

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

The **BONAIR** REPORTER

SINCE 1994



**PIONEERS OF THE
MARINE PARK**
Dr. Eric Newton, Capt. Don Stewart,
Kalli DeMayer, Carel Steensma, Franklin Winklaar
Page 15

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

A ExelAviationGroup

Competition for flights to Holland heats up. Dutch Caribbean Exel will begin flying Curaçao-Amsterdam by July 15. They'll go round-trip twice a week on Monday and Thursday with a Boeing 767-300, the same type plane that DCA will fly five times a week (see last week's "Flotsam"). The aircraft can carry up to 260 passengers. Prices begin at euros 478 (NAf1,027), excluding fees and taxes, in economy class. Business Class starts at euros 1.248 (NAf2,683). Book flights at www.bookdce.com. Convenient connections with BonairExel are available. For questions concerning Antillean and Aruban operations call Robert Gibbs (599) 717-3471.

► **The new Central government has set aside NAf35 million** as part of their government program. Five million will go to *Reda Sosial*, to initiate their program "Combating Poverty." Justice will receive five million to combat crime, especially to get more police on the streets. The *Wegenfonds* (Freeway fund) will receive 10 million, and 15 million will be destined for economic projects. Errol Cova, Minister of Economic Affairs, explained that part of this money will go to three projects: the expansion of Hotel *Kurá Hulanda* and the renovation of *Kadushi Cliffs* (Jacob Gelt Dekker's projects) and the Seaquarium Resort. Some of the money will also go to smaller companies. We didn't notice any money going specifically to other Antillean islands except Curaçao.

► Since market protection is unpopular

the government has figured out how to make locally brewed Amstel more competitive with import brews by halving the beer excise tax. It will cost the government about NAf5 million. Supposedly this would make an Amstel cheaper by an estimated 10%. However, it's expected that Amstel will sell more of this cheaper beer so the tax loss will be minimized.

► Last Saturday, convicted felon and Curaçao Island Council member, **Anthony Godett, was re-elected as party chairman and political leader of the Frente Obrero Liberashon 30 di Mei (FOL) political party.** It means that Godett will lead the orange party for the next four years. The elections were held last Saturday during the FOL's statutory elections.

► Effective June 20th **the price of shipping from the US will increase** precipitously. Customers will now have to pay \$3,000 instead of the usual \$2,500 for a 20-foot container and \$4,800 compared to the usual price of \$3,800 for a 40-foot container. About 40,000 containers are transported between the US and the ABC islands every year.

► The long lease of the **Playa Marina Resort** (the islands in "Flamingo Paradise," the area next to Caribbean Court across from the airport), first earmarked for private development in 1989, **was taken back by the island government last week.** The overdue land rent charges of NAf500.000-800.000 was "forgiven" by the government as part of the take-back deal. The promised large scale construction never happened.



► **As a reminder that the Bonaire Referendum still lives, we bring you this photo of Mireille Nicolaas, the winner of the Referendum slogan contest** for ages 15 to 18 years. SGB student Mireille's winning entry is "Nos Futuro Ban P'e!" (Our Future; Let's Go For It!)

► Whatever happens, it won't be resolved for a while yet. One of the parties maneuvering to get **the Sunset Beach Hotel property has put a lien on the property.** Now that Sunset Beach is in the hands of the Bonairean Government several parties are interested in purchasing it. One of them is the group that already operates the Divi Flamingo Hotel and who now has the right to develop the Esmeralda property, the unfinished hotel south of Lighthouse Beach.

► Bonaire is becoming known for the variety of cuisine it offers. But one type of cooking, one prevalent in many parts of

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the world, is missing. **It's Indian food,** the spicy and delicious fare from the sub-continent that's home to the world's largest democracy. In the next few months look for genuine Indian cooking right next to the Bonaire Super Store. The Super Store is now offering prepackaged Indian meals, snacks and spices is a display behind the checkout counter.

(Continued on page 6)

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LETTERS



Pristine Brooklyn Waterfront

Internet photo

GO BACK TO BROOKLYN #1

To The Editor:

Re your last week's Letter to the Editor, what is it with this Al guy, anyway? Did he get up one day, throw a dart at a map on the wall and say, "Pack 'em up Sadie, we're moving to Bonaire"? Did he not visit here prior to his move to check out the amenities?

What a shame that our Italian chefs have been a disappointment. Too bad that they learned their skills in Italy and not in BROOKLYN. And I'm sure our Chinese chefs are embarrassed that they can only produce dishes in the manner of their home country (China) and not like they do in BROOKLYN. And by the way, Al, spare ribs and Egg Foo Yung are American dishes which, while being tasty (even when prepared by local chefs), were created for the American palate which was not sophisticated enough to appreciate authentic Chinese food.

Apparently, charter boat fishing at \$175 for a half day is another disappointment. FYI, Al, that price is a bargain. On the east coast of the U.S. (where BROOKLYN is located) a half day costs \$400 or more, you get to fish in slimy water, and if you eat your catch you'll turn green, glow in the dark, and die. And as far as party boats (also known as floating centipedes) are concerned, we don't do that here for a good reason. The people who fish, whether tourists or residents, are too serious about the sport to get involved in something as tacky and unprofessional as a party boat.

Diving on Bonaire also appears not to measure up to Al's exacting standards.

What a surprise. Just imagine, folks, Al doesn't think he's living in Diver's Paradise. What's wrong with this picture? Listen, Al, let's try looking at what's right with this picture and why 9,999 of us (I've not counted you) love living on Bonaire. Where else can you find a tiny island that has a good hospital, 11 doctors, a hyperbaric chamber, supermarkets, a movie theater that shows up to date films, a fantastic eco system, pristine water and reefs, the friendliest people you'll ever meet, GREAT RESTAURANTS (Italian, Chinese and Pizza included), and a population that thinks Bonaire is a terrific place to live. You've gotta admit, Al, BROOKLYN will never be this good. And finally, I wouldn't want to be you when calling for a restaurant reservation. It would go something like this.

Al: "Hello, this is Al Curry and I'd like to make a reservation."
 Restaurant owner: "Oh really? Then you should call Air Jamaica and reserve a one-way ticket to BROOKLYN."

Dabney Lassiter

GO BACK TO BROOKLYN #2

Dear Editor:

We were appalled by Mr. Curry's letter to the editor criticizing Bonaire's food, diving practices and fishing restrictions and felt obligated to respond.

For our tastes the Italian food at Croccantino and Capriccio's restaurants is as good as or better than any we've had in the States. We also love the pizza at Pasa Bon Pizza. (No offense to other restaurants. These are just our favorites for consistently good Italian food.) We also frequent several good Chinese restaurants

and take-outs.

Food is only one part of the dining experience. We seldom go out to eat that we don't run into and chat with someone we know or meet someone new and interesting. I've never experienced such a friendly, relaxed atmosphere in restaurants in Washington, Florida, or New York, where the primary objective seems to be to clear your table for the next customer.

Bonaire is a diver's paradise but in the Bonaire Marine Park dive flags seem superfluous.

In closing, we always tell our friends in the States that, while we love living on Bonaire, it is not for everyone. Fortunately for us, Bonaire is not Brooklyn, or Washington, D.C., or Atlanta. It's something very special and, if Mr. Curry cannot appreciate that, perhaps Bonaire is not for him.

Laura and Ben Buchbinder

GO BACK TO BROOKLYN #3

Dear Editor:

Please allow me to respond to the entertaining letter from Al Curry printed in last week's Reporter. Perhaps this will be of some help to him.

Dear Al,

I would like to say how much I enjoyed your letter. It was quite unique, and how can I put it, so New York. That's it, so very New York. I wouldn't be too depressed if I were you. After all you have only been on the island for a year and there is still time to find something you like about Bonaire.

I can't understand why fishing should be a problem for you. Take your lawn chair and a case or two of Old Milwaukee down to the town pier and drop your line in. Like in New York you could even throw your cans into the water. Here it gives the divers something to do on the next cleanup dive. It would be just like old times on the East River except the fish only have one head. I don't know about the party boat idea. I don't think you could find a hundred people willing to go out on a boat, drink beer, get their fishing lines all tangled up and complain about the island food. In New York maybe, but probably not here. On the other hand a chance to snag a scuba diver is something you don't get to do elsewhere and may generate some interest. You may want to look into this in more detail.

Speaking of diving I agree that the dive

boats probably should have their dive flags out. However, there are situations in life that bring on preconditioned responses. For example, seeing an empty dive boat on a dive mooring, even without a flag flying, most people think "divers in the water." Only a select few would think "abducted by New Jersey space aliens." Another excellent example of a preconditioned response is what people automatically think when they discover you are from Brooklyn.

I am sorry that you are finding the food on Bonaire not to your liking. I personally find the food here more than satisfactory and I have never heard anyone complain quite so vociferously and wide ranging as yourself. I think you may be in the minority. Perhaps you should see this not as a problem but as a golden opportunity. A very generous endowment to the SGB hotel school would be a big step to having things prepared your way. You could open your own restaurant and complain about yourself. You could even stay home to eat. In fact this last choice may be your best choice if the restaurants ever find out what you look like. By the way, what exactly is Egg Food Yung? Another solution, which I am sure others less charitable than myself advocate most strongly, is that you could go back to Brooklyn. Bonaireans are friendly types and would no doubt be pleased to help you on your way.

And, Al, a final suggestion. When you go out for dinner don't wear anything emblazoned with "I Love New York" on it. This may create an unexpected preconditioned response from the restaurant management. Thanks for listening and bon appetit.

Webster (Web) Burrfish

We received, in person and by phone, a surprising number of reactions to Al Curry's Letter to the Editor of last week critical of Bonaire's differences in cuisine, fishing and diving; certainly far more than articles on political corruption or environmental devastation. The reactions ranged from hysterical laughter to outright threats. The Publisher would like to remind our readers that we would never print something intentionally damaging or mean spirited to anyone or any place. However, within those limits and those of good taste, we encourage our readers to say what's on their minds, as Al Curry did, in Letters to The Editor; especially if they can be entertaining. □

G.D.

OPINION

BETRAYAL IN PARADISE

In 2002 people concerned about the health of Bonaire's coral were pleased to learn that there was a plan for sewage water to be removed from the coastal zone, processed and returned to the zone for irrigation. It has been proven over the years that the nutrients ("plant food") in sewage from waterfront resorts and homes were detrimental to coral reefs because they nourish types of algae that hinder the growth and reproduction of coral. Bonaire's coral has been consistently rated as some of the best on the planet and the objective of the sewage treatment plant was to help keep it that way.

The island's environmental groups, with the advice of professional biologists, negotiated a design for the sewage treatment plant that would remove these nutrients. Although the European consultants who were doing a feasibility design were focusing only on the traditional, sanitation aspects of the treatment plant, the *Aliansa Naturalesa Boneiru* (the Bonaire Nature Alliance, the association of the island's environmental groups) reached a compromise on the design so that the plant to be built would have facilities for tertiary treatment to remove as many nutrients as possible. While the initial funding from the European Union did not provide for tertiary treatment, the *Aliansa*, after making inquiries, was confident it could ob-



Internet photo

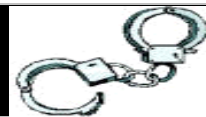
Sewer line Excavation

tain the 2.5 million euros needed from other sources.

It's now 2004, and the Sewage Treatment Plant is entering the detailed design phase and it seems that the commitment to remove as many nutrients as possible will be broken. The tertiary treatment plant is NOT being included in the design according to the Project Manager and the EU representative. In fact, it was stated that if it had to be included, the current project would have a good chance of being terminated.

The *Aliansa*, still willing to finance tertiary treatment but finding its initiative rejected, withdrew its support from the project since **returning partially treated sewage to the coastal zone would result in even greater danger to the coral than currently exists.** And the Bonairean people and waterfront resorts would have to foot the bill for maintaining a system that

POLICE UPDATE



Assistant Public Prosecutor Justine Gonggrijp reports:

- This week there was a **re-enactment of the shooting** by the Customs officer on June 5 between City Café and Karel's Beach bar when he allegedly shot at his girl friend's ex boyfriend. The area will be cleared and the suspect, the victim and witnesses will recreate the scene. Such re-enactments are done in high profile cases where statements are conflicting.
- As of Monday, June 14, **Customs officers are back at work at Flamingo Airport.** They had been off since the arrest of their colleague suspected of trying to shoot his girl-friend's ex boyfriend (see above).

- Last Sunday there were some Customs officers from Curaçao filling in, and last Friday night, the Prosecutor himself, Ernst Wesselius, was at Flamingo Airport for the early morning Amsterdam flights, checking people and making an arrest.
- After a break in in Sabadeco the owner of the house started talking with workers in the area and got tips as to where his stolen goods were. Following the tips he went to the house and saw a shopping bag belonging to him inside the house. The next day the police **made a raid on the house** but there were no stolen goods there.

(Continued on page 12)

not only doesn't do the job, but makes things worse.

Since the Sewage Project, as designed, gets a failing grade it is now time to revisit the whole concept of putting in a sewage system that would be fine in Brussels but destructive in Bonaire, not only from a coral protection standpoint but from practical aspects like the need for ripping through the limestone shoreline and burying miles of sewer line to bring waste water miles inshore only to have to return it to the seaside for irrigation purposes.

There are several commercial sewage treatment offerings that can do the job near the seafront for each of the areas that would benefit from coral protection and available irrigation water without tearing up the roads and incurring excessive expense. Captain Don's Habitat has demonstrated that sewage water treatment can have no odor and be accomplished right on the grounds of the resort. It's time to kill a project that at best was an expensive compromise and replace it with an up-to-date approach that solves the island's problems without compromise. □ G. D

► If you plan to walk or bike along the remains of the coastal tourist road be prepared to shorten your stroll. **SABE-DECO developers are preparing more building lots and have cut trenches and excavated the road to run power and water lines.**



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

► Six years worth of underwater clean-up dives have been so successful that a vast majority of the trash between the Town Pier and Hotel Row is gone. Because of that the **Monthly Underwater Clean-Up Dive will now be done quarterly.** The next Underwater Clean-Up Dive will be held on Saturday, September 18th, 2004, to coincide with International Coastal Clean-Up Day. If you have any questions, contact cleanup@bonairediving.com.

► Do you ever wonder whether children remember the things you think they should remember? Dee Scarr (“Touch the Sea”) has a story. During the “Taste of Bonaire” culinary evening there were a number of marine education billboard displays put together for and by kids under the direction of adults concerned with the underwater environment. One of the most popular was done by Dee and some students from Jong Bonaire and *Kolegio Papa Cornes* whereby different kinds of garbage under the sea was shown along

with the time it takes for it to disintegrate. Later in the week, Dee led a beach cleanup. One of the items the kids found on the beach was a big mess of fishing line. **One of the students shouted out, “Do you know how long it takes for that to disintegrate? It’s 400 years!”**

► As we go to press weather forecasters are saying that **disturbed weather in the Gulf of Mexico is likely to become a tropical depression.** This would be the first tropical depression of the Atlantic hurricane season which began June 1 and runs through November 30. Bonaire is not expected to be affected.

► **Correction:** The photos used in last week’s article “He Did It, They Did It-Twice” were kindly provided by **Bert Poyck.**

► And finally, **Happy Father’s Day** to all you guys. And to you children, remember your dads this Sunday. □ *L./G. D.*

► **Congratulations to Liz Rijna who was honored by being invited to be a judge for the bartending category for the “2004 Taste of the Caribbean”** being held in Puerto Rico. Liz competed as the bartender with the Bonaire Culinary team in the late 90s and won “Best Bartender of the Caribbean” for two separate years. The nearly annual “Taste of the Caribbean” is sponsored by the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) and the Caribbean Culinary Federation (CCF). This “culinary Olympics” pits teams of the best chefs and bartenders of the Caribbean against each other and has resulted in raising the level of quality of cuisine and beverages served in restaurants all over the Caribbean. Liz is now teaching at the SGB Hotel School, Chez Nous.



Ignacio Rodes Emerenciana 1929-2004

Rody Emerenciana was our friend for many years. He drowned after he was thrown from his boat when it was hit by a wave outside of Lac Bay last Saturday. Winds were around 25 mph with big seas. His son, Armando, who was fishing with him, was saved, but his boat *Rinja* was wrecked on the reef.



Rody would have been 75 next month. Rody loved fishing and the ocean that took his life. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family. □

PET of the WEEK

Pretty pup “Sparky,” who’s two years old, arrived at the Bonaire Animal Shelter with her five-month-old daughter who has since found a home. But because Sparky hadn’t been sterilized she soon went into heat. Luckily for her, all the adult male dogs in the Shelter have been castrated, so she didn’t have to cope with them. Now she has an appointment with the vet to be sterilized so she can look forward to a bright and carefree future. She’s a particularly sweet and very social dog and she’s in exceptional health, all good reasons why she’d make an excellent pet to adopt. You may see Sparky at the Shelter on Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

One of the reasons the pets at the Shelter have such good dispositions and are so social with humans and other animals is because of their interaction with the Shelter volunteers. It’s these valuable people who help make the Shelter a place where the cats and the dogs have a happy life. One of the faithful volunteers who came to the Shelter twice a week has had



“Sparky”

to return to Holland. Consequently, volunteers are needed desperately. It’s a happy and fun place to work and you can choose your own hours. If you’re a dog or cat person and like to socialize with them, give Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema a call at 717-4989. You won’t regret it! □ *L.D.*

EURO CUP MADNESS

Bonaire's Dutch contingent watched avidly as Holland played Germany on Tuesday. The game was tied 1 to 1. Next game is on Satur-



day, June 19 when Holland plays Czech.
□ LD.



YOUTH TENNIS

Bonaire's top tennis kids and coaches at a training session early this month with Francis Hoover from Curaçao. At the end of last week Bonaire's Monica Winkel and Thamy Albertsz won top honors in their respective classes.

ART FOR FUN

PERSONALIZE DAD'S DAY WITH FINGER PAINTING

Get ready to make a special Father's Day gift using your own fingers! This project is great for the whole family. In this example you will create a Family Tree.

You will need: Poster Board or paper; Water based paint; Black or Colored Marker

Instructions for Family Tree:

1. Get all the kids and family members ready for finger painting.
2. Paint one whole finger for the trunk of the tree using brown paint, or any



other color you might have on hand. Put your finger down on the paper in the center.

3. Paint the tips of everyone's fingers. Green paint would be nice, with a variety of reds and oranges. Print them above the tree trunk.
4. After the paint dries, use a marker to outline the tree and write your names around the fingerprints.
5. Write your Father's Day Greeting in the blank space around the tree.
6. Enjoy watching Dad smile when he sees his gift!

Have a Happy Father's Day □ Janice Huckaby - JanArt

This article is part of a series by Janice Huckaby of JanArt. Call 599 717-5246 or 791-5246 for information on art lessons or to view her artworks □



WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON #1 at the Cape

Bonaire's windsurfers seem to be constantly on the move. Clay Emer, 17, traveled north to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in early June to participate in the Sixth Annual King of the Cape. This was Clay's second trip to the Cape. This time he flew alone, embarking as a young man on his new solo windsurf career. An incredible sponsorship arrangement will allow Clay to travel to the biggest US hot spots for windsurfing competitions. With the backing of coach Elvis Martinus combined with his dynamic personality, charm and excellent windsurf skills, Clay was named the team rider for Realwind, a US-based epoxy and polyester windsurfing board manufacturer since 1987. Realwind's owner, Rob Wymore, was using his head when he took Clay on as an ambassador for his company. They now have Clay to represent them in local and US competitions. Having a Bonaire rider is a fantastic marketing tool, with Bonaire consistently being in the windsurf news. Thanks to the Professional Windsurf Association (PWA) event held here annually and the presence of the top Bonairean riders in worldwide competitions, everyone snaps to attention when Bonaire is in the competition. And Clay, maintaining Bonaire's tradition of winning, took first prize in the Amateur Class at the King of the Cape.

To do it Clay had to face fierce cold and drenching rain during the heats for this two-day freestyle event. He faced talented Peter Kimball and other local sailors who are accustomed to this unfriendly climate. Despite the harsh conditions Clay rallied and clinched the top spot. He described the event as fun and exciting, saying, "The cold wind was hard but my planing moves helped me win." He added that everyone thought he



Clay Emer

should have entered as Pro because he was so good. Clay said, "I'm not ready for Pro yet. I want to do more events and then go Pro." He also appreciates the support of Realwind. "They pay for my gear and my trips," Clay said. He is so proud to be a part of the Realwind team. Not only is this a great opportunity for his sport but it provides so much in the way of character development and values for this emerging young athlete. Clay heads west for the Aruba Hi Winds competition later this month. Realwind will also sponsor Clay's next international trip to the Columbia River in Washington State where he will compete in the Gorge Games. This was the event where Tonky Frans placed third and started his professional career. Let's see if the river's waters are lucky for Clay as he represents his island nation and pursues his dream to sail. □ Ann Phelan

YOUNG SWIMMERS GET A NAME



Club photo

Bonaire Barracudas Tuesday swim group with coach Pascal DeMeyer.

Bonaire's new youth swim program has lots of swimmers but, until recently, did not have a name. Over the past few months members have submitted their ideas in a club naming contest. Grand prize for the winning entry was a pair of swim goggles. The kids proved to be just as creative as they

are athletic as most entries also included artwork for a club logo. During swim practice on Tuesday, June 8, Club President, Simone Sweers announced the new club name, BONAIRE BARRACUDAS. The winning entry was submitted by Samson Evertsz, age 8. □

Club Logo



Valarie Stimson

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
6-18	0:56	2.1FT.	11:15 0.7FT.
6-19	1:26	2.0FT.	11:52 0.7FT.
6-20	1:57	2.0FT.	12:22 0.7FT.
			77
6-21	2:29	1.9FT.	12:52 0.7FT.
			74
6-22	3:06	1.8FT.	13:18 0.8FT.
			70

Where's Don Juan

Long time readers of *The Reporter* (the last story was in the July 11, 2003 edition) may remember the tale of a handsome yachtsman who broke hearts and emptied purses as he sailed west, with a stop in Bonaire, across the Caribbean and onward. From our correspondent, Louise Wolman, of the yacht *LuLu*, we hear that he's continuing his wayward ways, this time in the South Pacific. Our Don Juan's recently been detained in Raiatea, French Polynesia. He slipped away from Mexican justice and now the French will get a chance to have him face his many victims. □ G.D.



VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alegria	Honalee, USA	Scintilla, Germany
Angie	Hotel California Too, USA	Shiraz
Atlas	Ilsongo	Sirius
Bird of Paradise	Jalapeno	Sojourner
Blauwe Crab, Curaçao	Jupiter	Soverign III
Camissa, Chan Is.	Karthersis	Sylvia K
Camperdown	La Contenta	Triumphant Lady
Cape Kathryn	Luna C	Ta B
Cappoquin	Macaby, Netherlands	Ti Amo, USA
El Sabor	Magalita	Trio
Fifth Season	Natural Selection, USA	Ulu Ulu, USA
Flying Cloud, USA	Pamela Jean	Unicorn, Norway
Galadrial, USA	Pau Hana	Varedhuni, Germany
Gatsby, USA	Polecat	Ya-T, BVI
Goril Too	Sandpiper, USA	Zeno's Arrow, USA
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Santa Maria, Sweden	Not updated—Tech Problems

BONAIREXEL'S POSTER CONTEST DRAWS 194 ENTRIES FROM YOUNGSTERS



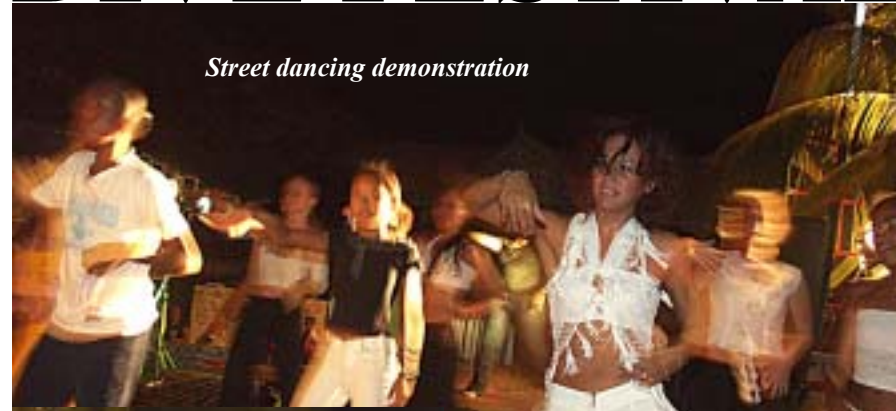
Judges had a tough job picking the best: BonairExel Cabin Crew Jefferson Coffie, SGB teacher Wilna Groenenboom, Marketing Assistant Roosje Goeloe, Bonair Reporter Editor Laura DeSalvo

BonairExel held a poster contest for children in grades one through five, the theme of which was "What Fun it is to Vacation with BonairExel." There were 194 entries, many of them so creative and outstanding that it was a difficult job for the judges to determine the very best. Some of the most exceptional were from the youngest students.

BonairExel is giving to each of the participating schools NAf1.000 worth of airline tickets to be used as prizes during their fundraising events.

All of the posters will be on display at Jong Bonaire this Thursday and Friday, June 17 and 18, from 3 to 6 pm. On Friday at 5 pm the awards will be given out. Winners will receive round trip tickets for two to Aruba and Curacao. In addition the winners' schools will receive an additional NAf378 worth of tickets (first prize) and NAf250 (for the second prize winner), to be used as additional fundraising prizes. Stop by Jong Bonaire and see the work of these young artists. It does the island proud! □ L.D.

DIVE FESTIVAL



Street dancing demonstration



Dive Festival wet suit models

The 2004 Bonaire Dive Festival is breaking all previous records for attendance, events and participation. Now well into its second week 373 people signed up (37 locals, 336 from off island of which 90% were from the US). In addition to the dive oriented activities, the evening social events have been well attended. One highlight was the Fashion Show produced by Fit-4-Life and Palm Trading. The dive festival is continuing. We'll have a wrap-up in the next edition of *The Reporter*. □ G.D.



LEAVE THE LORAS ALONE!

AVBO photo



The three lora chicks poached from their nest

The Bonaire Government has renewed its call for better protection of its Loras, the yellow-shouldered Amazon parrots that make the island their home. According to a current analysis by a representative of the World Parrot Trust, in recent years there has been a drastic decline in the wild Lora population in Bonaire, mostly due to poaching of young birds. This was brought home forcefully when a rare blue Lora was discovered in captivity a few months after it was first spotted and photographed.

The latest Lora protection campaign will focus on protecting the nests of the birds now that nesting season is here. While enforcement is the responsibility of the Police, SSV (non-criminal police), the Environmental Police, DROB (Environmental Branch) and STINAPA (Parks Authority), it's hoped that all citizens will be watchful of violations and report them to the authorities. The numbers are below.

It's a crime punishable by a NA/1.000 (per Lora) fine to disturb the nests or possess a wild Lora. Several years ago a campaign to band all captive Loras was successfully completed. **That means that any captive bird without a leg band is illegal.**

The spectacular Loras are the pride of all the people of Bonaire. If you have information about Lora poaching or illegal Lora possession call 717-3741 or 717-8000 and make a report. **THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IF LORA POACHING CONTINUES BONAIRE'S WILD LORAS WILL BECOME EXTINCT.**

(Three baby Loras have been confiscated. See "Police Update" on page 12.). □ G.D.

FISH PROTECTION ON THE WAY

The condition of Bonaire's coral reefs is equivalent to typical Caribbean coral in the 1970s. That's about seven times better than Belize and three times better than that of other Caribbean locations. Why is that, when coral worldwide is in a state of decline? One answer is parrotfish. That's because of their insatiable appetite for algae, seaweed; seaweed that chokes coral. On the other hand, Damselfish, with their territorial imperative to protect their seaweed farms, are bad for coral. **What helps to maintain a balance on healthy reefs are the big predator fish.**

Last week Dr. Robert Steneck, a marine biologist from the University of Maine, presented these results as well as a study of our coral reefs that showed, even though they are in relatively good condition, that they have experienced a decline in the size and number of resident fish over the last 20 years. The presentation that included scientific graphs, as well as actual photos of fish catches, was presented to Bonaire's fishermen at the home of Doei Diaz, one of Bonaire's respected senior fishermen. The message of the evening was that, based on recent research, setting aside reasonably sized sections of the reef as **no fishing zones would eventually result in more**



Dr. Robert Steneck

and bigger fish in a matter of two to five years.

Next week five fishermen from the island of St. Lucia will visit Bonaire to exchange their experiences of Fish Protected Areas (FPAs) with those of their fellow Bonairean fisherman. STINAPA and other Bonaire conservationist groups hope, with the advice of local fishermen, to establish FPAs to increase Bonaire's fish stocks. Hopefully, with the consent of these fishermen, FPAs will soon become a way of life in Bonaire. In a matter of years these protected fish nurseries will spill over their bounty into areas where fishermen will be able to harvest them in a sustainable way.

□ G.D

(Police Report. Continued from page 4)

- Two persons were arrested on Friday, June 11, for trying to steal a goat. They were also suspects in a case where two pit bull puppies were stolen. The dogs' owner received a tip and was able to get the dogs back. One of the suspects was in possession of stolen goods and is in jail.

Police spokesman Charles Souriel reports:

- On Monday, June 7, the police in Rincon confiscated three wild Lora chicks that had been taken illegally from their nest. The Bonairean Lora is protected and it is against the law to take them from their nest or to be in possession on any bird that does not have a leg band. Fines are NAf 1.000 per bird. See the story "Leave the Loras Alone" on page 11 for more on the protection of Bonaire's parrots.

- On Wednesday, June 10 there was a police raid at the house at Kaya

Mariana 38. Taken into custody was N.C. d.J. (23 years). Police confiscated various articles including an air pistol, two MPG-3 players, a DVD player, a camera, a video camera, etc. The suspect is being held during further investigation.

- Saturday morning, June 12, the police received a call that there was a **boating accident** just to the north of the Lac Bay entrance and that two persons were missing. The Coast Guard and persons of Stinapa were notified. One of the persons, Armando Emerenciana, 45 years, was rescued by another boat. A helicopter searched the area and located Emerenciana's father, Rodes "Rody" Ignacio Emerenciana, floating face down in the water. The father and son had been fishing in Rody's boat, *Rijna*. Armando said a large wave had overtaken the boat and washed them overboard.

Editor's note: See page 6 for a tribute to Rody Emerenciana.

PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER

National Park 'de Hoge Veluwe,' Holland

Frank (who runs the Freewieler bike/scooter/quad shop) and his wife, Wilma Bohm sent us this photo: "We took this photo at the National Park 'de Hoge Veluwe', in Holland, this May 2004. A special feature of this park is that visitors may take a free, white bike for biking through the park at the entrance. A lot of bikes are at the parking lot. (And when you park your bike somewhere, there is a great chance that "your" bike is gone and you have to take a bike from somebody else.....) Maybe this a good idea for the Washington Park!!! Unfortunately, we had a very rainy day in the park but *The Bonaire Reporter* stayed dry!!! □



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. (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □

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



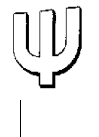
JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am-5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.



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



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



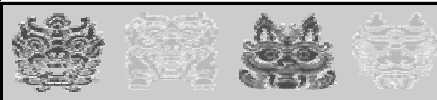
PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE BONAIRE. Consultation, Supervision, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy **Dr. Johan de Korte, Psychologist, Phone: 717-6919**



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

WORK WANTED

Work Wanted. Responsible gentleman available for welding, landscaping, painting and other jobs. References available. Call 717-3820 or 785-7978



FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy healing
China trained, Experienced.
Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-9013

PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT.

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

WANTED

Couple looking to rent a kunuku long term. Call 785-9013

Looking for storage! Please call 790-1604

Wanted: ceiling kitchen lamp . tel. 717-0124



Porch sale June 19+20; 11:00 -16:00 Entire contents of house. Brand new furniture & appliances (230 volt) and antiques. Everything must go! Crown Terrace #16, Sabadeco Also by appointment, Call 790-1604

WANTED HOUSE TO SIT

Former Dutch Conservation and Environment Officer (CEO) **Enit Scholtens would like to house-sit** from the 12th of July till the 9th of August contact- benit@wanadoo.nl

THE PET PROFESSOR



A new column, "The Pet Professor," begins with this issue. Susan Brown is a professional dog trainer on the island who had been in the "pet business" for 28 years. "I do anything related to pet care," she says, "training, pet sitting, grooming, even help with the after care of recuperating animals."

For the last 12 years Susan has run a boarding kennel, done private rescue and rehab and placed adoptions. She's worked in a veterinarian hospital and in breeding kennels and shelters. "I've nearly always had at least 10 to 20 dogs, cats as well as horses, dogs and sheep." In Bonaire, however, she has only one dog, so far!

Send in your animal training questions to The Pet Professor e-mail bandbfarm@yahoo.com or call Susan at 717-2620.



Susan Brown with Emmy

DOG TRAINING BASICS

For those of you who have read books on dog training and found them unhelpful at best, I assure you that while there is no magic formula, neither is there any great mystery. You simply need to try to "think like a dog." Dogs are pack animals; they depend on the pack for everything they need and want. In order for the pack to function successfully and peacefully, each member must know his place in the hierarchy and follow the rules laid down by superior members.

What does this have to do with you and your dog? Think about what it would be like to be a dog in a pack of humans. He doesn't know what his status is in relation to these strange creatures he now lives with. He doesn't speak the language. He doesn't know the rules.

We must teach him these things if we want him to be happy and well behaved.

Our requests and rules will not make sense to him. After all, he is a dog. To him it is perfectly acceptable to enjoy a comfy bed (even if it's yours), dig up the shrubs looking for lizards, bark at his neighbors, or chase the cat. When you tell him he can't, his response is "why not?" Your answer is essentially "because I said so."

So how do you convince him? Become the center of his universe. If your dog stays in the yard all day, with food, water, toys, maybe a friend or two, what exactly does he need you for? Where is his motivation to try to understand, let alone comply with, your nonsensical requests? Love is not always enough to overcome this cultural gap. You need to convince your dog that all good things come from you: food, shelter, companionship, treats and play. By providing (and controlling) these things, you gain his trust, his respect, and his attention; these are crucial to training. As you become "alpha dog" in this way,

teach your dog the name of everything you do for him ("dinner" "walk" "treat" "your ball" "your bed" etc.).

With repetition and praise, he will quickly learn many words and simple commands. When he does something "wrong," ignore him. By yelling "no," physically handling him, or even laughing, you are rewarding the dog with your attention. If he gets no reaction from you, the behavior will usually stop on its own. If you have to actively stop a behavior then do so by asking him to do something else, like "get your ball," so that you can reward him for doing what you asked, not for his annoying behavior. If you are consistent, he will learn that certain behaviors get him the things he wants (attention, treats, toys), and other behaviors get him nothing.

When teaching new commands, remember the following: Say his name first, make eye contact with him, give the command once, wait, and praise him immediately when he gets it right. If he doesn't get it, ignore him briefly, and then try again. Keep your voice quiet so that he has to focus on you and listen, and so that he doesn't become conveniently deaf when he doesn't want to. You want him to think about what you are asking, so don't distract him --keep your commands simple and clear. Keep sessions short and always end on a positive note.

Your training goal is to teach him to look to you for direction and permission at all times, so you must always praise him every time he comes to you, every time he looks at you, every time he does anything you approve of -- and take the time just to tell him how brilliant he is. Remember that he is learning all the time, so everything you do with him is training.

So you want to get a puppy? Next time: Puppy Instruction Manual. □ Susan Brown

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

Reporter@bonairenews.com

The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles.

Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

Reporters: Susan Brown, Jack Horkheimer, Janice Huckaby, Greta Kooistra, Dabney Lassiter, Ann Phelan, Valarie Stimpson, Michael Thiessen, Natalie A.C. Wanga

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

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

Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij

DOS POS - NEW SOLDACHI NATURE TOUR

Rincon's "Soldachi" ("land crab") tours are run by people of Rincon who want to share their culture, nature and history. Organized by Maria Koeks these walking and bus tours of Rincon and its surrounding area have become popular with not only visitors but residents as well. During the monthly Rincon Marshés the first Saturday of each month there are walking tours at 9:30 am and bus tours at 10 or 10:30 am.

Now there's a new *Soldachi* tour, the Dos Pos nature tour, which takes the walker through the valleys and over the hills for magnificent views of Goto Lake, craggy cliffs and basalt outcroppings. You'll be led by Rinconeros Maria Koeks, Anthony Anthony and young teen age tour guides, all of whom grew up here. You'll learn about the plants, trees, birds, culture and history in an informal and friendly way. Call Maria at 717-6435 or 790-5657 to reserve. A small donation is requested: NA/10 for adults; NA/5 for children.

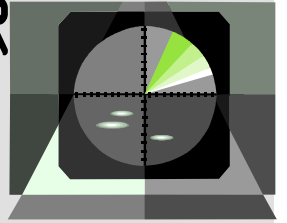
The Dos Pos tours are the second Saturday of every month, starting at 6:30 am, "as nature is awakening," says Maria. "Every month the views and nature are different," she adds. Take good walking shoes, a hat, a bottle of water, a camera and a good mood. At the end you'll have some juice and, if you like, return to Rincon for breakfast at the weekly Marshé Liber (smaller marchés).

Want to know more about Rincon and her people? Check out the website at www.infobonaire.com/rincon. Find out more about this tiny town with a big heart that wants to share its history and heritage. □ *L.D.*



Leaders Maria Koeks, and Anthony Anthony, young tour guides Christopher, Ashley and Rachid, with walkers Ann Phelan and George DeSalvo

RESTAURANT RADAR



Heads up everyone, there are some new blips on the Restaurant Radar. New places to try and new things to buy. For a small island we have more than our fair share of the new and unusual. Here's this week's update.

Le Flamboyant: Located in the former Beefeater Restaurant on Kaya Grandi, this latest addition to the Bonaire restaurant scene needs to be on your 'must visit' list. The historic kunuku (farm) house has been freshened up and redecorated to give the feeling of dining on the patio of old friends. Cool breezes, soft music, and a creative menu with elegant, mouth-watering selections. Try these appetizers on for size – crab and shrimp pancakes with a Béarnaise sauce or smoked salmon roll with layers of fish, shrimp, crushed pine nuts, and fresh spinach creating a rainbow effect that looks too pretty to eat. For an entrée you'll have a difficult time deciding – a few choices are rack of lamb with a honey sauce, tournedos cooked in the continental style topped with real Parma ham, or maybe the seafood pasta with shrimp, mussels, calamari, and fish. They feature interesting desserts too. Le Flamboyant is opens from 10 am to 10 pm. For reservations call 717-3919.

Tambu: Also on Kaya Grandi is a petite new place called Tambu (Drum). Marian Wilson will welcome you. She and her partner, Lolymer Sanchez, have created a fabulous oasis to break up those pesky shopping days. You can refresh yourself with delicious fresh fruit selections, fresh juices of all kinds and fantastic fruit shakes that are served in VERY large glasses and cost only NA/5! Marian also bakes the yummiest muffins and breads and there are *pastechis*, *toستis* and flaky-crustured Surinamese pastries. Each cup of coffee is made to order from freshly ground beans. Take a tour of the unusual gifts on display. The jewelry – necklaces and earrings especially – is exquisite and very reasonably priced. While you relax in Tambu's cozy atmosphere, listen to some smooth island music and watch what's going on on Kaya Grandi. Hours are 9 am until 6 pm, Monday through Saturday.

Little Havanna: Located next door to Hair Affair, close to the waterfront, this new spot is on the fast track to success. Step inside and you think you're in Havana in the 1950s. You first hear the music which really gets your gears shifting. It's a variety of jazz music from the '50s, all coming from vinyl 33 rpm records on a turntable! You just don't see that anymore. Owners Anton and Piek Bavzilcoy have created a cozy den of music, a relaxing atmosphere, a friendly bar, and excellent *tapas*. The cigar corner features some very fine Cuban cigars that range in price from \$17 to \$21 each and a selection from Santo Domingo for around \$8. Open from 5 p.m. til ... who knows? Closed on Saturday.

Watch future issues when we'll have more news from The Restaurant Radar. □ *Dabney Lassiter*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

COVER

MARINE PARK SILVER ANNIVERSARY



The Park Staff with Captain Don and Carel Steensma

In a brief ceremony at Captain Don's Habitat last week, the first of several commemorations of the 25th Anniversary of the Bonaire National Marine Park was held. A retrospective describing the history of the park was begun by 92-year-old Carel Steensma. His comments as well as those of others showed that if it weren't for a handful of concerned people, Bonaire's coral reefs might be in the same condition as those of most other Caribbean islands – diminished, declining or defunct. But thanks to their enlightenment more than 25 years ago, the reefs remain the best there are.



The tags

The roots of the Bonaire National Marine Park go back to 1956 when a Dutch war hero, Carel Steensma, was posted to the Caribbean by KLM. Although based in Curaçao he often traveled to Bonaire to dive its reefs. This he did for many years; years which saw the introduction of spear fishing and fish capture but also the end of these practices. But it was too late. In the 70s he observed the decline of the big fish and threats to the reef. Along with local businessman, L.D. Gerharts, he decided to do something about it. He consulted with his friend, Holland's Prince Bernhard, who was then head of the World Wildlife Fund. From those conversations came a grant to set up the world's first underwater park. Captain Don Stewart was already on the scene, pressing forward with his then radical ideas

of fish protection and prohibition on anchoring. Tom van t'Hof, now an ecologist in Saba, was the first Marine Park Manager. He was followed by Bonairean biologist, Dr. Eric Newton, who led the Park through lean years after the WWF money ran out in 1982. One of the first Park Rangers, Franklin Winklaar, got his pay through different innovative techniques thought up by his bosses. But the Park remained a "paper park" until the "risky" concept of charging \$10 a year for diving was begun in 1992. It was Kalli DeMeyer who led the effort to implement the Park tags and spread the word of the innovations that abounded in Bonaire's Marine Park. As a result Bonaire became a model for the many marine parks that now exist. Shortly after the Bonaire Marine Park was awarded national park status, Kalli stepped down to apply the concepts in other parts of the world. These days Fernando Simal, Manager of the Washington-Slagbaai Land Park, heads the Park until a new manager is named. An announcement is expected soon as final selections are presently underway. □ G.D.



The Anniversary was marked by the naming of a new boat dive site, "Carel's Vision," on the north side of Bonaire.

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! Usually 9:00 pm

Hellboy
(Ron Perlman)

Early Show (usually 7:00 pm)

Kill Bill Vol. 2

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 Pietje Bell 2: De jacht op de Tsarenkroon
SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM
Man on Fire

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, June 22 - Bonaire Barracuda Swim Club Competition, Meralney Vacation Village, 5 to 7 pm

COMING

Saturday, July 3- Aruban jazz great **Delbert Bernabela** introduces his new CD at **Croccantino Restaurant**. Details coming soon in *The Reporter*.

Saturday, July 3 -NO Yoga Meditation at Sorobon this month

July 4 - Sunday Dia di Arte, "Art Day," 10 am-10 pm Wilhelmina Park More information as the event nears. See mention in Flotsam and Jetsam. For more information contact Emma Sint Jago at 717-7420

Saturday, July 10- Soldachi Dos Pos nature tour, beautiful vistas. Learn about the plants, trees, birds, culture and history in an informal and friendly way. 6:30 am. Call Maria at 717-6435 or 790-5657 to reserve. A small donation is requested: NAf10 for adults; NAf5 for children.

EVERY WEEK

Sunday -Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar. Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live Fla-Bingo with great prizes, starts 7 pm, Divi Flamingo

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 introduces 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.

Daily- The Divi Flamingo Casino is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and

black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm- 4 am and Sunday 7 pm- 3 am.

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

Friday- Week in Review Video Presentation by the Toucan Dive Shop at the Plaza's Tippy 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

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Rendez-Vous Restaurant, Kaya L.D. 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

Dos Pos Scenic Walk- Second Saturday of the Month. NAf10-Call Maria 717-6435

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.**

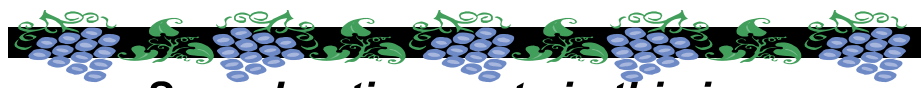
Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm. Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

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 (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). Services in English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30**

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Bella Vista Restaurant 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
Caribbean Club Bonaire at Hilltop 7 minutes north of "Hotel Row" 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast, Dinner, closed Sunday	What a place! Friendly bar next to the pool, home cooked meals, happy hours 5 to 7. Serious BBQ on Tuesdays NA/25.
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and beautiful turquoise setting when enjoying a breakfast buffet or a la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Enjoy inspiring vistas and a high standard of international cuisine.
Crocantino Italian Restaurant 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.
Garden Café 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
La Balandra On the Water at the Harbour Village Resort 717-7500, ext 62; 785-0902	Moderate Breakfast-Lunch Special Dinners on Friday, Sunday	Cuisine by Chef Alberto Roldan of the Bonaire Culinary Team. If you are using the NA/25 Beach Pass, a NA/15 credit is given for meals Bonaire's best seaside location.
The Last Bite Bakery 717-3293 Home Delivery or Take Out	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 gourmet class items -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The Lions Den Beach Bar And Restaurant 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.
The Lost Penguin 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.
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
The Seahorse Cyber Café 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

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

APPLIANCES/FURNITURE/COMPUTERS

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

BANKS

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

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

De Freewieler rents 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.

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

PIA PIA KUNUKU BIEU'S 2ND ANNIVERSARY LOTS OF STEPS FORWARD



After the baptism of the new uniform, cap and logo. The official commission: Nazario Alberto, Natalie Wanga, Dalitza Victorina-Reina, Shaki Melaan, Roosje Semper-Antoin, Linda Van Luijk-Janga and Martiza Sint Jago

Eight very colorful and jolly groups of seven each met each other on June 5th at the *Sentro di Bario Nort di Saliña*, determined to participate and win the Second Tack Team Walking competition organized by the Walking group, *Pia Pia Kunuku Bieu*.

Celebrating its second anniversary the walking group combined the baptism of its new uniform and logo along with offering Bonaire a competition to win prizes. At exactly 5:10 pm the countdown started and the cheering voices accompanied the starting groups.



The winning team - "Grupo Balente": Helena Wanga-Nicolaas, Marina Landwier, Erika Antoin, Joan Martin-Nicolaas, Marieta Nicolaas, Elsmarie Beukenboom and Rosalinda Obispo

The *Grupo Balente* (The Brave Ones Group) of Joan Martin-Nicolaas, Elsmarie Beukenboom, Helena Wanga-Nicolaas, Erika Antoin, Marieta Nicolaas, Rosalinda Obispo and Marina Landwier, was the first to arrive. In an amazing 1 hour and 10 minutes they managed to 'fly' over the eight km course. The second prize went to the "It's About Time" Group of Maduro & Curiels Bank. This same group took the first prize for the best uniform. Finally, Ennia's "Dream Team" was voted the most animated group.

While the walkers were resting and enjoying the healthy snacks and soup, the official commission baptized its uniform and logo. They surprised Shaki Melaan by declaring him "Godfather." He performed the official ceremony with "Godmother" Joan Martin-Nicolaas. The second anniversary was a successful and joyful celebration both for its leaders and the participants.

Be prepared for further very interesting walking events for the second part of 2004. You are also welcome to join the group every Friday at 6 pm at the *Sentro di Bario Nort di Saliña*. The group aims to walk as much as possible in the beautiful Bonairean nature. For more information or the monthly walking schedule call Dalitza Victorina-Reina at 786-0299 or Natalie Wanga at 786-2225. □ *Natalie A.C. Wanga*

Taddy Arvelo

I was born and raised in Caracas. When I was 18 I went to study English for almost two years at the University of California in Davis, a very nice place. I was very determined to study filmmaking at UCLA, but as a foreigner I had to wait at least two years, so instead I went to the University of Santa Cruz, however, the school was more about the artistic rather than the technical aspects of filmmaking, which I was mainly interested in. I wasn't so happy, so a year later I decided to go back to Venezuela.

Mostly because of my English skills I found a great job at IBM almost immediately. I got good training and had a chance to travel, but after eight years I wanted to take a year's sabbatical. I had been in Toronto, Canada, on vacation and decided to go there. I'm an only child and didn't want to leave my Mom in Caracas, so she came with me. We rented a very nice apartment and traveled around, also to Europe. Then the Gulf War broke out and everything was uncertain. A harsh winter came, and I thought why not go to a place where the sun shines. So, on Christmas Eve we arrived back in Caracas.

Coincidentally, I met my former boss of IBM, and he offered me a job at Microsoft, saying he needed me the next day. Later on I found out that I was working for one of the most advanced companies in the world. I met Bill Gates in Toronto for the launch of Windows '95 Program and I even danced with him! When he came to Bonaire recently and I told people that I'd danced with him I thought it was very funny that some people didn't even know who he was!

I worked with Microsoft for five years as an operations manager. It was a very stressful job with a lot of traveling. When the political situation in Venezuela became depressed and uncertain I wondered what to do with my life. Should I go somewhere to have a different and more relaxed kind of life or should I stay? Most people could never give up the extremely good employee benefits. In fact, if I'd stayed a little longer, I could have been a millionaire; I was on the way. But quality of life came first with me and I decided to leave. Everyone thought I was crazy. I wanted to go to Florida, buy an apartment and finish the studies I'd started when I was 20. I had things shipped and bought tickets for Mom and myself. The

day we were supposed to leave American Airlines was on strike. I did what I'd never done before: I didn't worry; I relaxed, let it go and read a newspaper. In the paper I saw an ad that said: 'If you want a job in the Caribbean, a nice island in the Dutch Antilles, if you know English, Microsoft, etc...'

It was Techno Consult and they invited me for an interview the next day. I had nothing to do; the airline was still on strike, so I went. A second and a third interview followed, and the strike was still on. They never told me what island we were talking about, but I figured it would be either Curaçao, or more likely, Aruba. The last day I met Frank Gonzales, the managing director, who told me the island was Bonaire. To tell you the truth it had never crossed my mind as I hardly knew it existed. Frank told me he was looking for an assistant, but somehow he thought I wouldn't be so eager to go to Bonaire because I'd been traveling all over the world and I'd always

lived in big cities.

He wanted me to try it for three months. Mom and I went to Florida for a vacation, came back to Caracas and left for Bonaire."

Taddy Arvelo, 'Bibi,' as her friends call her, her mother, Nina

Ledezma, and their two doggies, Lucky and Maggy, are living in complete harmony in their colorful and beautifully decorated house in Hato. The paintings on the wall are striking and when I ask who the artist is, Taddy says: "My Mom. She was a makeup artist for advertising companies in Caracas and when we came to live here she started decorating furniture. In fact, she decorated the whole house! Bonaire inspired her from the moment we arrived. One day I left for work and two days later I found her with a painting! That was a year ago. She never intended to do it as a commercial thing. They just come from her hands, one after the other. Early next year she'll have her exposition at the Cinnamon Art Gallery.

When we arrived on Bonaire I couldn't believe the small airport! We came at night and drove through town and when they told me that this was the main street, Kaya Grandi, I couldn't relate to the name at all. We were through in a blink! During the weekend they let me use a car and I was so impressed with the island and its colors that I felt an instant connection. I knew I had made the right choice. We came to give it a

"During the weekend they let me use a car and I was so impressed with the island and its colors that I felt an instant connection. I knew I had made the right choice."



Nina Ledezma, and Taddy Arvelo, with Maggy and Lucky

try for three months and now it's eight years! It's just what I had been looking for. I feel that it was destiny. I didn't know about Bonaire; I had a different plan. I cancelled everything and came here; it was such a weird thing to do! But we're very happy here with our little family and so far we have no plans to leave. We both applied for our citizenship, not for a special reason, just for the stability and security of living here. After Harbor Village reopened I became the General Manager's Assistant, a job that's keeping me very busy and I enjoy it. I travel a lot- Gothenburg, Puerto Rico, London, Lima and Ecuador. With my mother I went to Machu Pichu and Buenos Aires. I seem get stressed in other places, but the moment I'm back on Bonaire I'm relaxed. Before I got this job I used to do a lot of exercise. Now my schedule is too tight, but still it's very important to me. I love Yoga and Reiki. I strongly believe in anything that's related to universal energy, that's why I'm connected to Bonaire. I'm a very positive person with lots of energy which I try to use the best way possible, but when I don't have to work or travel I feel ever so happy being at home with my mother and the dogs.

Mom and I are a team. We've always lived together, and we've always respected each other's boundaries. She's my best friend, my roommate, my travel companion, and of course, my mother. She admires my work and I admire hers. We survived because we are together. Bonaire is really nice, but when you're alone... It's a Latin culture thing: kids live with their parents until they eventually marry or move somewhere else. But

if you get married and you live comfortably, mom stays with you and she will take care of your children. It also gives me peace of mind that she's here with me.

We are going through a very strong political crisis in Venezuela, something that could easily escalate from a local to a continental threat, an absolute nightmare. We don't know how it's going to end, so although we fear for our family and friends in Venezuela, I'm happy that Mom is here with me. Look!" she gestures at the doors that are wide open, "the more you travel, the more you realize there are not so many places in the world where you can sit with the doors of your house open. We have to be grateful for that and enjoy. Now I go with the flow, whatever life has planned for me in the future, I'll take it because I trust it. What will happen next will be for my own good, as what happened before was for my own good. I think that's the lesson I learned in Bonaire: to let go and trust.

My contribution to the island is to let the world know what a wonderful place we have here. I'm doing it not because I'm getting paid for it, but because it comes from my heart. Wherever I am in the world promoting Bonaire and people ask me how long I've been living here, and I answer, eight years, their answer is always, 'Eight years! I believe you! It must be a wonderful place!'" □ *Greta Kooistra*



Greta Kooistra

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Celebrate "Day Star Day!" on the Summer Solstice this Sunday, June 20th

Every year on the Summer Solstice we ask you to participate in watching and experiencing a great star rise over our Earth's horizon, a star so huge we could fit over 1¼ million Earths inside it. We ask you to experience something that few people ever pay close attention to: that is the rising of the only star we can see in the daytime, the star we call our Sun, a star I like to call our Day Star. This year we have chosen this Sunday, June 20th as "Day Star Day" because it is the day of the Summer Solstice, the first day of summer and a day when most people don't have to go to work.

Now I know that some of you are thinking, "You're talking about a sunrise and I've seen thousands of sunrises." And, yes, I am talking about a sunrise. But believe it or not, most people have never really experienced a sunrise, especially in our high tech society. Oh yes, there are millions of you out there who get up at the crack of dawn for a day's work: farmers starting their chores, commuters catching their trains or jamming the expressways as the Sun slowly creeps over the horizon. But that is not experiencing a sunrise because to most people sunrise is simply a peripheral event and not the center of attention.

So that's why we set aside one day each year as "Day Star Day" so you can experience one of the grandest events in nature, an experience which may change the way you view our star the Sun and our world forever.

To participate here's all you have to do. Simply mark Sunday, June 20th, as the day you'll get up 15 minutes before twilight begins, while it's still dark out. And whether you live in town or out in the *mondi* makes no difference because it's not the Sun itself you're going to observe but the effects of sunrise on everything around you as night slowly turns into day. It is better to be outside, but if not just sit by an open window. Now for the rules, which are absolutely essential: no radio, no television, no doing your normal wake-up routine. All distractions must be eliminated. Simply sit quietly inside or outside and when you see the skies slowly start to brighten, look, listen and feel what happens all around you. Watch the delicate interplay of light, color and shadow. Listen to the different sounds of our world and its creatures waking up. Feel the wind change, the temperature change, and much, much more as night slowly slips into day. Keep track of all the subtle changes you notice and record your observations on paper or into a tape recorder. And then read or listen to your observations a few days later. And believe me, if you've never done this before, you're in for a pleasant surprise because really experiencing the effects of a sunrise using all of your senses and your full attention is one of the most wonderful experiences this planet has to offer. Trust me. You'll be amazed at what a star rise over a small planet can do for you. □

Jack Horkimer



Venus Passage 2004

The Bonaire Reporter photo taken of the Sun last week as the passage of Venus across its face was near its completion



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: June 18 to June 25, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can enjoy short trips. You may have more people on your domestic scene than anticipated. Don't turn down offers that include sports activities or children. You need to do more things that you enjoy. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Spend some time on yourself. You should put in some extra hours developing that creative idea you have. Strong willpower will come to your rescue. You will be emotional about family matters. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't let coworkers get wind of your ideas or they might try to take credit for your hard work. Do not blow situations out of proportion. Read between the lines before you sign your name. Travel for business or pleasure will be enlightening. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your irritability will lead to family squabbles. Deception is probable if you don't use discrimination. Try to be reasonable. You'll regret every word for some time to come. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Find out all you can; secret enemies may lead you astray. This is a great time for a family outing or just a drive. Someone you care about may let you down or criticize your methods. Don't believe everything you hear. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Empty promises will cause confusion. You can make changes that will enhance your appearance. Your bankbook will suffer and your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship. Hard work will bring rewards. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can meet a new romantic partner or secure the love connection you already have by going out and entertaining yourself. Get involved in sports groups or hobbies that attract you. You need to focus on yourself, not on others. You are best to sit back and think it through, rather than add to the ranting and raving. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Property deals look good. Avoid getting trapped in internal disputes. You should consider getting into self improvement endeavors. You will have to control the way you feel. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Make sure that new mates live up to your high standards. This may not be the time to lend or borrow. Educational pursuits should help you develop your hobbies. Your determination may make you a little overbearing when dealing with others. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Socially, you need a fast paced form of entertainment. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are apparent. Sudden changes at home will affect family members more than you anticipated. Catch up on overdue paperwork. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Dinner, theater, or a comedy club may be just the place. Be sure that you lay your cards on the table. Don't get involved in joint ventures. Children may cause limitations. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Think twice before you agree to take on any new projects. Do your chores and get on with the things you enjoy doing. Don't let others try to create unwarranted guilt if you can't meet their demands. You'll stay out of trouble if you pick projects that will benefit the whole family. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. □

Moon Info



New Moon on June 17th



First Quarter on June 25th

Full Moon



on July 2nd



Last Quarter on July 9