

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

April 16 to 23, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 16

# The **BONAIR** REPORTER

SINCE 1994



**DIVING THE WILD SIDE  
MADE EASY Pg. 17**

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

**K**LM announced they will schedule **more flights to Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles** during the summer. During the peak season Bonaire will be served 11 times weekly; Curaçao, seven times weekly; St. Maarten, twice weekly; and Aruba, five times weekly. Some of these flights will be scheduled to connect with BonairExel flights. The trips to Lima will increase from five to six.



► After Nikiboko and Tera Kòrá residents complained about **loud airplanes**, Flamingo Airport published a 'Notam'-'Notice to Airmen,' that gives the pilots special takeoff rules.

Earlier the complaints were focused on the KLM MD-11s that landed in Bonaire at night and continue to Lima, Peru, or back to Amsterdam. Now the complaints are especially on DCA's DC-9-30-planes. The older DC-9-30s that DCA flies are not equipped with noise suppression on the engines. The noise is especially loud during the turn that the DCA pilots make to the west towards Curaçao after taking off into the east wind. During and after the turn they are so low that the noise disturbs people. In the future, the jets have to fly for at least one minute in an easterly direction before making the turn. An alternative is to not turn before reaching 2,000 feet.

► Johnny Kock from Admiral Shipping Agency N.V, the company that will operate the new **Bonaire-Curaçao car ferry service**, writes, "**We are almost ready** with the ship documentation, but no firm sailing date has been set. Hopefully it would be within the next two weeks, as the long weekend holiday is in between.

► Divers, snorkelers and dive shop personnel have been reporting **incredible sightings of dolphins these last two weeks**. Whole pods of mothers, fathers, babies have been frequenting Klein Bonaire and the west coast, even coming in so close to shore that they're inside the boat moorings. Fernando Simal, Washington Park Manager and Interim Marine Park Manager, who doesn't get to be in the water that often any more, said he counted 29 dolphins at Klein. And they're still here.

► **The tourist arrivals recorded for February 2004 increased by 9% over 2003.** The US

market again picked p (by 6%) after a decline in 2003. The general economic recovery of the US and the increase in the airlift of one flight (from three to four) on Air Jamaica helped to boost the arrivals. The numbers from Europe, especially from the Netherlands, have shown a 14% increase. The South America market is still decreasing as a consequence of strikes and the stringent currency controls in Venezuela. The South American market recorded a decrease of 7%. The Caribbean increased by 3%. The rest of the world increased by 47%. Year-to-Date shows an increase of 21% for the North America market and 12% for European market. The total Year-to-Date tourist arrivals recorded increased by 13%.

► Bonaire likes to consider itself a leader in environmental awareness and this year has numerous events planned for celebration of **Earth Day and Earth Day Week**. They include:

- Clean up of the tourist road (north road)

and the walking trails next to them from Barkadera to Karpata.

- Cut the branches blocking the walking trails from Barkadera to Karpata.
- Clean up of the caves at Barkadera
- Clean up of Playa Chikitu and Boka Chikitu in Washington Park
- Clear up rocks on the walking trails (Lagadishi and Kasikunda) in Washington Park.
- BBQ at Washington Park entrance when all activities are over.

Meet at Barkadera (STINAPA Headquarters) at 8 am on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and go to the different sites from there. The trucks from STINAPA will be available for transportation, but there may not be enough room for everyone, therefore be prepared to maybe take your car to the Washington Park entrance. STINAPA will provide bags and tools to work, but there may not be enough also, so it is a good idea to bring some tools (machetes, loping tools, etc.) and large plastic bags of your own. Gloves are highly recommended for these tasks!! There's more:

- Yellow Submarine underwater cleanup on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Town Pier clean up dive lead by Dee Scarr on April 22
- Activities for Bonaire's school children, coordinated by Debby Wauben, Bonaire's Nature and Environment Education Coordinator.
- Caribbean Club Bonaire Festival of Life (Saturday, April 24, 12 noon to 7 pm)

If you want to become involved or if you just want to find out more about what will be happening here on Bonaire during the



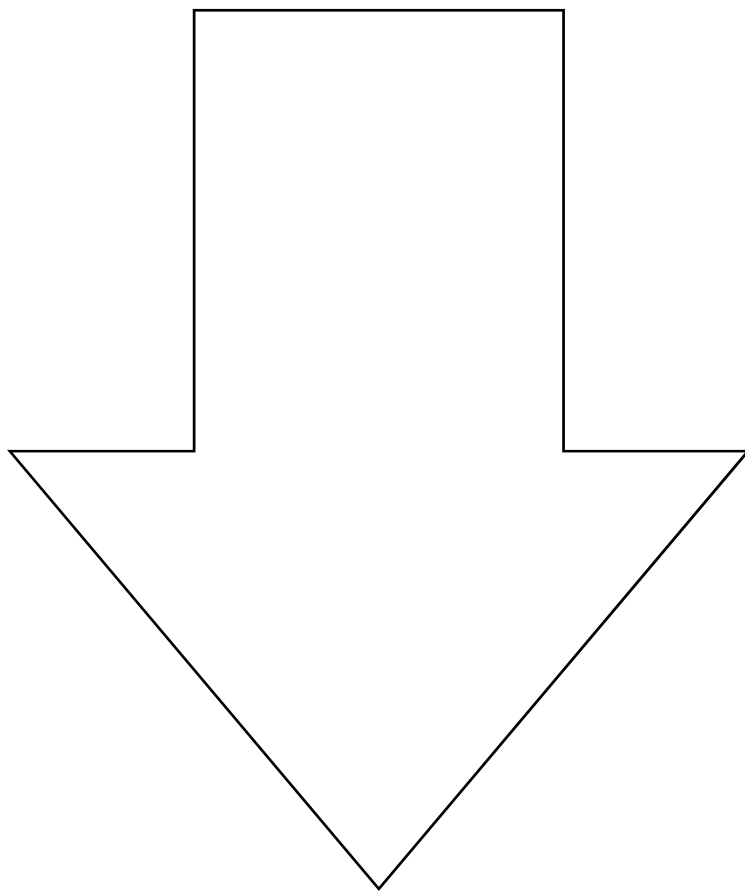
(Continued on page 4)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Cruise Ship Season Ends	4
Easter Camping	6
Diadema – Our Prickly Friend	7
Referendum Chronicle	8
Computer Grant to Schools	10
Dive Inn Easter Egg Hunt	13
Dietitian (Breakfast)	16
Diving on the Wild Side Made Easy	17
Bonai Researches Curaçao	18
Count down to the 2004 Dive Festival	18

## WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Police Update	4
Opinion (Transition Government)	5
Letters (Praise; Crime)	5
Classifieds	6
Picture Yourself (Kaua'i Hawaii)	10
On the Island Since (Sean Paton)	12
Yachts & Water Sports	13
Windsurf Scene (Surfing the Net)	13
Pets of the Week (James & Sabena)	14
What's Happening	15
Shopping Guide	16
Dining Guide	17
Bonaire Sky Park; The Stars Have It	19



©The Bonaire Reporter

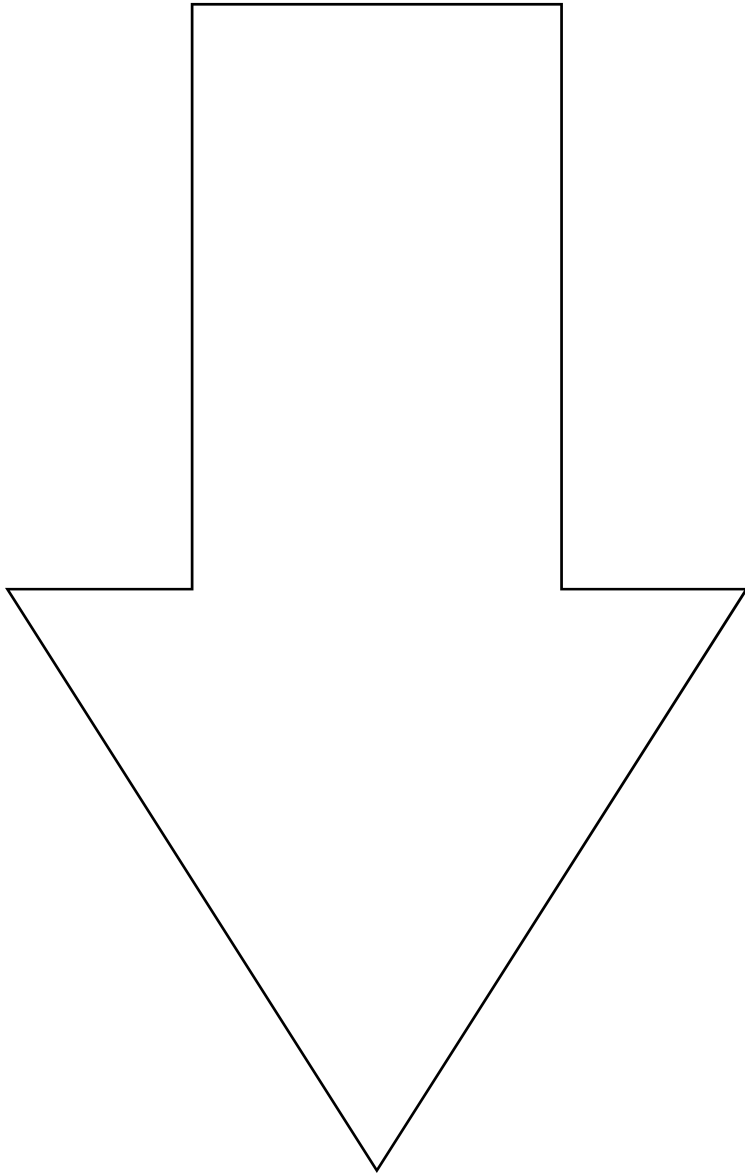
Published **weekly**. For information about **subscriptions, stories** or **advertising** in *The Bonaire Reporter*, phone (599) 717-8988, 791-7252, fax 717-8988, E-mail to: **Reporter@bonairenews.com**

*The Bonaire Reporter*, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

**Reporters:** *Kalli De Meyer, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Babs Meulink, Ann Phelan, Angélique Salsbach, Michael Thiessen, Delno Tromp*

**Features Editor:** Greta Kooistra; **Translations:** Peggy Bakker, Sue Ellen Felix

**Production:** Barbara Lockwood; **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo.



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) week of April 22, here are the people to contact: STINAPA, on 717-8444. Email: director@stinapa.org; accounting@stinapa.org or washingtonpark@bonairelive.com Nature and Environmental Education Coordinator (Debby Wauben) on 717-8444. Email: nme@stinapa.org Dee Scarr, Touch the Sea on 717-8529. Email: dee@touchthesea.com Sean Paton, Manager of the Caribbean Club Bonaire at 717-7901. Email: our\_confidence@hotmail.com

► The doctors' association of Curaçao, Bonaire and St. Marten **have won a court case against the Sociale Verzekeringsbank (SVB – Social Insurance Bank)**. The SVB will retroactively reimburse those doctors affiliated with the association a higher subscription rate per patient. In 1997 the rate was NAf121 per patient per year, but for the period covering 1998 - 2001 it will be indexed for the increase in cost of living.

► Senator Ramonsito Booi was quoted as saying that **Bonaire has more than enough doctors**. "The island can manage with half of the current number of physicians. Bonaire has 12 doctors, way too many," says Booi. He compares it with the Netherlands where there is one physician per 2,500 people. "In Bonaire we have one physician per 1,000 inhabitants," said Booi. His party, the UPB, accuses the opposition Democrats (PDB) of causing this problem. Some of the doctors are from Cuba. While the Cuban doctors are much appreciated by some Bonaireans, their practices are frowned on by others, especially some of the Dutch-trained physicians. The UPB-led Executive Council is currently trying to remedy the situation. According to Commissioner Jonchie Dortalina of the UPB, a maximum of six physicians would do.

► On Wednesday, April 14, 2004, the long-awaited third edition of **the Bonaire Dining Guide** hit the streets. The official guide of the Bonaire Restaurant Association, the Dining Guide provides information regarding the various types of restaurants offered on Bonaire, along with their amenities. It lists menu highlights as well as recipes for some of Bonaire's favorite dining experiences. This edition of the Bonaire Dining Guide is available at fine restaurants, the airport's arrivals hall, Tourist Corporation Bonaire, and other establishments on Bonaire.

► Two of our correspondents reported that **the mooring lines at several dive sites were cut**. From a report received Sunday: "Today we went by boat to Klein. We were surprised to see no boats tied up there. Then we went to find a mooring and found many of them had been cut. The floats were bobbing away at the shore line and the lines were definitely cut. The moorings that were gone were: Forest, South Bay, Rock Pile, Joanna's Sunchi, and Hands Off. For some reason Captain Don's reef still had a good mooring that didn't look like it had been tampered with. I tried to call the Marine Park personnel to report it but no one answered their cell phones (It was Easter Sunday)."

► At last for those of us who hear best in **English there's a radio show to listen to**. Its host is Sean Paton, who previously worked with Ben Becker on an English/Dutch program. If you are starved to hear about topical items in English, want to air your views (717-2101), hear the latest jokes, comments about and from our elected officials, environmental news and Sean's irreverent comments, tune in to MEGA FM 101 on Sunday and Monday, from 12 noon until 2 pm. There'll be some great music too. See the ad on page 8. □ *G.L. D.*

# CRUISE SHIP SEASON ENDS



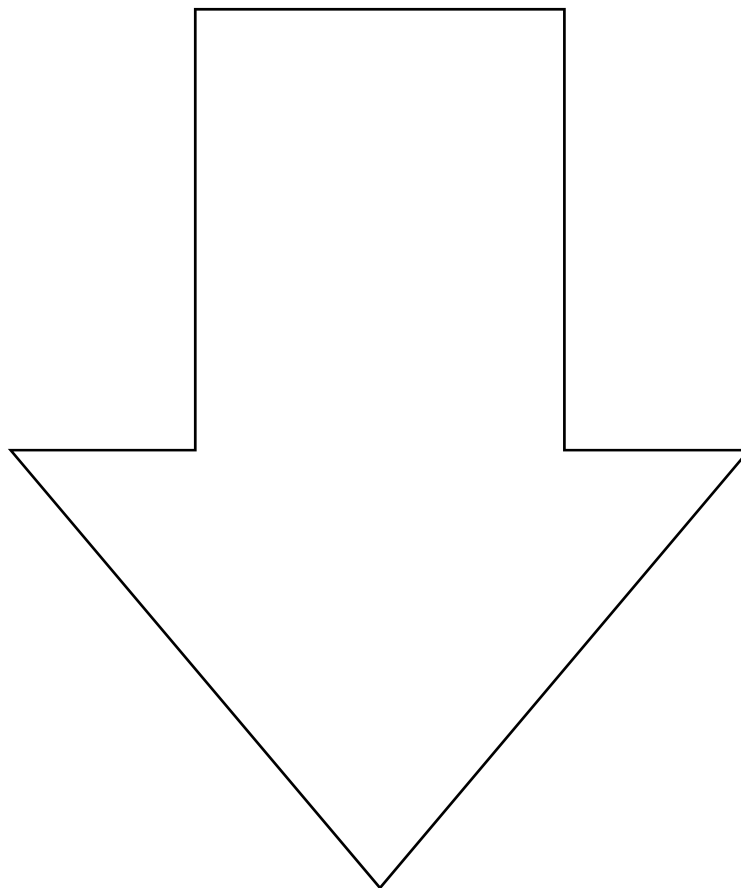
As another successful cruise ship season draws to an end there is a reason to celebrate. And Bonaire Tours took the occasion to show off their new buses. Here the staff offers us a toast. □

## POLICE UPDATE



Three male employees of Consales/Cultimara have been arrested: J.M.R., 41 years; E.C.A., 44; L.R.K., 34. They are accused of selling merchandise belonging to the company and pocketing the proceeds themselves. Two other persons were arrested for receiving stolen goods and released after they were interrogated. The police expect more arrests next week. The store manager estimates that the company has suffered hundreds of thousands of guilders

in damages. Public Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius likens this to the case last year of Warehouse employees doing the same. The suspects are in preliminary custody. The case goes to court in June. There were nine arrests last week of cocaine smugglers at the airport. One person from Suriname had 20 kilos in his suitcase. He'd taken the extra flight put on from Suriname to Bonaire and was waiting for the connecting flight to Holland. 95% of the drug smugglers caught in Bonaire are Curacaoans, either native born or naturalized. □ *L.G.D.*



OPINION



**T**he government of our country is in a transition phase following the fall of a controversial administration. **Let's look at the events of the past 11 months that led to**

**this:**

On May 6, 2003, voters on Bonaire went to the polls to elect their Island Government officials. Ramonsito Booi's Patriotiko party won control of the local government. Curaçao and the other islands held their elections also. The large population of Curaçao, as compared to the total population of the rest of the Antilles, gives it an overwhelming number of seats in Parliament and great influence in forming a Central Government. And the people to fill those seats are often chosen from the winners of the Island elections as was the case last year.

The big winner of the popular vote (33.9%) and five seats in the Curaçao Island Council was the Free Worker's Front Party, the *Frente Obrero Liberashon* (FOL), led by Anthony Goddet and who is advised by party strongman, Nelson Monte. Both of those men were under indictment, and actually in prison, until just before the elections. Yet Goddet still won the most votes of any Curaçao candidate ever. His campaign promises were based on separation from Holland and rejection of the debt burden and aus-

terity measures forced on the Antilles by Holland with IMF advice. He also said that the Dutch should deal with the drug import problem and not harass the Antilles just because the drugs flowed through Curaçao. Following the election Goddet, Monte and the FOL Party were convicted of fraud and corruption. During his trial, Goddet repeatedly pointed the accusing finger at the Kingdom government in The Hague, stating time and again that he was the victim of Dutch propaganda and that there were political motives for his being targeted. Goddet is now free pending appeal.

The previous PAR-led coalition Cabinet (the Ministers who make up the Central Government) resigned following the results of the Curaçao island election because they lost their power base and the Governor asked that a new Cabinet be formed. The FOL party took the lead in forming it.

Since a convicted felon does not customarily hold the position of Prime Minister, Anthony Goddet, as FOL leader, appointed his sister, Mirna, Prime Minister. She had little experience for the position and had never held elected office.

His FOL advisor, Nelson Monte, had a heart condition which was corrected in December in the US by the implantation of a pacemaker. He faced prison time but his FOL party friend, Justice Minister Ben Komproe, pulled strings and, instead of prison, Monte enjoyed first-class accommodations, even though he was pronounced fit and well, in the St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Komproe's position had already been weakened by a row with the Antillean

Attorney General following the latter's working lunch with two visiting high-level Dutch ministers early this year. After that meeting, Minister Komproe threatened to fire the Antillean Attorney General who at that time was prosecuting his brother, Hedwig Komproe, in another fraud case.

When Komproe's actions protecting Monte unexpectedly came to light, coalition partners in the Central Government demanded Komproe's resignation. When he refused, the PLP party resigned and, like a stack of dominos, the others followed, including Bonaire's Jopie Abraham, who had earlier played a role in saving the Goddet government after Ramonsito Booi's party, the Bonaire UPB, stepped out in disgust at the government's actions.

The situation currently at the Central Government level is chaotic because the FOL ministers have said they will not stay on in a caretaker government until a new government, probably led by the PAR party, is formed or new elections are ordered. Check *The Reporter* for further developments. □ *G.D.*



*Anthony Goddet*

LETTERS

PRAISE

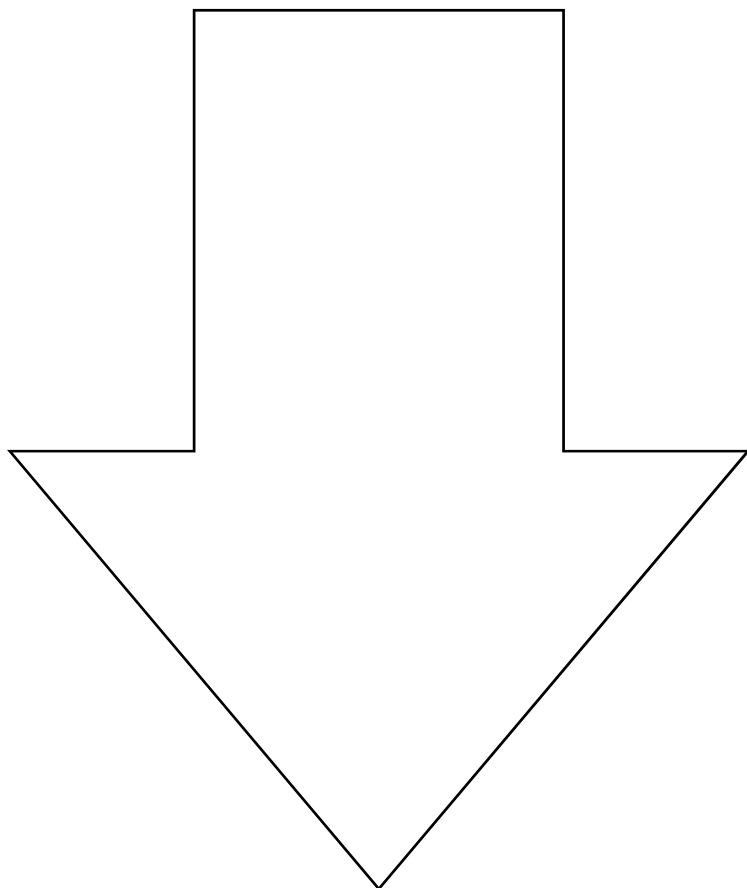
Dear Editors,  
I always enjoy reading Greta Kooistra's "On Bonaire Since..." column. Many a time it featured a person whom I personally know and love. This (past) week's column, however, stood out as a gem among gems. I have never met Wendy Horn, but was impressed (and inspired) by how she profoundly captured the essence of being truly "Bonairean." I'm glad and honored she chose our island to settle on, and no wonder she attracts many friends and feels so at home here.

*Orphaline Saleh*

WHY CRIME HERE

Dear Editor:  
It seems to me that the police are not addressing the seriousness of crime on the island. The general population is comprised of law abiding citizens. What is the problem? Why is it that the government does not respond? Tell me what is lacking, what needs to be done; where is the deficit? Is it lack of concern, lack of money or lack of governmental oversight? From an American-Bonairean perspective, the greatest city in the world (New York) has been able to conquer crime, how can the Bonairean government to do the same?

*A member of an old Bonairean family*



**GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL?**

REACH MORE READERS THAN ANY OTHER WEEKLY  
NEWSPAPER BY ADVERTISING IN *THE BONAIRE REPORTER*

**FREE FREE FREE FREE**

Non-Commercial CLASSIFIED ADS (UP TO 4 LINES/ 20 WORDS)

Commercial ads are only NAf0.70 per word, per week. Free ads run for 2 weeks. Call or fax *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988 e-mail ads@bonairereporter.com



**JanArt Gallery**, Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes.

Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am - 5 pm  
Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.



**SEMPERFLORENS NURSERY** for healthy, strong, affordable plants all grown on Bonaire. Also landscaping. Follow signs starting in front of Lagoen Hill. Tel. 790-3348



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



For watercolor and acrylic classes call Alead 785-6695

**PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT.**

**BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT** 2 bedrooms, choice private location. Available from July 15 to Jan 15.: For details contact: (599) 717-5058; 717 -3293; larjaytee@aol.com

**WANTED TO RENT:** A small, furnished house with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths for long term rental, starting May 1. About NAf800/month. Call 785-0581.



**ONE DAY PORCH SALE**-Saturday, 17 April from 9 am til ??? Kaya RS van Epps #17. EVERYTHING GOES: furniture, clothing, linens, misc...

**WANTED for the ART SCENE**

**WANTED: Volunteers** to help at the Cinnamon Art Gallery opening soon. Volunteers to help staff the gallery during the day. If you are interested, please contact **Wendy Horn**, at 717-3902 or 785-9700.

**WANTED: Local artists** who would like more information about having their work exhibited at the new Cinnamon Art Gallery should call Wendy Horn at 717 3902 or 785 - 9700, or stop by the Gallery weekdays after April 24.

**BOATS FOR SALE**

Traditional **Bonairean Sailing Sloop**. A dream to sail. Bargain at NAf10,000. One of the last of its kind. Call 717-8988 or 786-6125.



**FOR SALE**

**FOR SALE:** Large Mahogany table NAf950. Mah. sideboard (buffet) NAf 1.200. Mah. book-case with dark glazed doors NAf1.200. Various paintings. Tel: 717-8463.

**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. NAf8.000 call Carib Inn 717-8819

**WANTED: IDEAS**

**JOIN THE FESTIVAL OF LIFE-** If you have an idea or product that makes life better for us all you are invited to join the exhibition at the **Caribbean Club Bonaire on April 24** from 12 noon until 7 pm. There is no charge. The theme is a celebration of all that makes our life on Bonaire good. There will be music, games for children an open swimming pool and refreshments. Set up your stand and greet the people. Call Sean or Marjolene at 717-7901 for details.

**BIG CAMPING WEEKEND**

Every long Easter weekend there's a bloom of camping tents on Bonaire's beaches. It a traditional time for residents to spend a few days close to the seashore and close to nature. Here's a sample of some of the sites along the western shore. □ G.D.



*This popular stretch of Playa Mangal (Donkey Beach) west of the airport accommodated dozens of tents*



*At Tolo, the Ol'Blue dive site, there was this elaborate set-up that sent out delicious aromas of cooking*



*The unfinished snack opposite Karpata Landhouse was home to a few more campers*



*At Weber's Joy (Witches Hut) divers and campers shared the tiny beach.*

# DIADEMA - OUR PRICKLY FRIEND

I'm sure that many of you will already have noticed that the black spiny urchin, *Diadema antillarum*, is making a tentative appearance on our reefs. One of the best places to find them is around the Cargill salt pier and the chances are good that it won't be too long before you will have to watch your fins when you go shore diving. Scientists are really excited by the Diadema comeback and we should be too because Diadema really is our prickly friend.

## Recent immigrant or old hand ?

Anyone not living on Bonaire before 1983 could be fooled into thinking that Diadema is a recent immigrant, maybe even an invasive species. But as Capt Don Stewart can confirm, Diadema has been around for a long, long time. In those days, divers concerned with the integrity of their feet, placed an absurdly high bounty of \$0.25 per urchin on its prickly head. Divers had such an antipathy for this prickly grazer that they would routinely chop them up to provide a tasty snack for marauding fish. All this might lead you to assume that Diadema is an aggressive species prone to sneak attacks on invading divers. But it was not their speed or stealth which was causing the problem, simply their numbers. Several decades ago Diadema was not only present on our reefs, it was positively abundant.

## Diadema, the Echinoderm

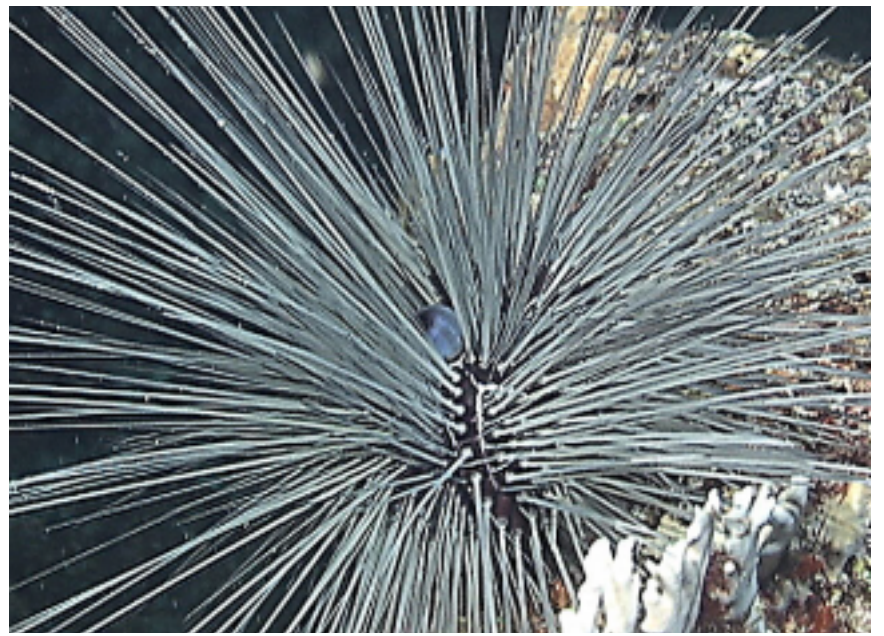
Diadema is in fact a slow moving, bottom dwelling plant grazer of the echinoderm ("spiny skin") family. It lives on and around reefs, preferring places where it

can find plenty of shelter. It is rather cosmopolitan in its food preferences and will eat just about any plant material it comes across. Diadema is also one of the most sociable invertebrates you will find on our reefs. During the daytime it loves to congregate into dense prickly huddles. Most Diadema sport jet-black spines, but sometimes you will see them with white or with black and white striped spines. The color variation seems to be determined by light level. In very bright light Diadema will routinely be black; lower the light level and it will tend to have whiter spines.

This little creature is capable of some truly stunning feats of survival. Did you know, for example, that it can live for up to six months without food. Or that its larvae can live in the plankton for up to 60 days. This is an absurdly long time by anyone's standards.

## Diadema die off

Then, without any warning, between January 1983 and January 1984, populations of Diadema throughout the Caribbean mysteriously sickened and died. In less than a week they went from being perfectly healthy to developing "sticky" spines, shedding their spines and dying in hordes. The pathogen which caused this mass mortality event has still not been identified. It traveled with terrifying swiftness from an epicenter in Panama following the main circulation patterns to Florida, Bermuda, St Croix and finally St Vincent and the Grenadines, leaving destruction in its wake. Scientists speculate that it was originally carried through the Panama Canal by shipping and it seems to



have arrived here in the Antilles in the same way.

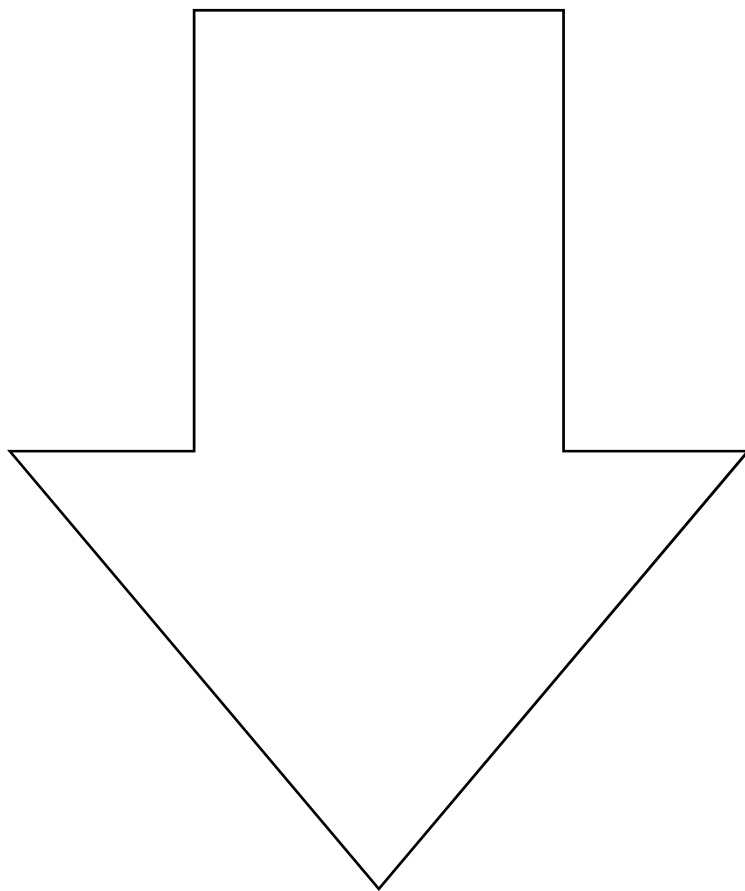
## The consequences ...

The consequences for Caribbean coral reefs were dire. In places like Jamaica, with few grazing fish due to chronic over fishing, the reefs underwent what has been called a "phase shift." In other words, healthy coral reefs rapidly turned into an algal wilderness. On Bonaire we were lucky that parrotfish moved into the niche vacated by Diadema, cropping the algae and keeping our reef from becoming overgrown.

In nearly 20 years there has been no sig-

nificant recovery of Diadema ... until now. And finally it seems to be making a tentative come back. It is certainly starting to reappear on Jamaican reefs, and you won't have to look too far to find Diadema here either. But their comeback is patchy, and it's still not clear whether they are here to stay. With all the multiple pressures on our reefs you can understand why scientists are starting to get really excited about the Diadema comeback. Divers and snorkelers: I do believe now is the time to strike up a whole new relationship with our prickly friend, Diadema ! □ Kalli De Meyer

*Kalli De Meyer is Executive Director of Coral Resource Management (Fundashon pa Bon Koral), Bonaire's newest environmental, not-for-profit foundation. With 10 years marine park management experience, Kalli is "Bonaire's voice of the reef." Head offices are at the Caribbean Club, Hilltop. Monday to Friday 8:30 to 12:30, 2-5 pm. Telephone: 786-0675.*



# Referendum Chronicle

**NOS FUTURE, BAN P'EI  
(OUR FUTURE-LET'S GO FOR IT.)**



## MORE REFERENDUM ALTERNATIVES

It looks like the earliest possible date for the Referendum is early July, 2004. As the voting date nears, more considerations have to be addressed that are requiring more preparation time. Besides, or perhaps in combination with Status Aparté, UPT or LGO status (see following story and last week's Chronicle for some background), there may be innovative alternatives that would suit Bonaire.

One idea might be to make all Bonaire a Dutch National Park. After all, about a third of the island is already set aside for nature preservation. Provided property rights and self-government are maintained, perhaps it would be beneficial on several grounds.

Consider the Dutch island of Schiermonnikoog, a short distance off Holland's North Sea coast in the Wadden Sea. The entire island of Schiermonnikoog is a National Park. The system of National Parks in the Netherlands works in close cooperation with all organizations and owners that are involved within the area to the benefit of all. Together they make arrangements for the management, changes, etc. in the Park. The status of National Park does not add significant additional laws but makes allowance for special situations. For example, if there is too much ice for the ferries to run, children can be helicoptered to school. Could that type of arrangement work for ecology-minded Bonaire? It certainly would provide the ultimate eco-tourist attraction and provide for the preservation of the Bonairean way of life.

But no matter Park or not, we must determine....

## WHO PAYS FOR THE GOODIES? (PART 2)

In Part 1 of this article we made the round of the advantages and setbacks attached to the constitutional options of Status Aparté, LGO and UPG, and (in passing) of the options Independene, and Crown Colony. In this article we will review the option of country/province (*gemeente/provincie*). In the final Part 3, we will comment on the pros and cons of the status quo (the N. A.) and finally draw some conclusions as to what Bonaire might really seek, apart from the specific constitutional options. Holland is made up of 12 provinces (the original 11 plus the reclaimed-land province Flevoland), and at the latest count, nearly 500 "*gemeenten*," a "*gemeente*" being mostly comparable to a French commune or British county. The laws governing this issue of provincial and commune governance are old indeed: roots in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, latest



*The island of Schiermonnikoog, about 11 miles long with extensive sand dunes, is a Dutch national Park map from an old Friesland Atlas*

major adaptations under Napoleon, ca. 1810. Unlike France, which has seen five republics and two empires since Napoleon, and Germany, which saw a loose confederation of kingdoms and princely states (a "Reich," the Weimar Republic, Hitler's Third Reich and then the *Bundesrepublik*, now enlarged after the reunification, all since Napoleon), Holland hasn't moved much in this field of national governance.

We mention this since it illustrates the difficulty and the uphill fight to change the Dutch constitution in order to allow an overseas province or some loosely tied overseas county like Bonaire to emerge.

The Dutch are an orderly people. Every citizen belongs to a county, every

county belongs to a province, and every province is under the Crown and responds to Dutch law and government. Former colonies are just that. Indonesia was allowed to opt out after a protracted war of independence in 1949. After that Holland lost its colonial stamina. Surinam was virtually pushed out with a king-sized independence bonus in 1975. The six West Indian islands, formerly making up the "Curaçao Colony," were granted semi-autonomous status in 1954, as a separate land within the Kingdom.

It is not generally known that the document lying at the base of the formation of the Netherlands Antilles in 1954 had been more or less copied by the penurious Dutch from the document with which Holland tried to lure Indonesia into first a Federation, then a Confederation in 1947-48. That might explain the hybrid character of the Kingdom: legally a Federation (an alliance, partnership, coalition), in practice a Confederation (a fusion, merger, integration). Aruba was granted its "Status Aparté" in 1986 on the basis of Aruba's promise to become independent within a decade. It never came about because Aruba petitioned in the early 90s to remain in the Dutch Kingdom.

It is but true that in today's The Hague, Holland's government center, the Antil-

les and Aruba are a tiny sideshow to Holland's political arena, and its representatives and delegations often feel treated as guests who long overstayed their welcome after a nice post-colonial party. (This holds especially over the last half year when the childish antics of the former Antillean Prime Minister, Myrna Louisa-Godett, reduced serious meetings to vaudeville.) This little historical excursion serves to show the odds against Holland being very attentive and forthcoming to the upcoming referendum on Bonaire and Saba (and perhaps Curaçao) and its implied constitutional choice, a vital matter to the islands concerned, a minor miscellaneous item on the Dutch political agenda.

It will take clever and top-level lobbying (such as Aruba did during its three-year fight for independence from Curaçao) to achieve attention and sympathy on the right political levels.

### Gemeente/Provincie

It is almost inconceivable that Holland would grant to Bonaire the status of a "*provincie*." The *provincie* is a mostly antiquated, purely administrative body of governance, with which the Dutch citizen has no truck at all. Moreover, the average province numbers about a mil-

*Continued on page 9*



Bonaire's #1 Hit Music Channel

**Bonaire's NEWEST RADIO SHOW**

**Call in: 717-2101**

**e-mail: [info@megafm.com](mailto:info@megafm.com)**

**Mondays and Sundays 12 noon-2 pm FM 101**



Sean Paton

### "The Forum"

- Call in
- Studio guests
- Current affairs
- Politics
- Humor
- Environment
- Controversy
- Music



lion inhabitants. The main political function of the *provincie* is that its elected deputies (“*Provinciale Staten*”) vote in the members of the First Chamber of Parliament, an equally antiquated body comparable to the British House of Lords. There is a theoretical possibility that the Dutch would go along with an overseas “*provincie*” made up of the present five N.A. islands (with a population of about 250,000). The present governor of the N.A. would then become “*Commissaris van de Koningin*” (Her Majesty’s High Commissioner), the present N.A. government would evaporate (no mean bonus, this) and the Lt. Governor (“*Gezaghebber*”) would become *burgomaster* of his or her island county.

It is an option which has its attractions (we’ll return to this later), but it is inconceivable that all five islands and the N.A. Government and the Dutch Government would all vote for this option, as of necessity they must. This leaves the option of Bonaire becoming an overseas county (“*gemeente*”), but, attached to what *provincie*? The orderly Dutch would certainly like to know. As to the “goodies” involved in becoming an integral part of the Netherlands, Bonairean referendum voters should not harbor too high hopes for Santa Claus bringing the big pancake of social benefits. We’ll make a quick round of the main Dutch social benefits and their legal funding:

**Unemployment benefits (WW).**

We will skip the technical details, which are many. Basically, the WW guarantees 70% of last earned labor income for one year, max five years (depending on employment’s duration), all this capped with a maximum wage. After that, one reverts to the “*bijstand*” (see below).

So, Bonairean WW would be linked to Bonairean labor income (and minimum income), not to the Dutch standard. But as to hiring and firing by employers, the same standards would apply as in Holland, and what that means in practice can be seen in St. Maarten/St. Martin. The French part has better unemployment benefits but harsher employment and labor laws than the Dutch part.

As a result, most new jobs are offered on the Dutch part, and even though on the French part the unemployed may be better off, the net flow of job opportunities and investments goes to Dutch St. Maarten, not to St. Martin, and this shows in the flow of morning and evening traffic, the quality of the roads, etc.

**Sickness Benefits (*ziektewet*)**

After the latest round of pruning social laws, it is the employer who now has to shoulder the first 12 months of his employee’s sick leave. After a year, the State substitutes the employer, but in practice it is only permanently disabled people who remain on sick leave, and they then automatically revert to the WAO, the law on permanently

handicapped or disabled people.

**Disability to Work (WAO)**

Holland’s WAO has grown to the monstrous size of nearly a million disabled (compared to five million gainfully employed) and everything is being done to stem the tide, by reducing benefits, sharpening medical standards applied, and repeated ability testing.

Politically speaking, spreading the WAO to the Netherlands Antilles would abhor the Dutch working population. It is a strict no-go, we believe.

**Elderly Support (AOW)**

All Dutch people of 65 and over benefit from the AOW, regardless of their other income. But, the AOW is paid proportionally according to labor history in Holland and the payment of the (rather hefty) AOW premiums. For every year employed between the age of 15 and 65, 2% of the final AOW has been secured. As Antilleans living here never paid AOW premium in Holland, their rights are nil, except when a very generous gesture would entitle them to. We do not see such a gesture forthcoming, politically speaking.

**Bijstand (in the N.A. Onderstand)**

This is a veritable jungle of crite-

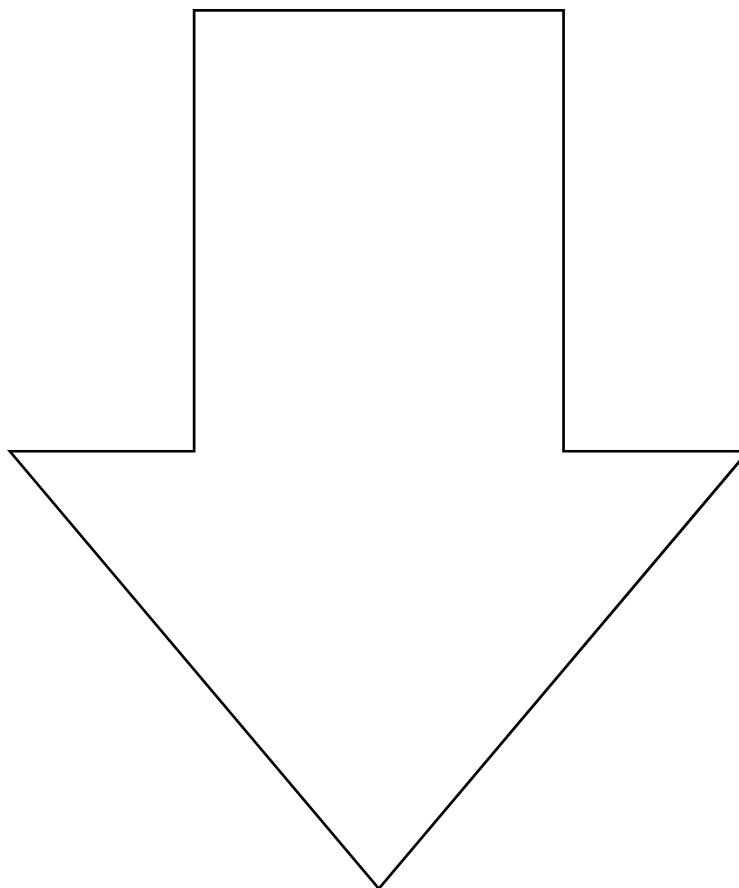
ria. It mainly benefits unmarried mothers and long-term jobless who do not qualify for the WAO. The monthly payments are higher than in the N.A., but again here, Dutch public opinion will turn fiercely against subsidizing what many European Dutch say are the “lazy Antilleans and their many bysides.” This may sound racist, but it is the plain truth regarding Dutch public opinion (the silent majority).

**Summing up**, applying for the Dutch county status in the hope of generous Dutch-geared social benefits is like turning on the cold shower in the (Dutch) cold winter climate.

There are in total 20 Dutch social laws, some old and crippled and on the way out, some barely tolerated because of one party’s (the CDA) support, like the “*kinderbijslag*” (child benefits), and most others a patchwork of adjustments, exceptions, differentiations, etc. Getting Bonaire into this very complicated and politically fraught pattern is an uphill fight. It would take three to five years at least. Much better would be an “a la carte” solution, in a “status aparté,” which can be negotiated without the encumbrance of Dutch social law. □ *The Chronicler*

*Next week: The N.A. constellation revisited, and conclusions.*

The aim of the **Chronicle** team of editorial and staff writers is to inform, not to influence public opinion or “sell” a particular option. Critical comments, useful additions and questions by the readers will be warmly welcomed and published whenever possible. Active co-operation and exchange of information is sought with the local/regional media (press, radio, TV), and the official Referendum Commission. Any item in the Referendum Chronicle can be freely quoted and/or downloaded via Internet. □



*“It is our duty to educate our children and contribute to ending this craziness”*

-- Jacob Gelt Dekker



Jacob Gelt Dekker

## ***ATTENTION ALL SCHOOLS:***

The JADE (Jacob Dekker) Foundation has agreed to donate brand new computers to Bonaire's schools for student labs.

These computers are solely for educational purposes to enrich the students' skills and productivity.

The computers will be allocated on a per need basis. If you feel your school could benefit from these computers you must submit an application.

To be considered for this program please supply us with ages of the students, hours of expected use a week, name of maintenance provider, and how many computers you can use.

Most importantly you also must tell us why you feel your school should be awarded this great opportunity. Minimum two computers and maximum five computers.

□ *Delno Tromp*

Send application to:

The JADE Foundation  
Attention: Delno L. A. Tromp  
P. O. Box 237, Bonaire.

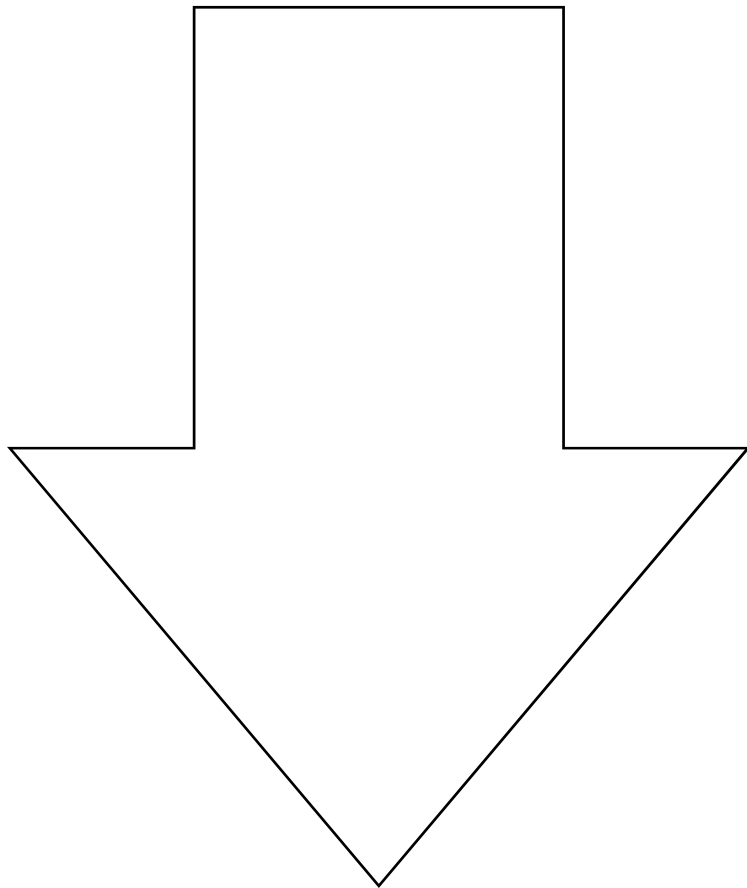
## **PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER**



### **KAUA'I, HAWAII**

Here is a photo from long-time *Bonaire Reporter* subscriber, Diane Amos, taken with her husband at the "Fantasy Island" Waterfall in Kaua'i, Hawaii, on a recent trip. They are now on Bonaire celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. If you see them offer congratulations. □

**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.) □



# EXCITING NEW Advertising Possibilities

Call for information 717-8988

*Dia di Mama (Mother's Day)  
SPECIAL EDITION*

*Ads must be in by May 1*

**ADVERTISING INSERTS  
2, 4, or 6 pages**



*The Bonaire Reporter*  
Call 717-8988 E-mail [Ads@bonairenews.com](mailto:Ads@bonairenews.com)

## FOR EVERLASTING MEMORIES

Take us with you - The Colours Series

AWARD WINNING  
"Coffee Table"  
books featuring  
BONAIRE

Available at Photo Tours  
Divers, Kaya Grandi 6

**-THE MOST COMPLETE  
DIVE SHOP-**

and other fine gift and  
book shops.

Watercolours Bonaire  
Tel. 785-0876

Also for postcards,  
logbooks, calendars and more!

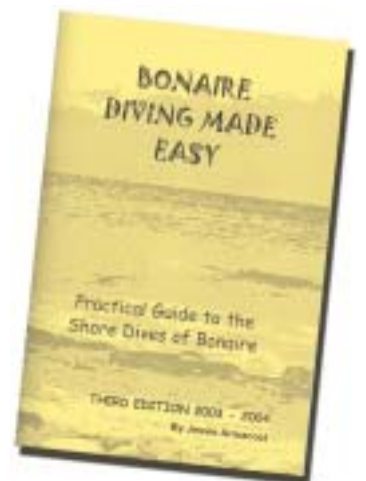


## ESSENTIAL DIVE EQUIPMENT

UPDATED THIRD EDITION

NOW AVAILABLE IN STORES  
Or order @[Bonairereporter.com](mailto:Bonairereporter.com)

The Best Guide To Bonaire for Shore Diving



## Sean Paton

“I first came by boat in 2001 from St. Martin where we had been living for some nine years. Marjolein was still there, we’d just been through Hurricane Lenny, I at sea, Marjolein on St. Martin. It’s amazing how self important and big people think they are and then one storm comes along and we’re all back as baby creatures again. In many ways, it’s history repeating itself. I started in Gibraltar many years ago when that little colony was striving for its right to self-determination and eventually its independence, which it never achieved, and neither will the Antilles. And also I find history repeating itself again here with the situation of environmental problems. All those years ago the Spanish were over fishing the Mediterranean waters including Morocco. It wasn’t just over fishing, it was also massive pollution. We were working with Greenpeace at the time and doing water sampling and it was just coincidental that I caught this mullet. Its pollution level was so high that one bite could have killed you! I went to Gibraltar because my father was in the R.A.F. and Gibraltar was an R.A.F. outpost. I’d been there as a child so I remembered it quite clearly. I didn’t go with any ideas of changing the world, just to get away from Europe. I’d come from England, I wanted to travel and Gibraltar had a lot of mystery, a very special place, the last point before North Africa. Officially, I’m an engineer although I’m really a “Jack of all trades, Master of none,” *he laughs*. “I became an environmental activist because once when a friend and I went for an early morning walk up to a little place in Gibraltar called Europa Point we saw this great big dump truck drop its entire contents in the sea. We spent the next five years looking for an active workable solution. We looked at every option but the best option of all was recycling, so we thought that’s what we’re going to do. We started a company and had everything ready and then the government decided to buy an incinerator. I got a letter from the government saying that “Anything that’s burnable can’t be recycled.” That was because the incinerator also produced electricity and needed everything that could be burned for its fuel. The ironic part of the story was that the incinerator used scrub water to take out the dioxins and other pollutants, water that was flushed into the sea. Dead fish started popping up all around the coast. Five years of work went down the drain. The pollution became so apparent, I couldn’t live with that. I became depressed and said, I’m out of here! I gave up the battle. I found my

boat, the *Our Confidence*, and ran away. My wife and I went to Barbados and it was great, like we found a piece of the world that was undamaged. We took our first cargo from Barbados, which earned me my first thousand dollars with the boat, and we went to Grenada, to the Windward Islands chain and ended up in St. Martin. I loved it; I thought it was a great place. We were there for six years before my wife left me. She’d enough of boat life, understandable, I think. I was never angry. I thought: Yeah, you’re right! Fortunately we had a cargo of 40 tons of rum which allowed me the self-indulgence of a year’s depressive drinking. Then I met Marjolein, which was great. She didn’t stop me drinking, but she gave me a good reason to cut down! She’d run a garden center and had been on St. Martin for eight years. Her center was totally destroyed by Hurricane Lewis, so when I met her she was working in a little marina bar. I think it was love at first sight for both of us really. We were both surprised with each other,” *he laughs*: “She couldn’t believe I was drinking vodka and cranberry juice in the morning, and I couldn’t believe such a beautiful girl was working behind a bar! By that time I’d exchanged my cargo of rum for fruit trees from Trinidad to St. Martin, because after the hurricane there were no trees left on the island. And for a short period Marjolein and I ended up doing landscaping. We were just generally making a living, enjoying ourselves. We managed to survive four hurricanes, Lenny being the last and I hope the last I ever see.

I was still repairing the boat after the damage Lenny did to her when Jaap Ensing asked me if I would move his furniture and cars down to Bonaire. I needed the work and the money, so it was a great offer.. We arrived in Bonaire at nine o’clock in the evening; we tied to the dock and fell asleep. When we woke up the next day it was one nice surprise after the other. First of all there was the blue sea and the wealth of fish which we’d never seen in any other island before. Secondly, there was the friendliness of everybody, from Immigration to Customs. I think right there and then I decided to spend some years

here, not the rest of my life, but certainly some years.” *Sean Paton is a beautiful person, a good one, a real good one; a free spirit, bright and unconventional, but also warm and caring.* “I went on to Trinidad to fix the boat. I came back to Bonaire to celebrate Jaap’s birthday. He needed help with the aloe plantation so I decided to stay.

Marjolein was back in Holland for a year and from there she got a job at Plaza, doing the landscaping. We lived in a little house in Nikiboko. It was quite romantic, no money though. When the heavy work was finished on the plantation I wasn’t really needed anymore, so I started writing “The Inspirations of Nick.” I finished it, but I didn’t get it into print. The manuscript is in my office, getting dusty... it’s a bit like giving a baby away and I guess

I’m putting it off for the right day when I feel brave enough. Anyway, now the environmental issues on the island are far more important to me. Here I am, years later, doing the same thing I was doing in Gibraltar. I enjoy politics and I think the one way you can really help is by telling people what the absolute truth is. I think freedom of information and freedom to express yourself are the cornerstones of democracy. We have to be very careful not to lose the heart of the island for the sake of progress. After a year we’re still waiting for information about what’s going to happen with the foreign fisheries in our waters. People who care about these issues: that’s the heart of the island. If progress means not working out the implications of what we did today, then tomorrow is very uncertain. With the referendum, whatever option we choose, we should know about the consequences of our decision. If we keep tourism as our umbilical cord and depend on it as our sole source of income and another tragedy like 9-11 comes, we’ll be stood on our own. Tourism only benefits the “golden

“Here I am, years later, doing the same thing I was doing in Gibraltar. I enjoy politics and I think the one way you can really help is by telling people what the absolute truth is.”



Marjolein and Sean

belt” of the island, the coastline. We need to take care of the people of the interior. To reduce crime, give those people employment; don’t make them feel like strangers on their own island. I think the answer is development of agriculture and light industry like assembly plants, but also import and export. I think one of the greatest gifts would be to produce our own food. That’s what I’m busy with at the moment. Those issues can’t wait; decisions have to be made now.

The main reason that I’m starting a news service in English with Mega FM is to give the people here all the information. We’ll start on Mondays and Sundays from 12 to 2, midday. But for sure I’m not going to do as I did in Gibraltar, because you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink!” *He smiles*: “Let’s just see what the future brings. I’ve always found it very funny when people say they’re going to stay here forever and the next minute you look around and they’ve gone! As long as I am happy here I’ll stay. I’m not going to fight any wars! This is today and you don’t get it back tomorrow.

The most important thing to me is my family and Marjolein and I would say after that is the belief that you can actually achieve something. I’m here!!! But seriously: The one issue that we wrote about foreign fisheries last year made people aware; it showed that people care... the heart of the island is still alive... And as I see it: It starts with a question mark and it ends with a question mark; that’s life.” □ *Greta Kooistra*



Greta Kooistra

# ANNUAL EGG HUNT SUCCESS



Dive Inn photo

Diver "Bunnies" line up to begin the search for Easter eggs

The Easter bunny had just enough time to hide 100 hard-boiled eggs from 22 divers and two snorkelers who lined up in front of the Dive-Inn, at Chachacha Beach last Sunday. Shortly after a countdown, off they went. They had 45 minutes to find the eggs. Eighty were found.

Miriam Meier, a German guest at Dive-Inn Studios, recovered the "special" egg, very well hidden in an underwater camera housing, in relatively shallow water, while she was snorkeling.

The buddy team with the most recovered eggs, 21, was made up of two Dutch ladies, Carolyn Boelen and Thea Teerstra. The best costume award went to Thomas Fredholm from Sweden, another Dive-Inn guest (see picture of him with his bag of recovered eggs). Unfortunately there was not much left of the costume by that time. There is a nice story behind his costume. He was dressed as an Easter witch (in Sweden called *paskkarring*). Every Easter morning the witch flies on her broomstick to a small Swedish island called Blakulla for a gathering of all sorts of witches for their special Easter meeting.

All the winners got a nice prize and there was even an extra prize for the buddy team that recovered just one egg, local artist Henk Roozendaal and his son Boy. Following the awards there was coffee, tea and juices for everyone and of course they all HAD to eat the eggs they had found! Their taste was okay too, a little bit more salty than normal. Everybody could look back at a great Easter morning full of excitement, laughter and fun! This year eve-



Dive Inn photo

Thomas Fredholm, of Sweden, with a bag of eggs

rything was free as part of the celebration of Dive-Inn's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As for the fish on the reef off the Dive-Inn... Well, they still have 20 eggs to feast on.

If you want to spend time at Dive-Inn or dive with them, Easter or not, stop by the shop on Chachacha Beach or call 599-717-5095/8761, or e-mail: [info@diveinnbonaire.com](mailto:info@diveinnbonaire.com). Visit the website: [www.diveinnbonaire.com](http://www.diveinnbonaire.com) □ *Babs Muelink*

# WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON SURFING THE NET

The Easter holidays brought me back to the US to enjoy time with friends and family. Also I had the luxury of 24-hour wireless Internet. For the first time since King of the Caribbean 2003, I was able to surf the Internet for coverage of this now-annual sporting extravaganza. Today's "Scene at Sorobon" feature will not cover the week's events as I am not on island to present an accurate update, BUT, my efforts here are quite rewarding. Having done an extensive Internet search on the 2003 King of the Cape media coverage I found some nice links covering windsurfing in Bonaire.

They include Andy Khitrovo's Russian coverage, Ben Van Hooydonk's four-week hiatus in Bonaire and more. Take a look at some wonderful photos and a wide range of journalistic talents. Here are some of my favorites:

<http://www.surfkix.be/album/thumbnails.php?album=6> ( A Belgian windsurfer's journey to Bonaire)

<http://www.solocaribe.com/> (Indiana Monteverde's 2002 video on the event. Some great shots. Click on video and then the Bonaire film)

<http://www.kikotakiko.com/gallery1.php?album=30&item=Photogallery&bekijk=3> (Curacao's own Trevor Nisbeth from Kikotakiko covers his favorite aspects of the event)

[http://www.star-board.com/women\\_youth/youth/wonder.asp?Number=25](http://www.star-board.com/women_youth/youth/wonder.asp?Number=25) (a feature of young Bonaire's own Amado Vrieswijk is featured)

[http://www.wind.ru/photos\\_e.php?evn=King%20Of%20The%20Caribbean%202003](http://www.wind.ru/photos_e.php?evn=King%20Of%20The%20Caribbean%202003) (A Russian story with great photos)

See you soon on island and back on the water! □ *Ann Phelan*



Trevor Nisbeth's photo from the King of the Caribbean

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)									
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides									
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		TIME	HEIGHT		TIME	COEF	
4-16	5:08	1.2FT.	10:48	1.5FT.	17:33	1.1FT.	23:25	1.5FT.	70
4-17	6:30	1.1FT.	11:47	1.4FT.	17:24	1.1FT.	23:50	1.6FT.	77
4-18	0:12	1.6FT.	8:01	1.1FT.	12:44	1.3FT.	16:37	1.2FT.	82
4-19	0:49	1.7FT.	9:38	1.0FT.					85
4-20	1:25	1.8FT.	10:59	0.9FT.					84
4-21	2:04	1.8FT.	12:08	0.9FT.					81
4-22	2:46	1.8FT.	12:56	0.8FT.					76
4-23	3:31	1.8FT.	13:41	0.8FT.					69

## VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alegria	Hannah	Santa Maria, Sweden
Alina, Aruba	Hero	Scintilla, Germany
Alley Cat	Honalee, USA	Seren Wer
Avaroa	Jalapeno	Shamballa
Angie	Jupiter	Sirius
Avaroa	La Contenta	Slow Dance
Barracho	La Escotilla	Surprise, USA
Bird of Paradise	Lady Diane	Sylvia K
Blauwe Crab, Curaçao	Lionstar	Tahaa Tiva
Blue Arran	Libertijn	Ta B
Camissa, Chan Is.	Lucky Lobster, Curacao	Ti Amo, USA
Cape Kathryn	Luna C	Today, USA
Cappoquin	Macaby, Netherlands	Traveler, Canada
Caravela	Meovac	Trio
Chulugi, Netherlands	Minnetare	Ulu Ulu, USA
Flying Cloud, USA	Mirandi	Unicorn, Norway
Fruity Fruits	Natural Selection, USA	Up Spirits
Gabrielle, USA	Nieke	Varedhuni, Germany
Galadrial, USA	Precocious Gale, USA	Wanita
Gatsby, USA	Queen of Hearts	Ya-T, BVI
Global Ombaka	Rhapsody	Zahi, Malta
Goril Too	Rusty Bucket	Zeno's Arrow, USA
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Sandpiper, USA	

## PETS of the WEEK

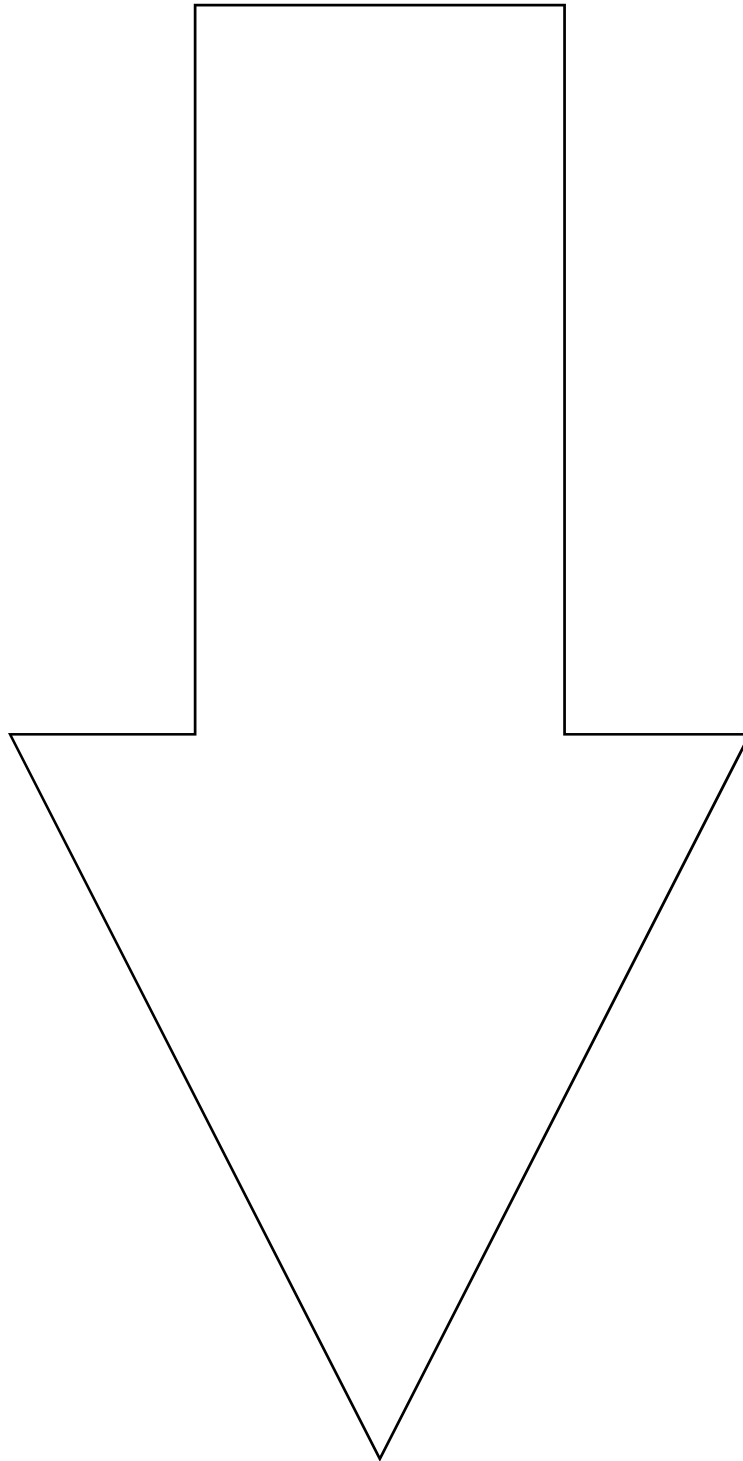
Looking for a matching pair? Here are brother and sister, “James” and “Sabena,” all curled up together in the cat cage of the Bonaire Animal Shelter. These two kittens are just a year old and are very close and best of friends too. What’s more



“James” and “Sabena”

fun than one cat? The answer is “two,” especially when they play and cavort and make us laugh. These two siblings fit the bill. And as “mousers” they get the job done in half the time.

James and Sabena are in excellent health, having been examined and checked out by the vet; they’ve had their shots and testing for feline leukemia. The adoption fee of NA/75 includes their sterilization and shots. You may be assured of a healthy animal that’s social too when you choose one from the Shelter. It’s located on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. Visitors are always welcome. □L.D.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! 9:00 pm

**Hidalgo**  
(Omar Sharif)

Early Show (7:00 pm)

**Along Came Polly**  
(Ben Stiller)

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

**April 15-22: Dive into Earth Week (Day)** - Check with your hotel or dive shop for activities including beach and underwater cleanups. See the schedule in this week's Flotsam and Jetsam for more details.

**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.

**Sunday, April 18: Kite Flying Contest. Kontèst di Fli:** In the field behind Kooyman. Information at Flamingo Book Store, Kaya Grandi 21, Tel. 717-6586

### COMING

**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.

**Friday, April 30: Rincon Day and the Queen's Birthday, MCB Bonaire Rincon Day 17 km. run, 7 am (tel. 717-8629)**

### 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](mailto: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.

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

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays,** 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

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

**Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, 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](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)

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

# ASK THE DIETITIAN BREAKFAST IS TOO IMPORTANT TO FORGET OR SKIP

For nearly six years I've been giving healthy nutrition lessons to the children at the basic schools. One of the bad habits that I notice in every one of the classes at every school is that a lot of the children skip their breakfast. This is a **bad habit** that is growing all over the world, and our island is no exception. In America and the Netherlands they've started this year with campaigns at school to encourage children to eat breakfast.

## Why do I call this a bad habit?

Because when you ask the kids why they don't have breakfast, the answers you get are:

- there is no time
- I'm not used to having breakfast, so I have no appetite in the morning

These reasons have everything to do with habit. Most of these kids create these habits because at home they didn't grow up having breakfast with the whole family together at the table before leaving the house for work or school. Those old valuable habits are fading away in today's society.

## Why is breakfast so important for everyone, but especially for the kids?

Between the last meal from the night before and breakfast the following morning there lies a period of 12 to 14 hours. That last meal of the night before has, by breakfast time, already been digested, and the body is ready to receive new energy and nutrients. When a child skips breakfast, his or her concentration capacity is much lower than when having breakfast. Moreover, when skipping breakfast it is impossible to catch up on the required nutrients for the day. A child can lose 20% of his required nutrients by not eating breakfast. We don't have to emphasize the importance of concentration and effort that five hours of school requires of a child. So, doesn't the child need his or her breakfast to perform well at school? Isn't this the reason that we send a child to school? So why as parents and educators don't we encourage this good habit in



Angélique Salsbach

them, of having breakfast before going to school?

Eating at school break should not be considered breakfast, because half of the school time has already passed by. And school break means having an "inbetween" or snack, like fruit, juice, crackers or one slice of bread and not breakfast, which is a meal.

## What is considered a healthy breakfast?

A healthy breakfast may consist of bread, crackers, grains, cereals, fruits, milk products or breakfast drinks. Try to also introduce brown bread to the kids. Bread, especially brown bread, contains more fiber, vitamins and minerals than white bread. As a spread on the bread you can use diet *halvarine* or margarine. These spreads are sources of Vitamins A, D and E. Avoid using butter on bread for the kids. Butter is very high in saturated fat (which can increase blood cholesterol) and *halvarine* or margarine is a rich source of unsaturated fat (which prevents high blood cholesterol). Choose low fat luncheon meats, low fat cheese or low sugar



For those children who are not used to eating breakfast, you don't have to start immediately with a big breakfast consisting of bread. Start with a small breakfast to encourage them, step by step, to get into the good habit of having breakfast.

You can start with small meals like: a glass of low fat milk or one fruit or two to three slices of crackers or a glass of 100% juice or what we know nowadays as breakfast drink meals, *yoghurt drinkontbijt* or *wake-up drinkontbijt*. Remember, just tea is not a breakfast!

Also take time to have sit down and have breakfast at a table. Have a nice start of having breakfast again. □

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. Her patients successfully win the battle of the bulge and become healthier! Write her at [dietitan@bonairenews.com](mailto:dietitan@bonairenews.com) □



# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## AIRLINES

**BonairExel.** Bonaire's own ON TIME airline flying between Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. Look for *The Bonaire Reporter* on board.

## APPLIANCES/FURNITURE/COMPUTERS

**City Shop** is Bonaire's mega-store for TV, Stereos, Air conditioning, large and small kitchen appliances. Name brands, guarantees and service center.

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents great scooters and quads. They can also professionally repair almost anything on two wheels. Top brand bikes for sale too.

## BOOKS

**Watercolours Bonaire** and **Eye on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao** are the most original ways to remember Bonaire and the islands at their best. At Photo Tours and many other island shops.

**Bonaire Diving Made Easy**, Third Edition, is an essential in your dive bag. The latest information on Bonaire's shore dive sites.

## BOATING / REPAIRS/ SUPPLIES

**Bonaire Nautico** for low cost dockside mooring in the heart of Kralendijk. Ferry to Klein. Boat Rentals.

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

**APA Construction** are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

## CLEANING SERVICE

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

## CYBER CAFES

**The Seahorse Cyber Café** has cyber facilities. See Restaurant Guide.

## DENTURES

**All Dentures Lab.** For denture repair or new ones. All work done on the island, fast results. Owner-operator dentist. Repairs while you wait.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Reasonable prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

**Dive Inn** Seven studio apartments and dive shop/school directly on the waterfront in the heart of town. Friendly, highly experienced with an exceptional staff.

## FITNESS

**Bonfysio** offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

**Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.** Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals.

## GIFTS - SOUVENIRS - LIQUORS

**The Bonaire Gift Shop** has a big selection of what you need to enjoy Bonaire and remember it when you get home. Digital cameras and watches a specialty.

## HOTELS

**Friars' Inn**, downtown Kralendijk, offers rooms and breakfast at Bonaire's lowest prices. Great for tourists or when visiting family and friends.

## METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

**b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V.**, offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galeries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints and slides plus a variety of items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

**Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent.** They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.

**Re/Max Paradise Homes:** International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. A full service realtor.

**Sunbelt Realty** offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

## REPAIRS

**Bon Handyman** is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc.

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

**Buddy Dive Resort** offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable. Call 717-8125.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.** Call 717-8922/8033.

## SUPERMARKETS

**Tropical Flamingo** is convenient, clean, modern, efficient and has the lowest prices on Bonaire. Located behind NAPA.

Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

## TOYS AND GAMES

**Laur'an** is a store dedicated to providing quality toys and games to Bonaire. Find them on Kaya Gerharts in the Lourdes Shopping Mall

## WATER TAXI

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

## WINES

**Antillean Wine Company.** You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

## YOGA

**Yoga For You.** Join certified instructors Desiree and Don at Jong Bonaire for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

## TAKE BONAIRE HOME WITH YOU

Subscribe to the weekly *Bonaire Reporter* By mail, \$95/year On-line edition, \$35/year. Call (599) 717-8988, Kaya Gob Debrout 200 email [subscribe@bonairenews.com](mailto:subscribe@bonairenews.com)

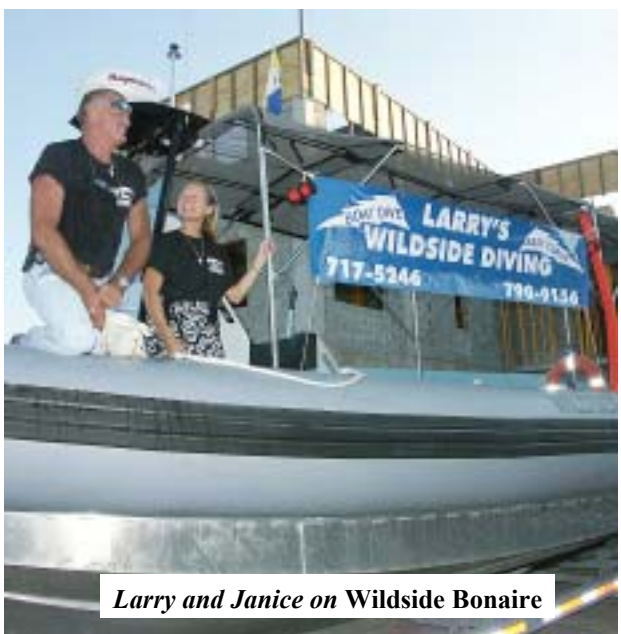
**ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN:**  
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.  
The most advertising for your guild.  
Contact The Reporter TODAY  
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252



**COVER STORY**

# DIVING THE WILD SIDE MADE EASY

Fourteen green turtles, four tarpon, a rocketing barracuda, a giant grouper, uncountable fish and unspoiled coral greeted the first guests, a family of four staying at the Sand Dollar Resort, aboard Larry's Shore and Wildside Diving's new boat. That's more than some divers see in a week. Why? Because they were diving on the usually rough windward side of Bonaire. There are no resorts on that side of Bonaire that faces the unbroken swells that roll in from Africa, driven by the constant trade winds. No building could long survive. Except for some very fit macho types the only opportunities for safely and comfortably diving "the wild side" were when the trades died down for a few days. But those times are usually many months apart and of short duration. That is until now.



Larry and Janice on Wildside Bonaire

Larry Baillie figured out how to do it: Get a wide, rigid hull inflatable boat, the type used by military, law enforcement and rescue groups. Equip it with every conceivable safety element known to the dive industry, escort the divers if necessary

and start from Lac Bay. Larry himself is well known on Bonaire. His background is that of a Canadian Army combat diver and instructor and commercial diver. Beginning in 1999 he worked as a dive instructor at Carib Inn. Later he did escorted dives using his own comfortable cabin cruiser. But the cozy cruiser couldn't deal with the conditions on the wild side. Enter a Zodiac 920 Hurricane, a 30' (9.14m.) screamer of a dive boat, 10.4 ft. (3.18m) wide, with twin 225 hp Yamaha 4-stroke low pollution outboards. During a shakedown cruise it went from Lac Bay to Kralendijk in 30 minutes. It's so buoyant it can float with all seven of its chambers deflated and is rated to carry 30 persons! But Larry will limit his trips to just 12. While safety is the number one issue, comfort is also considered. Hendrik Wuyts, the well-known ScubaVision videographer, found it quite easy riding on a recent underwater video exploration. Among the first discoveries is a previously unknown pinnacle rising from the depths to within 50 feet (15m.) of the surface. The GPS aboard Larry's boat will allow him to find it again with pinpoint accuracy. The boat, *Wildside Bonaire*, was christened last Friday with lots of fanfare and guests at Dive and Discover next to Sand Dollar. It marks a new era in diving opportunities on Bonaire and a chance to explore a whole new area. You can book a trip by calling 717-5426 or 790-9156. □ G.D.



Dive legend Captain Don Stewart congratulated Larry on his new venture. Don said the tubes of the Zodiac reminded him of the ill fated *Sterke Yerke*.

## DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 535	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Sunday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>The Blue Moon- Early Bird Special! before 7 pm</b> Sea Side Restaurant—Waterfront on the Promenade 717-8617	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Inexpensive bar menu Closed Wednesdays	Master Chef Martin Bouwmester of the award-winning Culinary Team guarantees a superb dining experience. His menu is innovative, creative and sumptuous.
<b>Chez Lucille</b> Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund 19, Waterfront, 717-7884	Moderate Dinner 6 to 10 pm Closed Sundays	After your warm welcome from owner-chef-hostess Lucille you'll be enthralled with a menu that combines the familiar and the exotic. In an historic waterfront home and garden.
<b>Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Sit over the water in the most charming and colorful building on the waterfront. Fine service with a broad menu to suit every taste. Special menus often offered. Live music Sundays.
<b>Crocantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Skilled chefs direct from Tuscany prepare exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a total delight. Get served in a garden settings under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort.
<b>Garden Café</b> Kaya Grandi 59 717-3410	Moderate \$5 to \$20 Dinner	Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties. Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and BBQ.
<b>La Balandra</b> On the Water at the Harbour Village Resort 717-7500, ext 62; 785-0902	Moderate Breakfast-Lunch Special Dinners on Friday, Sunday	Cuisine by Chef Alberto Roldan of the Bonaire Culinary Team. If you are using the NA/25 Beach Pass, a NA/15 credit is given for meals Bonaire's best seaside location?
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> 717-3293 Home Delivery or Take Out	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lions Den Beach Bar And Restaurant</b> On the sea at Lions Dive 717-3400 717-6616	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Open 7 Days	Spectacular setting overlooking dive sites and Klein Bonaire. Imaginative menu, open kitchen. Owned and operated by Kirk Gosden.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wed-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> 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
<b>The Seahorse Cyber Café</b> Kaya Grandi #6 Phone 717-4888	Low-Moderate Open 7 am - 7 pm Closed Sunday Family Happy Hour Friday, 5-7	Tasty breakfasts, pastries, fresh tropical juices, homemade bread, special sandwiches, delicious desserts and much more make this a favorite indoor/outdoor stopping place on Bonaire's main street

# BONAI GROUP RESEARCHES CURACAO



*The Bonai group in front of the National Archives*

Fourteen students of the Bonai group spent two days in Curaçao visiting and assessing 10 different museums, from the most modest to the most opulent, including the National Archives. The Bonai group is made up of SGB (high school) students, 15 to 18 years old, who are of different ethnic groups but who are living in Bonaire. As the leader, Dr. Jay Haviser puts it, "They are motivated kids with a good academic standing, and the program's aim is to stimulate youth to go into science. This trip was created because, as Dr. Haviser says, "I wanted to give them a life experience that they'll remember for a long time and how to be mature adult citizens." The students have been studying in an after-

school program with Dr. Haviser: cultural anthropology, pre-Colombian archeology, historical archeology. This is the fourth module, museum exhibitions. "The bottom line is scientific method: how to observe, analyze and evaluate," he says. Jackie Bernabella, a museum expert working for SKAL, accompanied the group. She designed an observation form for the students where in each museum they rated, for example, lighting, display, cost, showcases, and security. According to Dr. Haviser these were extremely intensive work days. The group spent at least one hour at each museum, evaluating and discussing. At the National Archives they were given a full presentation. They saw a documentary film on

Bonaire made in 1947 and they had a talk on conserving documents and photography. Museums they visited were: Ft. Church Protestant Museum, Stamp Museum, Maritime Museum, Jewish Museum, Telecommunication Museum, National Archives, National Museum Offices, Kura Hulanda, Curacao Museum, *Kas di Pali Maishi*. One of the students, Stephanie Antonio, was extremely enthusiastic about the trip. "Everything was so well organized," she said. "People knew we were coming. My favorite was the Maritime Museum because it was so big and so very beautiful." Dr. Haviser declares, "These students were mature, responsible and disciplined. It was a good experience for them because of the way they acted. They asked good questions. This was as much a life learning experience as an academic one. The bottom line is if you give teens the responsibility they'll take it and most do a good job. Give them more responsibility to do responsible actions. This builds better adults."

The program begun by Jay Haviser is a pilot program for the rest of the Antilles and has been going for about a year. In that time it's been a good academic, social and personal success for the students, according to Dr. Haviser. It's funded by the Central and Island Governments as well as the Prince Bernard Culture Funds and AMFO (a Dutch foundation). It's a two- to three-year project, with new students entering the program as the older ones leave. Jay continues, "The bonding going on in this group will most likely have a very positive influence in their future role in the Bonaire community. There's pride, identity, bonding, a sense of responsibility. I'm so proud of these kids. They inspire me, not only for Bonaire but for the whole Antilles. And having so many different ethnic groups represented within the group is especially exciting. What's an example of such and such from Holland, Venezuela, China? I'll bet that in 20 years you'll see these same students as the leaders of the community in Bonaire." □L.D.

COUNTDOWN  
TO THE  
DIVE FESTIVAL  
46 DAYS TO GO

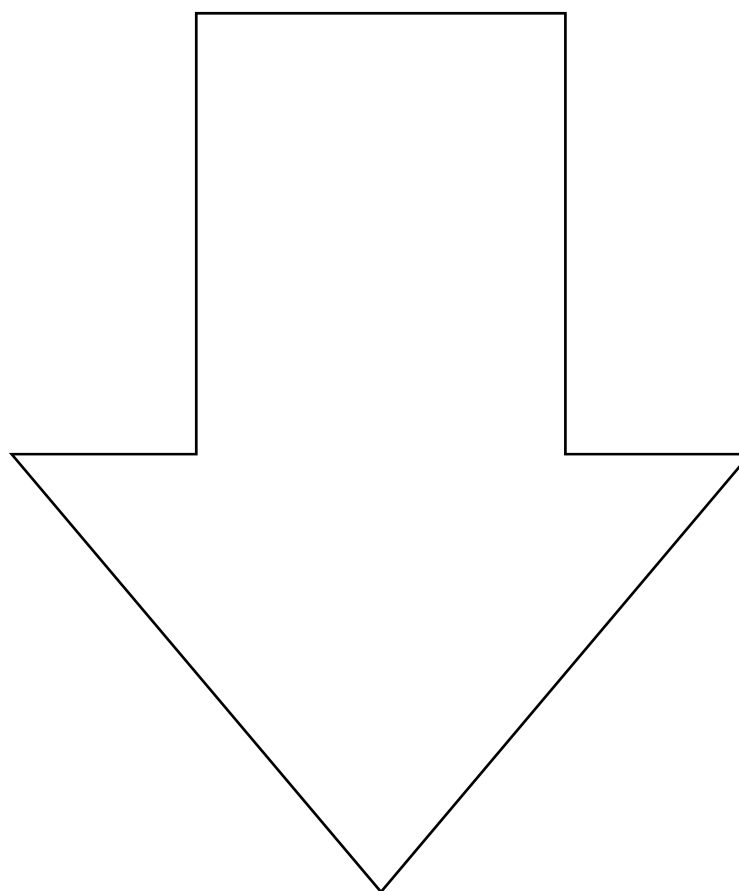


Put on your fins and get ready to have fun and get wet. Coming up is the Eighth Annual Bonaire Dive Festival, June 5 – 19, 2004. Expanded from one to two weeks to give participants more freedom and flexibility to enjoy Bonaire, this year's Festival will offer fun and educational activities including guided dives, BBQs with live music, A Taste of Bonaire food and cultural festival and the highlight of the event, two evening presentations by the Festival's featured speaker, Philippe Cousteau Jr., grandson of legendary Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau. And there's NO signup fee as in past years.

Philippe's presentations will take place on the evenings of June 7th and June 14th at Captain Don's Habitat. As part of his presentations Philippe will speak about the responsibility that people have to be caretakers of our planet and that the role divers in particular have to be ambassadors to the oceans. He will share ways in which divers can become more informed about everyday things they do to have a lasting, positive impact and will touch upon his own efforts to protect and preserve our planet through his work as President of EARTHECHO International and its project like the Coral Reef Restoration Initiative. In Bonaire for the duration of the Dive Festival Philippe will also lead guided dives with Festival participants.

Pass by the downtown TCB office to get more information. Or check out the website at: [www.bonairedivefestival.com](http://www.bonairedivefestival.com).

□ G.D.





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up



Moon in Pleiades

## "Celebrate National Astronomy Day Saturday April 24th and Watch the Moon Visit Three Planets During Astronomy Week"

Mark Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, on your calendar as National Astronomy Day for 2004. And also mark that week as the time to watch a growing crescent **Moon** visit three planets with, as a spectacular finale, a pairing with the ringed planet **Saturn** on astronomy day night. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, just after sunset, face west where you'll see an exquisite two-day-old crescent Moon parked right next to the little group of stars called **The Pleiades**, The Seven Sisters, which through a pair of binoculars looks something like a tiny dipper. Plus you'll also notice one of my favorite lunar phenomena called Earthshine.

Indeed if you look closely at the Moon you will see what looks like a black full Moon nestled inside the bright crescent. We call it Earthshine because that's exactly what causes it. You see, when we look at the bright crescent part of the Moon we are actually seeing sunlight bouncing directly off the Moon to Earth. But that black, dark, almost full Moon within the crescent is created by sunlight bouncing off the bright cloud layers and oceans of our Earth onto the dark portion of the Moon and then bouncing back to Earth again, thus the term Earthshine.

Now the following night, Thursday, the 22nd, a slightly larger crescent Moon complete with Earthshine will be parked right underneath the most dazzling of all the planets which will reach its greatest brilliancy in less than three weeks on May 2nd: our nearest planetary neighbor, 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**. And if you look just up and to Venus' left you'll see the reddish-orange planet which last August was over 63 times brighter than it is right now: very dim and very distant 4,000-mile-wide **Mars**, the planet which is playing host to two emissary rovers from planet Earth. In fact on the next night, Friday the 23rd, a slightly larger Moon with Earthshine will be parked right above this intriguing red planet. But then on the next night, Saturday April 24th, National Astronomy Day night, an outrageously beautiful crescent Moon will be parked just to the side of the most beautiful planet in our solar system, 75,000-mile-wide, ringed Saturn, which is almost as good as it ever gets for viewing right now because its rings are tilted wide open and reflect light like a giant mirror back to our Earth.

Once again: Wednesday, the Moon and The Pleiades; Thursday, the Moon underneath Venus; Friday, the Moon just above Mars; and for Saturday Astronomy Day night, the Moon right next to Saturn. Wow! The Moon and Saturn together on Astronomy Day night! It just doesn't get any better than this. □ *Jack Horkheimer*

**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>



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: April 16 to April 23, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You will be erratic and quite likely to make personal mistakes. You'll find you're detail oriented this week. Try to control your irritability if you're experiencing emotional problems with your partner. You have two choices: get out on your own or bend to your mate's whims. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Be cautious when dealing with foreigners. Try to keep ahead of the game. Tempers may flare if you haven't been completely honest about your intentions or your whereabouts. Get involved in activities that will bring you knowledge about foreign lands, philosophies, or cultures. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Opportunities to upgrade your living standards will come through your lover or through joint financial investments. You will learn easily if you put forth an effort. You are best to avoid such unsavory circumstances, especially if you're in a group situation. Your emotions will be touched off concerning recent encounters with your lover. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Pay attention to small but important details. You may want to take a trip; however, before you do, make sure that your car is serviced properly. Do not get involved with individuals who are already committed to others. Be careful that you don't overextend yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You're likely to encounter new partners if you take short trips. Double check your work and be sure that your boss is in a good mood before you do your presentation. Direct your energy into physical entertainment. Ask family members for help and you will be able to complete the projects more quickly. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Emotional matters may not be easy for you to handle. New friendships will develop through group events. Get the red tape and the unwanted paperwork out of the way. You can look around for the right place and enlist some of your friends to help you move. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can get into self awareness groups or look into physical enhancement programs. You can make money through your creative efforts. Nagging has never been something that you could tolerate, and it's once again driving you into a lonely state of affairs. Don't be afraid of opposition; your suggestions are valid. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Get the whole family involved in a worthwhile cause or cultural event. You will want to take off and have some recreation. Start sending out those resumes. Don't be too confident that co-workers are on your side. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You need to be active and spend time with friends you enjoy. Your emotional partner will push all the right buttons this week. Don't be too quick to react. You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Direct your energy wisely this week. Anger will prevail if you expect help from others. Refuse to let others make unrealistic demands of you. You will enjoy interacting with those who come from different backgrounds. Your outgoing charm and obvious talent will be admired. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Keep a lookout for any individuals eager to confront you with unsavory situations. You might have some problems balancing your books. Your intellectual charm will entice new love interests. Use your better judgment before you sign up for a costly venture. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You need to take some time out to decide what you want to do. Social activity should be on your agenda. Clear up domestic chores that have remained undone for some time. You can make it up to them later. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. □