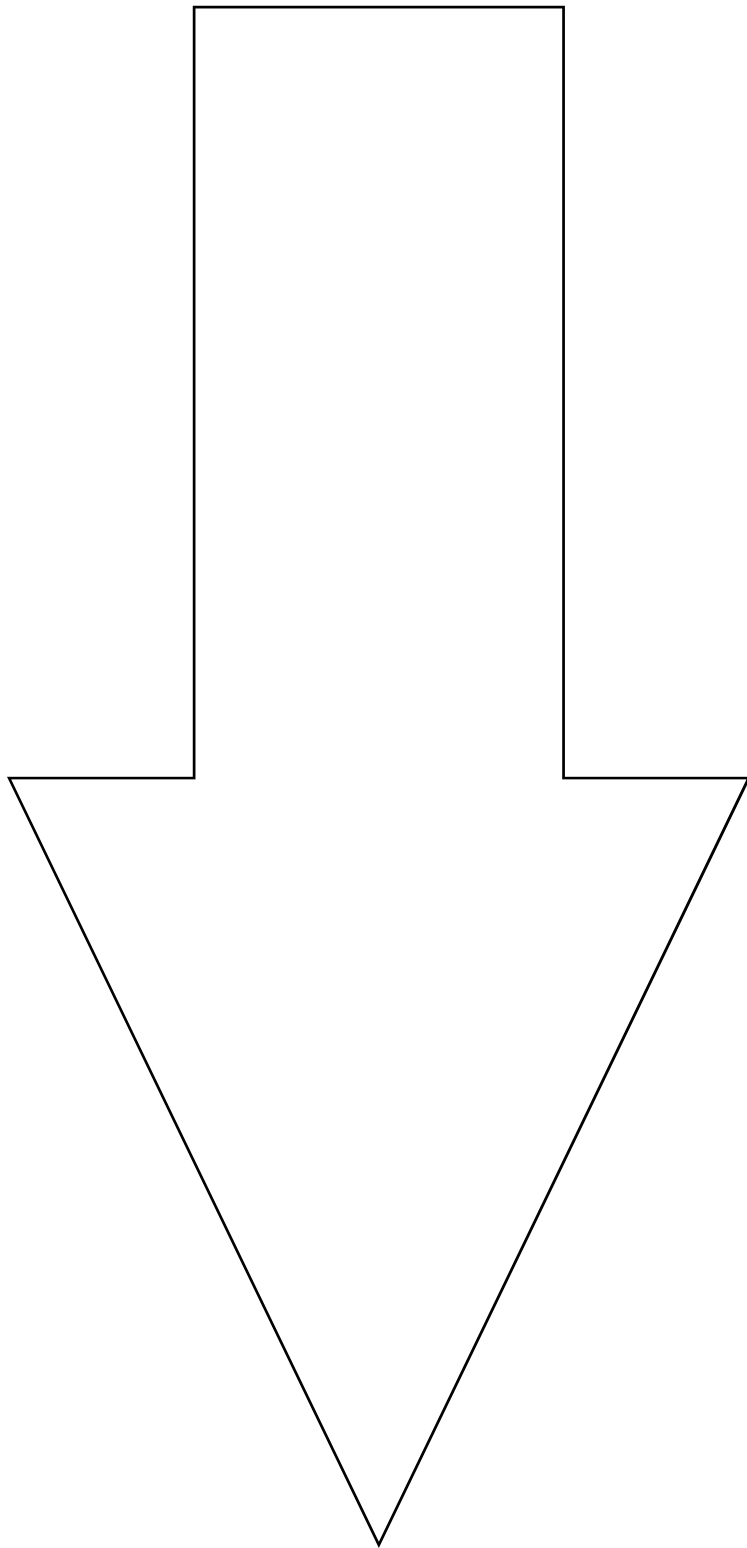


# BONAIRE HIT PARADE



TW	LW	#WEEKS	BAND	SONG TITLE
1.	1	3	ORK. CACHE	KASA KU MI
2.	2	8	ARNELL Y ORK.	MI GUSTABO
3.	3	4	ELEPHANT MAN	ELEPHANT MESSAGE
4.	7	3	BANDA SUN G	AMOR DE MADRE 2
5.	6	4	COMPACT BAND	E CHIKICHI
6.	8	3	MASTA/KING LOVER	WHEN I HIT YA
7.	5	7	LEEYON R. GUMBS	DUNAMI UN CHENS
8.	9	2	D.J. OPT1K	R&B/REGGAETON MIX
9.	13	1	NO GAME	JERY
10.	14	1	DC POWER	MI KURASON TEY PA BO
11.	N	N	MR. PHILLIPS/JASMIN	ON AND ON
12.	N	N	LEEYON R. GUMBS	SITUASHON
13.	N	N	CHINGY	ONE CALL AWAY
14.	N	N	USHER/LUDA/LILJON	YEAH
15.	N	N	BRITNEY SPEARS	TOXIC

**LISTEN TO THE TOP HITS EVERY SATURDAY FROM 12 NOON - 1PM**  
 A new regular feature of *The Bonaire Reporter* is the **Bonaire Hit Parade**, a listing of the 15 most popular songs on the island. It is compiled by the staff of Digital FM 91.1 and shows this week's (TW) and last week's (LW) songs. □





# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! 9:00 pm

**Along Came Polly**  
(Ben Stiller)

Early Show (7:00 pm)

**Cold Mountain**  
(Nicole Kidman)

Kaya Prinses Marie  
Behind Exito Bakery  
Tel. 717-2400

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


NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY

SATURDAY SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM

**Peter Pan**

### THIS WEEK

**Friday, April 9: Good Friday.** Banks and shops closed

 **Easter Sunday, April 11: Dive Inn Easter Egg Dive,** Chachacha Beach, 10 am (see page 22)

 **Sunday April 11 from 12 - 3 pm "KonTiki's famous Easter lunch" Easter Buffet** For the kids: Easter Egg hunting and Easter Egg painting contest. Cost NAf21,50 children till 4 free, children from 4-12 NAf 13,50 Reservations 717-5369

**April 12 Easter Monday,** Banks and shops closed

**April 15-22: Dive into Earth Week (Day)** - Check with your hotel or dive shop for activities including beach and underwater cleanups

### COMING

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 16, 17 and 18, Grupo Teatral Boneriano will present two plays, *Spiritu den Kas* (A Ghost in the House) and *E Animal Kanibal* (The Animal Cannibal) in Papiamentu.** Friday & Saturday, 9 pm. Sunday at 11 am, at Movieland, Tickets are NAf20, sold at Bonaire Boekhandel, Flamingo Bookstore & office of Extra newspaper.

**Friday, April 30: Rincon Day and the Queen's Birthday**

**Sunday, April 18: Kite Flying Contest.** Kòntèst di Fli: 717-6586, Flamingo Book Store, Kaya Grandi 21.

**Saturday, April 24, Opening of Cinnamon Art Gallery.** 7-9 pm. Celebration at Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, located just off Kaya Grandi behind Banco di Caribe. (more on page 11)

### EVERY WEEK

**Sunday -Dinner and live music at**

**Chibi Chibi Restaurant** at the Divi Flamingo 6 to 9 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

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

**Tuesday-Fascinating Fish** slide show by Jessie Armacost at The Old Inn, at 6 pm opposite the Plaza Resort. Each week a different show filled with fish ID tips and other fascinating facts about fish. Tel. 717-4888

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

**Friday- Week in Review** Video Presentation by the Toucan Dive Shop at the Plaza's Topsy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

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

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

**Bonaire Animal Shelter** 717-4989.

**Donkey Sanctuary** 560-7607.

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

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

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

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

**Bridge Club** - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya

Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

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

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

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions are welcome.

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

### BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

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

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

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

**Sunday at Cai-** Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire's most popular musicians.

**Saturday at Rincon** - Marshe Liber (smaller markets) 8 am until 2 pm Large market offering Rincon area tours on the first Saturday of each month, 10 am to 2 pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**Send in your events to**

**The Bonaire Reporter**

**Email reporter@bonairenews.com**

Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

# WALKING TOWER TO TOWER (AGAIN)



Bòì Antoin photo

*The ones who made it to Malmok*

**T**wenty three determined men and women set out walking from Willemstoren Lighthouse at 10:45 Saturday night with the goal of reaching Malmok

Lighthouse, 55 kilometers away, by the next morning. The route just about covered the whole island along the coastline, from south to north.

The object, besides being a formidable challenge, was to raise funds to send five “pro” walkers from Bonaire (Bòì Antoin, Marcel Nahr, Arie Marsera,

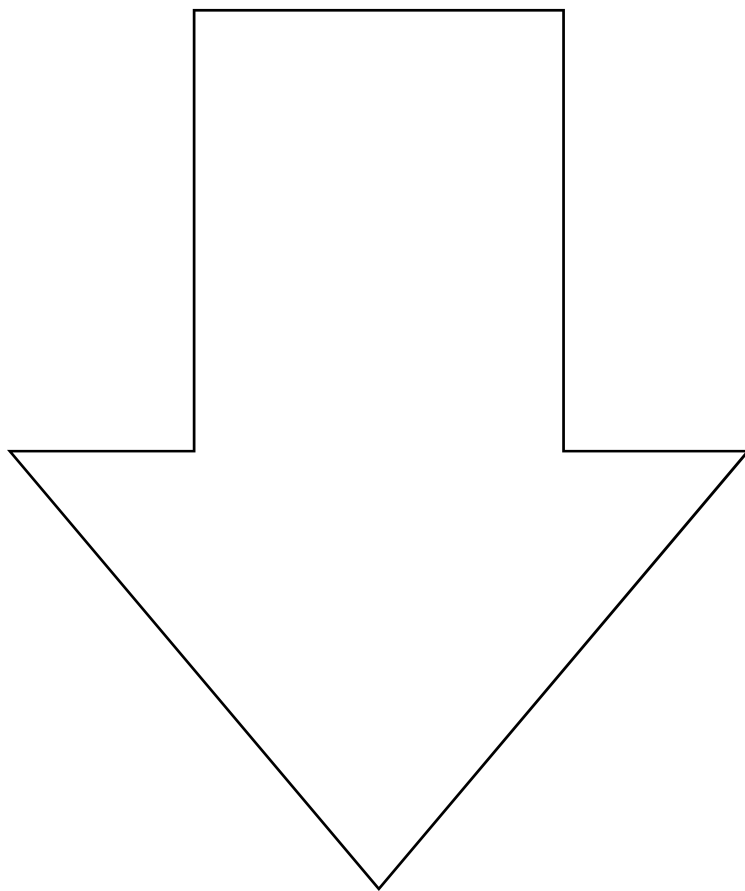
twins Roy and Roly Martines) to the famous Four Days of Nijmegen in Holland where the participants walk for four days at 50 km per day!

There were six water stops, the first at City Café where the action was still going on. The hikers passed without incident, except for a longing by one for a beer. However, two or three of the walkers, dubbed “the Rum Runners” by the rest, brought their own rum and downed a bottle and a half during the trip!

According to Marcel Nahr, the group went at a moderate pace and stuck pretty close together. “We had a nice itinerary,” he said, “going all along the coast, then turning inland, walking single file along a donkey road behind Playa Frans into Washington Park. We’d seen the sun just coming up as we got to BOPEC.”

Six of the group had to drop out at different spots along the way (understandably!) but 17 triumphant hikers arrived at Malmok about 11 hours after starting, arriving between 9:30 and 10:30 am.

They raised about NAf400 towards sending the group to Holland. Later on, on Sunday, they found a very kind Dutch resident had offered them a place to stay for free during the Nijmegen walk, so now they just have to come up with another airline ticket. Good luck, guys! □ L.D.



## Wendy Horn

“**W**hen I was 19 I went to the Caribbean for the first time, to Guadeloupe, and I said, This is where I’m going to live, somewhere in the Caribbean, I don’t know when but I will get there someday. Fifteen years later, in 1996, I answered a personal ad, the only one in my whole life, and it was Tom Bartikoski’s ad. We knew immediately that that was it. He always wanted to live in the Caribbean too. So, we came here in March 2000 for the first time and stayed three weeks. By the end of the first week we were looking for a house. Again, as soon as I got here I just knew that this was the place. Between diving we looked at every house that was for sale, but stuff we liked we couldn’t afford and stuff we could afford we didn’t like. One night at Croccantino, Moreno, the chef, introduced himself. We started talking and he told us about this house that was for sale. After dinner, it was 11 o’clock at night, we found our way to the house. We went in with our dive flashlights. It was unlocked and had never been lived in. We drove back to Croccantino and told Moreno we wanted to buy it. By the time we were leaving the island we had a purchase agreement.

### THE DECISION

We went back to the States and maybe a week or two later we looked at each other and said, What are we doing? That day Tom’s best friend’s wife died. They’d just come back from their honeymoon. We were shocked. We decided that life is too short; if you know what you’re going to do, better go do it. We sold our house in the States. I was running a company made up of international law firms. I’d been the president for 10 years and I convinced the board that I could do the job from Bonaire. Tom had retired early and now we were 40 and 50 years old. On my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday he proposed to me and said, ‘If we’re going to live in a foreign country, we should be married,’ and he gave me as a wedding ring the ring of his best friend’s wife that she had worn only a few weeks. He made the promise that we were going to make the most of our time together. June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2001, on the fifth anniversary of our first date, we got married in the same restaurant where we met in Minneapolis. On October 2001 Tom arrived on Bonaire. Cayman, our dog, and I arrived a month later because there were problems with her papers.” *She smiles and tears fill her eyes:* “I remember I was sobbing, walking with Cayman across the tarmac and I thought, ‘we finally got here,’ and I tried to make my face calm so Tom wouldn’t think something bad

happened, but I was crying with joy because we all got here... we were going to have at least one day of this dream...”

### SOUL SEARCH SATISFIED

*She looks at me:* “It was a sin to be that happy; that’s not how life is. It was impossible for it to last...” *Her bright, intense blue eyes wander over the sea, then she laughs:* “I thought a Dutch tropical island would be the one place I would never live. It’s a contradiction, just like Italian efficiency or good English food! But I found it may be Dutch, but it has a Latin soul that I love. I knew it had the best reefs in the Caribbean. I’d traveled internationally and spent all my time in big cities. What I wanted was peace and quiet and few people. What really made us say, ‘Oh, we have to live here!’ was our first Sunday at Lac with the music of Glenn and Su Gang. Then when we bought the house, the warmth, generosity and the way people approached us. It could have been a disaster, but it turned out the opposite; everything went not only well, but better than it should have!

### SILVER

### LINING

We had seven months of being here full time and it was just blissful. But a couple of weeks after our first wedding anniversary, within a couple of hours, he died... and the people of Bonaire just saved my life... The caring and the compassion was the silver lining of the tragedy. My neighbors, Rob and Ilva St. Jago, and Ilva’s father Theodor came in the middle of the night and helped me get Tom to the hospital and stayed with me until he died of a hemorrhage. There wasn’t enough blood on the island. Joey, the male nurse (see On The Island Since, March 22-April 2), was there and explained everything in English. He was an angel. I spoke to Tom; he was conscious; we knew what was happening. Antonio de Silva, the man we bought the house from, showed up at the hospital to hold my hand after Tom died. My family said, ‘Of course you’re going to sell the house and come back,’ but I replied, ‘I’m not leaving and it’s not because of the reef or the beauty of the island... I’m going to stay because of the people.’ *Wendy Horn is on her way to recovery from the terrible loss she suffered and although she’s still fragile and the pain is only covered by a shallow surface,*

“We decided that life is too short; if you know what you’re going to do, better go do it”

*she’s started to pick up her life again.*

“After Tom died I worked six more months and then I quit. I didn’t want to travel anymore and I wanted to do something on Bonaire. I learned all the stuff about how to live here that Tom had known and I didn’t because I had been working, and I played with Bonnie, my friend Caren’s baby and did nothing, trying to figure out how to keep going. I knew that Tom would want me to have a happy life and some kind of a chapter two. I have a strong sense I’m supposed to be here, although I’m not exactly sure what to do.

### A SIGN

On the first anniversary of Tom’s death I went diving at Alice in Wonderland, which was our favorite dive site, and when I came out of the sea my wedding ring was gone. It was never loose, and I took it as a sign that Tom was saying, ‘Go on and live your life.’ How much more clear can it be? So, now I’m doing a lot of small projects for people, not for money. I trade services in exchange for things I need done and don’t know how to do. It’s a relief not to work anymore. Now I realize that by the time Tom died I was exhausted. I’ve begun to spend a lot of time trying to help local artists. How?” *She laughs:* “First, I have no more wall space in my house! And I’ve organized some shows. Next month I start volunteering part-time running a gallery here that will only show art by Bonairean artists. I’ve also spent a lot of time helping Bob, Tom’s brother, get ReMax established. Bob came to visit us a couple of months before Tom died and fell in love with Bonaire and decided to live here. He was a ReMax-agent in the US and found out that ReMax wanted to expand in the Caribbean. We think Tom would be happy to have one of his brothers here. For me it’s like having family. We lost the same person. He knows who Tom was and when I have a bad day, he understands. Bonaire has been healing. I can’t wait to get up in the morning and see what the day is going to hold. All the credit for being happy again is owed to Bonaire. I’ve thought a hundred times, thank God if we were going to lose Tom, that



Wendy and Cayman

it happened on Bonaire and not in the States, because in a sweet way people didn’t allow me to push them away and hide in my house. They kept coming, being my friends and supportive. I don’t feel isolated.

I’ve had lots of friends and family visiting from the States, but I’m also a little bit of a hermit. I’m not out at night and I do some writing. I have finished pieces of a book, ‘Service Interval.’ It’s a record of what it is like to live on an island of 11,000 people after years of running a company and traveling all the time.

I walk up to Seroe Largo three or four times a week. I do it so I can keep eating funchi! I love to go to Gibi’s! I love to read, I have a whole library here and I also read the whole tourist guide.

When I gave a lady and her daughter a four-hour tour around the island, I overheard her telling her daughter, ‘Wow, she knows a lot about salt!’” *She laughs.* “During my travels I realized that happiness comes from acceptance. It’s not about what you have, it’s about the ability to see and enjoy small things. I had Tom and my company; now I have these incredible friendships and relationships.”

*She gives me a smile:* “There’s a saying that if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. So, if it’s up to me I would stay here. If God decides otherwise I’ll find out about it. Everything will be okay in the end... if it’s not okay, it’s not the end.” □

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

# ROAD REPAIRS BEGIN



It seems that road repair will soon get underway big time. Test borings are being conducted on Kaya Korona by the “Monster Machine.” Shown in the photo are some of the road workers flanked by DROB head Minguel Martes (right) and Commissioner Jonchie Dortalina (center). □

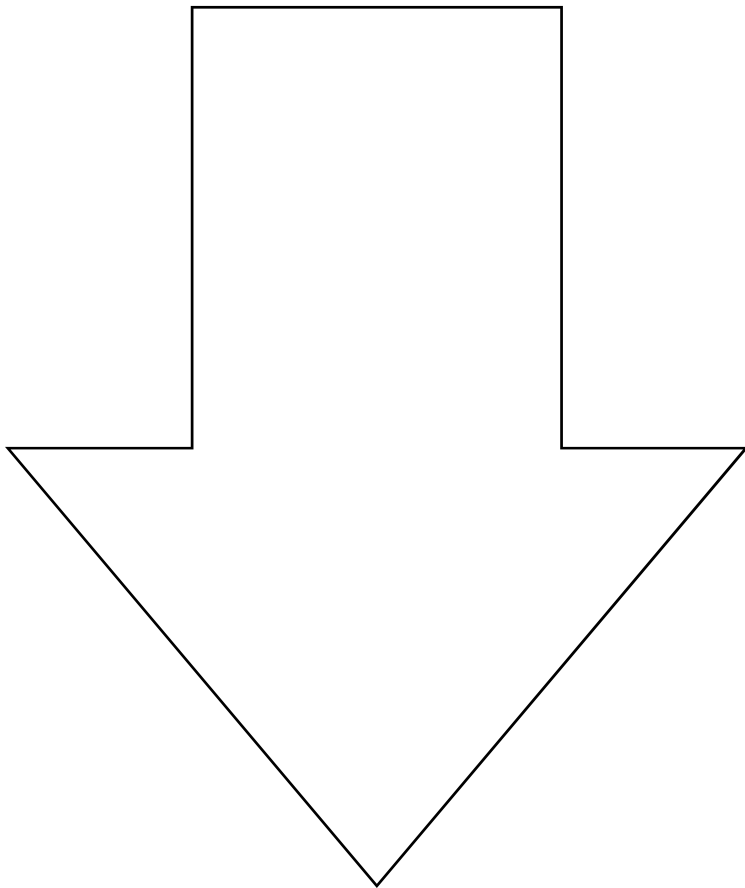
# ORLANDO and ANNA GET MARRIED

Did you notice the spike in fancy motorcycles on Bonaire last weekend? That was because they had been shipped from Aruba and Curaçao so their owners could serve as escorts for Orlando Francisco, Bonaire’s Harley dealer, and his new bride, Anna. There was a full house at the Pas-sengrahn where they were married and a beautiful party afterwards. Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple. □ *G.D.*



Jack Chalk photo

Orlando and Anna cut the cake  
Check out the motorcycle on the second tier



# ROSITA'S FITNESS FACTS



## Exercise for the Eyes

Many of us go to the gym and work on our body muscles, but we don't realize that muscles also play an important role in how well our eyes work. It's possible to exercise and strengthen those muscles and improve our vision.

So many people engage in occupations or hobbies that involve tremendous amounts of near-point activity. Near-point activities (such as, reading, computer viewing, manual work, etc.) require the eye muscles to sustain much the same degree of contraction over long periods of time in order to keep objects in focus. People engage in these near-point tasks for many hours without taking adequate breaks to rest and relax their eyes. This can cause eye strain, headaches, increased nearsightedness and a loss of flexibility in the visual system.

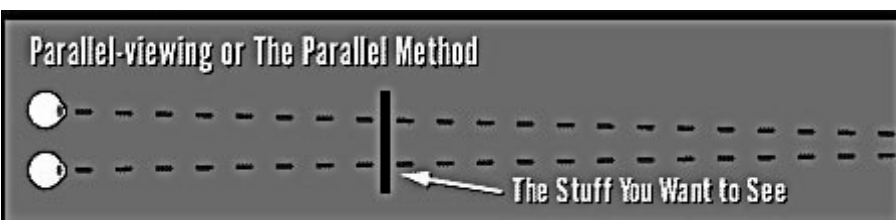
In the last several decades, as lifestyles have become more sedentary, as many folks spend more time sitting on the job and then coming home to sit in front of computers or TVs, our recognition of the need for physical exercise has increased phenomenally. Why do we exercise? Some exercise for the health benefits. Some exercise to maintain a sleek shape. Some are in it for the endorphins. No matter why we do it, most of us believe we need it because we spend too much time sitting on our rear ends. But what other part of our bodies are we using and abusing while we sit there looking at monitors, papers, machinery, etc.? Our eyes!

In the information age, the eyes really take a beating. Our society has become so visual that we use our eyes for practically everything we do! Does this mean that our eyes are already getting plenty of exercise? Well, what do your eyes feel like? After several hours at the computer, do your eyes:

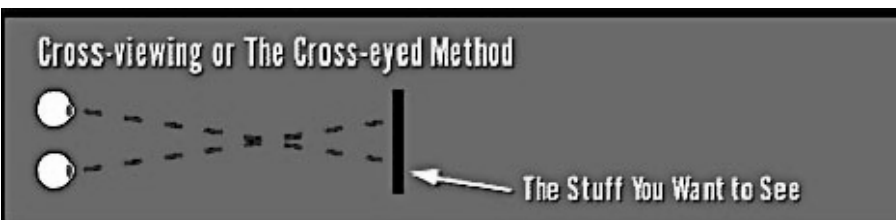
1. glow with health?
2. ache, itch or burn?
3. none of the above?

I'm guessing that most Internet users would agree that their eyes are being over-used and abused rather than exercised in some healthful way. Here's the news. According to eye doctors, we still have the eyes of hunter-gatherers. It seems clear that we may need to start taking better care of our eyes as well as our bodies. Such as?

Well, for one thing we can try to remember to take plenty of breaks from computer gazing and other near-point work. Take "eye breaks" by looking off into the distance and focusing on many different targets. You can also take "eye breaks" by viewing stereo images. If you do near-point work for hours, try to take breaks, get up, walk around, move your eyes around, look at different objects in the distance. Parallel viewing can relax your overworked eye muscles. Alternating between parallel-viewing and cross viewing can be a callisthenic workout for the eyes. It can loosen up tight, overstressed eye muscles:



- **Parallel viewing** relaxes the muscles of the eyes as if you were gazing off into the distance. By parallel-viewing stereo images at the computer you can relax the strained muscles that have been working hard to focus on the monitor, without leaving the computer!



- **Cross viewing.** Going back and forth from cross viewing to parallel viewing is a form of aerobic and callisthenic exercise for those itty-bitty little intra-ocular eye muscles. It feels good (unless your eyes muscles are wound up way too tight!) and increases the dynamic flexibility of your visual system.

Enjoy your workout! □ Rosita Paiman

Owner-operator of Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort, Rosita Paiman, a physical fitness instructor, personal trainer and nutritionist, offers classes, a weight/exercise room and a staff to guide you in reaching your ideal physical fitness level.

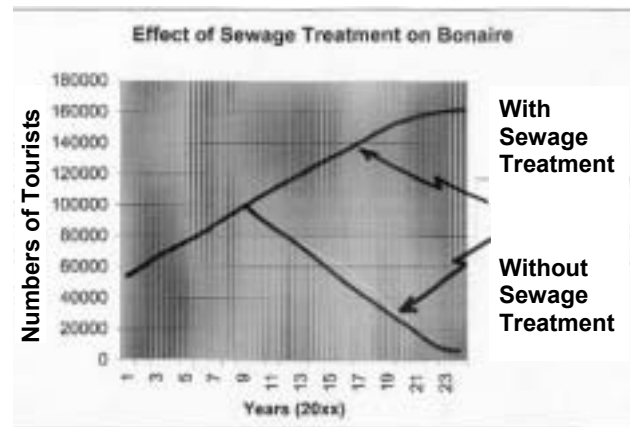


(Letters. Continued from page 5)

even gone to great individual expense in installing their own waste water treatment systems with no financial incentive other than to protect the very resource that our businesses depend upon.

We all realize that tourism is the staple of our economy and our coral reefs are one of, if not the, most important part of that staple, and to take every action necessary to protect and utilize them in a sustainable manner is paramount to sound business practice...not to mention the ethical and moral responsibility we all have to be stewards to our planet, its environment and all its inhabitants.

The concern I think that most people who know the particulars of the proposal have is the fact that the proposed system would be returning so-called "treated" water, which would still be high in nutrient content, to the resorts, which they would have to pay for and then have to use to irrigate their gardens and landscaping. This is due to the fact that the proposed system is not a full tertiary system. Those who fully understand the process of waste water treatment and the problem of over eutrophication of our coral reefs know that the proposed type of system is not a tertiary system and that the nutrients that would remain in the "treated" water would then still find



Projection from an official study report

their way back to our coral reefs after the water was used for landscape watering. What we would then be doing under the currently proposed system would be, in essence, is paying to perpetuate a very serious problem as opposed to correcting a very serious problem.

I am certainly not an economist, but in my mind this is not sound economic use of the generous funds offered by the European Union and would certainly not lead to reaching the objective that I'm sure was used to lobby the EU for those funds...prevention of over eutrophication of Bonaire's coral reefs thereby creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future for tourism on Bonaire.

You do a great job in keeping us all informed of local issues. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Jack Chalk, President  
Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association

# ART FOR FUN



## DECORATING EASTER EGGS

Everyone loves colorful Easter eggs and it can be a fun project with your kids (or kids at heart) to decorate eggs. So here are a few decorating ideas:

### 1. Traditional Method:

You can find food colors and egg dye at Cultimara and Progresso. These are the traditional dyes used for coloring Easter Eggs. The McCormick brand even has the directions on the back. I really like the color chart telling you how many drops of various colors to use to get more colors. These instructions work great if you have white eggs. Bonaire eggs are not white. This means you should double the amount of dye and amount of dying time to get really beautiful eggs.

### 2. Natural Dying Technique:

Fruits, vegetables and pantry staples can be used to dye your eggs. Here's how: Place colorant, listed below, in

pot with ½ to 1 quart water and 2 tablespoons white vinegar. Bring to boil, lower heat, simmer 30 minutes. Strain out the colorants and pour the colored water back into pot. Put eggs in with colored water and boil until eggs are cooked. Stir eggs to keep them from touching one another for best color results. Leave in dye until desired hues are reached, from 20 minutes to two hours.

### Colorants:

- ½ cup paprika = peachy salmon
- 1 cup canned cherries in syrup = red
- 3 tablespoons turmeric = yellow
- 1 cup fresh spinach leaves = green
- 4 cups chopped red cabbage = blue
- 12 medium size onion skins = orange
- ½ cup grape juice concentrate = purple

Now that the eggs are dry you can decorate them further any way you like. I used a Sharpie permanent marker to create the funny faces here! Happy Easter Egging. □  
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 □

# DIVE INN'S ANNUAL EASTER-EGG HUNT

It's that time again for one of the SCUBA diving highlights of every year-the Easter Egg Hunt... and it's not just for kids.

**Here are the specifics of Dive-Inn's annual Easter Egg dive:**

**Location:** the house reef in front of Dive-Inn at Playa Chachacha

**Date/Time:** Easter Sunday morning, April 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am

Open for certified divers of all ages and ITS FOR FREE!!!

**Win nice prizes for:**

- collecting the largest number of eggs
- finding the SPECIAL EGG
- being the most original diver or buddy team

For more information and registration, contact Dive-Inn Bonaire, tel. 717-8761 or email to [info@diveinnbonaire.com](mailto:info@diveinnbonaire.com).

If you're a certified diver and aren't there, you will miss a really fun time. □ Babs Meulink

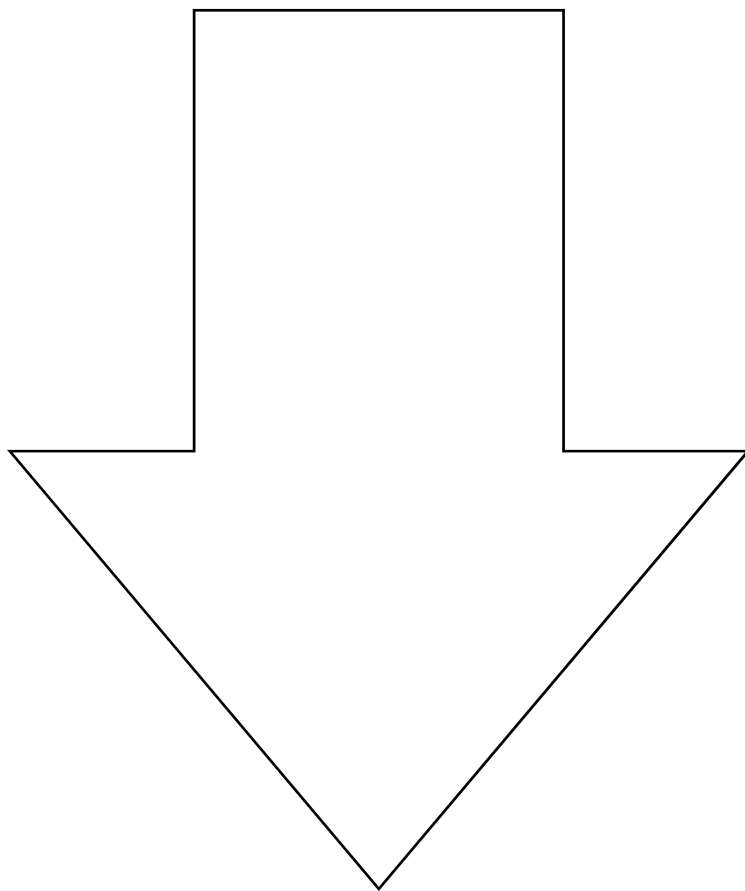


Dive Inn photo

The Special Egg



Dive Inn photo



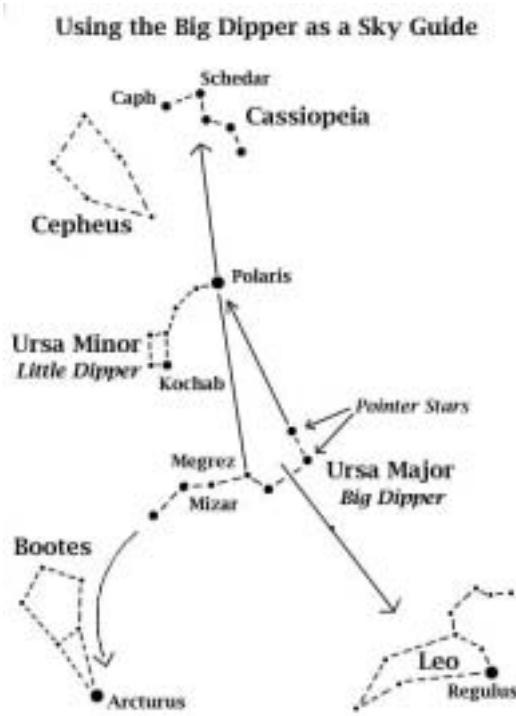


# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

**\*to find it, just look up**

## Arcturus and Spica: Two Super Stars and How to Find Them as Easy as "Big Dipper" Pie!

Early spring is always a good time to play the old **Big Dipper - Arcturus - Spica** game which is simply an easy way to find two of the most wonderful stars of spring. On any night in April between the hours of 8 and 10 pm, look due north where you'll see the Big Dipper (which most Europeans call The Great Bear – **Ursa Major**) almost directly above and just to the right of the North Star. Its cup is pointed down in such a way that if it were filled full of water, the water would be pouring out directly onto the ground below, which gives a celestial significance to that old northern saying, "April showers bring May flowers," because every April in early evening the biggest water dipper of the heavens is indeed pouring its imaginary water onto the Earth below. Now aside from the water pouring aspect of the dipper at this season, we can use its handle as a finder to find two stars of spring, which are absolutely wonderful. Simply draw an imaginary line through the handle of the Big Dipper and extend it in the same curve, or arc, as the handle of the dipper, and you'll "arc" to the bright star Arcturus. Then if you extend that curve, that arc, from Arcturus you can "speed on" directly to the brightest star of Virgo the Virgin, the star Spica. Once again, using the handle and its curve, arc to Arcturus, then speed on to Spica. Now brighter Arcturus is relatively close, only 35 light years away, whereas Spica is almost eight times farther than Arcturus, 260 light years away. But while Spica is eight times as wide as our Sun, Arcturus is a staggering 21 times as wide. Size however, isn't everything because even though Arcturus is much, much larger than Spica, it is a much, much cooler star with a surface temperature of only nine thousand degrees Fahrenheit. Spica, on the other hand, has a surface temperature of 46 thousand degrees, which actually makes Spica 20 times brighter than much bigger Arcturus. The reason Spica doesn't look as bright to us is because it's so much farther away. But the really mind boggling thing about these two spring stars is their incredible speed in relation to our Earth. You see, while more distant Spica is flying away from us at a speed of 2,000 miles per hour, Arcturus is racing toward us at the incredible speed of 12,000 miles per hour, so fast that Arcturus will eventually pass us in several thousand years. In fact, in just a few hundred thousand years Arcturus will no longer be visible to the naked eye. So before it's too late, find the Big Dipper, arc to Arcturus, then speed on to Spica. Two huge wonderful spring stars, one running away from us and the other racing toward us. As easy to find as pie, Big Dipper 'pie' that is. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

**For the week: April 9 to April 16, 2004**

*By Astrologer Michael Thiessen*

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Be cautious while traveling; minor accidents are evident. Keep your mind on your work and stay away from situations that could ruin your reputation. Be cautious handling tools, machinery, or dangerous objects. Secret enemies may be holding a grudge that you're not even aware of. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Take action. You can pick up valuable information if you listen to those with more experience. You may have been trying to do too much, leaving yourself exhausted and open to colds and infections. You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You need to take a long, hard look at yourself and your personal situation. Try to keep to yourself; work diligently on domestic chores and responsibilities. Your intellectual charm will win hearts and bring opportunities that you least expect. Your time, not your cash, will do a lot more for your relationship. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join. Put your efforts into physical fitness programs or competitive sports. Take the time to do your job correctly or you may find yourself looking for a new one. You have bent over backward trying to help them and now it's time to let them stand on their own two feet. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Keep your cash in your pocket and offer them sound advice rather than your financial assistance. Pleasure trips will be a form of healing for your emotional state of mind. Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job. You will have the getup and go to contribute a great deal to groups of interest. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can easily wrap up overdue personal legal matters that have caused problems for you. Your determination and sheer desire to do your own thing will be successful. This may not be your day if you are overly melodramatic and unnerving everyone around you. You may be in love this week, but who knows what tomorrow may bring. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Enjoy the company of relatives this week. Rewards for past good deeds will highlight your day. Tell it like it is. You can get phenomenal returns if you present your ideas to those who can back your interests. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) A little overtime may help you reduce the workload. Take a look at investment opportunities. Secret information will be eye opening. New partnerships will develop if you join investment groups. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) If they don't want to get involved, work by yourself. Risky financial ventures will result in unrecoverable losses. Take time to deal with legal documents and the affairs of people who you may be indebted to. Chances are you could get stuck with a colleague's job unexpectedly. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can meet new and exciting friends who will provide mental stimulation. Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Your trendy style and unique way of doing things will entice new acquaintances. You should get into some of those creative hobbies that you always said you wanted to do. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your personal secrets may be revealed if you let coworkers in on your family dilemmas. Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for those who attend. You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. Don't ruffle the feathers of those you care about most. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't depend on coworkers to help; they may only hold you back. Strength will come from your ability to overtake just about any one. Try to calm down and listen to your partner's complaints. Compromise may be necessary. Obstacles may stand in your way where career and success are concerned. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. □

**Moon Info** ☾ Last Quarter on April 12<sup>th</sup> ● New Moon on April 19<sup>th</sup>

☽ First Quarter Moon occurs on April 27<sup>th</sup> ○ Full Moon on May 4<sup>th</sup>