

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

May 7 to May 14, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 18

# The **BONAIRE** REPORTER

SINCE 1994



**RINCON DAY  
CELEBRATION PG. 10**

**Bonaire and Curaçao again enjoy ferry service.** On Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, the ferry *Tribon* (Shark) made its first scheduled round trip. The 30-year old ship, originally named “*Renga*,” from Norway, underwent renovations in Curaçao over the last month. The trip was scheduled to take four hours to sail from Kralendijk to Annabaai in Curaçao, but sometimes takes an hour or more longer. Returning to Bonaire, against the current and wind, the ferry trip has been taking six hours or more.

The ferry boat is scheduled to leave Bonaire every day at 6 am to arrive at Brionwerf in Willemstad at 10 am. At 5 pm the *Tribon* leaves Curaçao to arrive in Bonaire around 10 pm. However, last week the ferry was leaving up to three hours late from Curaçao.

The *Tribon* can carry up to 17 cars (NAf250 each, including the driver) Passage is NAf50 one-way trip and NAf85 round-trip. Children pay NAf45 and groups of more than 10 people pay NAf65 per person (children less). Discounts for 60 plussers. The *Tribon* can carry 150 passengers and is based in Kralendijk.

For more information, call 717-2690 or e-mail: [bonaire@admiralshipping.com](mailto:bonaire@admiralshipping.com)



Admiral ferry photo

*The Tribon at the Town Pier*

► The developer who has been interested in **rebuilding Sunset Beach is redirecting his efforts** after the governments of Aruba and Bonaire came to an agreement on the property that didn't include him. According to a bank official, the Government of Bonaire brought the Sunset Beach Resort property for an interest-free NAf2 million from the Aruba Housing Foundation (FCCA) which does not have to be paid back for two years. The Bonaire Government is to open the bidding to the public as soon as possible. This should break the logjam that allowed the abandoned property to become an eyesore in the middle of “Hotel Row.”

The developer will most likely make a bid. In addition, the Divi chain, which had been looking at the Esmerelda property owned by Niek Sandman, south of Lighthouse Beach, has reportedly been approached by Bonaire officials to think about the Sunset Beach property as well.



*The old Sunset (Bonaire) Beach hotel in its heyday*

► **The much anticipated new airline**, a part of the Exel Aviation Group, will begin service to the Antilles by 1 July 2004. Under the name **Dutch Caribbean Exel (DCE)** it will fly three times per week round-trip between **Amsterdam and Curaçao**. It will connect with **BonairExel** and eventually with the South American network of ArubaExel. Curaçao has been named the “hub” for the Exel network in the Antilles. Flights will use a Boeing 767-300. Soon a recruitment campaign will begin for the hiring and training of Antillean ground, cabin and cockpit staff. Pilots will be trained in the Netherlands but stewards and stewardess in the Netherlands Antilles. Eventually about 60 new employees will be stationed in Curaçao (Hato Airport). Economy fares will begin from euro 449 and will go on sale around the end of May. A press release stated that the founding of DCE doesn't mean that a cooperation with the Curaçao's Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA) is a dead issue. Analysts, on the other hand, predict the end of DCA once DCE begins flying.

An Exel executive said that there are no plans to fly to the US before December 2004.

► Successful Amsterdam businessman Erik de Vlieger, who owns more than 200 companies including the Exel Aviation Group, severely criticized DCA management and Curaçao politicians last week, accusing them of only acting on behalf of their own interest and not that of the island.

**He referred to DCA as “a joke, management-wise” and as “story tellers” who come up with “flagrant lies.”** These comments upset some Curaçao elected officials. (We had to fly via DCA to Miami ourselves last week. DCA lost one of our suitcases on the trip north (We had to retrieve it from the

## IN THIS ISSUE:

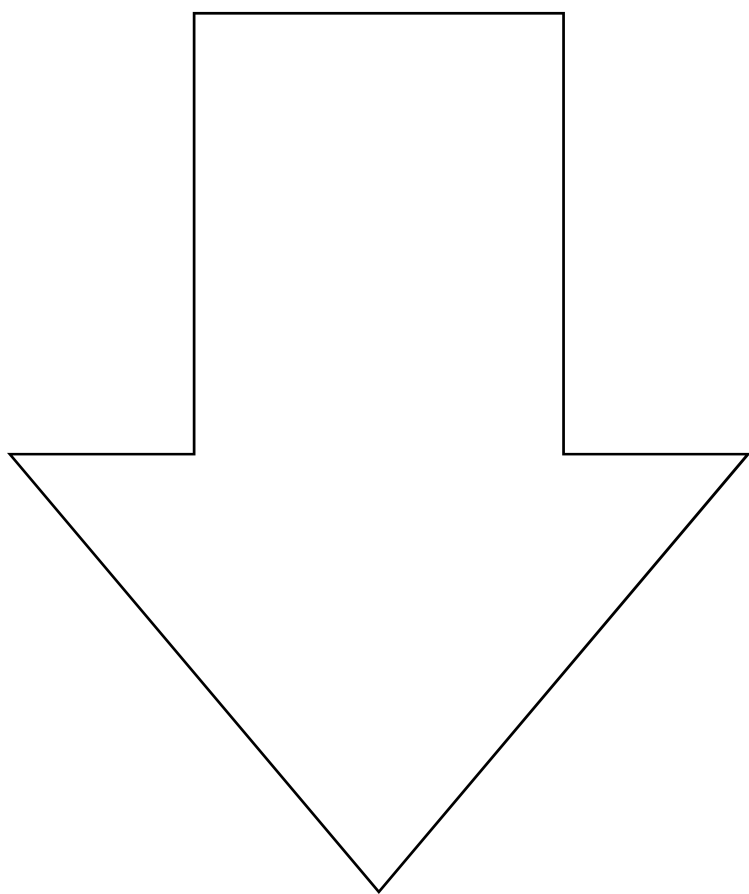
Triathlon Club	6
Referendum Chronicle	7
Fitness (The Plank)	8
Mother's Day Art	8
Triton Newspaper	9
Turtle Nesting Season	10
Rincon Day 2004	10
New BonairExel Family	13
Cinnamon Gallery Opening	15
Gardner (Oleander)	18

## WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Police Report	5
Letters (Sewage & Reef Health)	5
Yacht List & Tide Table	9
Windsurf Scene	
(Wave Challenge Redux)	9
Classifieds	12
Pet of the Week (Edgar)	12
Picture Yourself	
(Presque Isle Harbour)	12
Hit Parade	14
What's Happening	15
Shopping Guide	16
Dining Guide	16
On the Island Since	
(Jose Velasco)	17
Bonaire Sky Park	19
The Stars Have It	19

DCA Miami office three days later) and the return trip south to Curaçao was 1½ hours late because of a stop in Haiti that was not listed on our schedule, but was obviously planned all along since more than half of the passengers disembarked in Haiti. Our BonairExel flights to and from Curaçao were on time. *Editors*)

(Continued on page 4)





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**It's about time!**



**BonairExel**

**BonaireNet: The Yellowpages-, Gelegids- and GoudengidsBonaire**



► NorthEast Airlines, a startup using the name of a venerable New England airline, is planning to fly **charters from the US to Curaçao** among other Caribbean destinations. It's bought three ex-Transjet-Sweden Boeing 747s and has leased a 1974-built ex-TWA Lockheed L-1011 to conduct charter flights. NorthEast Airlines has its base and airline certification (AOC) in Mbabane, Swaziland, Africa, but is marketed by The Flightstar Group, Inc., and it has finance and logistics support from offices in Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Antilles spokesman for the new company is Billy Jonkheer, who sees it benefiting employment and tourism. "With this you could, for example, be a home-port for cruise ships," he said.

► BonairExel has announced an interline agreement with Continental Airlines that allows travelers to **purchase their Bonair-Exel ticket in the US providing** the ticket is written on Continental ticket stock. Passengers arriving in Aruba on several US air carriers have a convenient connection to Bonaire on BonairExel flight #9H 2973 leaving Aruba at 3:30 pm. Departing Bonaire, BonaireExel flight #9H 2972 to Aruba will leave at 11:30 am, allowing plenty of time for connections to the US even with going through the pre-Immigration check. For complete information on BonairExel

and their schedule of flights between Bonaire and Aruba, and Bonaire and Curaçao, visit their website at <http://www.bonairxel.com>.

► The PAR party leader in the Central Government Parliament, Pedro Atacho, has been asked by Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag to look into the possibility of **forming a new Central Government with "broad support" in Parliament and backing from all the islands.**

The agenda is: "willing to initiate the execution of an urgency program concentrating on fighting poverty, bringing order to government finances and tackling crime."

According to a press release from the Governor's Cabinet, at this stage in putting together such a government he wants to explicitly draw attention to the desirability of considering persons who are not directly involved in politics but have shown they possess the required qualities in other sectors of the community.

Senator Jopie Abraham said in a radio interview this week with Sean Paton on the English language program, "The Forum" (which airs on Mega FM, Sundays and Mondays Noon to 2 pm), that his party, the PDB (Democrats-Red), had been invited to discuss joining a new Central Government and would be willing to serve with the two Senators from Bonaire's UPB (Patriotiko-Green) party. However, this was not acceptable to the UPB, which holds two of Bonaire's three seats, so neither Bonaire party will be part of any possible new government. Atacho has been asked to report his findings by Monday, May 10, at the latest and to keep the governor abreast of the progress in his work every week. If he is successful in forming a government, then new national elections will not be required.

► The Court in Curaçao has ruled that FOL advisor **Nelson Monte will stay locked up while his appeal is being heard.** "There is

no evidence against me," Monte argues, "and I'm the only one being detained. Lutgendorff (ex-director of contractor De Antillen NV) is not (even) under arrest. I guess 'what's good for the goose is good for the gander' no longer applies." He was quoted by a local newspaper after the verdict was read.

Monte has nine counts against him:

1. embezzling from the Central Government through Post NV (together with Basia Winkel Corp)
2. putting together a fraudulent agreement
3. creating a fraudulent debt note
4. accepting bribes for a project of the Winkel brothers at Caracasbaai
5. accepting bribes from the Basia deal with the Post Office
6. accessory to forgery of the "Public Works" budget for main access roads at the airport
7. the use of the forged document in a meeting of Curinta's Supervisory Board
8. accepting bribes from contractor De Antillen NV
9. laundering money through the Papa Godett Foundation.

► Last week at Curaçao's Bon Futuro prison **the cells of Nelson Monte, ex-attorney Leslie Franklin and Campo Alegre-owner Giovanni van Ierland were searched**, as well as the house of Van Ierland's mother and the home of Franklin's girlfriend. In the interest of the investigation the DA did not divulge what was discovered in the cells or at the residences.

Coincidentally or not, the house searches were conducted right after it was announced that FOL ex- minister Ben Komproe had unilaterally set aside the mandatory visa requirement for Colombian and Dominican prostitutes working at the famous Campo Alegre, without discussing the matter with his colleague-ministers or even informing them.

Visa exemptions are the province of the is-

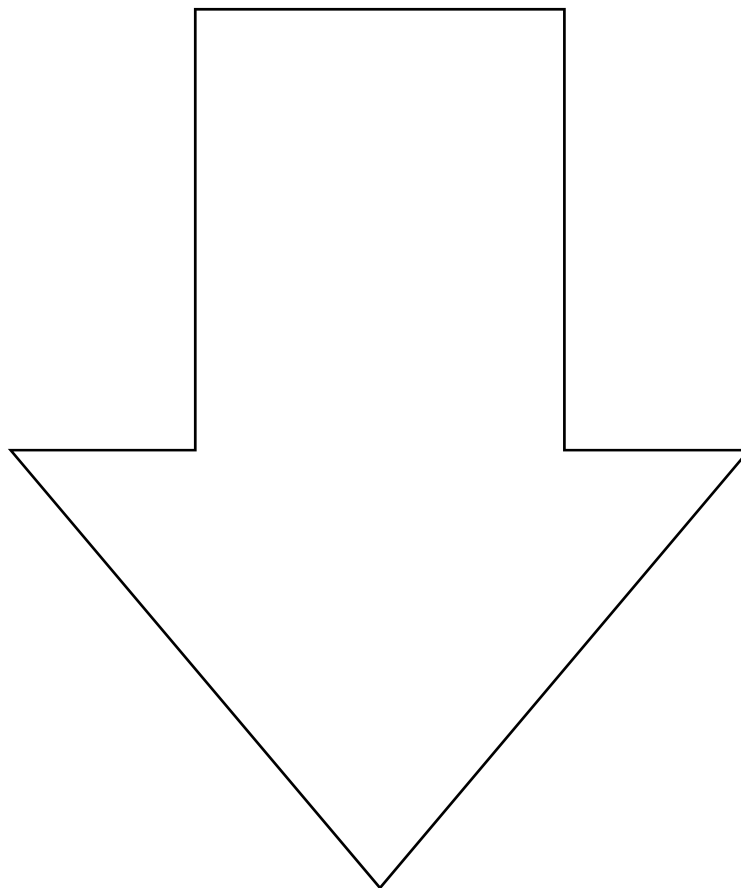
land Lt. Governor and not the Justice Department so the women who arrived without visas will have to return to their countries as soon as possible, ordered Curaçao Lt. Governor Lisa Richards-Dindial.

► Commissioner of Social Affairs, James Kroon, said in a press conference that the island government of **Bonaire spends NAf7.4 million every year on medical treatments in foreign countries.** According to Kroon, the Executive Council will have to take measures soon in order to address the expenses in the medical sector. NAf2.7 of the NAf4.7 million is being spent on transportation and accommodation expenses for medical treatments abroad. NAf1.1 million is spent on medical care, and NAf3.6 on hospitalization. He indicated further that tighter control measures would be taken. Bonaire pays NAf36 million for medical care every year. But, according to Kroon, there are indications that these funds are not being used efficiently and that in certain cases there is also waste. Bonaire has to cough up almost 50% of the NAf17.2 million. The AVBZ, SVB, National Government, and personal contributions of the patients pay the remainder.

► A month ago we wrote that **you couldn't pay your Central Government (Land) taxes** (e.g.: OB) at the usual Ontvanger's Office. You could, and still can, pay through the bank. We've visited the new Land Ontvanger office that opened in the APNA building but found longer-than-expected queues. Bonaire's Senator Genia Cecilia has registered an official complaint with the Central Government, saying the action is illegal. Illegal or not, it's quite inconvenient.

► Desirée of *Yoga for You* reports that they are now giving **yoga lessons for kids at Sebiki** on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm. For more information or to sign up call 717-2727 or 785-7688.

(Continued on page 5)



**POLICE UPDATE**



**Assistant Prosecutor Justine Gonggrijp and Charles Souriel of the Police Department** report:

**Last Saturday at Karpata during a deep dive, Walter Stark of RecTek Scuba discovered what appeared to be human remains at 100 meters (340 ft.).** He took his photos to the police. Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius ordered an investigation. The Curacao police and navy were asked to send divers but no one was allowed to dive that deep. Therefore, Walter Stark and Bob Kilorn from Rec-Tek were hired to dive and recover the remains on Tuesday.

*(Supported by an underwater scooter, in a dive exceeding three hours, using six different breathing mixtures assisted by a shallow team of divers, Ramon DeLeon (Photo Tours) and Roger Hoge (Wanna Dive), gathered the remains. Ed.)*

Recovered from three locations were the bones of at least one person (from the spinal cord, leg and an arm), parts of a wet suit, fin and dive booties. At this moment the remains cannot be identified as to whether they could be one of the divers lost at Karpata this January or someone else. DNA testing will be carried out. On Saturday the family of the two divers who were lost in January were contacted in order to obtain DNA information that might identify the deceased. DNA matching can be made from a single hair (in a hairbrush for example) or from a sample from parents or a sibling. More information as more evidence is gathered.

**Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius** reports:

The past week was relatively quiet (except for the Karpata discovery, see above). How-

ever, **five drug smugglers**-Colombians, Venezuelans and an Antillean, all residents of Curaçao-were arrested at Flamingo Airport.

Two youngsters were also detained for stealing a scooter.

**Charles Souriel of the Police Department** reports:

Thursday, April 22, around 2:30 in the morning, police received a notification that **a woman was in the hospital with a bullet wound in her arm.** The woman said that she was in the vicinity of the Bar Abow on Kaya Korona in a discussion with her ex, (J.) when he took out a gun and shot her in the left shoulder, after which the suspect left the site. The victim didn't believe her life was in danger so after her treatment at the hospital she went home. The police are looking for the suspect to give an accounting and reason for the attack.

Thursday, April 22, between noon and 1 pm the **police arrested a suspect (J.)** who in the early hours of the morning tried to kill his ex-*"enamorada."* The suspect was found and arrested in the *mondi* south of Kaya Raphaela in Antriol. Police didn't find the gun during the arrest. After interrogation the suspect will be kept in jail during the investigation.

Friday, April 23, a **very drunk and disorderly passenger** was arrested after the KLM flight from Amsterdam landed. He was possibly under the influence of alcohol or another drug. The police accompanied by Dr. v.d. Vaart, went aboard the flight after it landed. The passenger was paranoid and had to be given something to calm him by Dr. v. d. Vaart. After being put into a cell he became completely calm. He has since been

**LETTERS**

**PROTECT YOUR REEF**

As a recent tourist to Bonaire, I was impressed with several factors that I feel make Bonaire unique from other islands I have visited in the Caribbean and the Pacific. First, the people of Bonaire are very friendly and proud; second, the island is trash free, uncrowded and relatively crime free; and third, Bonaire's living reef is a national treasure. Bonaire is truly a gem. I wonder how long will it remain a gem? What will it be like in 20 years?

What concerns me most as a wastewater treatment professional is the plan to build a secondary treatment plant in Bonaire to World Health Organization standards. World Health Organization's mission is to protect the health of people and stop the spread of disease. There is nothing wrong with that, but protecting a rare living reef is neither their mission nor goal. Nutrients are not a major health concern, but nutrients can kill a coral reef. Jack Chalk (Manager of Capt. Don's Habitat) is right, secondary treatment is inadequate.

Using the treated effluent from a secondary

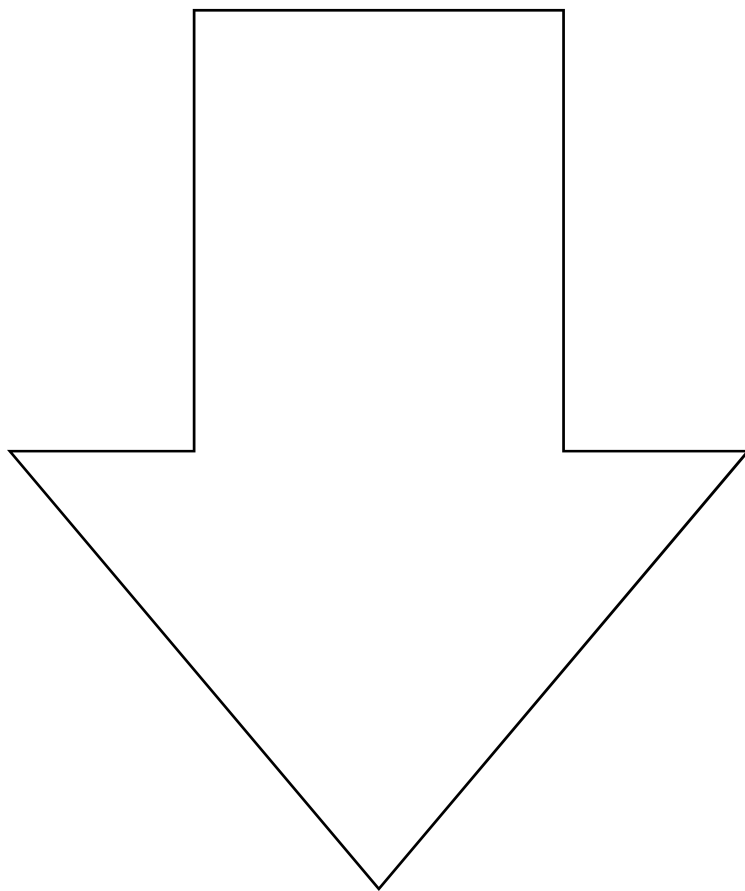
sent to Curacao for medical observation.

Wednesday, April 28, around midnight police were called to deal with a **drunk and disorderly** man in the area of Karel's Beach Bar. When the police arrived there was a pick-up truck stopped in the street, blocking traffic. The police ordered the driver to move. When he didn't the police tried to get him out of the pick-up. The driver, apparently under the influence of alcohol, stepped on the accelerator and started to drag the policeman. The policeman reacted rapidly

plant for irrigation in Bonaire will harm the reef. The nutrients will quickly travel through the limestone based soils and subsoils to the reef. It would be Jamaica all over again! Have we learned nothing from the mistakes made there, in the Florida Keys and elsewhere? In certain environmentally sensitive areas (like the Chesapeake Bay, US), advanced nutrient removal treatment techniques are being used to reduce Total Nitrogen (TN) to below 3 mg/l. With only secondary treatment TN discharge could be 10 or 20 times higher. Advanced nutrient removal treatment must be incorporated into Bonaire's treatment plant. The time to do it is before it's built, not after you discover your reef is dying. I urge you to insist on a state-of-the-art nutrient removal treatment process in order to protect your reef, - while it is still living.

Don Jacobs, P.E.  
*Mr. Jacobs is a professional engineer and for the last 23 years has been the Plant Superintendent of the Piscataway Wastewater Treatment Plant near Washington, DC. This plant treats 30 million gallons per day and it is one of the largest and most advanced treatment facilities in the US.*

and let go. During the maneuver the man nearly ran over some people who were standing on the side of the street in front of Karel's Beach Bar. A little while later the man (M.L., 23 years old, of Kaya Grandi) was arrested. The suspect resisted arrest and the police had to use their billy clubs to subdue him. During a search, the suspect was found to be in possession of a small amount of a substance resembling cocaine in his trouser pockets. He was taken to jail where more investigation was done. He was subsequently released. □L.D.



► Prime Minister of the Antilles caretaker government, Mirna Louisa-Godett, on behalf of the people of the Netherlands Antilles, congratulated **Dutch Prince Johan Friso and his wife Princess Mabel van Oranje-Nassau van Amberg** on the occasion of their wedding on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

According to the Central Government Information Service, the Prime Minister wished the couple a marriage “blessed with love, happiness and prosperity. Masha pabien.”

The Dutch prince, second son of Queen Beatrix, gave up his right of succession to the Dutch throne when he married his fiancé without the permission of the Dutch Government. The couple failed to win the government’s approval after the new princess admitted that she had had a closer relationship with murdered mobster Klass Bruinsma than she had admitted at the time of her engagement.



Dutch Govt. photo

*Friso and Mabel with their mothers.*

*Flotsam and Jetsam. (Continued from page 3)*

► The Special Olympics Team Bonaire is gearing up for the **Pan-Caribbean games in Jamaica this July**. They’ll be participating in Bocce, Swimming and Running. Head Coach Elizabeth Wigny says they have excellent new team members from the Wa-

tapana School who are training in those sports as well as in tennis. **They are looking for tennis racquets for the athletes. If anyone has any to donate call Elizabeth at 717-5025 (between 5-9 pm) or Delno at 717-8322.** They also need **coaches for the swim team who can speak Papiamentu.** The team would also like to give a big thank



BVO photo

► **Three Bonaireans were named Members in the Order of Oranje-Nassau last week** In all there were 33 ribbons awarded in the Antilles. In Bonaire, José M. Boekhoudt, Muriel U. Pourier and José (Joe) L. Regales became Members in the Order of Oranje-Nassau. Their ribbons were pinned on by Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé.

The exact nomination process for appointments is a secret. To be eligible for a ribbon you must first be nominated. A committee on every island screens those nominated and the Chapter for the Civil Order approves the nomination. Awards generally mean that the recipient has made their fellow man happy in some way.

*Order of Oranje Medalists: Joe Regales, Muriel Pourier, Governor Domacassé and José Boekhoudt*

**TRIATHLON ANYONE?**

About 10 years ago Bonaire hosted a triathlon, but there have been none here since then except for the mini-triathlon organized by Jong Bonaire a few months ago which attracted dozens of competitors. Last week one was held in Curaçao. Now several individuals are interested in starting a Triathlon Club in Bonaire to better prepare for these types of events.

Two Bonaire residents are leading this effort: Simone Sweers and Annemiek Noble. They just competed in the Curaçao event where Simone placed second in her group. Annemiek would have done well too, but her bike suffered a flat tire and she had to run with it for the remainder of the 15 km off-road course. In fact the rest of the events were off-road: a 750 m. swim and a 5 km. run. The ladies were sponsored by De Freeweiler, Harbourtown Realty and BonairExel. Eighty athletes participated. Contact Simone or Annemiek at Bonfysio, 717-7030, to get more Triathlon Club information. □ *G.D.*



*Triathlon girls*



you to the **Caribbean Club Bonaire for their very generous contribution of NA\$2,500.**

► A **cigar bar** has opened near the waterfront where the recently shuttered Admiral's Bar was located.

► A new retail outlet - **TAMBU** - has opened up on **Kaya Grandi** (opposite Littman's Gift shop). There is a small café in front where fruit shakes, fresh fruit juices, coffee and snacks are sold. In the back there's a small souvenir shop. It's open Monday - Saturday from 9 am until 6 pm.

► Plans for the opening of the **Harbour Village Spa** have been cancelled. The group from Aruba has withdrawn, and nothing further is planned at this time.

► **Mothers Day is this coming this Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.** We'd like to wish all the

mothers on Bonaire the happiest day. What will you be doing for your mother or the mother of your children? Check out our advertisers for that perfect gift for her. And how about taking her out for lunch or dinner? See the Dining Guide. □ *G./L. D.*

**COUNTDOWN TO THE DIVE FESTIVAL**

**BONAIRE DIVE FESTIVAL**

**30** DAYS TO GO

# Referendum Chronicle



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

Last week the Referendum Commission opened an office in the Passengrahn (“Parliament” building next to Wilhelmina Park). It is staffed by Maria Maldonado, newly appointed Referendum Assistant. The Commission can be e-mailed at: referendumbonaire@bonairelive.com.

Two of the original members of the Commission resigned honorably for personal reasons: Lucia Anthony-Everts and Willem Cicilia. In their places Herbert Piar and A.M. Jansen were appointed.

*This week the Chronicle considers an alternative many people (based on the informal survey we reported on last week) have eliminated: retaining the Netherlands Antilles.*

### THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES RECONSTITUTED? (Part 1 of a 2-Part article)

In 1993 the island of Curaçao launched a referendum on the people's preference for a constitutional overhaul of the Netherlands Antilles, the “Land” making up a third part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the other partners being Holland and (naughty boy aparté) Aruba. (Bonaire followed suit with its own referendum in 1994, but then the die had already been cast.) The five (!) main parties of Curaçao were united in their selection of options. Continuation of the N.A. as a form of governance did not qualify as an option. The basic choice was to be between inde-



pendence, or status aparté, or becoming an integral part of the Netherlands.

Only one man with not a shred of financial or political backing (with the possible exception of a female member of the Maduro family, later prominent as a PAR politician), stood up and shouted “foul!” He was Miguel Pourier, a Rincon-born Bonairean, at the time a tax consultant and former tax inspector based on Curaçao.

Pourier's view won the day. The N.A.-continuation option was included in the referendum choice, and this option carried 70% of the electoral vote on all five islands, a real landslide. A year later, Pourier capitalized on this one-man success, formed the political party PAR and carried the Curaçao election with a crushing victory over the established political machine.

The promise on that referendum day was that the N.A., if re-chosen as an option, would be vigorously reformed, doing away with bureaucracy, red tape, and “nannying” of the individual islands by a central government far removed from the people, stressing the principle of subsidation, each

island taking care of its own business as much as its human and economic resources would allow.

Pourier and his party, PAR, carried the day and governed the N.A. coalition for close to eight years. But no political reform was forthcoming, only the economic reforms preached by the Netherlands and by the IMF, the upfront bogey boy of those Dutch politicians who didn't want to burn their fingers on the hot Antillean issues of graft, “clientelism,” job padding and plain nepotism.

Miguel Pourier did a heroic job, but retired as a tired warrior, leaving the political scene to such harridans as the Godett clan, who were going to teach the IMF and their devious *makamba* backers in Holland a lesson. Fifteen billion guilders were claimed as the price for paying off colonial guilt and slave labor. Or else! Pictures of the 1969 uprising on Curaçao, led by Anthony's father (Papa Godett, a populist gold-hearted politician) served as a back-up, and the Frente Obrero (FOL) sailed into power, only recently relinquished. But now?

The N.A. option is not taken seriously by the people of Bonaire because of the broken promise to reform the N.A.'s structure and texture when the 1993/1994 referenda were launched. “We have been here before, and we don't buy any empty promises anymore.” A new Miguel Pourier would stand no chance today.

But is it really true? What if Holland, the core country of the Kingdom, would take a more active stance, not hiding behind IMF's harsh economic measures, and would take the lead in restructuring the N.A. mold, now

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 cooperation 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. Opinions expressed are solely those of the writers. □

50 years old, and clearly having outspent its ultimate sales date on the political shelf?

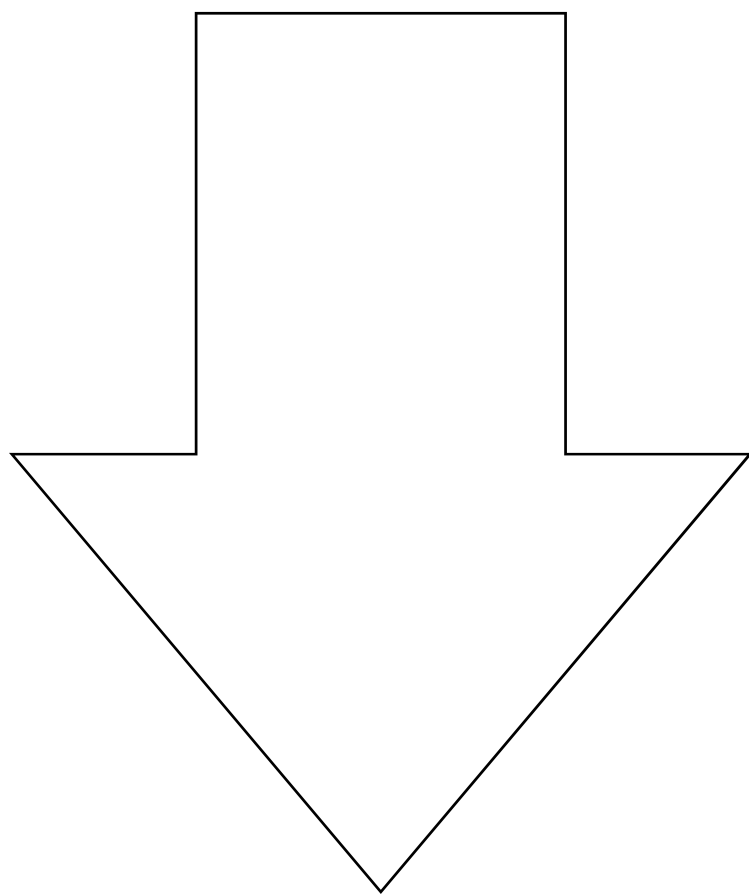
*A Brief Sketch of a Reconstituted Netherlands Antilles* (The Federal Government or the “Land”)

The first job at hand would be to separate the functions now performed by the Land government and its main departments and inspectorates into three categories:

- those which Bonaire could do without
- those which must, of necessity, stay in place for reasons of governance, expedience or economy of scale
- and then those which could (in a three-pronged sub choice) be either split up among the five N.A. islands, with some form (to be discussed later in this article) of central supervision and accountability, or be contracted out between the islands to those best suited for performing this task, or, on the basis of subsidation, could very well be performed by each island individually.

Together with some knowledgeable politicians and administrators of both the Land and Island we have addressed as many as 50 central functions. We will skip the detailed list for now, as not all our readers would be interested to know what would be the fate of the Land Lottery, the meteorological service or the orphan's council, and concentrate on some of the main items. □ *The Chronicle*s

*Next week to be continued: What Bonaire can do without? What it cannot do without? What can it handle on its own? And more.*



# ROSITA'S FITNESS FACTS

## The Plank



Connie Swart and Rosita demonstrate "The Plank"

### What is "The Plank"?

The "plank" (or hover) is an isolation move used in Pilates and Yoga and works the abs, back, arms and legs. The "plank" is one of the most effective strength training exercises and also targets your internal abdominal muscles. It tones internal organs and increases lung capacity while increasing the heat in the body.

It is very important to use proper form while performing abdominal exercises. We need to realize that there's a right way and a wrong way to work the abs. To prevent injuries, it is necessary to have a correct body position throughout the entire range of motion for an exercise. It is also important that the body's muscles and tendons possess adequate strength, endurance, and flexibility to maintain proper technique from start to finish.

### What does it do?

The "plank," is an effective exercise for flattening the abdominal wall. This exercise is performed with the stomach toward the floor and the body extended. As you balance on the elbows and balls of the feet, the plank strengthens the abdominal muscles by stabilizing the trunk/spine. The "plank" not only works the abdominal muscles, but it also improves the strength of the back and gluteus muscles. However, it is important to work up to this high-level activity over time.

### How to do it:

Lie face down on a mat with elbows resting on the floor next to your chest. Push your body off the floor in a pushup position with body resting on elbows or hands. Contract the abs and keep the body in a straight line from head to toes.

For beginners, do this move on your knees and gradually work your way up to balancing on your toes. For advanced, slowly raise one leg and rest foot on top of heel of the lower one as shown on the photo. Hold, count to eight and repeat other leg.

Exhale during contraction and inhale while relaxing the abdominal muscles. Always maintain focus on the muscles being exercised.

Till next time, Rosita

**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.**



# ART FOR FUN

## CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH MOTHER NATURE

A handmade greeting card will always be the best way to share love with our mothers. This year try using Mother Nature as a guide for creating a special card with leaves you find in the garden.



### LEAF PAINTING—8 Easy Steps to Create a Beautiful Card

**Supplies needed:** Several pieces of scrap plain paper; Water base craft paint; Wax paper; Card stock paper; Leaves from Mother Nature

1. Before starting the painting process, I use my Microsoft Word program on the computer to print several Mother's Day greetings on scrap paper. You can also hand print your message with a bold marker.
2. Take a trip through the garden with a pair of shears or scissors. Pick out several different leaves for experimentation. Smaller leaves work better for this project.
3. Using your finger, smear a small amount of paint on the back of the leaf. The key is to get just the right amount of paint on the leaf. Too much paint will create leaf blobs. Not using enough paint will leave too faint an image.
4. Gently place the painted leaf on the paper. Put wax paper over the leaf. Now rub the leaf lightly with your finger. The wax paper helps keep the paint off your fingers that comes out from underneath the leaf and prevents messing up the surrounding area.
5. Slowly take away the wax paper and the leaf.
6. Repeat the process using the same leaf or a variety of others.
7. After practicing on the scrap paper you should be ready for the card stock paper. Print your Mother's Day greeting centered on the bottom half of the paper. Be sure to practice your printing setup on scrap paper to get the correct spacing on the paper. Fold the card stock in half before applying the leaf paint so you can establish your painting area. Now have fun decorating.
8. Finally, thank Mother Nature for being so spectacular!

Have a Happy Mother's Day! □ 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* □





## WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON WAVE CHALLENGE REDUX

Following the relatively windless weekend of April 24-25, this past weekend's windsurf scene at sunny Sorobon was action packed with freestyle and wave windsurf competitions. Elvis Martines, windsurf "godfather" here in Bonaire, has revived the former windsurf series by offering an opportunity for the hard training members of the Bonaire Sailing Team to show off their stuff.



Tonky Frans

Many of these sailors train daily for hours, performing difficult aerial freestyle moves with silly names such as Flaka, Grubby, Ponch and Vulcan. From the small juniors to the adult pros, they all want to show their stuff.

Saturday was a freestyle event held at the Sorobon PWA Event Site. Juniors, Amateurs and Men were treated to wonderful winds of about 18 -20 knots. Occasional higher gusts challenged even the more experienced riders. Veterans such as Clay Finies and Sammy Vingerhoets dazzled the crowd with their style. Newcomers included brothers Jose and Juan Fajardo Rivera who sometimes train well into the dark on weekdays. Results below:

	Kids	Juniors	Men's Amateur
1st place	Amado	Mosje Vingerhoets	Sammy Vingerhoets
2nd place	Jurgen	Jaeger St. Jago	Clay Finies
3rd place	Kieren	Bjorn Saragoza	Jose Fajardo Rivera

Sunday was the Bonaire Wave Challenge. With the return of the trade winds, Cai was the scene for the hot action that uses the trade wind-driven rollers to get some lift. Top World Class riders included Taty Frans, 4th in the world on the Professional Windsurfing Association (PWA) Tour, and Tonky Frans, rated 5th in the world for freestyle.

Surprises came from two very talented riders who decided to try their luck in the challenging waves. Sixteen-year-old Christopher Bernabella stunned the crowd with his incredible aerial maneuvers. This up and coming talent is well deserving of professional sponsorship and is the one to watch in the windsurf horizon. Sammy Vingerhoets, who has been training in the waves with Tonky Frans in recent days, showed that practice makes perfect. Sammy was throwing lots of Table Tops and Back Loops, two very difficult wave moves. The "Young Guns" of the Bonaire Sailing Team showed they can match the skills of some of the older riders.

The crowd favorite and another competitor to watch on the 2004 PWA Tour is Kiri Thode. Kiri beat out his cousin Tonky in the first round of the Double Ladder Elimination. He was in constant motion during the entire eight-minute heat. His smile and his dynamic personality steal the hearts of the crowds. In the end, the Frans brothers prevailed. Many thanks to the volunteer judges and committee members as well as the sponsors, Cri-

The results: **1st place** Taty Frans **2nd place** Tonky Frans **3rd place** Kiri Thode **4th place** Keke Dammers

yoyo Paint, Plaza Resorts, Ackerman Toyota Lexus, Larry's Wild Side Dive, Island Supplier and [www.bonairecaribbean.com](http://www.bonairecaribbean.com). □ Ann Phelan

## VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alegria	Hero	Rusty Bucket
Astrolabe	Honalee, USA	Sabbatical, USA
Angie	Jalapeno	Sandpiper, USA
Bird of Paradise	Jupiter	Santa Maria, Sweden
Blauwe Crab, Curaçao	La Contenta	Scintilla, Germany
Betty Jane	La Escotilla	Sitiraz
Borealis	Lady Diane	Sirius
Camissa, Chan Is.	Lionstar	Sijoiurner
Camperdown	Libertijn	Soverign III
Cape Kathryn	Lucky Lobster, Curacao	Surprise, USA
Cappoquin	Luna C	Sundancer III
Caravela	Macaby, Netherlands	Sylvia K
Chulugi, Netherlands	Magalita	Triumphant Lady
Danette	Misty Blue	Ta B
Dream Maker	Natural Selection, USA	Ti Amo, USA
Escotilla	Nieke	Today, USA
Felecia	Nuance	Traveler, Canada
Fifth Season	One Way Wind	Trio
Flying Cloud, USA	Oz	Ulu Ulu, USA
Gabrielle, USA	Pamela Jean	Unicorn, Norway
Galadrial, USA	Perseverance	Varedhuni, Germany
Gatsby, USA	Polecat	Wanita
Goril Too	Precocious Gale, USA	Ya-T, BVI
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Queen of Hearts	X-to-Sea
Hannah	Rhapsody	Zeno's Arrow, USA

## NOTICES TO MARINERS

There is a new (free) monthly boating newspaper aimed at the owners and captains of mega yachts. Named *The Triton* it's produced in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. While filled with articles and advertisements aimed at the gold-plater crowd, it contains articles of general interest to all boating people. For example, the current issue talks about the start of the 32<sup>nd</sup> America's Cup which will take place in Valencia and Marseilles during September and October this year. Eighteen teams from nine countries will compete.

It reported that USCG Notices to Mariners will now be available only via the Internet. To sign up for the electronic version go to [www.navcen.uscg.gov/lnm/default.htm](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/lnm/default.htm). The notices will include safety information.

And if you cruise the Intracoastal Waterway you will be able to connect to the Internet at high speed thanks to wireless broadband service from YachtSpots. You can access *The Triton* on line at <http://www.the-triton.com>. A 12-issue annual subscription mailed to US addresses costs \$12. Issues are available at the Harbour Village Marina this month. 0129. □ G.D.



KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)									
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides									
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		COEF					
5-07	2:47	2.1FT.	12:22	0.6FT.					9
5-08	3:45	2.0FT.	13:14	0.6FT.					9
5-09	4:44	2.0FT.	13:57	0.6FT.					8
5-10	5:47	1.9FT.	14:32	0.7FT.					7
5-11	6:44	1.8FT.	15:08	0.7FT.					6
5-12	1:50	1.4FT.	7:45	1.7FT.	15:35	0.8FT.	22:53	1.4FT.	5
5-13	3:46	1.3FT.	8:38	1.5FT.	15:50	0.9FT.	22:34	1.5FT.	5
5-14	5:17	1.2FT.	9:42	1.4FT.	15:51	1.0FT.	22:40	1.6FT.	5
5-15	6:31	1.1FT.	10:37	1.3FT.	15:29	1.1FT.	22:57	1.7FT.	6
5-16	7:54	1.0FT.	12:11	1.1FT.	14:15	1.1FT.	23:22	1.8FT.	6

# TURTLE NESTING SEASON'S HERE.

Yes, it's turtle time again! Bonaire has seen the first nesting activity of the year. But before you get too excited or rush off to the beach, torch in hand, here are a few tried and tested guidelines we should all take to heart to ensure that our shores remain places which turtles can visit and our beaches are places where they can safely come to lay their eggs.

## Turtle nesting in the Southern Caribbean.

Turtle nesting season in this part of the Caribbean usually begins in April with leatherback turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs. But Bonaire is a little different. Turtles don't normally begin coming ashore here until mid-May. This might be because traditionally everyone goes to the beach over Easter and in the past early nesters could have been caught or that there is simply too much general disturbance on the beach for them or that leatherback never were so keen on Bonairean beaches.

## Our first turtle crawl

Whatever the reason this year is different. The Sea Turtle Club recorded the first turtle crawl of the year at Playa Chikitu recently. Now we are all waiting with baited breath to figure out if it is a leatherback or a green turtle which has visited us so early. If it is a leatherback, this would be really exciting, as it would be the first leatherback nesting activity we've seen on Bonaire in a decade. And we won't have to wait long to find out. I am reliably informed that leatherbacks come ashore every 10 days and those lazy old greens can only be bothered to haul themselves up the beach every 12 days.

## Turtle safe beaches

Turtles are globally endangered and we all have a responsibility to protect them and their nests and eggs. Even more importantly for us, turtles return to the same nesting beaches from which they were hatched. In other words the turtles that come here to nest are Bonairean turtles in the truest sense of the word. They come back year after year, and if a nesting colony is wiped out, that's it. No more turtles.

*Since we are clearly heading into the turtle nesting season and can expect more and more turtle activity, here are some general guidelines to keep our shores and beaches as "turtle friendly" as possible.*

**Fishing line can kill.** Turtles breathe air – just like us - which means that they can drown if they can't reach the surface to breathe. Sadly this is just what happened to a turtle recently when it became entangled



*These turtles leave their nest in an unusual daytime hatching*

in discarded fishing line. It's easy for fishing line to be lost, especially around the piers. Let's clean up and keep it clean!

**Litter is dangerous.** When turtles find plastic bags at sea they can mistake them for jellyfish, a favorite turtle snack, and eat them. With plastic in their stomach they die. Take all your litter home with you from the beach and make sure plastic items don't blow away or get washed into the water.

**Boat strikes can kill.** Turtles sometimes like to bask at the surface and always come to the surface to breathe. They may not always be aware of your boat, especially if there is a lot of boat traffic. Keep a good lookout for turtles at sea.

**Keep the lights low.** If lights are visible from the beach, turtles can become disoriented and confused. Shield, shade or switch off any lights you have on and around nesting beaches. Don't use the beach to set up camp fires or barbecues.

**Remove obstructions.** Turtles need to be able to move around the beach if they are to find a good place to lay a nest of eggs. They can't do this if there are chairs, umbrella stands or worse yet, vehicles littering the shoreline. Keep these things off the beach or store them overnight and give turtles the run of the beach.

**Keep your pets away.** Any patch of sand at the water's edge is potentially a nesting area for turtles and dogs will dig up and destroy a nest in an instant. Keep pets on a leash or better yet, don't take them to turtle nesting beaches during the nesting season.

For more information or clarification contact the Sea Turtle Club. Their head offices are behind Bon Fysio on the Kaya Gob. De-brot. 717-2225 or 790-0433. □ *Kalli DeMeyer*

*Kalli DeMeyer is Executive Director of Coral Resource Management (Fundashon pa Bon Koral), a not-for-profit foundation. With 10 years marine park management experience, Kalli is "Bonaire's voice of the reef." Office: the Caribbean Club, Hilltop. Mon.-Fri. 8:30-12:30, 2-5 pm. Phone: 786-0675.*



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) announced recently that a dead hawksbill turtle was found under the municipal pier in Playa. The animal presumably drowned after becoming entangled in fishing line. The turtle was an endangered hawksbill turtle (*Turtuga Karet*), tagged by the STCB last year. Besides this individual's life, a further opportunity to learn more about hawksbill turtles is lost. The STCB has been conducting intensive in-water research on sea turtles around Bonaire since October 2002. STCB president Imre Esser is very concerned that fishing lines are frequently abandoned in the water. "The turtles can become entangled with one of their flippers, then cannot reach the surface to breathe, leading to a terrible death by drowning," adds the President. The STCB has expressed its concern to BNMP/Stinapa (National Parks Foundation). Monofilament fishing line was developed in the 1930s and consists of a single and continuous strand of nylon. Abandoned monofilament nylon line may last for many hundreds of years in the marine environment. Snorkelers and divers can help prevent further drowning deaths of sea turtles by cutting off abandoned fishing line and leaving it as short as possible without damaging corals. □ *STCB*



*Hawksbill turtle dies from entanglement in fishing line*

# COVER STORY RINCON DAY 2004



*The popular Kuku Bar with Urbano Flores*



*Chi Marie makes the best boca dushi (sweets)*

People filled the heart of Rincon last Friday for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Rincon Day celebration, begun by the late Broteje Janga who passed away last year. It's always a double party because April 30 is also a Dutch holiday officially commemorating the Queen's Birthday. More people visited Rincon that day than ever before. BonairExel put on extra flights, the Tribon ferry brought cars and people and the "Broteje Janga Highway," the road connecting Sabedeco and Rincon was newly graded and relatively smooth. All day long there was music, dance groups, parades and lots of stands on the streets, from the Lamase grocery store to beyond the *Centro di Bario*, and on the road to Washington Park as well. The many stands sold all kinds of food and drinks, especially those that are unique to Rincon, as well as crafts and gifts. Later in the afternoon the *Simidan* (Harvest) parade marched through town with everyone singing, dancing and waving the whole way. This lets the people of Rincon show their open-hearted hospitality as they invite everyone to join them in the celebration. □ *G.D.*



*Antonio dePalm, Special Olympics medallist, is coached by Renate Rietman during the MCB Rincon Run*

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##### BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT

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details contact: (599) 717-5058; 717 -  
3293; [larjaytee@aol.com](mailto:larjaytee@aol.com)

#### FOR SALE

Two 80 ft<sup>3</sup> Luxfer aluminum tanks  
with Sherwood 500 valve. Hydro  
tested in Dec. 03 Call-717-2208

Achilles Inflatable with 25 HP well  
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7500 717-8819 from 8 am to 5 pm

Women's 3mm full wetsuit, size XL,  
never used: front zipper, ankle zips,  
spine pad, thigh pocket, NAf350. Dec  
Scarr, 717-8529.

Aluminium Scuba Tank 80 cylinder  
recently hydroed, \$75-. 717-4755

#### WANTED

2 hybrid or mountain bikes wanted.  
Please call 785-6820

Wanted: A full grown dog, house-  
broken and quiet, to be my well-  
loved companion. Please call if you  
have too many dogs and would like a  
good home for one. Alejandra 565 -  
6499.

Wanted: New Medical Student look-  
ing for an inexpensive, reliable car.  
E-mail [mikeinmedicine@netscape.net](mailto:mikeinmedicine@netscape.net)

#### WANTED for the REPORTER

Bored with your job? *The Bonaire  
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200-6 or e-mail [job@bonairereporter.  
com](mailto:job@bonairereporter.com). Phone 717-8988.

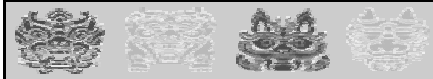
#### MISCELLANEOUS

Baha'i firesides. For fireside teacher  
in Bonaire please contact: Email: al-  
exander137@telbonet.an or call 717-  
7977.

#### 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. 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 Cinna-  
mon Art Gallery should call Wendy  
Horn at 717 3902 or 785 - 9700, or  
stop by the Gallery weekdays after  
April 24.



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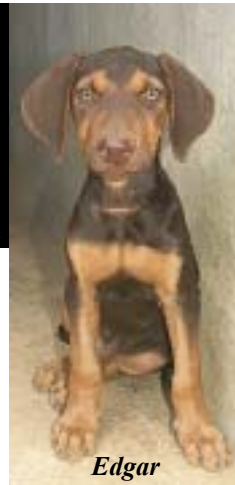


### PRESQUE ISLE HARBOUR

Here's a winter scene with Chuck Karjala, from Detroit, MI, at **Presque Isle  
Harbour** in Lake Huron in March 2004 taking a long weekend to escape the  
city. Chuck's been coming to Bonaire for over 15 years, sometimes two or three  
times a year and hopes to retire here. Doesn't the photo make you feel cooler al-  
ready? □

**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: [pic-  
ture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:pic-<br/>ture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □

## PET of the WEEK



Edgar

Recently  
there came  
into the Bonaire  
Animal Shelter  
five very cute  
puppies. "Edgar,"  
our pet this week,  
is one of them

and he agreed to be the model for his  
brothers and sister. Actually, now there  
are only four because one of them has  
already been adopted. The pups are four  
months old, and, according to the staff at  
the Shelter, they all have very good dis-  
positions and temperaments. They'll be  
big dogs when they grow up and will  
make good watch dogs as well as being  
loyal family members. And, of course,  
they're very attractive with their red  
noses and gray-blue eyes. In Edgar's  
family now there are two dark brown  
males and two light brown pups, a male,  
and a female. Their mother, who is a fine  
dog herself, was always getting pregnant  
but now she's sterilized and can look  
forward to a rather stress free life with  
her owner.

These pups are in excellent health, have  
their shots and examinations and will be  
sterilized when they come of age. You  
can always be assured of a healthy and  
social animal when you adopt from the  
Bonaire Animal Shelter. The Shelter is  
on the Lagoen Road, open Monday  
through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Satur-  
days until 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989. □L.D.

# INTRODUCING THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE BONAIREXEL FAMILY



*BonairExel Reservation and Ticketing Staff: Valeska, Danutta, Nereida, Supervisor Irene, Audette, Julissa and Wendeline*



*BonairExel Passenger Handling Staff making like an airplane: Estine, Faniska, Poppy, Elisheba, Angelo, Ilva and Angeli*

BonairExel's Sales and Marketing Assistant, Roosje Goeloe, reports that there've been some changes at BonairExel. All the ticketing and passenger handling will now be done by only BonairExel staff. Previously, Bonaire Air Services (BAS) handled these duties in the interim while the airline was getting set up. But now it's all under the BonairExel "umbrella." You may recognize some of the friendly faces who've come over from BAS. So, welcome to all the BonairExel "family members!" See the BonairExel ad on page 3 for individual photos of all the reservations and ticketing staff so you can get to know them on a first-name basis. (Next week on page 3 you'll see individual photos of the Passenger Handling Staff.)

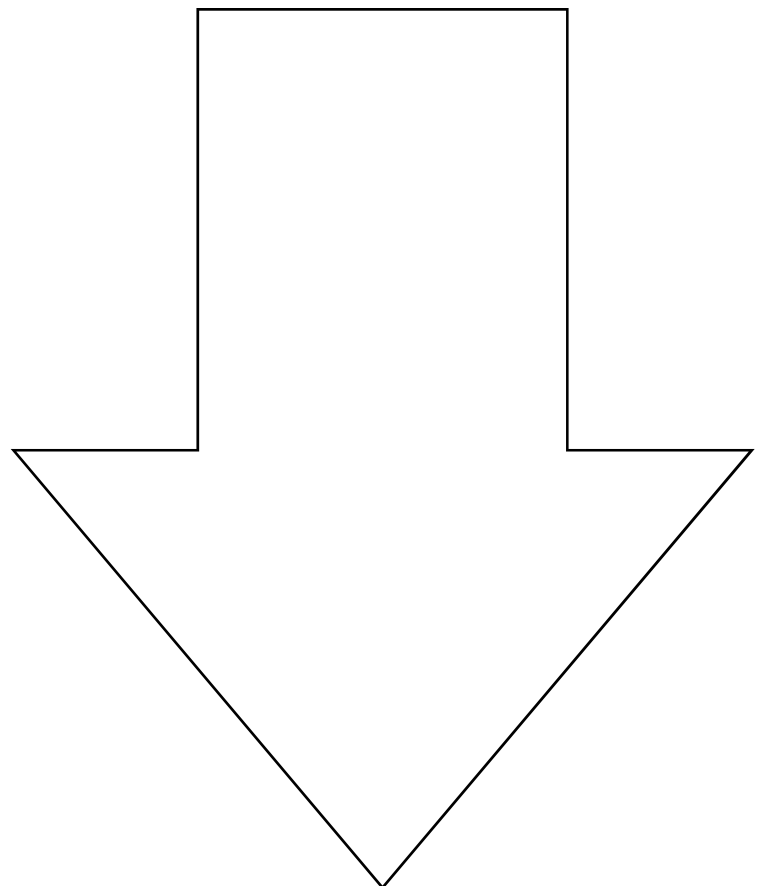
Other news from BonairExel is that the airline is going to hold an **art competition among all the students from the six elementary schools up to grade 5.** The

theme is "What Fun It Is to Vacation with BonairExel." The drawings will be judged on creativity, so age is not important. The deadline for entrants is May 28. Each entrant will receive a goody bag.

BonairExel is giving each of the five elementary schools NAf1.000 worth of airline tickets to be used for fundraising (raffles, etc.).

The winner for the best drawing or art work will receive two BonairExel tickets, and his or her school will receive an additional NAf630 worth of tickets to be used for more fundraising. The second prize winner will also get two BonairExel tickets and the school gets NAf378 worth of tickets. Third place gets two tickets and the school receives NAf250 worth of tickets.

Following the competition there will be an exposition of all the works submitted at a place yet to be determined. It should be fun to see. □L.D.





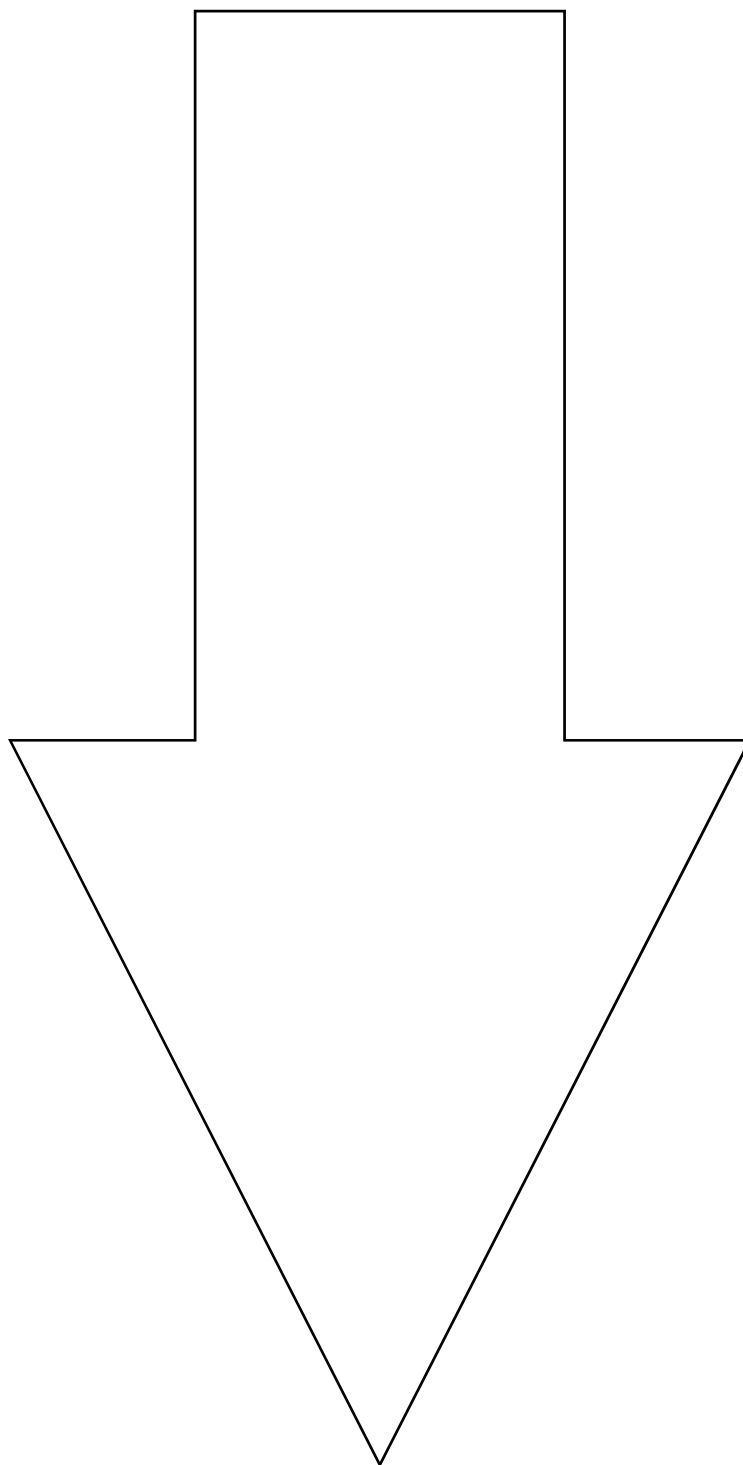
# BONAIRE HIT PARADE



TW	LW	#WEEKS	BAND	SONG TITLE
1.	3	6	BANDA SUN G	AMOR DE MADRE 2
2.	2	6	ORK. CACHE	KASA KU MI
3.	1	6	MASTA/KING LOVER	WHEN I HIT YA
4.	6	4	NO GAME	JERY
5.	7	4	DC POWER	MI KURASON TEY PA BO
6.	4	5	D.J. OPT1K	R&B REGGAETON MIX
7.	5	7	COMPACT BAND	E CHIKICHI
8.	8	3	USHER/LUDACR./LIL J.	YEAH
9.	14	1	I.G.T.	UN BUGALU
10.	13	2	ENRICO HENRIQUEZ	SIMADAN DIA DI RINCON
11.	15	1	BEYONCE	NAUGHTY GIRL
12.	N	N	NO GAME	ATA BO KO
13.	N	N	COMPACT BAND	BISADO
14.	N	N	JANET JACKSON	ALL NITE (DON'T STOP)
15.	N	N	HAPPY BAND	ZORRO

**LISTEN TO THE TOP HITS EVERY SATURDAY FROM 12 NOON - 1PM**

A 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

# CINNAMON GALLERY OPENS TO CROWD

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! Usually 9:00 pm

**The Ladykillers**  
(Tom Hanks)

Early Show (usually 7:00 pm)

**The Passion of**

**Kaya Prinses Marie**  
Behind Exito Bakery  
Tel. 717-2400

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

NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY

**SATURDAY 4 PM**  
**Scoobydoo 2-**  
**Monsters Unleashed**  
**SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM**  
**Against the Ropes**

### COMING

**Saturday, May 15 - Monthly clean up Dive** at Yellow Submarine. 1 pm, free air, potluck BBQ

**Sunday, May 16 - Copa Julia windsurfing event**, windsurf event site at Sorobon. All windsurfers invited to participate. Special performance by the "baby class," 1 pm. 717-2288

### 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 info.

**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)

The Cinnamon Art Gallery opened its doors Saturday night, April 24, to an overflow crowd of more than 300 in downtown Kralendijk. Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé and Councilman Edward Thielman cut the red ribbon signaling the official opening of the gallery. The Governor commented that he was proud to recognize the opening of a new business and especially a foundation whose purpose is to support Bonaire-based artists. Attendees enjoyed appetizers provided by the Last Bite Bakery and were serenaded by Bonaire's popular jazz trio of Henk, Benji and Guus. The Gallery was jammed with visitors for three hours, and many people stayed in the street outside to enjoy the music, food and atmosphere. A free drawing was held to give away artwork donated by founding directors Avy Benhamron, Jake Richter and Linda Richter. Kontiki's Miriam Geerlings and port visitors Dee Kincade and Tania Hens (from the Yachts *Surprise* and *Alegria*, respectively) were the winners. The Gallery is seeking Bonaire-based artists interested in exhibiting their work and also volunteers to work in the gallery during the week. For more information, call the Gallery weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm at 717-7103 or send an email at [info@cinnamonartgallery.org](mailto:info@cinnamonartgallery.org) □



*Cinnamon Gallery photo*

*Artist Jake Richter, organizer Wendy Horn, and artists Linda Richter and Avy Benhamron at the opening*

□

# 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	Award-winning Chef Martijn Bouwmeester is the master in the kitchen and manager of the restaurant. Have a fine dining experience with creative, inspired dishes.
<b>Caribbean Club Bonaire at Hilltop</b> 5 minutes north of "Hotel Row" 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast, Dinner, closed Sunday	What a place! Friendly bar next to the pool, home cooked meals, happy hours 5 to 7. Serious BBQ on Tuesdays NA/25.
<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>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Skilled chef direct from Tuscany prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a total delight. Get served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort.
<b>Garden Café</b> Kaya Grandi 59 717-3410	Moderate Monday-Friday, Lunch & Dinner Saturday, Dinner, Closed Sunday	Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties. Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and Latin Parilla
<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; Deliveries 6:00-7:30pm, 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 Breakfast, Lunch, 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 & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <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	Tasty breakfasts, pastries, fresh tropical juices, homemade bread, special sandwiches, delicious desserts and more make this a favorite.



# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## AIRLINES

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

## APPLIANCES/FURNITURE/COMPUTERS

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

## BANKS

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

## BEAUTY PARLOR

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

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes.

## BOOKS

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

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

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

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

## CLEANING SERVICE

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

## CYBER CAFES

See Restaurant Guide for **The Seahorse Cyber Café.**

## DENTURES

**All Denture 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. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q. **Dive Inn** Seven studio apartments and dive shop/school directly on the waterfront in the heart of town. Friendly, highly experienced with an exceptional staff.

## FITNESS

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

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

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

## GIFTS - 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

**Hotel Bonaire Inn** (formerly Friars' Inn), downtown Kralendijk, has 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 Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints and slides plus a variety of items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

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

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

## REPAIRS

**Bon Handyman** is here if you need something fixed or

built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc.

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

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

## 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.

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



## José Velasco

“After I graduated from high school one of the best things that could happen to me happened: I got a scholarship for the US! A present from heaven! In high school I studied business administration and was already working for an agricultural company that processed cashew nuts. There was a lot of competition with many people from all kinds of institutions and schools, and although there were people who scored higher than I did, there were also the personality issues. It turned out that I had exactly what they wanted so, out of 28, they chose me!

I was born January 21, 1974, in Chirilagua, close to San Miguel, the third largest city in El Salvador. I was 19 when I left for the States to study food processing and technology at Modesto Junior College in California. Because I couldn't speak English and my host family didn't speak Spanish we started with sign language! There was a translator for the first three months of classes, and we were taking very intensive English courses. The goal was that after seven months we should be able to read, write, speak and understand English so we could move on to the normal classes.

The family I lived with for two years was very nice. Their son, Christopher, who was 17, and I got along very well together. I taught them a little Spanish and spent a lot of time with the mom, especially after their son moved out to study somewhere else.

At first I was very busy but I felt like I wasn't getting it. There was the pressure of the system, the loneliness and the homesickness, but after seven months I felt, 'This is me and here I go!' At college we started the Latin-Caribbean Club. I got involved in arranging parties and cultural events and had a great time. After two years I graduated and went back to El Salvador. It was very strange. Those two years had made a difference and changed my life in a big way. Now I was heading for a bigger goal. I stayed with my parents for a month, taking it easy, then got a job right away. I was 21 and started working for Del Monte in beverage production. I worked for them for one month, but I took my resume to the companies in that area because I wasn't happy with the salary.

The way I got into Goddard (airline catering) was unusual because I never sent them my resume. I took it to a company called Diana. It was my dream to work for Goddard. Salaries and benefits were good. I'd done my internship in the US in a company like that. Goddard didn't have any vacancies, but one of the owners of Diana, a lady, had a friend and that was my friend's aunt. They talked about me and the lady put my resume on file with the American Chamber of Com-

merce which had a lot of members. When a company is looking for somebody they start looking there. Goddard found my resume and I was hired as the account manager for American Airlines. After two years I started moving up and became the operations chief of United, Continental, Delta and American Airlines, overseeing all of them. Then I became the project manager. Grand Cayman came up and I was transferred, but meanwhile my private life had changed. I had met Flor. She was working as an assistant operations manager for a company called Industrial Division in El Salvador, a kitchen that provides food for companies. We used to talk on the phone and once we met everything started happening. She is very intelligent; she had control over what she was doing and I was attracted to that. Physically we were also attracted. We started dating and found out that we had a lot in common. She had a little boy, Gerardo, from a previous relationship and then our

daughter Giselle arrived, and she got us together for good!”

*The whole family is cuddled up on the couch: José Aristides Velasco Merino, his sweet, pretty and pregnant wife Flor, Gerardo, who's four and*

*Giselle, three years old. The children are the cutest; very well brought up, lovely and curious. With their little voices they rattle in Spanish: "Who's that lady Daddy is talking to? Will she be coming every day? Does she have children?" They are full of questions and Flor answers them patiently, smiling at me. José lays his hand on his wife's belly and says, looking at her: "Two more months and the waiting is over. This one is going to be a Bonairean! Dr. Lont says it's okay to have the baby here at the hospital. So, if everything is going well, we'll go for that.*

Where were we? Yes, Grand Cayman. Flor wanted to come with me, but she couldn't get a work permit. I went alone, then Flor came for three months but she had to go back. That was difficult, especially because Giselle was only nine months old. I stayed for 18 months and only once, at Christmas, I went back to see them. Nevertheless I liked Grand Cayman. It's a very well developed island, no tax deductions from your salary, not at all! That's the best thing! But I couldn't enjoy it because I was alone. In the end I became depressed. I had expressed an interest in being transferred to



Gerardo, Flor, Jose and Giselle Velasco

the regional office in Miami, but when the operations manager in Bonaire resigned they sent me. I came to Bonaire

**“One night when I first arrived I passed by Karel's and heard the mariachis and I thought, 'This is Latin!' Grand Cayman was very, very British; authorities were very strict. Bonaire is just nice: the language, the music, the variety of people.”**

for a month, then went back to Grand Cayman to wait for my working papers. What made me extremely happy about Bonaire is that Flor could get a permit and stay with me! Thank you, Bonaire, for that!”

*His round young face is beaming with happiness. "Bonaire is a very nice place for children to grow up. It's safe. We grew up in a very violent environment, and although it's okay now, we're still happy to be here. Education is good. The children learn another language. It's quiet and everybody greets you in the streets. Flor has Peruvian, Colombian and Bonairean girlfriends, and everybody speaks Spanish. It's a Latin community.*

One night when I first arrived I passed by Karel's and heard the mariachis and I thought, 'This is Latin!' Grand Cayman was very, very British; authorities were very strict. Bonaire is just nice: the language, the music, the variety of people. All those things make it a lot easier for us. We're getting used to the place and it's easy to make friends here. Of course we miss all our family in El Salvador. But to take a bit from here and there makes you grow as a person and as a professional too. You get to know more about people, to understand them better. I understand pretty much everything in Papiamentu. I listen to the radio, read the newspapers and because it's very close to Spanish I can pick it up easily. I would like to learn Dutch though, as a personal goal. I have a lot of friends who studied German in school and I would like to be like them and speak a language from

Europe! It seems very difficult, but because of that I would like to try. I don't like easy things!”

*Flor offers me two pancakes with a salad of sauerkraut. "These are called "pupusas," José says, "They are made of corn, cheese and beans. You have to put the salad on the "pupusas" and you eat them with your hands." When I tell them that they are absolutely divine, they smile happily. "They are famous. In El Salvador it has become a real big industry. They freeze them and export them to the US."*

*He smiles at his wife with adoration: "Flor makes a big difference. She is very caring and treats me with a lot of love. That's the most important thing! "Everything is good about him," Flor says. "He is a good person, a wonderful father and a good husband. We're very happy!"*

*"Right now," José says, "the company has given us what we have, what we are. Therefore we are very committed to it. That's why we're working wherever they need us; we appreciate what they're doing for us. Goddard has a goal to train people and also to develop the community. They look for responsible people with skills, so now I am the operations manager. When the time comes for me to be transferred again I want a Bonairean to take my position. I don't know how long I'll stay here. It depends on the company, but I think I am very fortunate. A lot of things have changed for the best.*

I never believed when I was in high school that my life was going to be like this and that I was going to live in Bonaire!” □

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

# THE BONAIRE GARDNER

In my last series of articles I wrote about the most popular group of plants on Bonaire, the Bougainvillea or *Trinitaria*. The second most planted and popular group of plants is the Oleander. Some people say to me that they can't find them in books, but that is probably because Oleander is its second name. Its full name in Latin is *Nerium oleander*.

This group of plants has over 200 different varieties and cultivars and is widely spread around the world. They are even popular in Holland as an "orangerie plant," which means that they stay outside in the summer but must be kept above 12° Celsius in wintertime.

On Bonaire they do great! They don't have a lot of demands: they don't need a lot of water, can stand really strong winds and are even known to grow successfully in salty areas.

The only thing they do require is to be planted in the full sun and that is not so difficult on Bonaire! However, they have one small problem, and that is that their leaves are a little bit poisonous. When you prune or touch them in some way, no problem, but always make sure that little children for example don't try to chew the leaves.

But this poisonous factor has also a big advantage. The goats and donkeys don't want to eat them either. So that makes them perfect for planting outside fences and walls or other unprotected areas where goats and donkeys have free access.

*Nerium oleander* comes in a wide range of forms and flowers, from the N. Oleander Petit Pink of four feet to the Double Red variety which can get above 30 feet! They



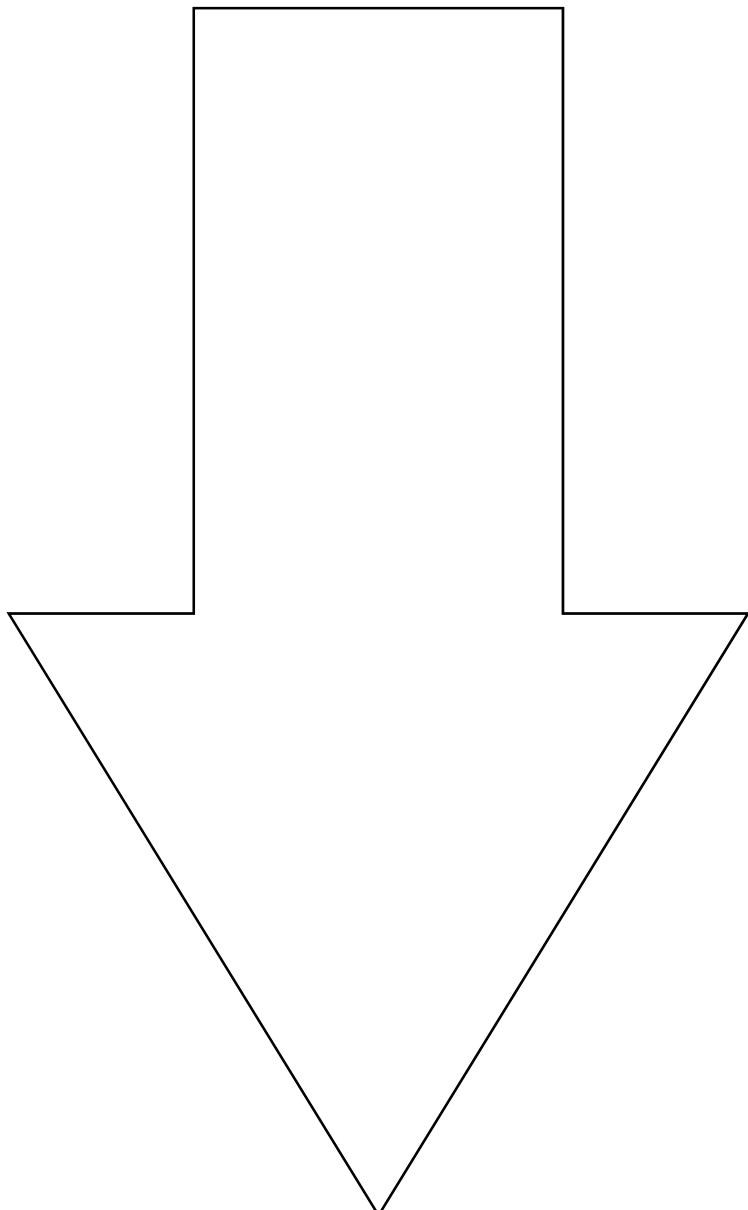
bloom in white, yellow, pink, salmon, red and everything in between. Some forms make nice hedges, and other types are perfect to plant in groups in borders. They all bloom all year round and blossom the end of their growing points. So the better they grow the more flowers they will give.

You can plant them when they're pretty small, but it is best to always use a potted plant and not a newly rooted cutting. They will grow very fast and you can start pruning them after a few weeks to encourage them to sprout out more. But with some varieties, like the half-high growing types like "Hawaii" or the "Salmon," it is better to wait with the pruning because they make new branches themselves.

In my next article I will write more about the different types. In the meantime, look around on Bonaire and be surprised how many types of Oleanders are being used here.

□ *Ap. van Eldik*

*Ap van Eldik owns Green Label Landscaping, a company that designs constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. He has two nurseries and a garden shop in Kralendijk which carries an array of terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410*





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## A NEAT Little Comet for Your Weekend Viewing ... Maybe!

Yes, you read correctly. This weekend, what may be the best comet of 2004 will be at its closest to Earth and at its brightest. And if you've got clear dark skies you'll be able to see it with the naked eye. This Friday night, May 7<sup>th</sup>, just after twilight is over and it's good and dark out face west. You'll see several bright planets and stars, but you'll have to be far away from any



lights where it's really dark in order to see the comet. And to help you find it let's first look at some bright objects so I can steer you to it.

First of all, **Venus** will be absolutely dazzling because it is the brightest planet of them all and is in fact at its greatest brilliancy for the entire year this week. Just above Venus, almost on a straight line, you'll see much dimmer reddish orange **Mars**. Then on that straight line, just above it, is much brighter, ringed Saturn which through a small telescope will still dazzle you because its rings are almost wide open. Then hang a left toward the southwest and you'll see the brightest star of **Canis Minor**, the little dog, **Procyon**. And Procyon is the star we'll use to help us find our neat comet, which is really neat because, believe it or not, that's part of its name. Indeed, its proper name is **C/2001 Q4 NEAT**. It was discovered back in August 2001 by the Near Earth Asteroid Tracking team, a group of astronomers who hunt for hitherto unseen sky objects, and who in fact have discovered dozens of faint comets since they started in the mid 90s. So to find this neat comet, simply look down to the left of Procyon toward the horizon and it will be about half way between Procyon and the horizon.

But don't expect it to look like **Halley's Comet** or **Comet Hale-Bopp** or **Comet Hyakutake** because it is much smaller. In fact to the naked eye all you may see is just a fuzzy ball of light about as bright as the stars in the **Big Dipper**, which is why I always recommend using a pair of binoculars when looking at any comet. If a good tail does develop on Comet NEAT, which we don't know at the time of the writing of this article, a pair of binoculars will really magnify its light and show you the tail.

Now according to advance predictions Comet NEAT will be at its closest and brightest to Earth this Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>, only 29 million, 840 thousand miles away. But if you miss it Friday night then Saturday it will be only a little farther away and just a little higher in the sky, closer to Procyon. On Sunday night it will be even higher and almost beside Procyon. But by Monday night it will be a million and a half miles further away than it was on Friday and will then get fainter each night as it rapidly moves farther away from us.

So there you have it, a neat little comet named NEAT at its closest and brightest this weekend. Get out those binoculars now! □ *Jack Horkheimer*

### Moon Info



Last Quarter on May 11<sup>th</sup>



New Moon

on May 19<sup>th</sup>



First Quarter on May 27<sup>th</sup>



Full Moon on June 3<sup>rd</sup>



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: May 7 to May 14, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. Empty promises are evident. Be ready to explain your actions. Your lover may be annoyed if you have been flirtatious or not attentive to their needs. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Avoid friends or acquaintances who drink too much. You will have to do a lot of running around, so be prepared to fall short of your expectations. You must act quickly. You need to make changes that will raise your self esteem, such as a new hairstyle or a new image. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Loss is evident if you don't consider all the angles. You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. Someone may be trying to damage your reputation. You may be able to get some good advice about your personal problems. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Your ability to get the job done will result in added responsibility and possible promotion. Go out with friends or family. Risky financial ventures will result in unrecoverable losses. Loss is evident if you don't consider all the angles. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Your communication skills are at an all-time high. Financial gains can be made. You probably aren't getting straight answers to your questions. Now is the time to concentrate on building a strong financial future for your family. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Set a limit or you'll wind up on a tight budget. Escapist tendencies will result in a poor reputation and a lack of confidence. You could expand your circle of friends if you get involved in unusual activities. Secret information will be eye opening. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Disputes on the home front may be hard to avoid. You'll need to exercise control. Help elders in your family. You can raise your standard of living if you pick up some freelance work on the side. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can stabilize your situation if you compromise. You will be overly generous with children this week. Maybe it's time to look into ways you can improve your health. Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can get your point across and make valuable connections. Those who have been too demanding should be put in their place or out to pasture. You will enjoy events that lean toward theater, art or music this week. Spend time by yourself to avoid any conflicts with family members. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Minor health problems will cause setbacks if you haven't taken proper care of yourself. Money problems will be difficult to deal with if you have a partner. Try to take some time to listen to their complaints, and in turn, do something to appease them. Joining organizations will provide you with stimulating romantic contacts. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Talk to your mate about a vacation and discuss the expectations of your relationship. Channel your energy into passionate interludes with your lover. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. Romantic encounters will be full of excitement. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let other people meddle in your private affairs. Be diplomatic but stem when it comes to giving of yourself. Help children complete projects they're having difficulty with. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. □

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