

May 14 to May 21, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 19

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

# The **BONAIRE** REPORTER

SINCE 1994



What it takes to go  
**DIVING DEEP**  
Page 15

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

**T**he economy of the Netherlands Antilles showed a growth of 1.4% in 2003 largely due to a strong performance on St. Maarten (+4.3%) and Bonaire (+3.4%), according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) last week.

In contrast a minimal growth of 0.5% was reported for Curaçao. CBS said the increase of tourism on all islands was the main reason for the overall growth. Nationwide, tourism grew by 9%. The figures for the individual islands, however, differed considerably. **Bonaire's tourism grew 23% from 2002's figures.** St. Maarten went up by 12%. Curaçao trailed the others with 2%. Cruise tourism went up by 6% on Bonaire.

The rise in value of the euro over the US dollar (and the NAf) and the recovery of the American economy were said to be the major reasons for the increase of tourism both from the European and American market.

► **More tax revenues and more non-tax revenues swelled the Antillean government's earnings** by NAf134 million last year, reported the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles (BNA) in a recent report on financial-economic developments in 2003. The increase in the tax revenues was largely due to the increase in profit tax (60 million), income tax (8 million) and OB sales-turnover tax (9 million).

► But it's not all good news on the financial front. **A recent analysis by the**

**Central Bank stated that the total government debt has increased alarmingly – from NAf3.8 billion at the end of 2002 to NAf4.3 billion at the end of 2003 – 88% of the Gross Domestic Product.**

Experts say a debt ratio of 88% is extremely high compared to international norms. A debt quota of 35 to 40% is acceptable for 'low-income countries,' and for those countries that form part of the European Monetary Union the norm is 60%. Since the development level of the Netherlands Antilles lies somewhere in between the two, a debt ratio of 40% to 50% of the GDP would be considered acceptable, according to the Central Bank finance committee members who added, "If no changes are made to the existing financial policy the debts will get completely out of hand. The total debt could reach almost 10 billion guilders in 2010, (250% debt ratio) According to the committee this will cause a serious confidence crisis which will result in a deep recession, loss of capital, destabilization of the Antillean guild and high inflation.

► In an exposé on how American companies are dodging taxes, *US News and World Report* cited that in the past two decades the number of offshore companies has exploded. In 1983, the tax havens held \$200 billion. Now it's over \$5 trillion. In Panama alone there are 370,000 offshore corporations, of which only 340 filed reports to the IRS in 2001, according to *Accounting Today*. **In the Netherlands Antilles, there are**

**21,000 offshore corporations, of which only 200 reported.**

► **Ten new, mostly east European member states, joined the existing 15 mem-**



**bers of the European Union on Saturday, May 1st. This brings to 25 the number of EU members.**

► **The next national coalition government seems to be coming together** and will include: Curaçao's PAR, PNP, PLKP, Bonaire's UPB, DP St. Marten, DP Statia and WIPM St. Maarten. *Formateur* Pedro Atacho mentioned that this Friday is the tentative target date for completion. If Atacho is successful there will be no need for new Central Government elections.

Some of the points in forming the program for the new government include the implementation of a **compulsory social service for unemployed young people between the age of 16 and 24, free after school activities for kids of disadvantaged parents, a poverty policy** through programs such as From Welfare to Workfare and Poverty, **reducing crime, collection of turnover tax at casinos and cutting back costs in the healthcare sector.**

The costs of the compulsory social service are estimated at NAf15 million. Holland will be asked to help in financing it.

► **An American Eagle ATR turboprop flying from the Puerto Rican city of Mayaguez blew a tire** on landing and skidded off the runway at San

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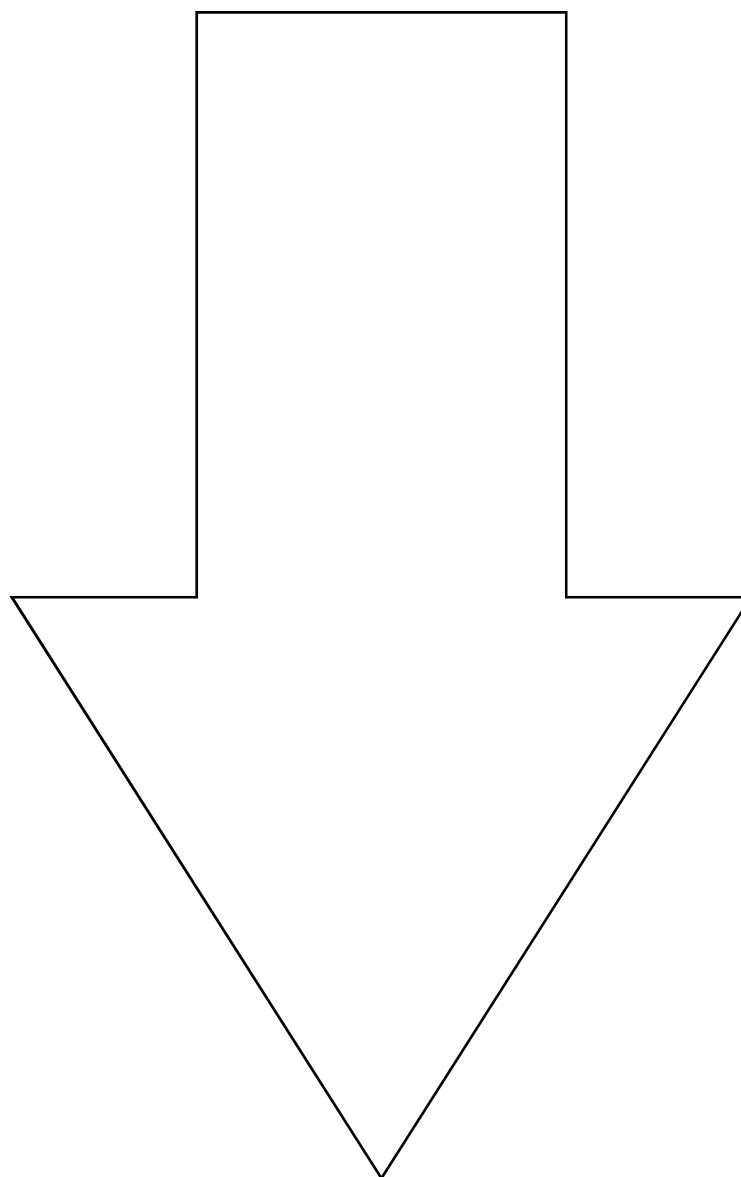
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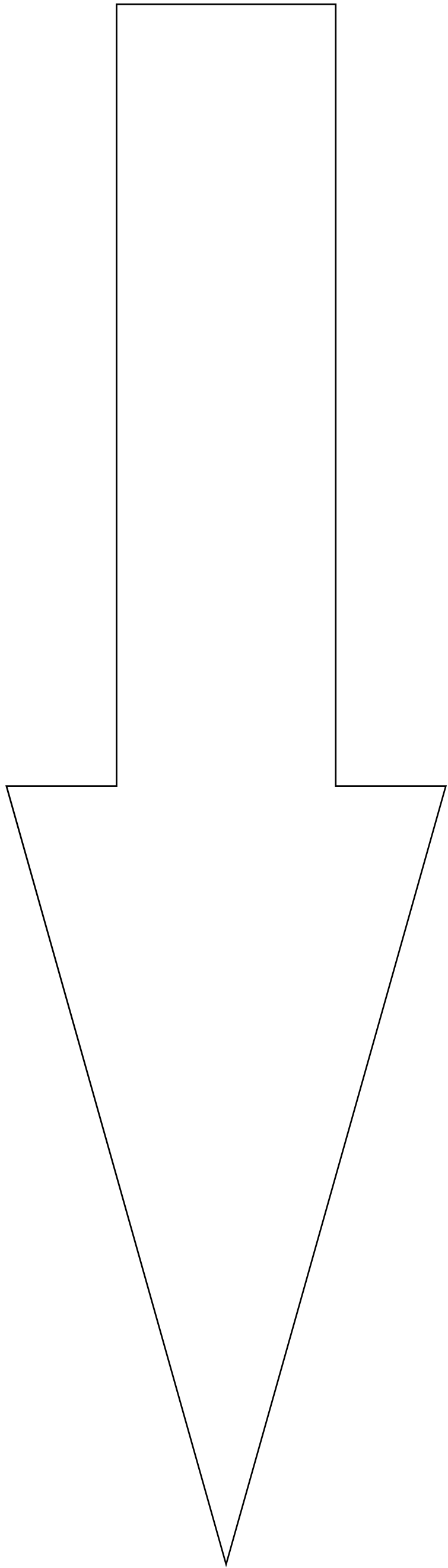
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Juan's Luis Munoz Marin International Airport Sunday, injuring at least 13 people, authorities said. It is the same type of plane that flies between Bonaire and San Juan.

One wing on the Super ATR turboprop, which was carrying 22 passengers and four crew members, struck the runway

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) after the blowout, Port Authority executive director Miguel Soto Lacourt said. The 13 injured, including the pilot and co-pilot, were taken to local hospitals and listed in stable condition. Some others aboard had cuts and bruises and were treated at the scene. The FAA said it was investigating the cause of what it called a hard landing. The ATR aircraft has never had any significant problems in the region, said Gary Ellmer, President of American Eagle in the Caribbean.

► Air Exel manager Harm Prins said that the Board of Directors of DCA



**declined to join Exel on the trans-Atlantic route** because they couldn't have control of the route. This broke an informal agreement made months ago to cooperate. Therefore, starting July 1st, Dutch Caribbean Exel will start flying round trip flights between Curacao and Amsterdam three times a week. Holland-bound travelers can look forward to some spirited price competition on the route which now has three airlines competing.

► **A tax treaty between the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela** will officially go into effect by January 1, 2006 now that an agreement on the content has been approved in Curaçao. Holland and Venezuela must also sign off. Financial investments in the Antilles should become more appealing for Venezuelan companies. It will also become easier to draw Venezuelan investments. With the accord, the Antilles will also be removed from Venezuela's 'black list' and Curaçao will no longer be seen as a tax haven.

At the moment there is only a tax treaty with Norway and between The Netherlands and the Antilles. **There is an agreement to exchange tax information under the US Tax Exchange Information Agreement (TEIA), which will become effective on January 1, 2005.**

Stephen Feldhaus of the international law offices Fullbright & Jaworski is the Antillean expert in the US regarding the new tax treaty with the US. According to Finance Minister De Lannooy the Antilles are also negotiating new treaties with Spain, Italy, Mexico, Brazil and Chili.

► The Curaçao island-owned harbor company, CPA, **has terminated the concession of the Smit International tugboat company.** Smit has been operating in Curaçao for more than 30 years. The company has two tugboats, the

► The doors of Curaçao's Campo Alegre brothel, also known as the 'Mirage,' closed for 24 hours last week **in protest of the planned deportation of the women** working there without the necessary visas. The Campo is famous among mariners and others the world over for its practice of the "world's second oldest profession."



The eldest brother of its imprisoned owner, Giovanni van Ierland, Fatuchand van Ierland, went to court to block the likely deportation of Colombian and Dominican prostitutes who are working in the brothel without a visa. They were allowed to enter the Antilles without visas because a letter authorization, signed by ousted Justice Minister Ben Komproe, said it was OK.

However, he didn't have the authority to do so. Six persons have been officially identified as being involved in the improper visa waiver letter: ex-FOL-Justice Minister Ben Komproe, his party colleague Gibi de Windt, Campo-owner Giovanni van Ierland, FOL-advisor Nelson Monte, Campo-attorney Leslie Franklin and Van Ierland's mother, X.B. A visa has been mandatory for Colombians since February 1, 2003, and for Dominicans since 1991. □

*Barbados* and the *Bermuda*, and employs 25 people as well as some 13 additional part timers. It has branches in 35 countries worldwide and owns more than 500 ships They also do marine maintenance and repairs. KTK will then become the only tugboat company in Curaçao.

► **American prosecutors credited unprecedented cooperation among investigators** in the Netherlands Antilles, Colombia and the US with arrests last month.

The 30 arrests interrupted deliveries of massive amounts of narcotics that are manufactured in Colombia and imported to the US, sometimes through Curaçao and St. Marteen. Including others already arrested, a total of 78 people have been charged.

The investigation resulted in the seizure of 4,438 kilograms of cocaine, 34 kilograms of heroin, 15 kilograms of methamphetamine, 484 kilograms of marijuana, \$180,000 in US currency, 21 firearms, seven vessels and two businesses. Also broken up was the organization headed by 61-year-old James Yezid Rugeles that delivered cocaine on container ships and go-fast boats from the northern coasts of Venezuela and Colombia. It's only about 25 miles from there to Curaçao.

► The *Chicago Sun-Times* reported that **Tom Cruise took Penelope Cruz to Bonaire** around Christmas. Bill Gates and his wife also vacationed here. Ditto for Gene Hackman and Kathleen Turner (who traveled separately). What's all this star power doing here?

We know. The answer is simple. Bonaire is gorgeous, tranquil and about as close to paradise as most of us will ever get. It's the anti-Cancun. Whereas the Mexican city is full of rambunctious college kids on spring break, Bonaire is less crowded and, well, less American. And let's face it -- when you're vacationing in another country, foreign is a good thing, commented the *Sun-Times*.

► **Americans living overseas CAN vote in the upcoming national elections via absentee ballot.** It's a simple, but circuitous process that begins by sending a request to your home state (or the state where you last lived) for an absentee ballot. Go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to get a very clear, complete set of instructions on how to

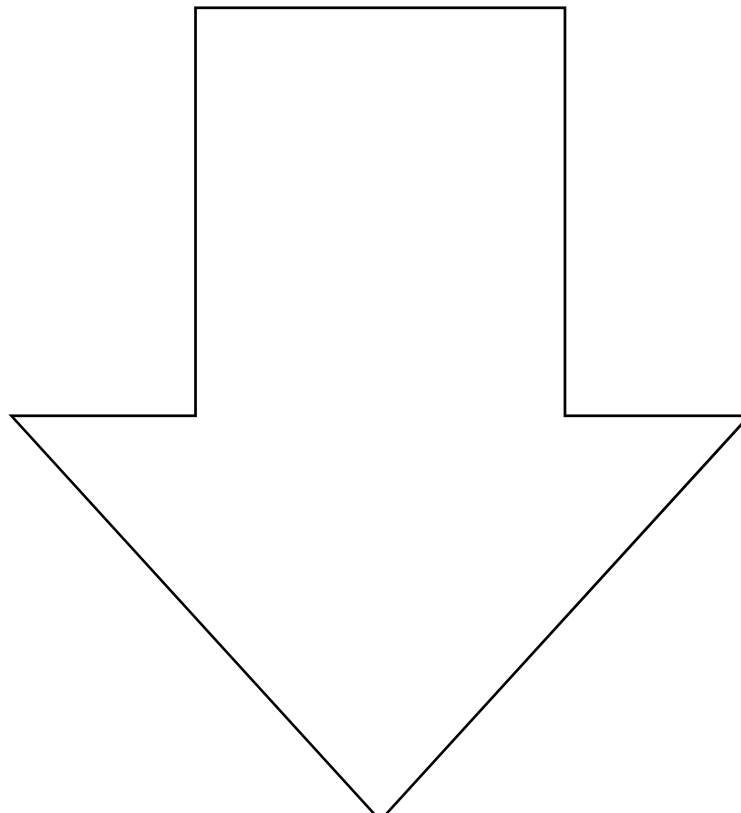


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► **Garden Café has added to its staff and is now open for lunch as well as dinner,** Monday through Fridays. Saturdays they're open for dinner, and they're closed Sunday. In addition to their Lebanese and Venezuelan menu they'll be offering a daily Lunch Special for NA/12. They also have pizza and a Latin Parilla (a type of BBQ). You may eat in or take out. Be sure and try their fresh fruit shakes (*Batidos*). Telephone 717-3410.



*The new Garden Café Staff: Esperanza and Raja Daou, Millie Sluis, Sonia Flores Martel. Not pictured, Manolo Martel*



(Continued from page 4)

do it on a state-by-state basis. You can do most of the paperwork, including completing the required forms, over the Internet.



► **Few shops on Bonaire will accept US\$100 bills**, but they may be more willing to accept the new \$50 bill. The US government unveiled its new design \$50 note in familiar green, but with added dashes of blue and red and images of a fluttering American flag in a bid to stay one step ahead of fraudsters.

Treasury Secretary John Snow said the new design, which keeps the image of President Ulysses S. Grant, would guard “against counterfeiting” and make it easier for the public to confirm its authenticity.

According to the Federal Reserve some \$700 billion is in circulation around the globe, about two-thirds of it outside the US.

► Naturalist Dee Scarr got permission from the Harbormaster’s Office last Saturday **to remove old fishing line from under the South Pier**. This Pier is normally closed to diving because it has a lot of commercial traffic; the permit couldn’t come through earlier because of commercial traffic.

Despite the minimal advance notice she got, eight divers got together to remove the line. They were: Jessie Armacost, Donna Gassert, Melody Hamilton, Marcia and Roger Leatham, Susan Porter, Lee Uhr, and Dee herself.

Dee told us, “The little turtle that died (see last week’s *Reporter*) was entangled in old line with sponge, orange cup coral, and other growth on it – the kind of tangle that we used to leave alone.

Now we cut away those tangles as much as possible and place any detached sponges or cup coral on debris on the bottom. Line with encrusting sponges, fire coral, and algae we collected, shaking and rubbing off as much of the growth as possible before bagging the line. We placed the collected line in buckets before transferring it to the dumpster to give any shrimp, crabs, or other creatures that might have been accidentally collected a chance to escape. Not a single creature had been collected. **The line collected would have just about filled a five-gallon bucket.** That’s a remarkable amount, considering that fishing line doesn’t take up a lot of room, and that much of the collecting involved precise trimming rather than coiling. Thanks to everyone who participated, and to the Dive Inn for their cooperation. I hope we can schedule the next such dive at a time that works for more people!”

► For the last two months the **BNMP has been evaluating a new schedule** that allows for at least three members of the staff to be on duty every day of the week and overtime as well, in order to

## POLICE UPDATE



**A**ssistant Prosecutor Justine Gonggrijp reports that there were four more bolita smugglers caught at the airport this last weekend. Two live in Curaçao, one in Holland and one is from Venezuela. All were incarcerated and held, but the Venezuelan will be extradited to his home country.

The Coast Guard is now doing random checks for drugs on the Curacao-Bonaire ferry, *Tribon*.

*(Note from the Prosecutor: Even if drugs do make their way into Bonaire via the ferry for trans shipment to Holland they will very likely be halted at the airport by the Flamingo Team which is doing an outstanding job)*

be more effective in enforcement of the Park’s conservation laws.

Since the STINAPA office remains closed during the weekends and after regular hours, Interim Bonaire National Marine Park Manager, Fernando Simal, has provided the phone numbers of the rangers, so you can call them in the event of any situation/emergency:

Din Domacasse	785-9603 (Chief Ranger)
George Saragoza	786-9553
Sixto Trenidad	785-9556
Sergio Martines	560-7198
Bernard Landwier	512-0107
Karel Rosaria	565-5572

► If you’re reading this you obviously

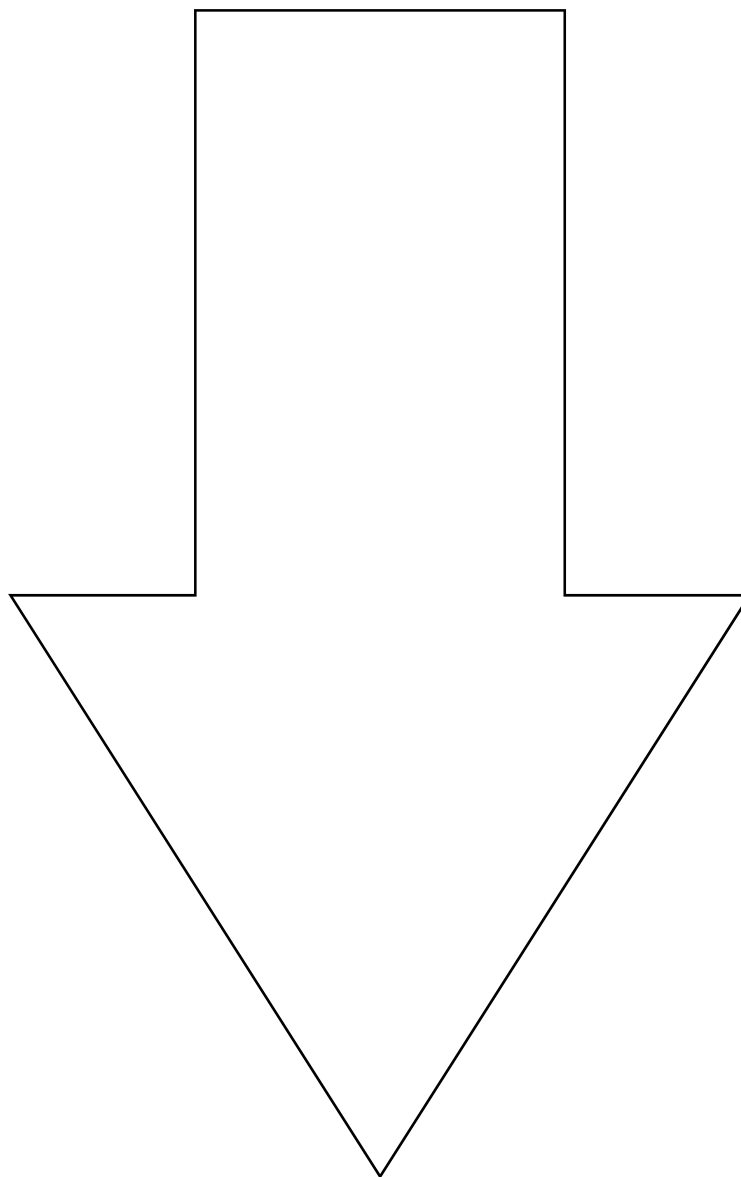
Police Department spokesman Charles Souriel reports that last Monday one of the bolita swallows (E.F., 29 years) who was incarcerated in the jail became very ill and complained of a lot of pain in her belly. She was taken to San Francisco Hospital for observation. Surgeon Dr. Rob van der Veen decided to operate on the woman at once. Fifty three balls of cocaine were found in her stomach and intestines. The woman is out of danger, health wise, and will be released from the hospital until her case come up before the judge. The woman is a Dominican residing in Holland.

The Police are asking those people who have had their cars impounded to contact the Police Department immediately, otherwise their vehicles will be destroyed. □ *L.D.*

know English, so you might be interested to know that there’s an **all-English language radio program hosted by Sean Paton every Sunday and Monday, noon to 2 pm, on Mega FM (101 on your dial)**. It’s called “The Forum,” and its object is to bring forth issues, to entertain and to give listeners an opportunity to air their views. Sean brings in guest-experts who answer questions and give their opinions. Tune in. Good upbeat music too.

► **For the first time in years a Leatherback turtle nest** has been found on Bonaire. Leatherbacks were

*(Continued on page 8)*





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

This week the Referendum Commission puts its information program into high gear. It will introduce a "Referendum jingle" and radio spot ads. The exposure in the local press will be increased and local personalities will appear to encourage voting in the Referendum. Hans Els, the Commission Chairman, spoke on Sean Peton's English language radio show "Forum" on Monday explaining the implications of the choices. He will return next week. The show is a good source of information about the Referendum and other issues of interest for English speakers.

This next Referendum public information meeting will be in North Salina on May 22<sup>nd</sup> (10 am-noon) and will continue in the other barios in the coming weeks. There will be a continuation of consultation with the island's NGOs on May 25 with a meeting at the Sentro di Bario in Antriol. On June 1 there will be another info night at the Sentro di Bario in Rincon, on June 8 in the Sentro di Bario of Tera Kora and on June 15 at Jong Bonaire. All will be in the evening from 19.30 to 21.30.

### The Choices

Simply put, you vote on two selections when voting in the Referendum. The exact phrasing of the Referendum questions will be designed to differentiate the choices.

#### First Selection

1. Should Bonaire be independent? (example: Surinam is an example of a Dutch possession gone independent)
2. Should Bonaire continue to be part of the Dutch Kingdom? (just how this is to be becomes the second choice)

If a choice is made to continue as part of the Dutch Kingdom then there is another selection to make from three more alternatives.

#### Second Selection

1. Should Bonaire remain as part of the Netherlands Antilles (as it is today)?
2. Should Bonaire have a close relationship directly with Holland (a precise legal framework isn't specified- it may be province-like, village-like or ???)?
3. Should Bonaire be a separate country but still have a relationship with Holland? (an Aruba-like Status Aparté is the closest comparison.)

♦ Last week the legal requirements for voting in the Referendum were officially published.

mentation by the UN Observer, which was adopted by the government, is that all who have a stake in the future of Bonaire should have a voice.

It appears Bonaire's three leading political parties, none of whom are opting for complete independence, have defined their respective positions: UPB (green) favors choice 2, close with Holland. The PDB (red) is opting for 3, aparte. PABOSO (yellow) chooses 1, staying in the Antillean constellation.

### THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

*This week the Chronicler will continue discussing an alternative many people (based on the informal survey we reported on last week) have eliminated, but endorsed by the PABOSO Party: retaining the Netherlands Antilles.*

### RECONSTITUTED? (Part 2, continued from last week...)

#### What could Bonaire do without?

- There is no real need for a *central government*, a *prime minister*, a *plenipotentiary minister* in the Hague, a *host of department chiefs* and *specialized agencies* checking on, and generally only adding bureaucratic delays and job-padding costs to the islands down-to-earth evaluations and decisions. There is, in other words, a whole layer of "Land" governance, based on Curaçao, that can be done away with, per-

haps to the personal distress of the civil servants concerned but to no real cost to the island population at large

- There is no real need of central "Land" *taxation, customs and excises, police force* and sundry services which collect and distribute monies which pertain to the individual islands economics and/or security measures.
- Finally, there is no need of the "Staten," the N.A. Parliament, which is now restricted to a role of wheeling and dealing between island interests and their political parties' clout on the national scene. The vote of a single island party like Saba's and St. Eustatius' may make or break a coalition, with far-ranging consequences for the other, much more populous islands

#### What are the Central Functions Bonaire Cannot do Without?

- *First, a Governor* (appointed by the Kingdom) as the symbol of the historic ties between the five former "Curaçao Colony" islands and also as the lynch-pin of certain central functions that should be maintained. Even though some bad blood has crept up between the islands in recent years, it is undeniable that there are many family ties between the islands making up the leeward Antilles (Curaçao, Bonaire, Aruba) or the windward Islands (St. Maarten, St. Eustatius, Saba). The present governor of the Antilles is a Bonairean (as were his predecessors), the Lt. Governor of Saba is an Aruban, and so on. (Also business wise, there are many ties. Banks, trade firms, local builders and entrepreneurs, whether in Lebanese, Jewish, Indian or Dutch hands, have always



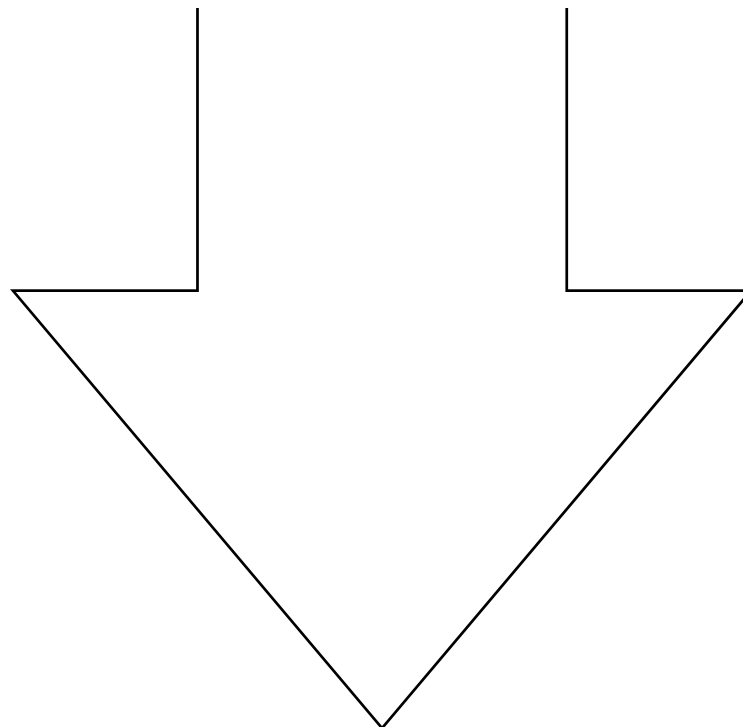
*Reportedly, activist lawyer Mikial Bijkerk had a strong influence on the formation of the Referendum questions in his capacity as external judicial advisor*

You may vote if you are a Dutch citizen 16 years old or older on July, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004, the date of the Referendum and have been a registered resident for 50 days before the vote.

In addition, a non-citizen who has been a documented resident for 50 days before the poll and a legal resident, without interruption, for at least five years, may also vote. There have been some comments in the local press that this isn't right. But the intent of the recom-



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# Referendum Chronicle

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extended their commercial endeavors over all the islands, and it should remain so.)

- Then, a **central bank**, and a common **currency**. No person of a sane mind would suggest that Bonaire would operate its own central bank or currency (the “Aloë”?). The same holds for the **social security** (SVB), the **central N.A. pension fund** (APNA), the **coast guard**, and a few other central agencies, including the liaison with vital US government services such as the **DEA** (Drugs Enforcement Agency).

- Then, the **court of appeal**, including the high judge’s circuit (now also comprising Aruba), the central fiscal agency (IRS in the US, FIOD in the Netherlands, BBA in the Antilles).

This list may be extended. There is hardly any argument about the need to maintain these highly qualified (as to professional status) bodies, only a question of who is going to supervise and politically control them.

### What can Bonaire Handle on its Own?

**First, as to split (central) functions:**

In order to make clear what we mean by this category, we will use the example of the certifying agencies for the vital air links and sea links, the **Luchtvaartinspectie** and the **Scheepvaartinspectie**.

On the one hand, it cannot be so that a Curaçao-based *inspectie* frustrates essential air links (like BonairExel) and

sea links (like the Bonaire-Curaçao ferry) by withholding certificates and permits, solely on the basis that such links do not benefit Curaçao interests. On the other hand, passenger safety simply demands that adequately trained personnel check thoroughly on safety services and procedures, the airworthiness of planes and the seaworthiness of vessels.

So, the **professional** capability of the inspection personnel should be guaranteed by **internationally** recognized certification, which requires centrality and its “island neutrality” guaranteed by an



island-based authority, supervised by an inter-island-based body of governance, not influenced by island-based priorities, hurries, jealousies and rivalries. This we term a “split responsibility” between the islands completely divorced from the political expedience of the day. There are other central-split functions like this. Education and medical standards, health care, telecom, law enforcement, taxation, even the police force may be subject to such a standard, as it is never a wise solution to have a small community policed by its own sons and daughters.

(An old tradition in Holland requires the big city police to be manned, and especially staffed in the top, by officers from the far-out provinces. Thus, even today, one unsuspecting Dutch tourist may be ticketed by a Frisian policeman in Amsterdam and by a Groningen-policeman in Rotterdam).

### Then, as to the contracted inter-island function

There are functions in which a bigger island or territory, with better access to management, resources and controls, can perform better than a small island. Thus, Bonaire might want to **contract** with Curaçao for the treatment of rare illnesses at the St. Elizabeth Hospital, Sehos, being much better equipped for diabetes patients or CAT scans than Bonaire’s San Francisco Hospital, for

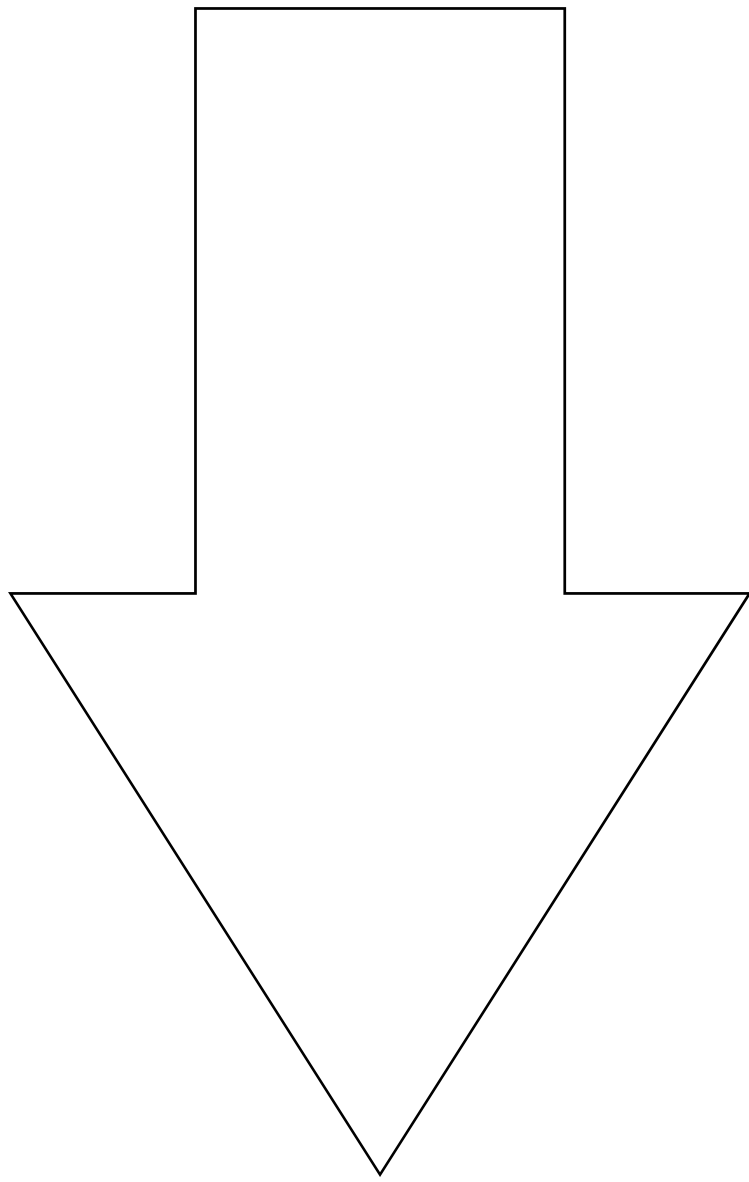
mental patients (the Capriles Clinic), for detention of heavy-duty criminals (the Bon Futuro Prison) or higher education (the UNA *Universiteit*). These are **contracts** with an economic and performance content and need no central government. If Venezuela offers better terms, Bonaire should be free to treat with them.

### Finally, as to Subsidation

This principle declares that whatever can be done effectively and economically on a **lower** level of governance should be done there rather than on a central level. Some advances have been made in recent years, but not enough. If Bonaire were to repatriate a number of its promising sons and daughters, our island could well perform a number of functions, which now the “Land” claims as its prerogative: labor law applications, social development, NGO supervision, airport authority, family law applications, mediation, to name but a few.

Let Bonaire come into its own. How this can be done in relation to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and to Holland as its core country, will be subject to our fifth (and last) article. □ *The Chroniclers*

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 are 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 may be freely quoted and/or downloaded via Internet. Opinions expressed are solely those of the writers. □



(Flotsam and Jetsam, Continued from page 5) known to nest here, but no turtle researcher has had an opportunity to study the event... until now. We will keep you posted about this exciting development

► **Caribbean Club Bonaire**, otherwise known as "Hilltop," is fast becoming one of the **fun places to be** on a hot evening. Their location, five minutes north of "Hotel Row," up in the hills of Bonaire, affords cool breezes from the sea and a friendly staff and clientele. Monday through Saturdays you can enjoy a two-hour Happy Hour, 5 to 7,

with some good bar snacks. They're open for breakfast and dinner Mondays through Saturday. On Tuesdays there's a no-holds-barred "Serious Barbeque" for NAf25 that satisfies gourmets and gourmands alike. It starts at 6 pm. Wednesday night is Salsa night. Come up to Hilltop and learn the Salsa from 7 to 9 pm for only NAf10. More information call 717-7901.

► You'll have noticed that in this web issue we've included all the ads. Let us know what you think: Do you like your issues with ads or without? □

L./G. D.

## A n updated schedule of events has been released with three weeks to go until Bonaire's biggest ever Dive Festival.

### Saturday June 5

12 noon to 6 pm Dive Festival Registration at the Bonaire Tourist Office

### Sunday June 6

8 am to 4 pm Dive Festival Registration at the Bonaire Tourist Office

2 pm Guided Dive (sign-up at Bonaire Tourist Office)

7 pm Official Dive Festival Opening Ceremony & Taste of

Bonaire food and cultural festival in Kralendijk's Wilhelmina Park featuring a Kid's Painting Exhibition

### Monday June 7

11 am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives (sign up at Bonaire Tourist Office)

7:30 pm Evening presentation by Philippe Cousteau at Captain Don's Habitat, followed by a BBQ\*

### Tuesday June 8

11 am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives

7 pm BBQ under the stars with live music at Kontiki Beach Club at Sorobon\*

### Wednesday June 9

11 am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives

7 pm Dive & Sportswear Fashion Show at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino, followed by a Caribbean Buffet\*

### Thursday June 10

11 am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives

9 am to 12 noon Beach Clean-up with local school children at Lagoen (sign up required)

7 pm Fish ID/Scuba Challenge at Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, followed by a Pasta Buffet\*

### Friday June 11

11 am & 2 pm Daily Guided Dives

7 pm Mid-Event Goodbye Party & BBQ with live entertainment at Plaza Resort Bonaire\*

Next week we'll cover the Festival's second session. □ *Press Release*

\* Show your Dive Festival wristband to get the special Dive Festival prices for food and drinks during the night. Some Dive Festival activities are at an additional cost. The program is subject to change.

\*\* To make exploring Bonaire during the Festival easier a number of restaurants will be offering Dive Festival specials, designated Dive Festival taxis will offer special rates and a voucher booklet containing specials at many of the Island's stores will be offered for purchase at a discounted price. Additionally many of Bonaire's hotels are offering special Dive Festival hotel packages.

If you are interested in attending the Dive Festival call 1-800-BONAIRE or visit the official Dive Festival website at <http://www.bonairedivefestival.com> for the most current Festival information and a list of special Dive Festival hotel packages being offered. □

COUNTDOWN TO THE DIVE FESTIVAL

21 DAYS TO GO

# NOTICES TO MARINERS



The odds are high that a major hurricane will strike the Caribbean this year, one of the US's top forecasters of tropical storms says. **While hurricanes don't hit Bonaire we are affected by them in the form of wind reversals, lulls and ocean swells.**

William Gray, who heads the Tropical Meteorology Project at Colorado State University, says the odds are overwhelm-

ing that the lull in major hurricanes will end soon: "It is inevitable that we will see ... destruction in coming years on a scale many times greater than what we have seen."

In his first hurricane update of 2004, Gray estimates a 71% probability that at least one "intense" or major hurricane will hit the area. Gray, who has forecast past seasons with remarkable accuracy, predicts the Atlantic will spawn 14 "named" tropical storms this year, and that eight of them will grow into hurricanes. Tropical storms deliver winds of at least 39 mph. Hurricanes are 74 mph or more.

A summary of the 2004 predictions follows:

Forecast Parameter and (1950-2000 Average)	Prediction
Named Storms (NS) (9.6)	14
Named Storm Days (NSD) (49.1)	60
Hurricanes (H)(5.9)	8
Hurricane Days (HD)(24.5)	35
Intense Hurricanes (IH) (2.3)	3
Intense Hurricane Days (IHD)(5.0)	8
Hurricane Destruction Potential (HDP) (72.7)	100
Net Tropical Cyclone Activity (NTC)(100%)	145



The closing festivities of the 2001 Dive Festival



## WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON REUNION WEEK AT SOROBON



Elvis Martinus, Sally, Dale, Ryan and Elayne Potovin and Patun Saragosa

**T**his week is reunion week at Bonaire Windsurf Place. The very first customers at The Windsurfing Place, Dale and Sally Potvin from Aspen Colorado, are here with their family after a 10-year hiatus. In an interview at windy Sorobon, Elvis Martinus introduced me to his very first clients. They shared their memory of 10 years back.

"When we got here, there were cardboard boxes of gear. We ended up helping unpack all the new products," said, Dale. He and his lovely wife Sally recall crates and a trailer taking over much of the spot. Dale said, "I was even the first person to break a board." Elvis smiled, recalling this memory 10 years ago. The Potvins loved their experience so much they have continued to windsurf. They have also recommended Bonaire to many friends who are now repeaters to The Place. "We prefer the Dutch islands," said Dale. "It is much friendlier here compared to other places we have traveled." After bringing their children, Elayne, 24, and their son, Ryan, 21, back to this lovely spot, they hope to return sooner than later. Dale also celebrated his 57<sup>th</sup> birthday at The Place.

It's a week for fun and reunion at Sorobon. It seems like the Potvins have great luck as the super winds have returned, making it windsurf heaven this week. Upcoming this **Sunday, May 16**, is "**Copa Julia**," an afternoon of freestyle and windsurf competitions, all in honor of Elvis Martinus's six-year-old daughter, Julia (whose birthday was May 13) and to honor her day Elvis will bring back the now-annual "Copa Julia." There will be fun competitions with prizes for all competitors. The event commences at 1 pm at the PWA Event Site at Sorobon. There will be a special "Baby Class" featuring the youngest sailors of Bonaire. The public is invited to come celebrate Julia's big day and enjoy the winds at Sorobon. Call 717-2288 for more information. The event is free to spectators and the general public. □ *Ann Phelan*

## ANOTHER BONAIRE PWA WINNER

**R**uben Petrisie is an athlete who has it all: spirit, talent, and... a sponsor. This week Palm Trading provided Ruben brand new gear to use on the PWA (Professional Windsurfing Association) 2004 Tour. He earned his spot on the tour and now will get all the help he needs to show the rest of the pros what he's got. With his custom made "freestyle board" and clothes from Brunotti he's sure to make a splash in the matches throughout Europe and the US. So, everybody, watch the coast for the bright Brunotti colors. That's Ruben doing what he does best: Windsurfing. All Ruben's fans and his sponsors at Palm Trading wish him all the success in the world. We are behind you and know that with you Bonaire has another rising PWA star. □ *Theo Knevel*



Ruben Petrisie

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

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

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
5-14	5:17	1.2FT.	5
5-14	9:42	1.4FT.	5
5-14	15:51	1.0FT.	5
5-14	22:40	1.6FT.	5
5-15	6:31	1.1FT.	6
5-15	10:37	1.3FT.	6
5-15	15:29	1.1FT.	6
5-15	22:57	1.7FT.	6
5-16	7:54	1.0FT.	6
5-16	12:11	1.1FT.	6
5-16	14:15	1.1FT.	6
5-16	23:22	1.8FT.	6
5-17	9:03	0.9FT.	7
5-17	23:54	1.9FT.	7
5-18	0:20	1.9FT.	7
5-18	10:10	0.9FT.	7
5-19	0:53	2.0FT.	7
5-19	10:59	0.8FT.	7
5-20	1:25	2.0FT.	7
5-20	11:48	0.7FT.	7
5-21	1:59	2.0FT.	7
5-21	12:24	0.7FT.	7

### 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

# THE ITALIAN CONNECTION

## BONAIRE'S YOUNG CHEFS IN ITALY



Alex and Yoan with Maurizio Gambuti of Il Casale restaurant

Two of the students who studied in Italy in October 2002, Yoan Lopez and Alexis Ramirez, fell in love with Italy and wanted to learn more. Sara Matera, the "spark plug" who put this whole program in motion, recently visited the two in Italy and writes:

"After graduating from SGB in 2003 Yoan and Alexis were assisted by AECA's\* Andrea Biondi and Barbara Cavazza, and from Bonaire, Moreno Binelli, with airline tickets and a summer work opportunity in Riccione in the region of Emilia Romagna, which lies on the Adriatic coast. They work at IL Casale Restaurant, a beautiful up-scale restaurant on the hillside with a panoramic view of the Adriatic Sea. It is a family owned and operated restaurant which takes in *stage* (trainee) students from many countries. There were four Japanese students working when I was there, as well as our two Bonaire kids.

The owner and operators are: Maurizio Gambuti, who runs the front of the house with his son Alessandro, and Chef Cook sister, Mariella Gambuti, who runs the kitchen. According to Yoan they have a very good team in the kitchen and he and Alexis are learning so much.

The Bonaire chefs work hard and long but are rewarded with housing, a good salary and of course, the experience. They have one day off a week, Sunday, so Saturday night is Disco Night! There is a Latin Disco called "Grand Caribe" not far from their four-bedroom flat with all Latin music so you can imagine all the kids from South America and Caribbean are there and they have made many new friends.

Sundays they go by bus to see other places near Rimini and Riccione. Then back to work on Mondays for (preparing) lunch and dinner. They enjoy the work and will continue for one more year before returning home to Bonaire. Hello to all their family and friends, especially Ann, Nolly, Vernon and Laura. (Those were their words!)

I enjoyed Easter Monday with them at their work and brought gifts from Bonaire to share a home feeling with them. I ate lunch before departing and it was better then excellent! Along with wines from the region.....what's not to like about the food and wine in Italy!? Grazie Mille, ciao ciao" *Sara Matera*

\*AECA is the organization established by the EC to fund hotel school programs.

As many of you who supported them may recall, in October 2002 a group of eight students from the hotel school at the high school (SGB) were invited to the Emilia Romagna region of Italy for a four-week culinary training program at two schools: the Hotel and Catering College of Serramazzoni and the Hotel and Restaurant School of Cesenatico. This incredible golden opportunity trip for these young culinary students was made possible by fund raisers and donations and gifts from individuals and businesses. As ex-Lt. Governor Richard Hart said, upon noting the high quality of culinary artistry coming out of the SGB Hotel School, "Bonaire is becoming an island that exports high quality chefs!"

## ITALY-ABC ISLANDS CONNECTION



Sara Matera Photo

The Bonaire contingent (Moreno Binelli, Bernie den Haug and Sara Matera) meets with educational representatives of Emilia Romagna

When the eight Bonaire culinary students went for four weeks to two hotel schools in Italy's Emilia Romagna region it was a positive experience for all, including a cultural mix of traditions, products, techniques and interpersonal relationships. The student exchange program is formal and professional in all aspects. Its "total immersion" design introduces students to all aspects of hotel management as well as to the Italian culture. Successful exchange programs have already been customized and conducted for students from Africa, the Dominican Republic, Spain, Brazil and France.

A goal was set to continue an education and cultural interaction of students between the Emilia Romagna region and the ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) islands through a four-week culinary *stage* (trainee) program.

Three programs were recently presented to the Regional Minister of Education and Hotel Schools in Emilia Romagna. These programs are supported by the Emilia Romagna and ABC islands education directors, participating hotel schools, private sector associations, related tourism groups and individual hotels and restaurants in the ABC Islands:

1. *Stagier* (trainee) program for October 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 for ABC Hotel Schools to participate in a four-week *stage* program in regional hotel & catering schools of Emilia Romagna.
2. Exchange program where Italian hotel school students would come for four weeks to the ABC Islands to learn our Caribbean cuisine, culture and traditions as well as providing a world wide view.
3. Program to coordinate small groups of ABC islands students to participate in summer work programs in the popular tourist cities of Rimini and Riccione.

To show government support from Bonaire, Mr. Burney El Hage, Deputy for Economic Affairs, joined with the Bonaire contingent, Moreno Binelli, Ruud Vermeulen and Sara Matera, in Italy to meet with: Mariangela Bastico, Minister of Education; Fabrizia Monti, Head of Vocational Training; Christina Balboni, General Manager of the region's Employment and Vocational Training; Giuseppe Schipano, Director of school in Serramazzoni; Sergio Palmieri, Administrator of IAL (labor board) for the region; and Andrea Biondi, Director of AECA.

With Commissioner El Hage present, the Emilia Romagna delegation was most pleased to incorporate these requested programs into their schools and budgets for the next four years.

Student selection and orientations will take place on each island and be based on the student's grades, attendance, and enthusiasm towards the horeca profession. □

*Sara Matera*

*Note: This October hotel school students from all three ABC Islands will travel to Emilia Romagna for the Stagier Program.*



### GOOD NEWS FOR BONAIRE

The SGB high school will now be offering, as of September 1, a higher level of education for students in the Horeca (food and beverage and hotel) section. The level will go up to VSBO. Previously students had to leave the island, going to Curaçao or Holland, for this level. Kees Leeman will be heading up the VSBO

course.

## MORE on the ITALIAN CONNECTION



Teacher Kees Leeman, Jean Jacques Frans, Felix Torres-Santana, Jonathan Cicilia, Teacher Vernon Martijn

As a continuation of the Italian-ABC islands connection, three students from the SGB Hotel School will be going to the Emilia Romagna section of Italy this month to work for two months: Jean Jacques Frans, Felix Torres-Santana and Jonathan Cicilia. All are 18 years old, are just about to graduate and were chosen by their teachers because of their maturity and dedication to a culinary career. They will be working at a seaside hotel and restaurant, with two of the Bonaire students who've been working there for the last year: Alexis Ramirez and Yoan Lopez.

All three are paying their own way with the help of their families.

Jonathan was a member of the group that spent four weeks in the region in 2002.

"I want to go back and work there because I learned so much when I was there before," Jonathan says. "In fact I'd like to stay longer and work or go to school if I could."

Jean Jacques enthusiastically declares, "It's a chance of a lifetime. I was in Italy once when I lived in Holland, but I know nothing of Italian kitchens." He too would like to remain in Italy for further education.

Felix, who is from the Dominican Republic originally, is looking forward to the experience "because I want to learn about other dishes, systems and culture. I've only lived in the Dominican Republic and Bonaire." Does he know what it will be like? "Yes," he replies, "I hear from Alexis (Ramirez, one of the students already working in Italy) that it's a lot of work!"

Because the group of eight students who spent the four weeks in Italy in 2002 made such a good impression on the Italian educators and chefs the door has been opened for more "ambassadors from Bonaire." These three should continue the reputation. □ L.D.

**Bologna, April 22** - The Emilia Romagna region and the Ministry of Education of the Netherlands Antilles have signed an agreement for the development of a collaboration program aimed at professional training in the hotel and restaurant industry. The agreement is based on earlier, informal, collaboration projects and paves the way for international relationships concerning professional training. The two parties will promote the exchange of experiences of their respective training methods, in order to create an integrated European training system of high standards in the industry and intensify the level of cooperation between the Regional Educational Office of the Emilia-Romagna region and the Netherlands Antilles. It will also give students from Emilia Romagna and the Antilles the opportunity to take part in international exchange programs and internships. (AGI news service)

## PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER



### DAMASCUS, SYRIA

"De Kapper" Yaser, Marion and Vera Ghazzouli are reading *The Bonaire Reporter* in Damascus, Syria, at the back of the Souq Al-Hamadiyyeh. It's one of the main covered markets. In the photo you can also see a piece of the Roman wall. The wall itself has been flattened and rebuilt several times over the past 2000 years. What stands today dates from the 13th century. □

**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.) □

When you drive around Bonaire in the coming days be prepared for some beautiful sights. If it's in the early morning you might see a rainbow in the western sky. As the day warms the yellow flowers of the ironwood tree will dazzle you. With the trees in bloom the birds seem to be everywhere among them. You might even spot some of Bonaire's wild parrots, *Loras*. So slow down and enjoy the season. Bonaire is beautiful. □ *G.D.*



*The flowers of the agave are irresistible to most birds, including Loras*



# BONAIRE AMBASSADORS



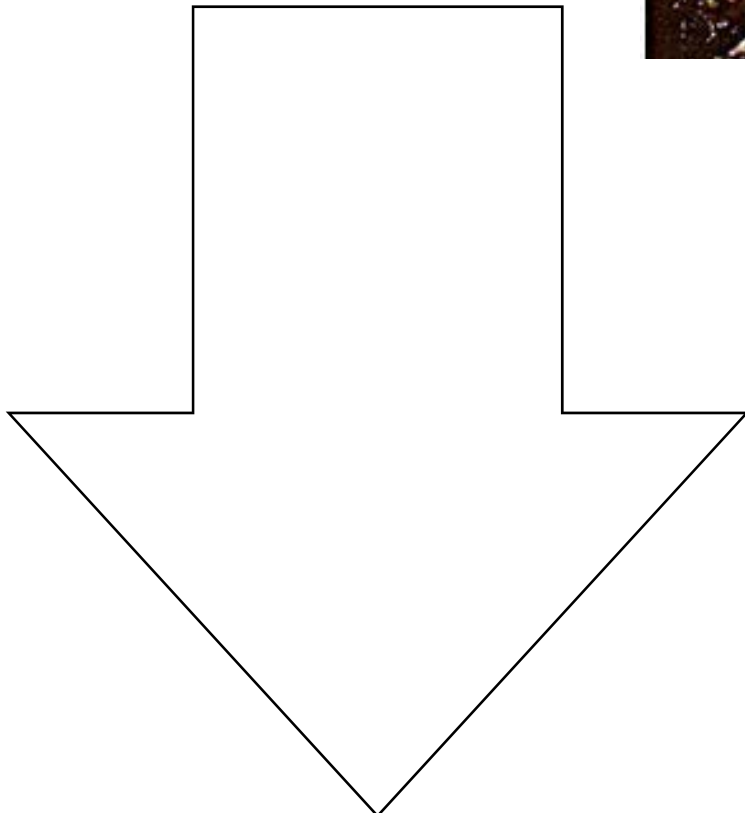
*Chip and Cookie Cooper with Delno Tromp of TCB*

Chip and Cookie Cooper from North Carolina have been named Bonaire Silver Ambassadors. Their first trip was in 1984, their having heard about Captain Don Stewart and diving in Bonaire. They fell in love with the island and its friendly people and of course the beautiful reefs. They are still diving at Captain Don's.

They returned again in 1985 at which time Cookie became a certified diver while at Captain Don's Habitat with Andre Nahr as her instructor. Since then they have returned year after year for the last 20 years to the island they love and to dive the beautiful reef. Over the time they have brought hundreds of friends to dive or snorkel the fantastic reefs.

"The Cooper Groupers" as they have become known, have enjoyed endless good times in and out of the water, making many new friends from all over the world, and they have made lasting friendship with several local people including Captain Don himself and Jack Chalk, the Manager of Capt Don's and his wife Karen.

Chip has said on numerous occasions "If there was only one place I could dive the rest of my life, it would be Bonaire." Bonaire is like a second home for the Coopers. They want to thank everyone who helped them get this tremendous honor to represent this wonderful place and it's people, and they will do so to the best of their ability. □ *Delno Tromp*



Need Wine?



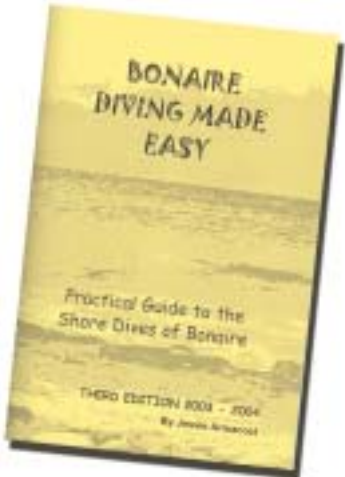
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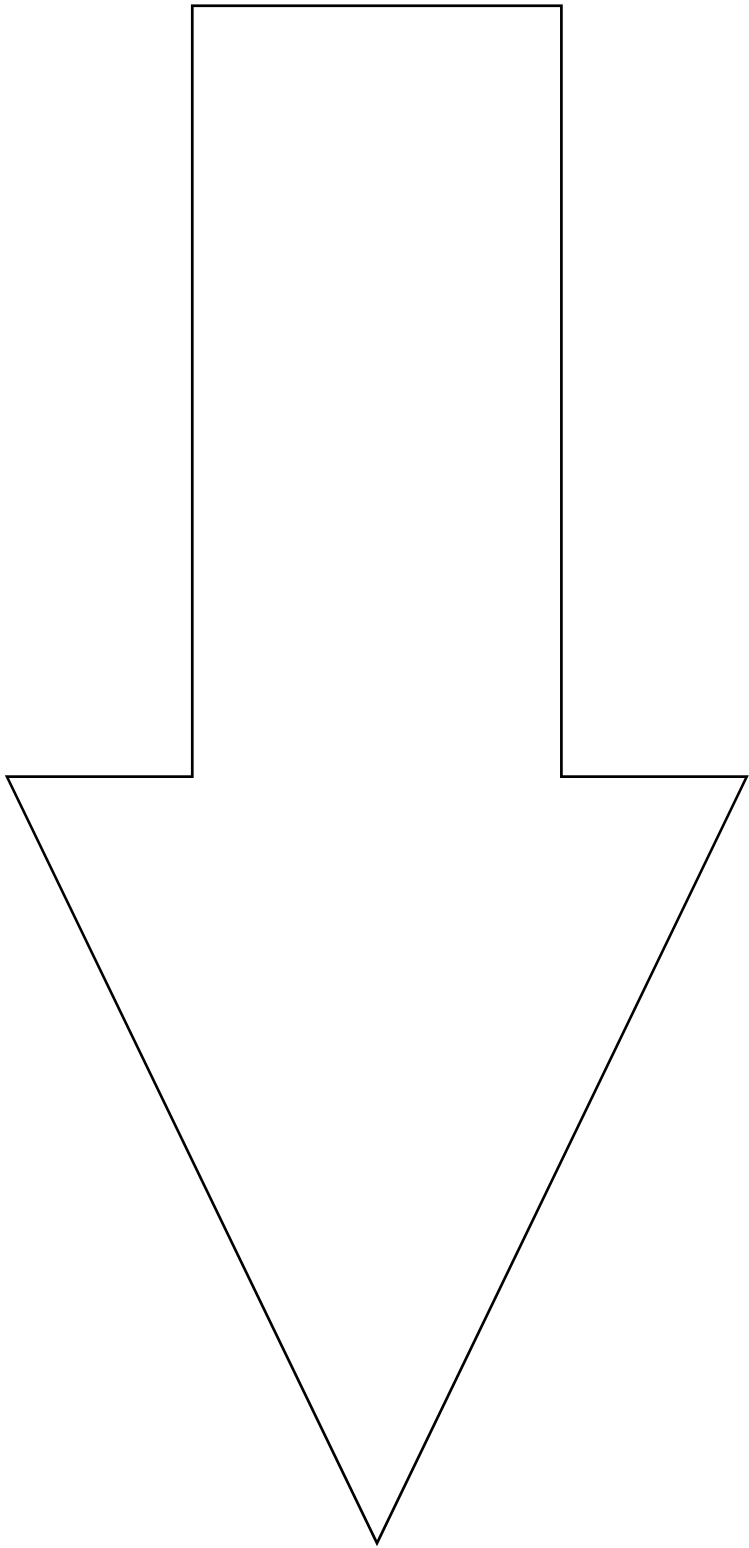
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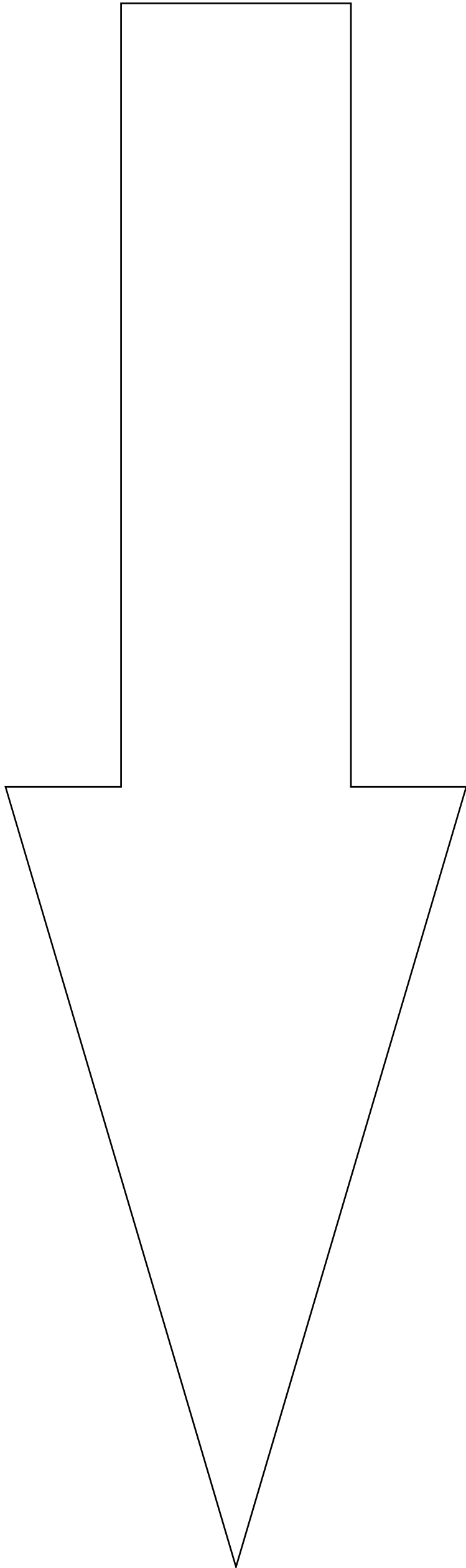


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# A HARD DIVE TO MAKE

Rec Tek photo

**L**ast week The Bonaire Reporter's Police Report carried the news of the recovery of human remains at the Karpata dive site. There is speculation that they may be of the two divers, Thomas Ennis (54) and his son Brandon (29), who disappeared on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004. The discovery was both fortunate and significant because it was at a depth exceeding 330 ft. (100m.), far beyond normal scuba diver limits. Several readers have asked just how this came to pass. We asked the man involved in the discovery, Walt Stark of Rec Tek Scuba, Bonaire's premier tech diving operation, for some background. We will report the story using mostly Walt's own words.

**As told by Walt Stark:**

“My friend Bob Killoren and I decided to do a deep dive at Karpata in order to take some photos of an anchor and anchor chain that we had seen on a previous dive at around the 400 ft (120m.) depth. We scheduled a warm-up dive to check gear configuration, etc., as we usually do before doing a really deep dive. We did this on 30 April, diving to a depth of 200 feet. As everything went exactly as planned, we scheduled our 400 foot dive for the next day, Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The next morning we assembled our gear, tanks, scooters, et al, and started our planned dive to 400 feet. At a depth of approximately 340 feet, we were very surprised to discover human bones, with a dive boot and fin attached to one leg. Bob quickly took some photos to show the authorities. We did not continue with our planned dive, as we had already used too much bottom time by making this unscheduled stop. As we started our ascent to our first deco stop, we came across what appeared to be a shredded wetsuit. We did not touch anything. We did not want to disturb or destroy any evidence needed by the authorities. After exiting the water, I went to the police station to report what I had seen.

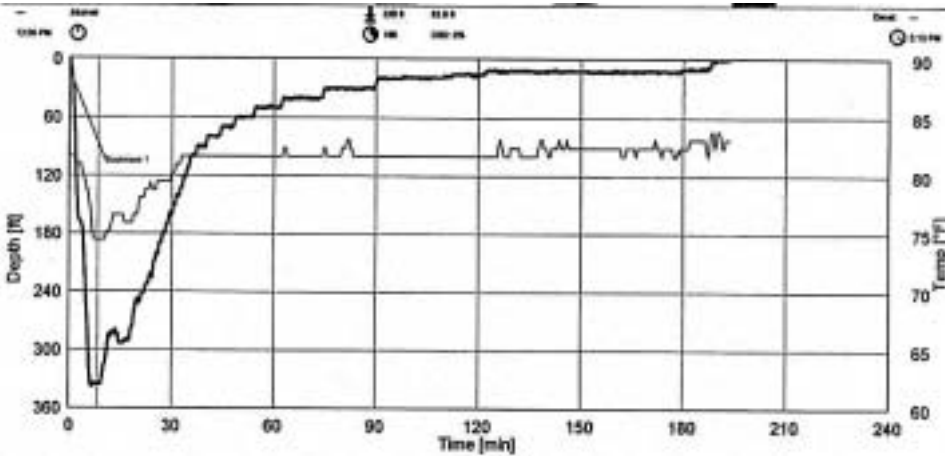
The Public Prosecutor, Mr. Wesselius, contacted me the following day. He viewed the photos that were taken and said he would contact the proper authorities to discuss how to proceed, and if requested, he would organize everything necessary to bring up the remains. I believe he contacted the Antillean Coast Guard and Dutch Navy about recovering the remains, however, I was told that they did not have divers or

equipment to reach this depth.”

*(It's not without reason that Bonaire is world famous for scuba diving. Dive tourism has spawned related industries of commercial diving, technical diving, hydro testing and more. Bonaire has capabilities that even the armed forces couldn't provide. Ed.)*



Rec Tek's Walt Stark ready to dive to 400 feet



The dive profile of the recovery dive

**Walt continues:**

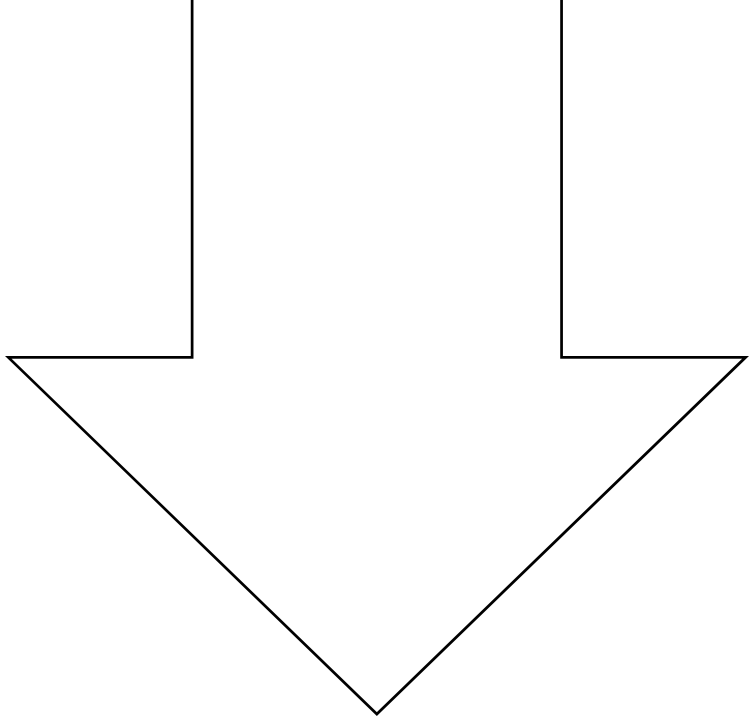
“Mr. Wesselius asked if we would return and retrieve what we'd seen at Karpata. He arranged for the dive site to be closed while we brought up the remains. So a few days later, on May 4<sup>th</sup> we were ready. It takes a lot of time to organize a dive like this. Our base of operations for these types of deep dives is Captain Don's Habitat, and we arranged for extra help at the site. It was greatly appreciated. Just getting all the diving equipment into the water is a formidable task. We entered the water at 12 noon on May 4<sup>th</sup>. I had two tanks on my back and carried four more. The dive went smoothly. We used two

water scooters to quickly reach 340 feet (103m.), retrieved the remains, and then ascended to search for the wetsuit we had seen the previous day. We wanted to search the area as best we could, even though we were extremely limited with only 20 minutes of bottom time, in hopes that if there was anything else in that area, we would be able to bring it up also. After I located the wetsuit, another discovery was made. Bob found another dive boot and fin at about 265 – 270 feet (81m.). It took 15 minutes to ascend from 340 feet to a depth of 100 feet, due to the multiple decompression stops and breathing gas switches that had to be

made (see accompanying dive profile). After ascending to approximately 100 feet, we transferred the bags containing the remains over to divers Ramon DeLeon and Roger Hauge, who were able to bring them directly to the surface. We remained in the water to continue decompressing, with our total in-water dive time being just over three hours. We exited the water at 15:08 that afternoon. Special thanks to Eky Allee for single handedly carrying the tanks and scooters (both 70 lb. scooters in ONE trip) up the stairs at Karpata. It surely kept Bob and me out of the chamber.”  
□ Walt Stark

**Diving this deep is NOT something that is casually accomplished. Without the proper equipment, training and experience DEATH or SEVERE PERMANENT INJURY is a certainty.**

For our readers Walt provided a simple explanation of the tanks and breathing mixes used to do a dive to these depths. Walt explains, “Everyone is different, and has a different breathing mixture preference. I have listed the gasses I  
*(Continued on page 17)*



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**WANTED: Local artists** who would  
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stop by the Gallery weekdays after  
April 24.



**PETS**  
**of the**  
**WEEK**



**ADOPTED!**

**T**he Bonaire Animal Shelter is very happy to announce that our Pet of the  
Week last week, "Edgar," and his three siblings have all been adopted! Con-  
gratulations to the lucky pups and new owners.

As of May 10 there have been 60 adoptions from the Shelter, an impressive number  
because for the entire year 2003 there were 110. People are realizing that the best  
pets, the most social, the healthiest and best cared for come from our Shelter. The  
adoption fee for cats is NAF75 and for dogs, NAF105. These prices include a thor-  
ough examination by the vet, worming, testing, shots and sterilization. Where can  
you get a better deal than that?

Humans have had pets for perhaps as long as 100,000 years, according to the ex-  
perts. That's the date they estimate for the original domestication of wolves... and  
the beginning of their slow genetic manipulation into the animal called the dog.  
Although animals' roles have been as helpmate or slave there has always been a  
connection beyond that. Animal companionship is very different from that of a  
human's. They never judge, they forgive immediately and they're always there to  
give affection. Contrary to how it seems sometimes, it is they that adjust their lives  
to the human. When you come home from work or shopping, who is the first to  
greet you, to show that you were truly missed and that it's so wonderful to have  
you back again?

Check out the "companions" at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road,  
open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Sats. until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □L.D.



# ASK THE DIETITIAN! EGGPLANT AS A GREAT VEGETARIAN MEAL!

How often do we see different kinds of vegetables in the supermarkets but don't know how to prepare them. Or maybe it's because we don't like the taste. Eggplant, or aubergine, a nice purple vegetable, is one of them. Eggplant is a vegetable that can be eaten with its skin on and this makes it rich in fibre as well as containing good vitamins and minerals. This purple vegetable even grows on our island.

You can prepare eggplant in many different ways. You can stuff lasagne with it. You can make a spread with it, a casserole, a soup. You can bake it in the oven with a nice sauce and cheese. You can fry it until it's crisp on the outside and tender inside and sprinkle it with salt, pepper and basil. There are so many ways to prepare eggplant where you can really enjoy the taste. Here are two recipes to give you an idea how to prepare this healthy vegetable. Hope you enjoy it!



Internet photo



Angélique Salsbach

## Stuffed Eggplants

(4 servings)

2 large eggplants	2 Tab. oil
3 sticks celery, finely chopped	220 gr. mushrooms, thinly sliced
6 Tab. rice, cooked	60 gr. walnuts, coarsely chopped
1 Tsp. tomato purée	2 Tab. fresh parsley, chopped
salt and pepper to taste	75 gr. cheddar cheese, grated

Set the oven to 190°C/Gas mark 5/ (375 °F). Prick the eggplants all over. Cut in half and place the cut side down on a greased baking sheet. Bake for 30 minutes. Heat the oil in a pan and fry the celery gently for 5 minutes. Add the mushrooms and sauté, stirring for 3 minutes. Stir in rice, walnuts, tomato purée, parsley and seasoning. Scoop the flesh from the eggplants without breaking skins. Chop the flesh finely and mix with the fried mixture. Pile back into the eggplant skins, sprinkle with cheese and place under a hot grill until heated thoroughly. Serve immediately with a salad.

## Eggplant Sauce

(5 servings)

1 eggplant	2 Tab. oil
4-5 tomatoes, chopped	1 Tab. lemon juice
salt and pepper to taste	125 gr. Parmesan cheese, grated
handful fresh parsley or 1 Tab. dried mixed herbs	

Wash and chop the eggplant into small pieces. Heat the oil in a saucepan. Add the eggplant and fry until cooked. Add tomatoes and simmer for 5-10 minutes. Add herbs, lemon juice, salt and pepper.

You can serve this eggplant sauce with cooked pasta and Parmesan cheese.

## A little history story to end with....

The history of vegetarianism is longer than many people might think. In fact, vegetarianism has been a part of cultures all over the world going back thousands of years. One of the early prominent vegetarians was Pythagoras, the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC Greek philosopher and mathematician, whose community saw vegetarianism as a contribution to peace.

One of his writings.....

*We have corn,*

*We have apples bending down the branches with their weight,*

*And grapes swelling on the vines.*

*There are sweet-flavoured herbs,*

*And vegetables which can be cooked and softened over the fire,*

*Nor are you denied milk or thyme-scented honey.*

*The earth affords a lavish supply of riches.*

□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) □

(A Hard Dive. Continued from page 15)

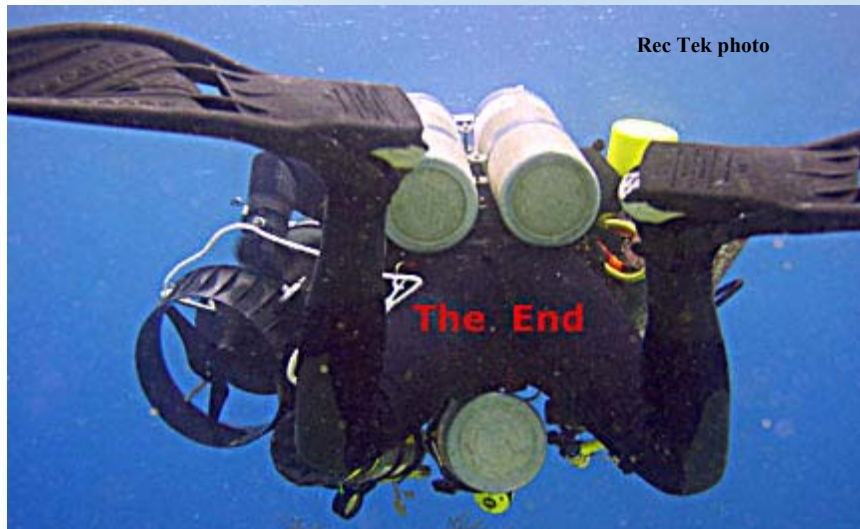
used with an explanation of "how it all works:"

I breathed an 18/26 Trimix (Oxygen, ) **Travel Mix / Deep Deco Gas** used to get from the surface to the 150-200 foot depth range. At that time, I switched over to the **Bottom Gas** (also called the "back gas," as it is usually carried in the double tanks worn on the diver's back). The **Bottom Gas** is used at depth and also for the ascent up to a depth of 250 feet. In this case, 250 feet happened to be our first deco stop. Once I reached 250 feet, I switched back to the 18/26 Trimix (**Travel Mix / Deep Deco Gas**) and remained on this tank until the time came when I was able to ascend to a depth of 150 feet. At that time, I switched to 27% Nitrox. At 70 feet, I changed to 50% Nitrox, and then a final gas switch to

You might find it interesting to know that the Bottom Gas (Tri-mix 11/59) will not support life *shallower* than about 20 feet. You need to be **20 feet or deeper, before** you can breathe this mixture and remain conscious.

By replacing the nitrogen normally found in the air we breathe with helium, we can do two things. You reduce the narcotic effect which nitrogen has on the body and can adjust the oxygen content to control the PO2. Because of the mix we used, our "equivalent narcotic depth" was about 110 feet even though we were at a depth of 340 feet.

Add the two 70-pound underwater scooters and a 1-liter bottle of fresh water, and you are good to go on a similar trip underwater." □ W.S.



Rec Tek photo

100% Oxygen at a depth of 20 feet.

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**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**

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

**Production:** Barbara Lockwood; **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie



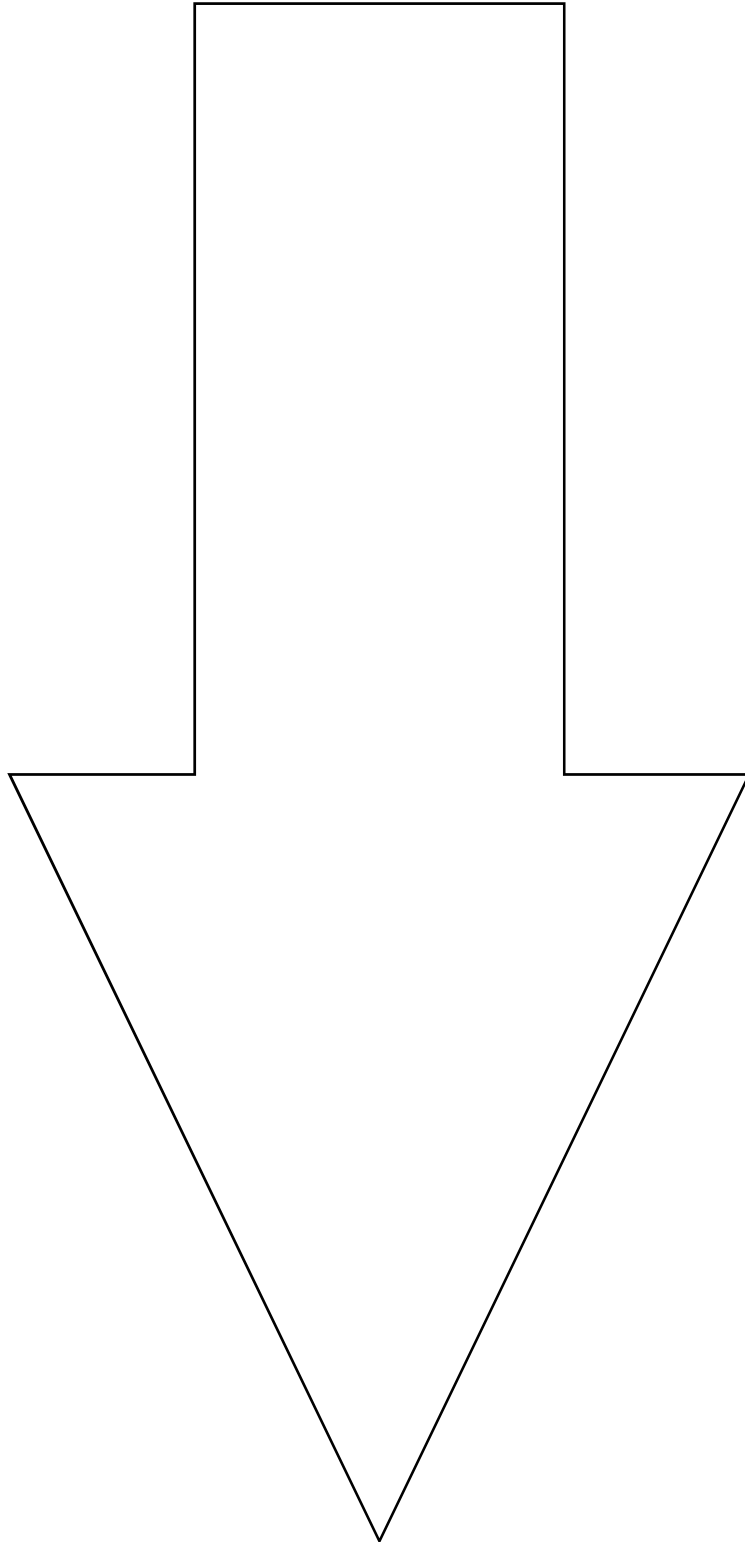
# BONAIRE HIT PARADE



TW	LW	#WEEKS	BAND	SONG TITLE
1. Tie	1 6		BANDA SUN G	AMOR DE MADRE 2
1. Tie	6 5		USHER/LUDA/LIL JON	YEAH
2.	5 6		DC POWER	MI KURASON TEY PA BO
3.	3 6		NO GAME	JERY
4.	2 8		ORK. CACHE	KASA KU MI
5.	4 8		MASTA/KING LOVER	WHEN I HIT YA
6.	7 3		I.G.T.	UN BUGALU
7.	10 3		BEYONCE	NAUGHTY GIRL
8.	11 2		JANET JACKSON	ALL NITE (DON'T STOP)
9.	N N		WIMPY DUNK	SI MAÑAN NO YEGA MAS
10.	N N		RICKY MARTIN Y TODO	QUEDA EN NADA
11.	N N		JORGE FERREIRA	CONSENTIDA
12.	N N		ORK. CACHE	24/7
13.	N N		DIS LE HEURE 2 ZOUK	MA RIVALE (JACOB-KASSAV)
14.	N N		PERFEKTA	SON STIMA MI MENOS
15.	N N		AGR. PAL'I WIRI	KI NODI BO TIN

**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

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**New! Usually 9:00 pm**

**Secret Window  
(Jonny Depp)**

Early Show (usually 7:00 pm)

**The Ladykillers**

**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**

### THIS WEEK

**Spiritual Human Yoga courses in Universal Energy in Aruba:**  
**Saturday, May 15- Levels 5.0 & 5.1, 9 am to 6 pm**  
**Sunday, May 16- Level 5.2, 9 am to 6 pm**  
**Saturday, Sunday, June 5, 6 - Level 6**  
To register, fax immediately to 00297-5884691. More information [www.melaruba.org](http://www.melaruba.org)

**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

**Thursday, May 20 - Ascencion Day.** Island-wide holiday Banks & businesses closed

### COMING

**Saturday, Sunday, May 29, 30-A visit and local guided tour to Isla di Yuana and Isla di Pedro** at Lac Bai. Meet just past Chapparal on road to Lac. Sponsored by Amigunan di Nautralesa (Friends of Nature) Tours from 9 am to 4 pm. Adults, NAf25. Children, NAf15. Includes drinks, BBQ and book by Bòi Antoin. Tickets at Extra newspaper office, Kaya Gilberto F. Croes. Tel. 717-8482.

**Sunday, May 30- 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Washington Park. At the Park from 8 am to 5 pm.** Soft Adventure sports, kids activities, indoor and outdoor exhibitions, local market and more. FREE. Call 717-8444

**Saturday, June 5 - Famous Cuban Band, "Sonora Matancera,"** will play at BSF Tennis Courts (behind MCB bank in Playa). More info next week.

**Saturday, June 5- Jong Bonaire Fair** Sale of second hand sports gear, computer equipment, games, presentations, sports. 2 pm-9 pm. Held at Jong Bonaire, Kaya Lib. Simon Bolivar #16. Call 717-4303 for info

### 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

**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

**The Bonaire Swim Club is looking for volunteer help. Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or**

**Valarie@telbonet.an**

**Cinnamon Art Gallery** opening soon. Volunteers to help staff the gallery during the day. Please contact **Wendy Horn, at 717-3902 or 785-9700.**

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

**Bonaire Animal Shelter** 717-4989.

**Donkey Sanctuary** 560-7607.

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

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

**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 Cafè. 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**

# 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 NAf25.
<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 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 NAf25 Beach Pass, a NAf15 credit is given for meals Bonaire's best seaside location?
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> 717-3293 <b>Home Delivery or Take Out</b>	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30pm 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. Debrót 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 guilder.  
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

## Amina and Galil Kartodikromo

“We couldn’t stay in Surinam. Everything we did failed from the time guerilla leader Ronnie Brunswijk made his entrée and the civil war broke out. Before we had a very good life in Moengo, the little village where we lived. We worked hard, but we could afford everything we needed. Ronnie Brunswijk is still living in Moengo. He’s one of the richest men in Surinam, but he got rich by destroying the country. Galil was working for his brother, a contractor in Moengo. The workshop was at Patamacca, a palm oil plantation. In the daytime he worked in the factory and drove a truck. After work he went to pick up the palm pits that people gathered with the help of donkeys and had put alongside the road and then Galil dumped the harvest at the factory. In his spare time, as a hobby, he had cleared a plot of land and planted 2,000 banana trees and pumpkins. In 1986 the civil war broke out and Brunswijk set Patamacca on fire. Galil and I had known each other practically all our lives as we are both from Moengo, but the day when Brunswijk and his guerillas closed the town and blew up the roads and bridges with dynamite and we became completely isolated for a whole month, we started to talk. He was 19 and I was 20. I thought he was a cute guy. I loved his hair, full and with lots of curls, and he was into motor cross.” “I thought Amina was a very nice girl,” Galil says. “She used to pass by my house on her bicycle; that’s how it started!” “My parents loved Galil instantly,” Amina laughs. “Of course our parents knew each other. We both have Javanese ancestors and we’re Muslim and my parents were ever so happy with my choice as he was a quiet boy! As soon as it became possible we moved to Paramaribo. We’d lost everything because of the war. When Galil’s brother started a ranch at Leliedorp, Galil became the foreman, handling the construction and the cattle. Every day he had to travel the dirt roads, horrible roads, full of holes. When they’re dry they’re like quicksand; when it’s rainy season they’re just plain mud! Part of his job was to deforest the jungle. One day when he was working with his chainsaw a heavy branch fell on his head, destroyed his teeth and left him unconscious. They took him to the hospital. He recovered slowly, but after that he didn’t want to work there anymore so he began as a salesman at SAB, the Surinam Alcohol Company, for the next five years. We got married in 1988. I have four brothers and one sister; Galil has three brothers and six sisters, but we only have two sons: Shaieb, 13, and Sharief,

11. They are good students; I can’t complain.

The road to Bonaire was easy. My brother, Amin Darmaoen, had come here in 1991. He worked for Den Laman until he left for Holland three years ago. When Galil came to visit him he was offered a job immediately.” “I didn’t go back for three years,” Galil says, “only to say goodbye to my family and to tell them I was going to stay on Bonaire for good. It all happened fast.

Amina stayed with her parents for five months until I was settled and had their papers arranged and then they came. The first impression I got from Bonaire was, how empty! I only saw dry trees and there was such a strong wind! But the sea was wonderful. I could go fishing anywhere, anytime! In Surinam it rains every day with no wind at all. The humidity is very high and it’s very hot. We fish in rivers and creeks, but when you live in Paramaribo it takes a lot of planning to go fishing for the weekend. I’m a good fisherman. I used to go in my boat, but the engine isn’t working anymore, now I’m fishing from the shore and in the saliañas. The other day I caught a

*Karanja* that weighed 15 kilos!” *He shows me the jaw of the fish: It has the canine teeth of a pit bull! He grins: “I always catch the rarest fishes!”*

“We made a good soup with the head and we had nice filets,” Amina says, looking proudly at her husband. *They are a lovely, hardworking couple: Amina and Galil Kartodikromo. She’s outgoing, spontaneous and always ready for a joke and he’s a nice quiet guy.*

“We are doing okay,” Amina laughs. “We never fight! You can’t have a fight with Galil. I talk and he doesn’t say anything back... what’s the fun of that! When I arrived in Bonaire there was so much wind at the airport I thought I was going to be blown away! I thought it would be beautiful, with skyscrapers, just like Holland! But I found it’s just like Moengo; it’s quiet and I got used to it, I was never a city girl anyway. Aside from missing my family, it has been easy here.

“Not for me!” Galil says. “I was working with a girl who spoke only Spanish, a language I didn’t know. Papiamentu I had never heard of! But I worked with eight guys and learned the bad words

first! I took a quick course for a week and after that I picked it up myself. I started working for Kooyman’s in 1996. I applied and started the same day. Three months later I became the yard chief, which I still am. Amina works at Plaza, doing the breakfast service.

It’s funny. In Surinam I had migraines all the time, but here I’ve had them only once or twice. Maybe it was because of the situation, the stress. My father died of a stroke because of the civil war. He had just retired and worried so much about what was hap-

pening. The country has gone down tremendously and poor people have become poorer. When I left Surinam we got one dollar for 16 Surinam Guilders. Now it’s 2,500 guilders for one dollar! I think we’re doing so much better here! We got our land and started clearing it in January 2001. In March this year we moved into our house. We built it our-

selves, but we’ve had help from the guys from work and our neighbor, Eddie Campos. The house has turned out very solid. It was built block by block. Hopefully it will be finished in two more years, but now we can live here and don’t have to pay rent. All our spare time goes into the house! Sometimes I rest for half an hour but then I think, No! I’ve got too much to do! Before we started building I went fishing a lot. Now I’m thinking only of the house!” “The fishes must be happy,” Amina laughs, “They are having a holiday!”

“We didn’t participate in the kite contest this year either; it was the first time we were not there since 1996! Over the years we’ve won 32 trophies. The kites Galil designs are always very different. Once he made a Javanese with a skirt; it was the strangest kite they had ever seen!” “I make them of bamboo,” Galil fills in, “but it’s hard to get. I find it on the beach, but most of the time it’s too



Galil, Sharief, Shaieb and Amina Kartodikromo

old and doesn’t bend. I wanted to participate at Dia di Arte with kites, but I didn’t have time! Amina’s biggest hobby is to sing and to laugh! She does karaoke nights and song festivals.” “I go out to sing and sometimes after karaoke I go to City Café. Galil doesn’t like to go out so I go by myself or with friends and I love to dance! We also like to cook, especially fish soup with corn, the way they make it here, absolutely delicious! But no *funchi* for us. It has no taste! We like spicy food with lots of pepper. Once, when Galil’s brother was here and saw so many doves he invented a trap that worked very well and we made dove stoba! It was good!

As we are Muslims we go to the mosque, but mostly when it’s Ramadan. It’s open every day, but we’re working hard, so there isn’t always time to go. But I’m sure God will forgive us! We have to live too! Antilleans don’t know what it means to be a Muslim. When you explain you have to tell them it’s the ‘Arab faith,’ then they understand. It’s good to be here; there’s time to live, to see the sunrise and to get home five minutes after work. Now we think we’ll stay here and that’s what we hope for. We don’t know what the future will bring in Holland or in Surinam, but if it’s up to us we prefer to stay here. That’s our choice.” □

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

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# YOGA FOR YOU

## IT'S NOW MACHO! YOGA SHEDS SISSY IMAGE

*You have to learn from yourself, not from books. It is an endless thing, it is a fascinating thing, and when you learn about yourself from yourself, out of that learning wisdom comes.*

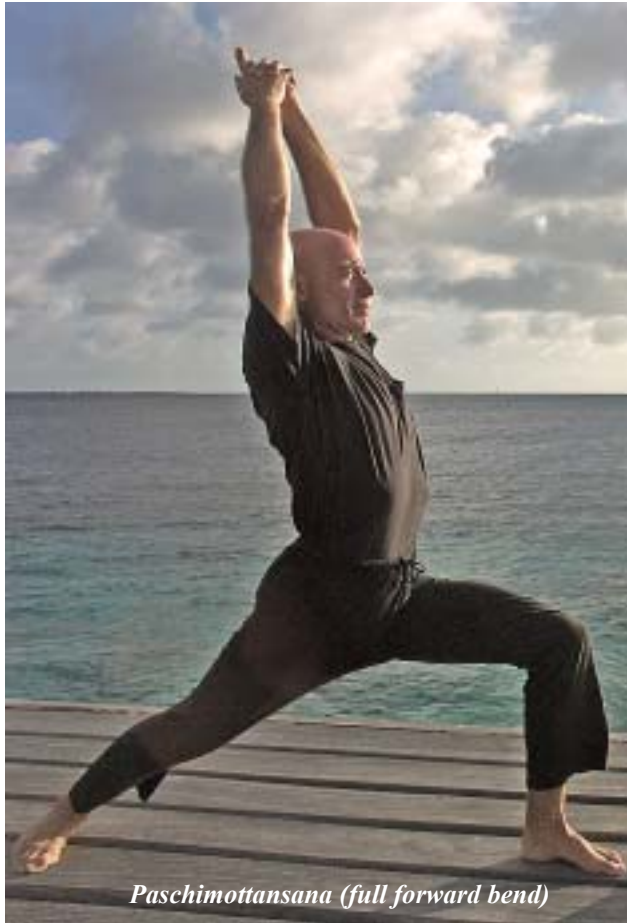
*Then you can live a most extraordinary, happy, beautiful life. Right?*

*Krishnamurti to young students in India, New Age Journal.*

Last month I was reading an article in the *Seattle Times*, which I would really like to share with you.

A Harris poll conducted in 2003 for *Yoga Journal* reports that 23% of yoga enthusiasts are male, many of them opting for the more extreme forms of the discipline, such as power yoga, a set of flowing movements that test strength and conditioning.

David Romanelli, who co-owns a yoga business in Phoenix, says the yoga landscape has taken one giant leap toward men. "Guys really like classes like power yoga because it's more about working the muscles than a spiritual thing," he says. The practice has attracted pro athletes such as NFL running back Eddie George, NBA star Kevin Garnett and golfer Tom Lehman.



*Paschimottasana (full forward bend)*

Katherine Roberts has seen firsthand the influx of men into practice once dominated by women. The yoga instructor teaches yoga for golfers, a class in which men outnumber women nine to one.

Yoga is not for sissies, and Mike Lange can attest to that.

The 59-year-old is a big strapping guy, 6 foot 6 and 230 pounds, is capable of the most complicated movements and can hold positions that most people would find impossible without ropes and Velcro. He finds yoga as demanding as running up a mountainside and embraces the practice for its calming effect. "You can leave everything outside and just be inside yourself," says Lange, who started yoga two years ago at his wife's insistence. "I like that it's not just physical, but mental as well. When we do the relaxation the stress goes away.

This is happening in America, but let's not underestimate Bonaire. The recent growth of men joining our classes has also gone through a dramatic change. It's absolutely wonderful to see the

guys in our classes, knowing that they combine yoga with their other physical activities or sports like scuba diving, windsurfing, kite boarding, golf, running, tennis, softball, weightlifting, you name it. Combine any of these with yoga and your performance will improve and injuries will be fewer. If the muscles and connective tissue have become tight with the effects of one of these sports activities, especially after years of training, yoga will allow you to be aware of your body and its limitations.

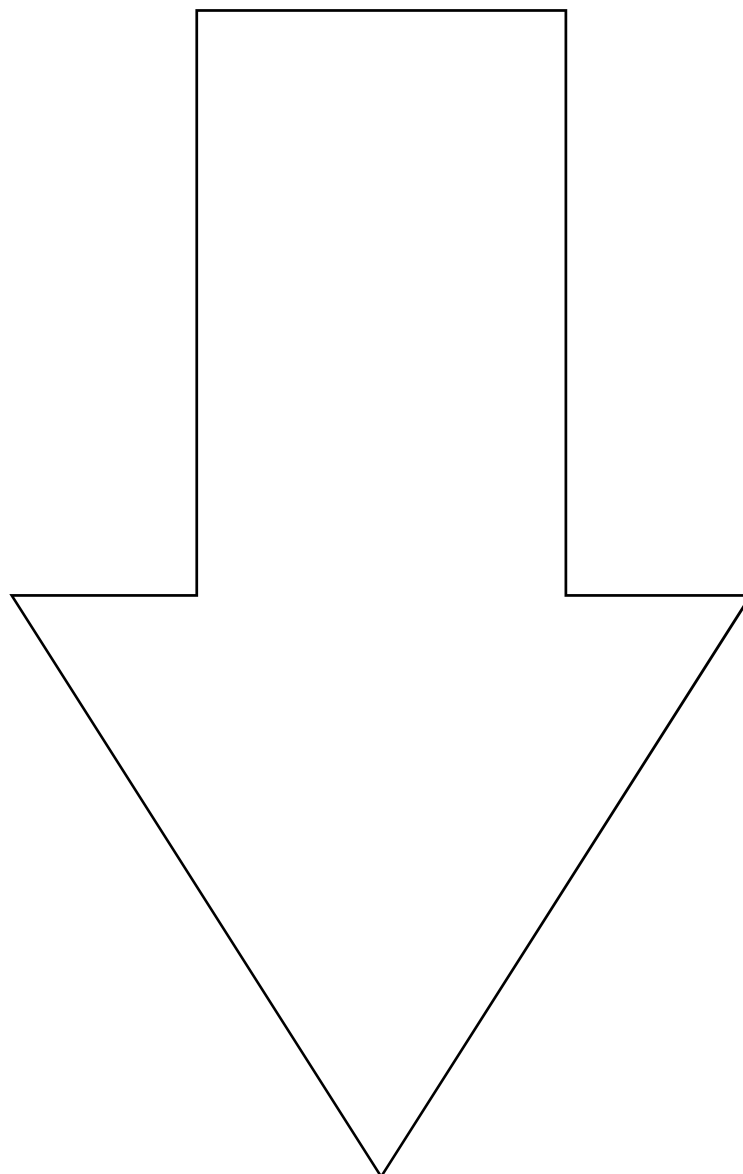
In *asana* (position) practice our internal impulses are contained inside the dynamic form of the posture. What distinguishes an *asana* from any other stretch exercise is that in *asana* practice we focus our mind's attention completely in the body. We don't do something to the body; we become the body. The goal is to live in your body and to learn to perceive clearly through it.

Give change a chance. □ *Desirée*

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



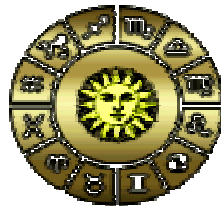
*Don and Desirée of "Yoga For You" offer classes in yoga, from beginners to advanced. See their ad on page 18.*





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

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



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: May 14 to May 21, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

## The Southern Cross and How to Use the Moon to Find Three Planets and the Gemini Twins

**H**ow many of you have seen the **Southern Cross**? You don't have to visit Australia, because for the next few months you can easily see it from Bonaire. It's visible this week and next from dusk until about 1:30 am. To find it look due south, low in the sky. It's the small, cross shaped constellation lying slightly tilted to the left. Can't see it? Look toward the west a bit, still low in the sky. You'll see a very bright star that often twinkles green and blue. That's **Canopus**, the second brightest star we can see from Earth. (**Sirius** is the first. Remember we don't mean planets, which can be much brighter, but then again planets are thousands of times closer.) Canopus is a Southern Hemisphere star. Now look back east (left) about a quarter of the way around the horizon and you should see the Cross. Don't be fooled by the "False Cross" which is a much bigger cross-shaped set of stars that's higher in the sky than Canopus.



If you're one of those who still has a hard time finding the planets, then next week not only will you be able to use a growing crescent **Moon** to find three planets just after sunset but you'll also be able to use the Moon to find the two brightest stars of **Gemini**. On Thursday next week, May 20<sup>th</sup>, an hour after sunset face west. And if you have a clear, unobstructed flat horizon you'll be able to see an exquisite very young slender sliver of a crescent Moon complete with Earth shine which will look like a black full Moon nestled within the bright crescent just below the most brilliant planet of them all, 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**, which is almost at its brightest right now but which will descend lower each evening and be gone by Memorial Day (May 30). So see it now. On Friday night the 21<sup>st</sup> you can kick off the weekend with a visual bang because then an even slightly fatter crescent will be just above Venus, making yet another exquisite picture. It's on its way to pay a visit to two more wonderful planets just above it: a very dim but still reddish-orange-looking 4,000-mile-wide **Mars**, which less than a year ago was second only to Venus in brightness, but which is now extremely dim and getting dimmer every week as it moves farther away from us. Huddled right next to Mars is a planet that has earned the name, "most beautiful of them all," because through a telescope it shows an exquisite system of rings encircling it, our old friend 75,000-mile-wide **Saturn**. And in case you think Saturn and Mars are unusually close to each another you're absolutely right. In fact on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> they will be in conjunction, which means they will be at their closest visually for this go round, less than two degrees apart.

On Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> an even fatter crescent Moon will be just above Saturn and Mars and on its way to the next celestial wonder, the brightest star of the Gemini twins, **Pollux**, with his brother **Castor** off to the side. On Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Moon and Pollux will be side by side. But although they'll look close to each other, just as Mars and Saturn do, nothing could be farther from the truth. You see, our 2,000-mile-wide Moon will be only 248 thousand miles away on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, while Pollux will be 830 million times farther away, 35 light years beyond! □ *Jack Horkheimer*

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Take a short business trip if possible. Someone you care about may not be too pleased with you. You are better off visiting friends or relatives than entertaining at home. Be inquisitive about unfamiliar circumstances. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You could lose a good friend because of it. Be willing to listen, but don't be fooled. You can make money if you concentrate on producing services or goods that will make domestic chores easier. Things may not be as they sound. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You will get along well with your colleagues this week. Minor accidents may occur if you don't concentrate on what you're doing. Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment. Exhaustion combined with overindulgence could result in minor health problems. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Don't be shy; show your abilities! You will gain knowledge through your adventure. Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack spare time. Your ability to put a deal together will surprise others. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Do not get upset about situations you cannot change. Business partnerships should turn out to be quite lucrative. Do not let in-laws upset you. You can have quite the romantic adventure if you take time to get to know your mate all over again. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You are best not to confide in anyone right now. Socializing or travel will lead to partnerships. Your relationship is undergoing some changes. You may find that your family responsibilities are piling up. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may be in an extremely passionate mood this week. Avoid purchasing expensive items. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive. You can make gains if you look at long-term investments. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You need to spend some time with individuals who have more experience than you. Hidden matters are likely to surface. Attend trade shows that will allow you to look at new products. Relatives may play an important role in your social activities. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Relationships will become stronger. Talk to someone you trust in order to see the whole picture. You'll look guilty if you don't lay your cards on the table. Turn things around, make sure that they do their share. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't second guess yourself, just go to it. This week will be rather hectic on the domestic scene. You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. You can change your living arrangements. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Romance will unfold through business trips. You will have a great day if you just say what you feel. Real estate should be lucrative for you. It will do you some good. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) This is not the best time to take a risk, to gamble or spend money you really can't afford to part with. Your willingness to help others can and will lead to fatigue if you don't learn to say no. You can be sure that any dealing with large institutions should go well. Most partner problems are a result of both people not living up to their promises. Your lucky day this week will be Friday. □

**Moon Info** ● New Moon on May 19<sup>th</sup> . ☾ First Quarter on May 27<sup>th</sup>  
 ○ Full Moon on June 3<sup>rd</sup> . ☾ Last Quarter on June 9

