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July 30 to August 6, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 29

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

The **BONAIR** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

Tutti Frutti at the Rincon Marshé

Page 13



In traditional clothes

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



LOOKING FOR HAPPY LANDINGS- In the wake of numerous equipment failures, last Thursday Minister of Traffic and Transportation, Omayra Leeflang, announced that all Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA) aircraft will undergo a thorough safety inspection to be conducted by the Aviation Administration. Leeflang wants the 'safety, stability and tranquility' of DCA to be guaranteed. Rumors are that it's not only the Luxor Charters Lockheed Tristars (that were used for the transatlantic flights) that are having technical difficulties but the planes used for regional flights as well. DCA director Mario Evertsz stated that the company was in the red and that they were not able to stock many spare parts. Broken parts are often temporarily replaced by parts from a plane that is not in service. After that the part for the out-of-service plane will be ordered. This requires additional procedures, according to Evertsz, which in turn results in extra costs and the further decline of the company's finances. The last time an inspection was held at the request of the Parliament was back in 2000 when DCA was flying under the ALM banner.

► **DCA will take a new direction** at the end of this week by presenting a business plan to the Curaçao Island Council in support of its request for a NAƒ8 million bailout to keep the airline flying.

► **DCA's troubles continued last week** but on a different note. The DCA representative in Haiti, Rose Martin-Pourier, informed the Managing Director of DCA, Mario Evertsz, of the arrest of Hans Allen Théophilé for the murder of Air France executive, Didier Mortet. Théophilé is Managing Director of H.A.T Enterprises, the company in Haiti that takes care of passenger and ground handling for DCA. According to Evertsz, who said he had never met Théophilé personally, Théophilé is a big man in Haiti. First ALM and after that DCA had conducted business with him for years. It was reported that Théophilé travels to Curaçao every year to extend the contract with DCA. Evertsz does not expect Théophilé's arrest to have any consequences for the operations of H.A.T Enterprises, which is considered a reputable company with about 200 employees. In addition to doing business with DCA, H.A.T. has contracts with Air Caraïbes and Air France. Didier Mortet, 49, was shot and killed on his way home from the airport June 24, police said. He was riding in a car with his Ukrainian wife and Haitian chauffeur when three gunmen approached on a motorcycle and shot at the car. Mortet was shot in the head and the arm. Neither the wife nor the chauffeur were hurt. Théophilé, a Haitian, was the fifth person to be arrested in connection with Mortet's homicide. He is being held at a jail in the capital. Police said Théophilé had been the "intellectual author" of the killing and that he paid three assassins the equivalent of \$2,500 to carry it out. Two of those in police custody, including one of the triggermen, told police that Théophilé had paid them.

► Some travelers to the US choose to fly from Bonaire through Aruba **because American Customs and immigration services are done in Aruba.** This week it was reported that the service will continue at a stricter level. There were incorrect published reports that it would be discontinued. Pre-clearance in Aruba will be upgraded in accordance with demands of the American Transportation Security Administration (TSA). It was agreed last Tuesday that the new rules would be applied as soon as newly ordered security equipment is operational in Aruba. American Airlines has offered to fly the equipment in to gain time. The Airport Authority has accepted the offer. It has to be in place and operational no later than Friday, August 6th. No pre-clearance in Aruba would mean longer waiting times at Immigration and Customs at US airports, which will increase the risk of missing connecting flights. However, to comply with pre-clearance, passengers traveling to the US have to be at the Aruba airport three hours before departure time. Aruba and the Bahamas are the only locations in the region where passengers and luggage are pre-screened by American Immigration and Customs.

► Americans take note. **The Netherlands Antilles were included in the Democratic National Convention welcome parties which began on Monday.** A company called Unique Events prepared the welcome party drinks and offered the "Boston Blue Blood" (a **blue Curaçao martini**).

► The Dutch Government has agreed to **exempt persons from India and Lebanon** from having to apply for visas when traveling to the Netherlands Antilles, Prime Minister Etienne Ys announced last Wednesday. Persons from those two countries don't

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need visas to visit Bonaire or any other island of the Netherlands Antilles. India and Lebanon appear on the list of 135 countries whose citizens need visas when entering the Netherlands. There are Indian and Lebanese people among the 42 nationalities that live on Bonaire.


► Curaçao FOL leader Anthony Godett cancelled his plans to travel to Holland to raise funds to finance his appeal to the High Court last weekend. **He hopes to find support among the 100,000 Antilleans living**

(Continued on page 4)

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Thanks.



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

in the Netherlands in fighting what he calls a travesty of justice.

Godett, who was found guilty of bribery, forgery and laundering of illegally obtained funds, was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and five months suspended by the Appeals Court of the Netherlands Antilles. Godett has always claimed that the case against him was politically motivated. He said he believed he had a strong case to bring to the High Court but lacked the money to pay the enormous cost such a step involves. Not only does he lack funds, he already had to borrow NAf150.000 to defend himself in the Antillean Courts, he claimed during a press conference last Tuesday. Fund-raising has already started in Curaçao. Accounts have been opened at Banco di Caribe and Girobank. Over NAf 4.000 were said to have been already deposited by supporters by the end of last week. Under the slogan, "One Guilder Against Injustice," sympathizers are urged to contribute. How much is needed pay for legal support by renowned criminal lawyer Gerard Spong is not yet known. Spong's hourly rate is 400 euros.

► The *Sociale VerzekeringsBank* (SVB – Social Insurance Bank), in their 2003 annual report, wants to **add overseas medical procedures to the package and add retirees 60 and over.** Currently, overseas treatments are not covered by the SVB in accordance with the existing Central Government decree on healthcare insurance. The decree is limited to treatment within the Netherlands Antilles, something the SVB considers "not in keeping with the times and limiting." Another benefit that must be changed, ac-

ording to the SVB, is the fact that non-working members are removed from the fund at age 60. Other plans the SVB wants this year especially concern the amendment of the *Arbeidsongeschiktheid* (commonly called AO or sick leave) controls. The SVB is aiming to put more emphasis on the non-attendance prevention instead of on claim assessment. The client friendli-



► **A memorial ceremony was held a week ago last Sunday for Jim Brandon, one of Bonaire's best loved underwater photographers, on the site of his former photo shop at the Sand Dollar Resort. The Brandons are well known on Bonaire as Jim's father, Chet, established the Geowatt Research Center northwest of BOPEC. The ceremony was a time for Bonaire friends and American family members to trade reminiscences.**

AO controls must also be improved.

► Tourists clicking on Bonaire's website can find themselves addressed by Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé and Tourism Commissioner Burney El Hage on **the issue of crime.** Under the headline "Statement about the crime issue in Bonaire, the two officials explain a recent up-

Public Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius reports that it was a **very quiet week for his office** as only two very minor cases came across his desk from the police department. However, his office is working intensely on getting word in writing from Holland (they already have a verbal okay) for funds to repair and reopen the jail in Rincon to replace the big jail in Playa which won't be ready to re-open until October.

The issue of sending members of the **Dutch military police, Marechaussees,** to assist law enforcement in the Netherlands Antilles, must be approved by the Minister of Justice in Curaçao. The Prosecutor is in favor of these police as he feels they can be particularly helpful at the Flamingo Airport in intercepting drug traffickers.

If you have **questions about the legal system** feel free to call Prosecutor Wesselius at 717-8626. His e-mail address is parketbonaire@bonairelive.com.

Charles Souriel of the Police Department reports:

• **Two separate apartments were broken into** at the Bellafonte apartments between the hours of 1 and 3 am on Tuesday, July 20. It's believed the intruders used a "false" key to enter the apartments. They stole a number of articles including a Sony Laptop valued at \$2,000, an American Express credit card, NAf600, Euro 450, an RBTT bank card and a radio from the AB Car Rental car. The thieves tried unsuccessfully to enter a third apartment. Police are investigating the case.

• Early in the morning hours of Wednesday, July 22, thieves broke into the **Exito Market**, entering via the roof. Stolen were slippers, alcoholic drinks, a number of batteries and condoms.

• Police arrested a suspect (W.H.) on July 20 in connection with a case the previous Saturday, July 17, where the suspect **threatened a neighbor with a gun** over a situation concerning a dog. With the authorization of Prosecutor Wesselius the alarm pistol was confiscated and the suspect sent to jail pending further investigation. □L.D.

ness of the surge in crime and what the government is doing to improve the situation. Maintaining that Bonaire is basically a safe society, they admit that a group of unemployed young people is suspected to be the perpetrators of a series of crimes affecting locals and visitors alike over the last four months. The Government, they state, is well aware of the problem which concerns both residents and visitors. A huge amount of correspondence on the

subject of crime flooded the Bonaire Talk Internet forum early this week. With the problem of lack of confinement and rehabilitation facilities some convicted criminals are being returned to the community, which has compounded the problem.

► Six Bonaireans participated in the famous Nijmegen Four-Day Walkathon. Nazario Alberto of North Saiña finished

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

► Agricultural Department (LVV) and Marine Park (STINAPA) personnel have begun **cutting paths through the mangroves of Lac Bay to improve the water circulation** in the bay. In the past Bonaireans used the cut materials to produce baskets and fish traps, but these skills have waned. It's anticipated that these channels will prove useful to the small boat fishermen and kayackers. Already opened are the areas of Puitu, Coco and Lac South. Next the Pedro area and the other sides of the north bay will be cleared. □



Piet Martis, Laio Daal and Karel Rosaria clearing the channels

first in his category on the first day. He walked his 40 kilometers in five hours and 15 minutes. Officials were said to be astounded about the performance of this 55-year-old. On the second day Nazario finished seventh because of blisters incurred on Tuesday. For more turn to page 10.

► There are numerous people in Rincon who want to **save the more-than-100-year-old San Ludevico School as a historic monument**. In the past the school educated generations of Rinconeros. To make sure the local government gets a strong message a petition drive has been begun. If you agree the school should be saved, drop by the Rincon Community Center (Centro di Bario) and sign up.

► **If you love bike riding in natural surroundings** then join the informal group riding in Washington Park this coming Saturday, July 31st. Meet at 7 am at the Wash-

ington Park main gate. Cost is only the admission charge into the Park (plus a small charge for the early entry). Bring your energy snack, plenty of water (twice what you think you'll need) and eagerness to ride at least as far as Boca Slagbaai. From Slagbaai a truck will take you and your bicycle back to the entrance or you can complete the circuit of the Park by bike. For more info call Bob Lassiter 717-3949.

► **Our favorite shoe repair shop, Zapateria Rincon, has moved.** Eira and Maciel will be working out of their home at Kaya Sirena #16 in Playa Pabou. It's not far from Vos di Boneiru. Telephone 785-9500 or 791-6086. Not only can they do well-crafted shoe repairs but they can fix just about any other leather or leather-like goods like handbags and suitcases. Prices are reasonable too.

**RORNULO ABRAHAM "BAN BAN" SINT JAGO
July 6, 1933-July 25, 2004**

Rornulo Abraham "Ban Ban" Sint Jago passed away Sunday, July 25. He was 71. "Ban Ban" loved mechanics and was in the truck and bus business with three dump trucks and some small buses. For more than 20 years he drove the big school bus taking children from Rincon to the high school in Playa. More recently, since he took the tour guide course, he drove tourists from the cruise ships.



Ban Ban's wife is Maria Carmita Sint Jago Beaumont, a school teacher who is one of the originators and leaders of the Rincon Marshé.

Our heartfelt condolences and those of the people of the Rincon Marshé go to Carmita and the family. □ *L.D.*

(A story appeared about Ban Ban in The Bonaire Reporter on March 21, 2003, by Juliet Somer in her column, "What's Happening in Rincon - Driving the Big Bus.")

► There will be a **Full Moon Walk on Friday, July 30**, starting at the Rincon Marshé site at 8 pm. The walk will go up the hill to Subi Karpata for a short rest and then return to the Marshé site by about 9:30. Stands will be set up with vendors selling snacks and drinks at the bar. Entertainment will be by the Ice Band. Although the event is organized by the youngsters of Rincon to celebrate vacation time, everyone is invited.

► The following morning, Saturday, the **weekly Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am** and will begin serving a typical Rincon Culinary Breakfast. Especially tasty are the pumpkin pancakes and the peanut-laced hot chocolate. Don't worry if you're late; they'll be serving all morning. You can

also find fruits and vegetables, fruit shakes, plants, gifts, handcrafts, sweets, incense and more. There's a bar for beer and soft drinks and a wonderful ambiance. Buy a *pastechi* or another snack and a drink and sit for awhile under the awning. This is where you will really feel the beat of the heart of the island that is Rincon. Also this Saturday morning is the Altamira/Un Yo trail walk. Meet at the Marshé at 6:15. The early morning hike takes you through the wilderness and "Grand Canyon" of northern Bonaire, ending at the spectacular viewing area of Alta Mira. Price is \$10 and includes transportation, refreshment at Alta Mira and a small breakfast back at the Marshé. □ *L./G. D.*

Referendum Chronicle

Through ads placed by the Referendum Commission last week, Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé explained who will be legally entitled to vote on September 10.

1. Those who have been residents of the island territory of Bonaire at least 50 days prior to the elections can participate in the referendum, only if they are Dutch nationals and have reached the age of 16 on the day of the referendum.

CHOICES

There are four options to choose from during the referendum:

- A. Bonaire remains a part of the Netherlands Antilles;
- B. Bonaire obtains direct ties with The Netherlands;
- C. Bonaire becomes an autonomous country within the Dutch Realm (Aruba-like);
- D. Bonaire becomes politically independent of the Realm (Independence).

Although no publicity has been provided, should option B be selected by the population, a second Referendum will be scheduled to determine what type of tie with the Netherlands is preferred.

The (new) Referendum Commission is supposed to place advertisements in local newspapers with information on the four options and their consequences. No advertisement or information has yet been received by *The*

Bonaire Reporter.

It is surprising that the possibility of a second Referendum to select the type of “direct tie” with Holland has not been mentioned in any releases from the Referendum Commission. Perhaps it would be confusing, but the voters, in all fairness, should be made aware of the implications of their choices. What is in the news is that the UBP-led Bonaire Government is pushing hard for Option B, direct tie. Commissioner Dortalina is their spokesman. The opposition Democratic Party is still taking potshots on the organization of the Referendum and questioning its suitability and timing.

In the opinion of the Chroniclers, the implications of each of the choices must be brought forward quickly before the lack of information becomes a reason for yet another postponement or cancellation of the Referendum. □ *Chronicler*

REFERENDUM FOR THE WINDWARD ANTILLES ISLANDS OF SABA AND STATIA

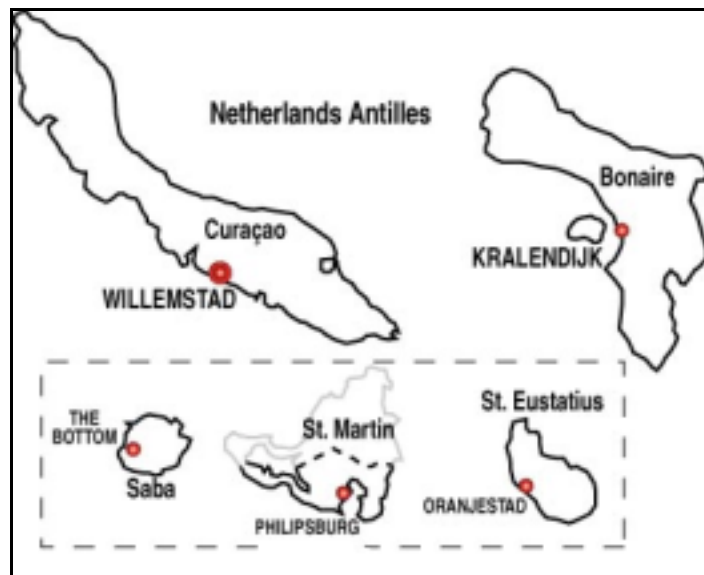
Bonaire is not alone in wanting to determine its future by Referendum. St. Martin has already voted to separate from The Antilles. Now, based on a meeting in The Hague in November 1993, the Island Territories of Saba and St. Eustatius (Statia) will vote on the option of “Crown Dependency.” In Dutch this status is referred to as



Koninkrijkseiland. This option is now being presented on those islands for a vote on October 1, a few weeks after Bonaire’s Referendum. Will Johnson, Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs in Saba, and other officials are recommending the option of Crown Dependency (Option A). Option A might mean the islands would have an Island Council and a Governor with a minimum of five and a maximum of seven members.

The Island Council will elect its Chairperson from among the council. The Executive Council might consist of a minimum of two and a maximum of three Commissioners. The Governor would be an advisory Chairman of the Executive Council who is the exclusive representative of the Dutch Government. The Governor would carry numerous other government tasks as well. Justice is under the responsibility of the Minister of Justice of the Netherlands. The Policy of Pursuit (*vervolgingsbeleid*) is a responsibility of the Dutch Minister of Justice and the Attorney General. The responsibility for public order and the management of the police is the responsibility of the Government of the Netherlands, represented by the Governor for these matters.

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.



Relative sizes of the Netherlands Antilles- Saba and Statia are over 400 miles away from the ABC Islands

The budget deficit will be supplemented by the Netherlands.

Option B in this referendum is Status Quo. Since St. Maarten has already voted in their referendum to leave the Netherlands Antilles and the Island Council of Curaçao has expressed the wish to become a country within the Kingdom, the Status Quo option has been put on the ballot for those who do not realize that Status Quo may be moot as the Netherlands Antilles as a governing entity appears to be evaporating.

Option C - Independence. □ *Chronicler*

Let's DE-stress on August 7th with a Fresh and Revitalized JCI!

All the negative media attention regarding the problems of Bonairean youngsters tends to make us forget that a lot of positive things still happen. Bonaire Jaycees, an international youth organization, was at its top during the 70s and 80s. Many remember the famous youth speech contests at that time.

The youth of yesterday became the responsible and well-established adults in our current community. Unfortunately they left a gap in the organization, which led to a comatose Jaycees. Up till now.

The Dutch Caribbean chapter recognized the needs and opportunities of the Bonairean youth and managed to gather a new board a couple of months ago. The result? A fresh organization with a brand new name but with the same qualities and goals our community was used to: *The Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire)*

If you're between 18 and 40 this may just be the organization you're looking for. JCI not only provides you opportunities for personal growth but also serves our community. JCI Bonaire operates in four areas. The first one is the **individual** area in which you can experience personal development through training, workshops and (international) seminars/conferences. Secondly, JCI operates in the **community** area, providing our community different projects that you as a JCI member will

develop and carry out.

The next area concerns the **international** opportunity for you as a member. Visiting and meeting your fellow JCI members abroad will broaden your horizons and contribute to better understanding between different nationalities.

Developing **business** skills and abilities is the last area in which JCI offers you a wide range of training, advice, exchange of experience and (international) contacts. JCI's first great activity for the Bonairean community will be a **Stress Management**



Workshop. The workshop is suitable for **everyone** (no age limit) who's looking for tools to manage stress on a daily basis at

the workplace and at home. Come and experience the very modern and dynamic "experiential learning method" by the well known trainer/facilitator and senior consultant, Julian de Windt from Curaçao. His philosophy is based on the fact that the best way to learn is by experiencing the (psychological) processes during the session. Through real life based (and enjoyable) exercises qualities and (improvement) opportunities will be displayed to you.

The price for such a workshop would normally be between NAf300 and NAf600. JCI was able to negotiate a great price for the Bonairean community to make it affordable for everyone: NAf 50 per per-



Left to right: Chantal Flores, Julisa Melaan, Lisandra Marchena, Soerally Pourier (treasurer), Kiffer Losiabaar, Caroll-Ann Soliano (vice president), Virginia Rollan, Renata Domacassé (president), Soekarsi Phelipa (secretary), Suxette Ignacio. This photo was taken on June 25th at the inauguration ceremony of the Mid Year Meeting in Curaçao. During this ceremony six prospective members were installed as new members of JCI Bonaire.

son !

Date: Saturday, August 7th 2004

Time: 08:30 am- 02:30 pm

Place: Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino (Conference Room)

Fee: NAf 50 per person (drinks, snacks and material included)

If you're interested in more general infor-

mation about JCI and/or becoming a member please contact Renata Domacasse at 516-4252/566-4252 or Soekarsi Phelipa at 785-0545.

For further information and/or enrollment of the stress management workshop please contact Angélique Salsbach at 520-5679 or Natalie Wanga at 786-2225 preferably before July 31st.

Don't miss this great experience and join us on this journey to a stress-free environment at your organization and at home! □
Natalie A.C. Wanga

YOGA FOR YOU

YOGA THERAPY FOR SCOLIOSIS

“Now, when I’m in a situation that’s a little scary or unpleasant I can just acknowledge it. I don’t have to attach to it all of the baggage that I would have attached to it before, like, ‘What if this happens? What is that happens?’ I believe it has something to do with the way yoga allows me to release layers of tension or tightness. I have an image of a body that has shoulders hunched in and head down, versus a body in which the chest is open, where I can see more of what is around me. My heart feels more open now. I feel more connected to the ground I am walking on.”
Gil C., a yoga student



As I mentioned in a previous article I have scoliosis. In the past this ‘S’ curve in my spine was always a negative influence. Through yoga my whole body, especially my skeletal structure, has changed. I now carry my body with awareness. I especially focus on how I carry my spine, not because it bothers me as in the past, but because the daily yoga practice has strengthened and stretched me into a new place of awareness and comfort. My yoga practice has replaced the negative aspects with positive acceptance both physically and mentally. Now weeks or even months go by without my even thinking about my scoliosis.

Scoliosis is the presence of abnormal lateral (side-to-side) curves and rotations in the spinal column. In 80 to 85% of cases the cause is unknown. In adults scoliosis can produce symptoms of back pain, muscle tightness, fatigue, decreased lung capacity and possible neurological symptoms of dizziness, numbness and tingling.

Yoga’s emphasis on spinal movement as well as its overall healing abilities and innate promotion of correct posture make it an important alternative therapy to prevent the progression of, and potentially reduce, the abnormal spinal curvature of scoliosis. Yoga is also a powerful remedy to reduce scoliosis’ symptoms of back pain, muscle

tightness, fatigue and decreased lung capacity.

Yoga’s emphasis on postural alignment and spinal realignment helps to decrease the lateral curves of scoliosis, using poses such as the mountain pose, downward dog, tree and triangle poses, which will elongate and lengthen the spine to bring it back to center.

Twisting poses naturally re-align the spine to help decrease posterior rotation and thereby improve alignment and balance.

Twisting poses as well as forward bends stretch many of the muscles in the back, helping to reduce tension and pain. Using backbends to strengthen the back muscles is important to provide support for a structurally weakened spine.

Yoga poses such as seated head to knee pose, high lunge and pigeon stretch the hamstrings, hip flexors and quadriceps to create more spinal mobility and strength, also helping improve posture.

Always maintain a concentrated focus on the alignment of the spine in all poses, and imagine or visualize the spine lengthening and realigning as you hold and breathe in each pose.

It is important not to practice any poses that cause pain.

Give change a chance. □ *Desirée*

Don and Desirée of “Yoga For You” offer classes in yoga from beginners to advanced.

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



TURTLE TRACKING UPDATE

“Our” loggerhead 'Extra' has speeded up and adjusted her course slightly northwards, now over 1200 km from Bonaire and apparently aiming towards the Yucatan Peninsula. Perhaps helped by a northwest current, she swam over 120 km yesterday, much faster than the 80-90 km she was doing daily before.



In the next two days she swam another 210 km to the northwest, and is now nearly 1500 km from Bonaire. She is heading straight towards the gap between the Yucatan Peninsula and Cuba, so maybe aiming to go as far as the Gulf of Mexico. If all continues to go well, we will find out soon.

Meanwhile, male hawksbill 'Tom' remains near Klein Bonaire. I will keep you posted.
 □ *Robert P. van Dam*

NEW STUDY SUGGESTS TURTLE PROTECTION PAYS OFF

F

Green turtle at sea



Dive Blue Reef photo

ollowing the overexploitation of sea turtle populations, conservation measures are now in place in Bonaire and many other areas. However, the overall impact of these measures is often unknown because there are few long term series of studies showing trends in population sizes.

In a recent paper, George Balazs and Milani Chaloupka charted the number of green turtles, *Chelonia mydas*, nesting in Hawaii over the past 30 years and reveal a remarkably quick increase in the size of this population following the instigation of conservation measures during the 1970s. Importantly, this work shows how even a small population of sea turtles can recover rapidly, suggesting that “Allee effects” (the per capita drop in reproductive output when population density is low, so that recovery of small populations is often difficult) do not impede conservation efforts in operations worldwide. □ *G.D.*

LADIES ARE PROS TOO

Up until this year Bonaire had only men representing the island on the professional windsurfing circuit. Not any more. For the first time our sweet island has a female pro. She's Femke van der Valk, 20 years old. She's sponsored by Van der Valk Vakanties and Hotels and Jibe City Bonaire and is the foreign windsurfing



Femke pulls a vulcan

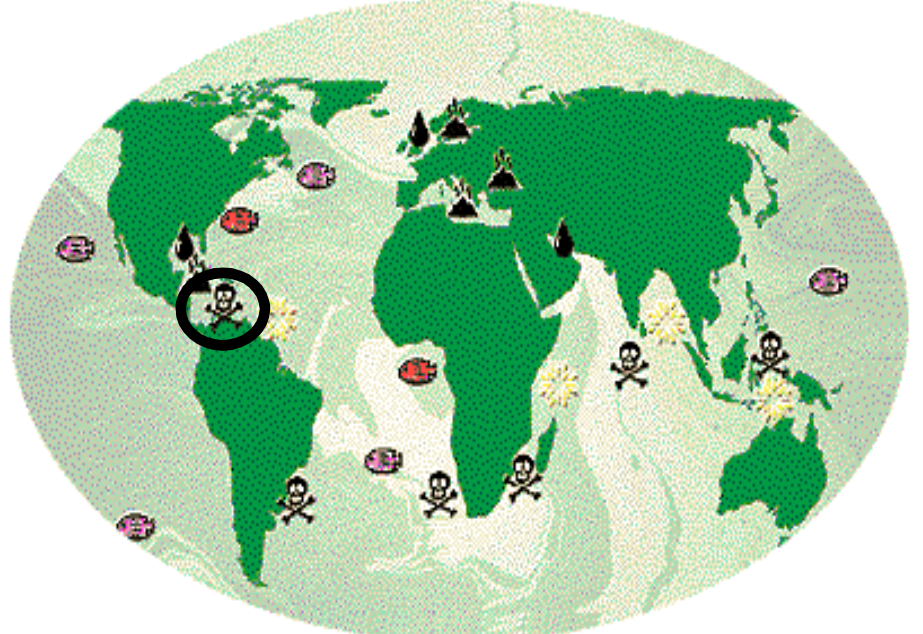


Wearing her Brunotti fashions

correspondent for *The Bonaire Reporter*. Bonaire has not just men on the professional windsurfing market. Her male team mates were definitely proud to watch her challenge the rough conditions last week in the Canaries. Besides being competent, she is very helpful and charming. She did her best in the windy surf conditions in Lanzarote and gained 10th place. It was her first professional overseas competition. This was definitely enough to put Bonaire's first professional female windsurfer up in the rankings. She will again show her moves in Fuerteventura. This time the conditions should be more to her taste. □

Ruben Petrisie

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE



PIRATES slaughtered 30 seafarers (compared to 16 last year) worldwide in the first six months of this year - the highest toll in more than a decade. A maritime group which conducted the survey into deaths at sea said governments need to boost patrols in hotspots to curb the violence.



Fifteen deaths occurred in Nigerian waters, where pirates armed with automatic weapons have launched 13 attacks so far this year on commercial ships and ferries. Most of the other fatalities were off

Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Venezuela and the Philippines. Venezuela recorded five attacks during the period, all directed at yachtsmen, according to a report by Scotsman International. Latest estimates put the cost of piracy to the world's shipping industry at \$500 million a week.

Piracy has existed for almost as long as the shipping industry itself - about 10,000 pirates were believed to have preyed on the world's shipping lanes between 1680 and 1725. □ G.D.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
7-30	8:44	0.7FT.	23:38 2.2FT. 89
7-31	0:21	2.2FT.	9:31 0.7FT. 97
8-01	1:09	2.0FT.	10:07 0.8FT. 101
8-02	1:57	1.9FT.	10:40 0.9FT. 100
8-03	2:48	1.7FT.	11:15 0.9FT. 96
8-04	3:46	1.5FT.	11:37 1.0FT. 18:46 1.4FT. 21:33 1.4FT. 88
8-05	1:11	1.3FT.	4:51 1.4FT. 11:48 1.1FT. 18:49 1.5FT. 77
8-06	2:59	1.1FT.	6:25 1.2FT. 11:40 1.1FT. 19:19 1.6FT. 64

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Aleluya	Macaby, Netherlands	Sirius
Angie	Makai	Sojourner
Alegria, USA	Mariele	Sovereign III
Bright Sea	Marva	Sylvia K
Camissa, Chan Is.	Methuselah, USA	Triumphant Lady
Cape Kathryn	Natural Selection, USA	Ta B
Casette	Nonsuch, USVI	Ti Amo, USA
Chacuco	Pamela Jean	Trio, USA
Delphinus	Panda	Ulu Ulu, USA
El Sabor	Pastime	Unicorn, Norway
Flying Cloud, USA	Pau Hana	Varedhuni, Germany
Gabrielle, USA	Polecat	Wanita
Galadrial, USA	Pomona	Windborne
Gatsby, USA	Precocious Gale, USA	Windmiller, Canada
Goril Too	Sandpiper, USA	Wonbat of Sydney
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Santa Maria, Sweden	Ya-T, BVI
Honalee, USA	Scintilla, Germany	Zahi, Malta
Lady Alice	Shades of Blue	Zeno's Arrow, USA
Luna C, USA	Side by Side	

BONAIRE'S WALKERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

The Four Days of Nijmegen March is the world's largest walking event and is also one of the world's largest sporting events (limited to 47.000 participants this year). Every year the walk starts on the third Tuesday in July. The International Four Days of Marches 2004 took place from July 20th to the 23rd .

NAZARIO ALBERTO- The North Saliña Road Runner

The moment Nazario arrived at the hostel in Nijmegen, the reporter of *De Gelderlander* welcomed him, smiling, with the newspaper in his hand. 'Vandaag komt Nazario, uit Bonaire' he had written: "Today Nazario arrives from Bonaire." It was a very warm and gratifying start for the Bonairean athlete who had recently walked 102 km from Bonaire's northern to southern lighthouses -*Torno to Torno*. (see *Bonaire Reporter* June 10). He came to represent Bonaire at the *Nijmeegse Vierdaagse*. Despite the little disappointment follow-



Nazario gets help for his foot

ing confirmation of his registration that Monday (after deliberations to allow him to walk 50km instead of the 40km, the commission withdrew his petition), Nazario remained optimistic. The first official walking day (Tuesday, July 20) started for him at 3:30 am. Because of the lack of transportation every day he had to walk to the starting line (3 km!). Talk about a warm-up! He finished in the record time of five

(Continued on page 11)

The Bonaire Walking Team Triumphs

On Thursday July 15, five men from Bonaire left for Holland to participate in the largest walking event in

the world: "The Nijmegen Vierdaagse" The walkers from Bonaire were Bòi Antoin, Arie Marsera, Rolly and Roy Martines, and Marcel Nahr. All completed the Four-Day Walk.

After arriving on Friday July 16 we all went our own ways to visit friends and relatives. The agreement was that we would meet again at the Nijmegen train station on Sunday.

You could already sense the building excitement of the other members of the team as they saw the thousands of people slowly arriving in Nijmegen. We had to get up at 2:30 am to get to the start by 4:00 am. on Tuesday. Even though we had practiced the drive to Nijmegen twice, we still sleepily managed to take a wrong off-ramp.

As agreed, Bòi and Marcel teamed up and so did the Martines twins, who soon disappeared into the walking crowd, cheered on by the intoxicated Nijmegen youths who were still up. Soon it was over the River Maas bridge and into the countryside for the first 50 kilometer loop to the Northeast of Nijmegen.

Many spectators had brewed vast amounts of coffee and were offering it for free together with cookies, cake and sweets. This went on for the entire four days, although of course there were many stands along the way to buy food and drink. They were all glad in the end that they took my ad-



Team photo

Rolly Martines

vice not to bring anything along to eat or drink as that only weighs you down. The lighter the better !

The first day was difficult for everybody as it started raining at 9:30 am and never stopped. At times the customary Dutch drizzle even changed into Bonaire-style downpours! Together with the fact that this year a lot of novice walkers participated, the heavy rain caused the number of one-day dropouts to be the highest in history. In the end the total number of people who made it to the finish was lower than ever, percentage wise. More than 4,500 people dropped out.

The members of the Bonaire team, having prepared well for the rain, all made it though; Bòi and Marcel without even a single blister! Roy and Rolly both had to stop for assistance at the medical posts that were manned by military medics and Red Cross volunteers.

(Continued on page 11)

(Nazario Alberto. Continued from page 10) hours and 15 minutes at 11:30 am - NUMBER ONE out of the thousands of participants in that category. And it had been raining for hours that day (a factor that caused Nazario some serious difficulty with his feet... did you ever try to walk a long distance in wet shoes?). The organizers were flabbergasted, as they expected the first finishers to arrive around 1:00 pm.

His achievement once again made it to Gelderland's largest newspaper with a second article dedicated to Nazario. "It helped the people of the Netherlands realize that a lot of good things come from the Antilles." (Much the news of the Antilles that appears in Dutch newspapers seems to be bad: crime, political corruption and drug trafficking. Ed.)

But after that first glorious day Nazario and the organization already had 'trouble in paradise.' Wet feet re-

sulted in painful blisters and injuries, a fact that most participants, including Nazario, experienced the coming days with a lot of people quitting, resulting in the "hardest Vierdaagse in years," according to the organizers.

Through the typically unpredictable Dutch weather (fog, rain and sun all on the same day) Nazario struggled with bleeding blisters and a serious tendon infection. On the second day, Wednesday, he arrived in the seventh position.

On Thursday, which is considered by everyone as the hardest day, he arrived later than planned. Despite his pain he managed



to "conquer" the seven notorious hills. The infection got worse and one person close to him even asked him cautiously to quit. "I came to The Netherlands to walk the Vierdaagse," he replied, "so that's what I'm going to do!"

And that's what he did on the final day, Friday July 23. He came in around 2:00 pm on Saint Anna Avenue, which for this

occasion was baptized "Via Gladiola" (due to the thousands of gladiolas handed out to the finishers). The warm sunny day, the sea of flowers and some Bonaireans who warmly greeted him with the Bonairean flag along the street side, made the pain disappear for a while.

Another reporter mentioned the fact that the Vierdaagse is not a competition therefore Nazario's number one position on the first day is not to be taken seriously. Indeed, it's not a competition but a great accomplishment. The media and the organizers confirmed Nazario's popularity when they chose him out of the more than 40,000 participants to write about.

Five other Bonaireans - Arie Mercera, Marcel Nahr, Bòì Antoin, Roy and Rolly Martinus - participated well in the Vierdaagse, at a more relaxed pace, as the Bonaire Walking Team (See accompanying story).

Although their individual accomplishments were impressive, Bonaire was the great winner in the Vierdaagse.

Several of the team will have arrived before this issue is distributed but others like Marcel and Nazario will arrive on Friday, July 30 at 2:00 pm. Let's greet them as heroes.

□ Natalie A.C. Wanga/ G. D.

(Walking Team Triumphs. Contin. from page 10)

The second day's route, which went to the Northwest of Nijmegen, was quite uneventful. We had lots of time to enjoy the countryside and the cheering crowds that tried to out-do each other in decorating each village we marched through with flags and banners and the number of live bands. It is hard to describe other than comparing it to a four-day-long Carnival. The weather was totally different from the first day, however. It started with a chilly fog and then turned sunny and ended with a cold rainshower. It was very hard to dress for, and hence there were more drop-outs.

The third day brought even thicker fog than the second, but once the sun came out it was stifling hot. This was tough for me, and Bòì walked out ahead of me, reaching the finish 45 minutes earlier than I did. We were all getting quite weary by now but still determined to make it. Having trained with Bòì many times in Bonaire I noticed that here we walked differently. I can get a good boost from a 15-minute rest and preferred to take them more often, but Bòì had a hard time getting started after a break. But once he was warmed up again it was his turn to overtake me and I couldn't keep up with him anymore. I therefore named him "The Diesel." We had lots of laughs together along the way and in our hotel, joking and jesting.

Day four, to the Southeast, led to the city of Cuyck where we crossed the Maas River on a pontoon bridge that was especially laid that day by the Dutch Army. Then it was on to the last finish in Nijmegen, along the mile-long "Via Gladiola." Once you pass Cuyck it is said that there is no stopping anymore. Your fellow walkers will carry you if they have to, but there are so many enthusiastic spectators



Bòì "The Diesel" Antoin

to cheer you on that you forget all the pain and suffering and make it on your own.

That happened to Rolly, the only one that really concerned me on the last day. The Red Cross doctor told him that he had injured his right knee tendons. He was walking very slowly around the middle of the section and we had to leave him behind in order not to jeopardize our own chances. But finally the pain-killers kicked in and the crowd did the rest.

Asked at the finish, everyone said "Never again." But next I heard that in 2005 the city of Nijmegen, which is the oldest in the Netherlands and founded during the Roman Empire, will celebrate its 2000th Anniversary. The festivities will be extra big and last for a whole month instead of a week, so who knows? □

Marcel Nahr

PETS of the WEEK

Here's some puppy action at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, starting "Marlene" and "Jenny," our kissing pups. Marlene was found on the street with her siblings when they were very young puppies. All of them were very friendly, sweet and well behaved, and two of Marlene's sisters have been adopted already. Little Jenny came from a family with children so she's a social and well adjusted pup. The family is keeping the pup's mother who is being sterilized. You may meet these pets at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. Because people brought these puppies and their mothers into the Shelter, the dogs have an opportunity for a good life. **The Shelter is never "too full" to accept animals, and that includes mothers as well as puppies.** They will be examined by the vet; if they are declared



"Marlene" and "Jenny"


healthy and free of parvo or any other communicable disease and are "social," they'll be given their shots and put up for adoption and maybe appear as "Pet of the Week." This year so far there have been 93 adoptions from the Shelter! Puppies are always adorable, but they do grow into dogs. If you know people whose female dogs are always going into heat and producing puppies, encourage them to bring them to the Shelter so they can have a chance at life. And tell them about the free sterilization program October 18 to 30. □L.D


**FREE STERILIZATION PROGRAM
OCTOBER 18 to 30.
Animal Shelter's Community-wide Program
Tell Your Neighbors!**


A young female puppy with tan/brown puppy-soft fur was found wandering on the main road in the Belnem area on 20 July. She is wearing a red collar with a plastic black snap buckle. We estimate her to be 3 or 4 months old. This adorable lady would like her owner to come and take her home. The kind person who found her brought her to the Shelter, as they were afraid she would be hit by a car on the street. If this puppy is yours, or if you think this dog may belong to your neighbor - and they are perhaps on holiday off-island, please contact the Animal Shelter on **Kaminda Lagoen #26-A, from Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturday until 1 pm. Phone #717-4989.** □Mary DiSanza





**GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL?
REACH MORE READERS THAN ANY OTHER WEEKLY
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FREE FREE FREE FREE
Non-Commercial CLASSIFIED ADS (UP TO 4 LINES/ 20 WORDS)
Commercial ads are only NAf0.70 per word, per week. Free ads run for 2 weeks.
Call or fax *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988 e-mail ads@bonairereporter.com**

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

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

 **PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE BONAIRE.** Consultation, Supervision, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy **Drs. 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

 **LUNCH TO GO-** Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call **CHINA NOBO 717-8981**

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

'88 Nissan pickup double cab. NAf2,000 717-0116.

'87 Nissan pickup in excellent condition. NAf3,800 791-0343 (don't call Thursday morning).

WHO ARE YOU?

Would the couple who has been **hiking weekends at Playa Frans** call 786-1119. There are other trails you might like to know about.

FOR SALE

For Sale: single beds, mini fridge (bar), fridge, 6-sided table with 6 bench seats, kitchen sink (good for kunuku), tennis rackets, misc. items. call 717-

Oceanfront, furnished, 2 bedroom apartment for rent in Belnem. Call 717-8603.

For Sale for Divers BCD Scubapro with R2 (Regulator) for only US\$50.- also Tel / Fax / Copy machine Sharp UX-355 LR Only for NAf 280.-Call 717 6860 or e-mail: ieffner@yahoo.com

12' hard bottom (RIB) Carib dinghy w/15 hp. Yamaha outboard, good condition, about 4-5 years old. \$2,000. Contact Yacht *Methuselah* in the harbor or *The Reporter* at 717-8988/786-6125. Leave name and phone number.

CONDO SWAP

Dive enthusiasts want to **exchange time in their Bradenton, Florida** (near Tampa Airport, Sarasota, Amusement Parks, Busch Gardens, Disney, beaches, etc.) two-bedroom, two bath condo for equivalent in Bonaire, Aruba or Curaçao. Call (001) 941 752-0055 or e-mail nurseshark74@aol.com

WANTED

Wanted: HOUSE TO RENT- We are looking for a **house with 3 bedrooms**, 2 bathrooms and if possible, a not-too-small porch. Kind of garden would be marvelous. Please phone 717-4200.

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

PROPERTY FOR RENT.

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

BOAT for SALE

Traditional **Bonairean Sailing Sloop.** Wood, traditional construction, about 21' long. Fiberglassed in and out for minimal maintenance. Two time winner of Bonaire Regatta, Class A. A dream to sail. Bargain at NAf9,999. One of the last of its kind. Call 717-8988 or 785-6125.



FREE AS A BIRD?

I *magine:* You're in this room and there is one chair. There's a cup with water and every day you get the same food. The view is nice; you can see blue skies and green trees. Sometimes from far away you hear your people talking, but they don't dare to come close. They are always together and there's a whole group of them. For them every day is different, but you're going to be in that room until the end of your days. Now and then someone comes to give you fresh water and some food; they talk to you and you repeat what they're saying and that seems to make them happy and they stay a little longer. Then they're off; they're going to watch TV; they're going to take a nap; to fetch the children from school; they go to work; they go shopping or they're going to visit some friends.

You close your eyes and listen to the old familiar sounds: dogs barking, cars passing by, children playing and the wind that whispers in the trees... another day is gone... nobody to talk to... nothing to do...

You're not sick, you're young and healthy and you've got your life in front of you... "Free as a bird" we say and we think of sailing under a blue heaven, no borders, complete freedom and a world that's for everyone to enjoy. God or evolution gave birds wings to fly and so, what do we do? We put them in a cage! We've got lots of imagination!

We all come from the same hand or from the same first cell. It depends on what you believe. We think we own the world, but after a hurricane, a tornado, an earthquake, an eruption of a volcano or a tidal wave, we're somewhat shocked in that belief and we should be. Nobody owns the world and nobody owns another living creature. We're all free, free to live and free to die in freedom. It's the essence of life.



All "legal" captive Loras in Bonaire have a ring on their leg.

The Lora is a shy bird, unlike the trupial, the bananaquit or the chuchubi. It isn't a regular visitor to your garden unless it's really hungry. It doesn't come to sing a song for you; it's not looking for human company. What it likes best is to be amongst its own kind somewhere far out in the *mondi*. It stays with its partner all its life and it enjoys living in a group. It doesn't like to be alone!

There are more Loras in cages on Bonaire than in the wild. The majority of those that live in captivity are very young birds between three and six years old. That means that the majority of the young Loras on Bonaire live alone in a cage, and they will never reproduce. They are lost to the Lora community that lives in the wild. It also means that the ones living in the wild are rather old couples. There is no future with-

COVER **Tutti Frutti**

It's been over two years since the Tutti Frutti CD came out and since they were invited by a Dutch cultural foundation to join a 10-day performing tour through Holland. But at last the funding for their trip has been reached with help from individuals, the government and fund raising events. The group leaves for Holland in September where they'll spread the unique musical culture of Bonaire and Rincon throughout the country and celebrate and perform there on Rincon Day, September 6.

"Tutti Frutti refers to the different kind of fruits we use in our cakes," says Emma Sint Jago, president of the folkloric group. "We're composed of people who come from different groups and bands who join together to be the 'Tutti Frutti.'" This year is their 11th anniversary. The group, which varies from 14 to 19 people who sing, play the *kuarta*, guitar, maracas, *wiri* and other traditional instruments, always performs at Dia di Rincon, singing a brand new song composed by one of their group, Veronica Mercera. The group is unique because all its songs are original, mostly composed by Veronica. Other composers such as Emma herself, Richinel Anthony and Augustin Kroon have contributed to their repertoire. Their CD, *Kas di Bara*, as Emma explains, "is a way to preserve our heritage and the cultural values of Rincon." The group, as part of the Foundation for Art and Culture, is doing a magnificent job of not only preserving their *krioyo* music but bringing forth new and lively compositions, thus keeping the style alive and vibrant. The music is lively with a danceable beat, and the lyrics in Papiamentu tell stories of Rincon and everyday life.

The *Kas di Bara* CD sells for NAf25 and is available at the Rose Inn in Rincon, at the airport shop, Bonaire Boekhandel and Flamingo Book Store. □L.D.

out youth.

If we keep on ordering Loras from the wild, the way we've been doing over the years, soon there won't be one Lora left. Maybe you think: "So what? I'll get myself a canary or a parakeet or maybe someone can smuggle a parrot from South America." It won't be such a disaster for you. But it will be for Bonaire. Bonaire is not rich in the sense of abundance. Bonaire is rich in its subtlety. There isn't much, but what we have is precious and rare, and of all the species on the island the Lora is the most precious one. We don't know much about our Lora; it's still a mystery to us.

What we can do to help the Lora survive on Bonaire is to leave it alone. We could also plant some trees in our garden that supply food for Loras in times of drought: local trees like the *Watakeri*, *Wayaka*, *Apeldam*, the *Kwi*, the *Dreif di Laman*, the *Hoba*, the *Mangel*, the *Shimaruku* or *Palu di Boneiru*. You may not like their seeds or pods, but

wouldn't it be a miracle when a whole flock of Loras comes and transforms your quiet garden into a delightful exotic spot?

Look, be honest, do you really think you have enough time to spend with your Lora, to make it worthwhile for the bird to sit in its cage for 50, 60 years? Doesn't that seem to you a real, extremely long, boring time? Do you think that you're capable of giving it a life that somewhat resembles the life you've taken away from him? Be honest! Do you love the Lora enough to leave it where it belongs... in the *mondi*, in freedom? Freedom to live, to love, to reproduce and to fly, free as a bird!

If you care you can call the police, SSV, Polis Ambiental and STINAPA's rangers when you see an unbanded Lora in a cage, or when you see someone poaching or disturbing a nest or killing a Lora or trying to sell one. There is a fine of NAf 1.000. for each illegal bird, and the bird will be confiscated. Telephone 717-3741 or 717-8000.

□ Greta Kooistra



BONAIRE HIT PARADE



TW	LW	#W	BAND	SONG TITLE
1	2	4	EVELIEN BAMFO	STEP BY STEP
2	2	6	IZALINE CALISTER	WOW'I CARINO
3	3	7	ELVIS CRESPO	DING DING
6	9	4	CHAMPAGNE 4-EVER	STREA A PAGA
7	10	2	GUESS PORQUE	YES
8	6	9	ELVIS CRESPO	HORA ENAMORADA
9	4	7	LUCKY DUBE	THE OTHER SIDE
10	11	2	AGR. PAL'I WIRI	KRIJOJO
11	13	1	JEO	BO BODI
12	12	2	SENDRY EMANUEL	KARA KARA
13	14	1	N.B.O.	JUM-B
14	15	1	ROBERT JEAND'OR	ABO SO
15	N	N	GIO FUERTISIMO	JUDESKA

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

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. □

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**New! Usually 9:00 pm
Around the World in
80 Days
and Stepford Wives**

Early Show (usually 7:00 pm)
Shrek 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
Harry Potter III**

THIS WEEK

Friday, July 30 - Full Moon Walk.
Meet at Rincon Marshe site 8 pm (see page 5)

**Saturday, July 31 - Bike Ride in Wash-
ington Park.** Meet at Park entrance at 7
am. (See page 5)

**Saturday, July 31 - Rincon Marshe 6
am to 2 pm, Alta Mira Trail Walk - meet
at 6 am at Rincon Marshe (see page 5).**

**Sunday, August 1 - Mega FM Run, 5
km for Adults, 2 km for kids. Starts at
7:30 am at Mega FM. Sponsored by
Comcabon. Tel. 717-8629.**

COMING

**Saturday, August 7 - Stress Manage-
ment Training** – sponsored by the Jun-
ior Chamber International (formerly Jay-
cees). Practical ways to handle stress
situations. Speaker: Julien deWindt, sen-
ior facilitator. Divi Flamingo Conference
Room 9 am to 2 pm. NAf50, includes
drinks & snacks. Call 520-5679 to re-
serve.

EVERY WEEK

Sunday -Live music 6 to 9 pm while en-
joying 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 infor.

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

**Wednesday -Meditation at Donkey
Beach** from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Open to all.
Call S.H.Y. 790-9450

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

**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.

**Saturdays during summer Rincon
Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm.** Enjoy a
Bonairean breakfast while you shop:
fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local
sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts,
candles, incense, drinks and music.

**Every day by appointment -Rooi
Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Au-
thentic 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

*We are happy to announce that we are
resuming the "slideshow" on sea tur-
tles. Andy Uhr has graciously offered to
give the presentation at the Carib Inn's
seaside veranda every 2nd and 4th
Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.*

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

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

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie
Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.
an

Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to
help staff gallery during the day. Contact
Wendy Horn, at 717-3902 or 785-9700.

Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER



Bonaire's American Marine in Fallujah, Iraq

Pfc. Jake S.M.Barlass, a machine gunner with 3rd Battalion and 1st Marine Regi-
ment (left), and Lance Cpl. Jon C. Guibord, a combat correspondent with I Ma-
rine Expeditionary Force, in a bunker at Camp Fallujah, Iraq- July 15, 2004.

Barlass is the son of Bonaire residents Scott and Sharon Barlass and has visited Bonaire six times since 1998. He enlisted in the Marines in September of 2003 and trained until June 2004 when he left for Iraq. Jake's job in Iraq is street patrols, checkpoints, and house-by-house searches for terrorists. Before being deployed to the area near Fallujah Iraq, Jake spent 10 days on Bonaire diving, relaxing and saying goodbye to his Bonaire friends.

Guibord is Jake's high school friend from Prior Lake, MN, US and is also stationed in Fallujah as a Marine combat correspondent. His latest assignment was taking photos of the mass graves of people killed by Sadaam. Jake and Jon met up after a week in the field of intense missions to take this picture.

Both Jake and Jon plan on coming to Bonaire for some R & R when their service with the U.S. Marines is completed! They will get a well-deserved Bonaire welcome home!

□ Sharon Barlass

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.) □

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

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

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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
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days. 717-8444/785-0017

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starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to
the music of Bonaire's popular musicians.

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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 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, reservations only, NAf25.
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.
Croccantino 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. Be 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 NAf25 Beach Pass, a NAf15 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.
Nonchi's at Cultimara 791-4280	Low Open 5 am-8 pm Monday-Saturday	Delicious local and international food to take out, or eat there. Everyday a different combo. Sandwiches and roast chicken too.
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, computers. 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. Have your keys made here.

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

Golden Reef Inn is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute to diving and the sea.

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

Kodarama- the only digital lab and studio handles all digital media and offers the largest variety of professional services -across from MCB Bank
Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints and slides plus a variety of items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

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

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

REPAIRS

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

RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

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

SECURITY

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

SHIPPING

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

SUPERMARKETS

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

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

TOYS AND GAMES

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

WATER TAXI

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

WINES

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

YOGA

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

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN:
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter.*
The most advertising for your guildler.
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Jurrie Mellema

“It was always in the back of my mind to come and live here. When I was 12 and learned in elementary school about the *dividivi* tree, I wanted to go to the Antilles to see what it was like.

I grew up in the north of Holland and we owned a holiday home on Ameland, one of the Frisian Islands so I'm used to island life. When I was 20 I went to Canada to help a family member on a dairy farm. It was supposed to be for a short while, but I liked it so much that I stayed there. Ten years ago my wife Maureen and I came here for a vacation, specifically because we'd heard that it was quiet. We liked it, and after thinking about it for a year, decided to move here.

We were living in Canada in Jasper National Park, an area of 10,000 square kilometers. There was only one town with a population of 4,000, so living there was also a kind of “island life.”

For all kinds of bigger needs and purchases you had to drive 400 kilometers, and during winter time, from September until April, we felt isolated. The older you get the harder it is to cope with the cold. Shortly before we decided to leave for Bonaire we had one week in which the daytime temperature didn't rise above minus 30° C and at night minus 45° C. We thought: This is enough!

Bonaire was peaceful, a wonderful climate and the nicest people. We started building our own house, just Maureen and I, and we're still working on that ‘project.’ In Canada I'd worked in maintenance. I'd often thought about opening a dog boarding hotel, but by the time I became really serious about it we left for Bonaire. So, when I heard that they were looking for someone to manage the Animal Shelter, I thought, I could do that. I grew up with dogs; I'd had them all my life and was always interested in their social behavior. Anyway, I applied for the job and I started to work for the Shelter in 2000.

When I arrived at the Shelter maintenance was needed. There were big problems because the male dogs weren't castrated and the fences were so bad that it was easy for them to break out and to mate with the females in heat. There were terrible fights, and it even came to a point where one morning I found a dog, killed by the others. The old pigsty was still there, and the original fence was overgrown with weeds so you couldn't tell if the fence had, in fact, disappeared. At the vet's there was a debt

of NAf7.000 guilders that had never been paid. A local company took away the pigsty (the pig had gone already) and cleaned the land. Then a sponsor showed up who was so impressed by the way we were working that he offered either to put up all new fences or to pay the debt at the vet's. He paid the vet.

This kind of support has been and always is of great importance to us. It's the reason why we thrive. All the positive reactions help us to pull through. It's good to hear when people comment on how neat and clean everything looks and how well treated the animals are and that they seem to be rather happy in spite of the circumstances. Before I started to work here, we visited the Shelter to adopt a dog. I remember there was a terrible turmoil in the kennels and that's something that has changed. All the males are castrated, and the way we select the dogs is strongly influenced by their social behavior.”

“When I started here I made some guidelines for myself and I stick to them: Every puppy or kitten, every cat or dog has the same chance, and that chance is not affected by the person who brings it in.”

Jurrie Mellema is a friendly, quiet man, a man who prefers not to be in the spotlight. However, with the Sterilization Program coming up in October he's willing to do an interview and give his cause some publicity. We're sitting at his office on a Saturday afternoon and there isn't one dog barking. All is peace and quiet. The volunteers (there is a

desperate need for more) have gone home and the phone rings several times: “Where to find a vet?” “What to do with a dead dog?” “What to do if you're here on vacation and you find a puppy in your garden?” Jurrie has lots of patience, but he's also to the point. The lady who found the puppy is coming in. Soon she's there; before we even set eyes on her I hear a strident noise, a hollering sound that comes from a puppy that's about three weeks old. It still can't see very well and it crawls like a baby. It's terrified, completely lost. Jurrie comforts the lady who's in tears and puts some porridge in a plate for the puppy. They handle the paperwork and he tells the lady the puppy looks good and it will have a chance. Once she's gone I ask him if that's true and he says: “Yes. When I started here I made some guidelines for myself and I stick to them: Every puppy or kitten, every cat or dog has the same chance, and that chance is not affected by the person who brings it in.

I am a very practical person and I am honest. It all depends on the behavior of

the animal. If it can adapt here and if I think it has a chance to be adopted, it can stay for a long time. During the year we keep a maximum of 40 dogs and 20 cats. It is a prison, but I am trying the best I can to make their temporary stay as comfortable as possible. It's a stressful job; we never know

what's coming and there's a lot of emotion involved. I live for my work; it's part of me. It's the most important thing I'm doing on the island. It's tough, but I use my intuition, my instincts and my own criteria, but there are certain borders I do not cross. As a manager you cannot make decisions based on emotion. It's difficult enough to make a decision (together with the vet) to put an animal to sleep, but it has to be done. Someone has to do it. I never involve the volunteers in such events. I never judge the circumstances I'm confronted with. Of course I have my own opinion, but I will never show it. I offer help and advice and I look for a solution. I want it to be easy for everyone to come here and give us their dog or cat. Nobody will ever be judged.

Every year we have an average of 300 dogs and 100 cats that are brought by people or the official dog catcher. When I started here about 70 dogs and cats were adopted per year. This year already 92 dogs and cats have been adopted. The foundation is 25% supported by the Government. So, luckily, thanks to their support, we can always count on the fact that all the cats and dogs that are being adopted are sterilized. The rest - food, housing, the vet, my salary and my assistant's salary (who works half days) - is paid by donations and sponsoring. The rest of the work, starting with the board, is done by volunteers.

The people who come here to clean the kennels, to feed the animals, to socialize with them - those are the people who keep us going. Then there are people who do translations, who design posters, who sell T-shirts and who collect the money from the donation boxes and people like Laura De Salvo whose column “Pet of the Week” has been and still is a great promotion for the Shelter.



Jurrie Mellema

Without all these people it would be impossible for us to exist.

In general people here take good care of their dogs. But it's an undeniable fact that we do have a problem with strays. People do feed them, but the fact that the females go into heat twice a year and give birth to an average of 10 puppies per year means that we have a problem, in the first place for the dogs. Last year we and the veterinary service had to put 800 dogs to sleep. To put an end to that we're going to have a Sterilization Program from October 18 to 30. Six veterinarians from Canada, Holland and the US are coming to help us voluntarily. They pay for their own tickets and we hope to find sponsors for their hotel accommodations and rental cars. Our goal is to sterilize, for free, as many dogs from the *barios* as possible - dogs living outside people's fences, but being fed by people from the neighborhood. We hope that after the operation, when we put them back in the street where they came from, that people will keep on taking care of them. The volunteer vets are doing this for free because they love the island and they want to make a contribution. I hope the people of Bonaire will feel we're doing a good thing and will make their contribution as well by giving us a helping hand or by supporting the idea. As far as the dogs are concerned, it will make a big difference to them because we'll bring some peace and tranquility back in the streets and give them a healthier and quieter life.” □

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

HUSH-HUSH SEASIDE SPOTS

This week I visited the many beaches in Washington Slagbaai National Park. The beauty of this island's treasures continue to astound me. What a wonderful day I spent catching some much-deserved rays, snorkeling, picnicking, and discovering the beauty of the Park. I visited most of the beaches and this week's beaches are, I believe, the best ones that will provide for a good family time.



Playa Chikitu

PLAYA CHIKITU

Playa Chikitu is located near the entrance to the Park. It's an amazing sandy beach that stretches for at least half a kilometer. It is surrounded by rock-faced cliffs and backed by beautiful sand dunes. You'll enjoy the incorporated background sounds of crashing waves and blowing wind. The water is too rough to swim in, as you will read in the Park brochure, but that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy playing in the water. There is a large sand bar about three meters from the water's edge where the water level is less than knee deep. People visiting Playa Chikitu seem to enjoy themselves trying to stand up against the strength of the crashing waves, and yes, the waves will sweep you off your feet. Children will have a delightful time catching the waves and bodysurfing towards the beach. After some time in the water, children will enjoy climbing the sand dunes and discover-

ing the local fauna - the many lizards in the Park. Parents as usual need to be diligent with children in water, but I can guarantee that everyone will have a delightful family time enjoying the wonderful sandy beach of Playa Chikitu.



Wayaká II

WAYAKÁ II

If you ask the Park Ranger at the entrance gate which are the best beaches to visit, he'll gladly refer you to two beaches. Wayaká II is one of them. After spending time at this amazing beach you'll agree that it is a spectacular place. It is located at the bottom of a cliff on the west side of the island, but there is a trail and steps that will make your descent to the beach easy. It meets everyone's requirements as to what a beach should be. There is a grotto that provides some much needed shade and a cool place to store your picnic and beach accessories; the beach is of beautiful white

MARIO DEMEI - 35 YEARS at DIVI



Asst. Hotel Manager Jenny Hannenberg; Mario's son, Cesar; wife Nelly Demei; Hotel Manager Frits Hennenberg; Mario Demei; Human Resources Director Marelya Soliano

Thirty-five years ago young Mario Demei started to work at the Divi Tamarind in Aruba and stayed for 13 years. Then he moved to Bonaire where he's been Maintenance Manager for the last 22 years. Divi management threw a spirited party for him last week on the terrace of the Chibi Chibi Restaurant to celebrate the event, inviting all his friends and fellow workers in Maintenance as well as his family. They awarded him a plaque as well as a nice check for all his years of service. Mario is well liked by his associates who got together to give him a gift as well, presented by Juan Johnzon. □ *L. D.*

sand; and the snorkeling is absolutely fabulous. The shallow descent into the calm water provides a wonderful environment for children to safely play the many games they play at the beach. In addition, they'll enjoy snorkeling and seeing the different species of fish without feeling supervised by their parents. Wayaká II is one of the most beautiful beaches of the Park, making it very popular with visitors. At times it can be a little crowded, but nonetheless, Wayaká II

will have the ability to entertain your family for a few hours.

I do hope that Playa Chikitu and Wayaká II will entice you to pack a picnic, grab the beach towels and the sunscreen and head to the Washington Slagbaai National Park. I can guarantee that a good time will be had by all. □ *Josée Bolduc Frosst*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

How to Find the Heart of the Scorpion and the Heart of our Galaxy with a Cosmic Bow and Arrow

If you go out into the Sky Park on any moonless night in August you will see an ancient constellation pointing the way to the hearts of two cosmic wonders. In mid-evening around 10 pm this time of year, face a bit south of overhead where you will see almost everyone's two favorite star patterns of summer: the constellation which looks like a fish hook or the capital letter 'J', **Scorpius, the Scorpion**, and directly behind it, several bright stars which if connected by lines look like a teapot. Now Scorpius is officially called a constellation, but the teapot is not. It is called an "asterism," which means that it is a small pattern of stars within a constellation. And the constellation to which the teapot belongs is a very large pattern of stars named thousands of years ago for a mythical creature called a centaur, a creature which was half man and half horse. Now this particular centaur was named **Sagittarius** and was known to be a great master with the bow and arrow, a centaur archer. His bow is marked by two stars of the teapot's lid and the star at the bottom of the spout. The arrow starts at the top star in the handle with its tip marked by the star at the tip of the spout.

And you can see that it is aimed at the red star, **Antares**, which marks the heart of the scorpion, a giant star 700 times as wide as our **Sun**. But on clear moonless nights far from city lights you'll also see that the tip of Sagittarius' arrow is embedded in the widest and most dense part of the great ribbon of light called the **Milky Way** which stretches all the way from the southern horizon up to the zenith and back down to the northeast horizon. In fact if you look more closely at Sagittarius and Scorpius you will see that most of the teapot and the bottom half of Scorpius are embedded in the Milky Way.

And if you take a pair of binoculars and look here or anywhere along the Milky Way you will see that it is made up of millions of pin points of light, each one of which is a distant star, and which along with our Sun all belong to a great cosmic spiral family of 200 billion stars we call a galaxy, the Milky Way Galaxy. Our Sun is located about two thirds of the way out from the center so when we look at Sagittarius and Scorpius, the Milky Way appears thickest and widest here because the bulging center of our galaxy lies in this direction. In fact the tip of Sagittarius' arrow is pointed directly at it as well as at Antares. So find these two cosmic wonders with the help of an ancient archer. □ *Jack Horkimer*



Antares is a huge star. In a class called red supergiant, Antares is about 700 times the diameter of our own Sun, 15 times more massive, and 10,000 times brighter. Antares is the brightest star in the constellation of Scorpius and one of the brighter stars in all the night sky. Antares is seen surrounded by a nebula of gas which it has itself expelled. Radiation from Antares' blue stellar companion helps cause the nebular gas to glow, as photographed above. Antares is located about 500 light years away.

Moon Info

Full Moon on July 31st, the second full moon of July, a

"blue moon."



Last Quarter on August 7th



New Moon on August

16th



First Quarter on August 23rd



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
July 30 to August 6, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can make financial deals, but it may be best if you're not using your own cash. Look into intellectual and physical games that will test your abilities. You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits. Opportunities for love will develop while traveling or while attending religious functions. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Think about taking the time to complete unfinished domestic chores. Co-workers may not be on your side. Try not to get into disputes that will lead to estrangements. Your ability to charm others will put you in the limelight at social functions. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You will enjoy the interaction with youngsters and take great pride in the projects you've completed. Romantic encounters are evident through travel or educational pursuits. You may find yourself in a romantic situation. Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will have some wonderful ideas that should bring you extra money. Do not travel unless absolutely necessary. Be careful. You will have to watch out for minor health problems related to stress. Be discreet and don't present your ideas until you're certain that they're foolproof. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. It's doubtful anyone will try to stand in your way or cut you off at the pass this week. Try to have patience and refrain from being judgmental. You should be able to get involved in an interesting proposition this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Opportunities to get ahead will be evident. Concentrate on yourself or your work. You need to refrain from being the generous one in the group. Travel and educational pursuits may help alleviate the stress you have been feeling. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may find it difficult to communicate. Don't let your health suffer because of abuse. You are in a high cycle where travel, education and creative endeavors are concerned. Be careful not to misplace your wallet or belongings. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) For now just do the best you can. Make sure that new mates live up to your high standards. Relatives will be happy that you dropped by. Trips will be favorable for business as well as pleasure. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't take your frustrations out on the ones you love. You can make financial gains through investments and dealing with other people's money. Don't let your partner start any arguments. Passion should be redirected positively. If you're single, get out there and you'll meet someone new. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You could find yourself left with someone's dirty laundry. Think twice before eating spicy foods; you may have problems with your stomach. Minor health problems may flare up if you haven't been taking care of yourself or have been burning the candle at both ends. Don't make financial contributions in order to impress others. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You're on to something tangible and need to act fast. Take some time to change your house around. You should be on the road. Don't allow colleagues to put unreasonable pressure on you. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let friends or relatives make you feel guilty if you're not able to attend one of their affairs. You may have personal problems, but professional duties might be pressing. You won't be well received by superiors or by your spouse. You may find that relationships are not going as well as you'd like. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. □