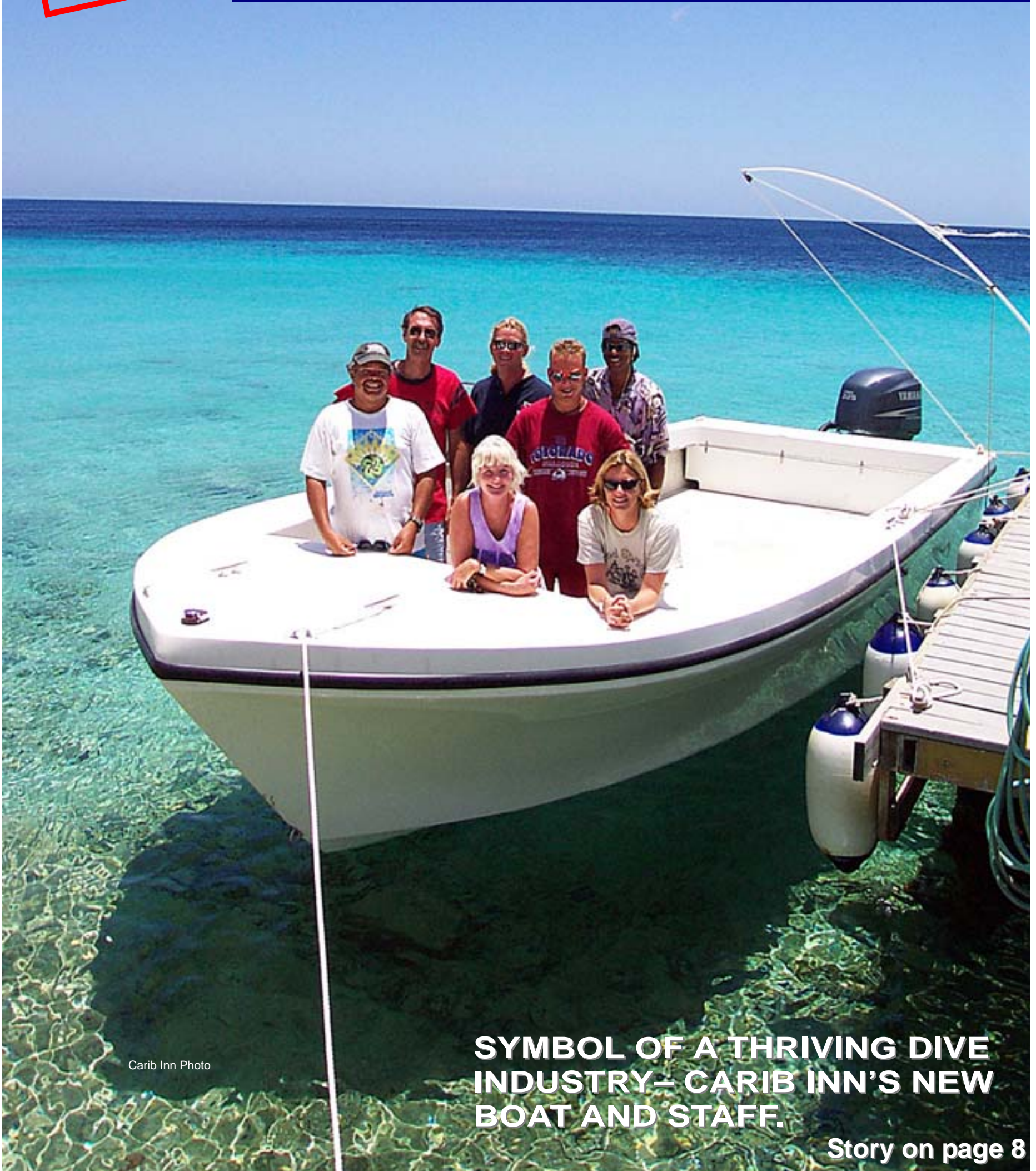


**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

August 20 to 27, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 32

The **BONAIR** REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: reporter@bonairenews.com • 717-8988 SINCE 1994



Carib Inn Photo

**SYMBOL OF A THRIVING DIVE
INDUSTRY— CARIB INN'S NEW
BOAT AND STAFF.**

Story on page 8

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Bonaire has recorded an estimated total of 4,721 tourist arrivals for the month of June 2004. **It represents an increase of 2% as compared to last year.**

Visitors from the US grew 5% compared to June 2003 from 2,299 arrivals to 2,413 in June 2004. The total North America market increased 4.8% compared to 2003.

Specifically, June's numbers reflected a growth

in travelers from the year-round sunshine states of California, Florida and Texas.

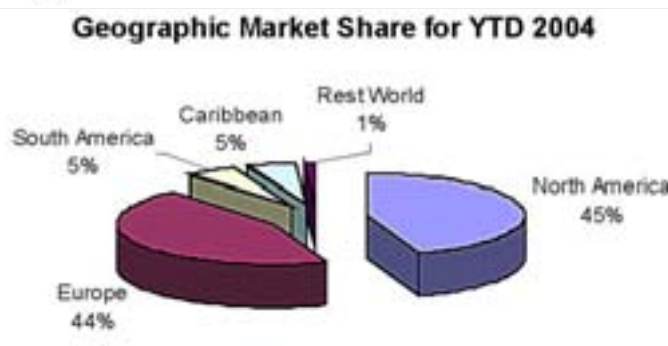
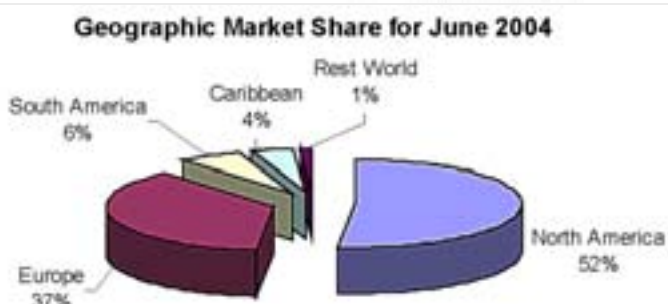
Tourist visits from Europe dropped by 3.6% compared to 2003, from 1,801 arrivals to 1,737 in June 2004. The Netherlands increased 2% compared to 2003. Airlift out of Europe shows a slight decrease in June due to re-allocation of seats on the direct KLM flights.

The South American market recorded an increase of 4.4% on the whole, while the Venezuelan market decreased by 13.3%. *T.C.B. press release*

► BMG, the Bonaire Management Group responsible for most of the island's government owned "private" companies, is **looking for investors and strategic partners for three of its companies:** WEB (water and power), TELBO (telephone and Internet) and Selibon (waste management). BMG head, Jopi Giskus has been in The Netherlands holding serious discussions with potential

participants.

► Britain's Environmental Agency is concerned that the anti-depression drug Prozac is being taken in such large quantities in the U.K. that traces are not only **showing up in wastewater**, but also in rivers and wells used for drinking water. "We need to determine the effects of this low-level, almost continuous discharge," says agency spokesman Dr. Andy Crox-



ford in the *London Observer*. What does this have to do with Bonaire? It is an example of how insidiously things can seep into the ground, since almost all of Bonaire's water that isn't absorbed goes into the sea where it affects our coral reef.

That's why the proposed sewage treatment plant to allow fertilizing nutrients in the irrigation returned to coastal properties is a bad one. It's been proven that nutrients harm the coral by promoting smothering algae growth. The plan is opposed by Bonaire's conservation organizations and is under review.



Photo: Kees de Jong

A new Dutch warship arriving in Willemstad Harbor

► Of the 1,000 **Dutch naval personnel** stationed in the Netherlands Antilles to combat the international drug trade, **15 have been arrested** so far this year for allegedly trafficking in narcotics, reported the Dutch language newspaper, *Algemeen Dagblad*.

Another 30 have been detained by the military police for a range of crimes, including serious assault, intimidation, vandalism and theft. The Dutch Royal Navy confirmed that eight marines have been set home this year from the Caribbean for

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drug possession or drug dealing. Last year, the navy sent eight to 10 people home for possessing or trafficking in drugs in the Netherlands Antilles. The Netherlands is responsible for the defense of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. The Dutch naval contingent — made up of 300 marines and 700 other naval personnel — stationed on the Netherlands Antilles is involved in combating drug trafficking.

► Two members of the **anti-drug team at Curaçao's Hato Airport have been**

(Continued on page 4)

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

arrested on suspicion of involvement in drug trafficking. The two Customs officials, P.P. and E.J., are the third and fourth members of the Hato Team who were apparently bribed by drug lords to let through their couriers. Not too long ago two police officers of the Hato Team, G.L. and T., were also arrested. The jailing of the two Customs officials is reportedly related to the same case. The investigation is being conducted by the Antillean Police Force with support from Kingdom detectives .

► The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) kicked off an investigation into the **spending patterns of 1,500 households on all five Antillean islands**. Included will be a determination of the poverty level. The survey will take about a year and involve visits to 352 households in Bonaire. CBS publishes the price index figures of Curaçao every month and of the other islands every two months. Based on a list of products and services, the Bureau determines whether or not the cost of living has gone up. The last survey was held in 1996. For the poverty analysis, those surveyed will be asked not just about their income and employment but also about their social network and health, as well as other living conditions such as security, noise, etc.

► **A BonairExel aircraft had to activate emergency procedures** during takeoff from Hato Airport in Curaçao last week after the left engine seized up as it was beginning the takeoff roll. When the plane stopped, the passengers

jumped from the open doors to the ground. BonairExel's chief pilot was at the controls, and the flight crew handled themselves very professionally, according to reports from the passengers. The ATR-42 was towed off the runway. The ArubaExel plane, which is similar to the BonairExel aircraft, was pressed into service. ArubaExel's first official flight is set for August 27th.

► **In another aircraft incident** last week a control lamp on a Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA) flight from St. Maarten caused some concern when the warning system indicated that the landing gear cockpit was locked. However, it was OK, and the plane landed normally

► DCA Chairman of the Board Tonchi Leonard, a member of the Curaçao Island Government, said, "**Seven million (guilders) for DCA will only buy some more time.**" He implied that a lot more money will have to be spent before DCA can be considered a solid business. One calculation was that up until now NAf36 million has already been spent by the Curaçao government to maintain its national carrier. That's about NAf200 for every man, woman and child on Curaçao.

Commissioner Leonard said that at this time there is a conflict within the Curaçao Executive Council on whether to continue operation DCA.

► **Countries with visa waiver agreements with the US, which includes The Netherlands Antilles, have been given an extra year** to start issuing

(Continued on page 8)

LETTERS - BonairExel

Dear Readers of *The Bonaire Reporter*,

It was quite a while ago that we, for the last time, read about the wonderful 98 % on time flight results of Air Exel. Why? Because they do not fly on time any more. My recent experiences have been very disappointing. At the end of May a direct flight to Aruba had a two hour delay. In addition, without notifying the passengers, the flight had a non-scheduled stop in Curaçao which costs you another hour.

A couple of weeks ago I checked in for Curaçao. When **receiving** the boarding card I was advised the boarding time was one hour later than planned. When I asked why they did not give me a call, the answer simply was: "It is only a delay of one hour, we call our clients when the delay is more than one and a half hours." Due to the delay I had time to find out why I was stuck at the airport. The answer was the same answer I received in May: "We only have one plane available, so we have to delay and reschedule flights all the time."

Would it be an idea NOT to sell tickets for non-existing flights?

I never had these experiences with Exel in The Netherlands. What is it with Caribbean based airlines?! *Yvonne Nuijts*

Dear Readers, Customers and Others interested in BonairExel:

BonairExel is rapidly approaching its first birthday and we are very proud of what we have achieved in the last 12 months. But we leave the 'back patting' to others, while our focus remains on continuous improvement of our services and network. The letter of Mrs. Nuijts proves clearly that there is still room for improvement.

BonairExel has faced quite some challenges in the last months. For a period of time, we have hardly been able to keep our schedules, as a result of technical and operational problems. Throughout these challenges, our aim has always been to minimize passenger inconvenience. **We truly believe that making the difference comes from solutions offered and not from problems experienced.** Contacting passengers that will be delayed is one of these 'solutions' and we can proudly say that most passengers highly appreciate this service. Combining flights to make sure that all passengers will reach their final destination is another solution, which might create inconvenience for some but will benefit many more.

The fact that we had the challenges as described above is not surprising. Every start-up company will eventually face some setbacks during its initial months. We have had our share, from which we learned. Along the road, we have made adjustments in the way we communicate with our valuable customers and we will continue to do so.

For all customers who have lost faith in BonairExel over the last months, we offer our sincerest apologies. Being part of a small community as Bonaire, we are very much aware of our image on the island and on the sister islands. It is this image and our desire to stand out in a positive way that keeps us going in what we believe is the right direction. There is a lot to gain, still, and the airline group will not stop short of its goal to become a leading airline in the region.

Arian van der Werff, BonairExel Deputy General Manager



If you see or hear something suspicious, call the **POLICE HOT-LINE –DIAL 108. You may remain completely anonymous.** The Police can use your eyes and ears.

Assistant Prosecutor Justine Gonggrijp reports:

- Three persons in custody have been released by the Preliminary Judge due to lack of jail space. (In Curaçao the jail is so filled up that drug smugglers are being freed) Two are those who assaulted the police and one is a suspect in a burglary case. In the case of the last person there wasn't enough evidence and his case wasn't strong enough to send him to Curaçao jail.
- There were two arrests last week for child abuse, but in one case the child admitted lying. In the second case, the suspect denies all, but authorities believe the 8 year old girl victim and are looking for more evidence.
- A drug smuggler (nearly 18 years of age, from Bonaire, A.A.S.) was arrested at the airport last week. His passport was confiscated.
- An 18 year old who's been repeatedly arrested was arrested again last week and threatened (a threat is considered illegal if it concerns death) a woman who testified against him. The case is being investigated and a solution looked for to deal with this repeat offender.
- There was a meeting on Monday, August 16, with the Head Prosecutor from Curacao, Bonaire Public Prosecutor

Ernst Wesselieus, Asst. Prosecutor Justin Gonggrijp, Lt. Governor Domacassé and Chief of Police Dantje. They are waiting for news on repairing the cells in Playa, for which there is some money. However, for the jail in Rincon, which was to be the interim jail, there is no money. Dantje said he'd turned in all the paperwork, but has had no word yet. The Minister of Justice in Curaçao says he hasn't received the money (reportedly NAf5 million) from Holland yet.

•Some advice from the Prosecutor's Office: Don't panic. Compared to Curaçao, things in Bonaire are not so bad. (In the last six months in Curaçao there were 6,000 burglaries and 800 armed robberies.) Although there has been an increase in burglaries here the police think it's the same people, and once the jail is open, they'll be caught and things should get back to normal. There have been no other increases in crime in other areas.

Special Security Services reports that one of their patrols frustrated a theft of a number of items from Exito Bakery in Playa last Monday.

Charles Souriel of the Police reports:

- Last Friday police arrested a woman who tried to sell a car without authorization for NAf9.500. The victim complained and the police detained the suspect and confiscated the money. The woman is in jail pending investigation.
- Last Friday the police made a search



Try the BBQ at the Rincon Marshé

**THE PLACE TO BE
THIS SATURDAY -
THE RINCON MARSHÉ**

August 21

This Saturday – August 21st – It's a Big Cultural Marshé with the *Kibrahacha* Dancers, *Los Veteranos*, *Kaňa Brabu* (band that plays folkloric music). There will be a competition, "*Mara Kabes*" (the colorful fabric head pieces worn by the ladies in traditional garb), where ladies will show their artistic talents in making these head pieces. *Los Veteranos* will start off the Marshé at 6:30 am. They're old time guys playing old time music. They'll be accompanied by some of their friends from the 50 plus group.

Next Saturday, August 28 – The

theme of next week's Marshé will be the Sea. Hear Pal'I Wiri, taste *pastechi di karko* (conch), buy fresh fish, more. *L.D.*

in Tera Cora where the police detained E. for his involvement in a robbery and a threat. The police also took a car as part of the investigation. The suspect has been incarcerated pending further investigation.

•On Monday evening, August 16, police were called to Kaya Melon in Rincon following a report of shots being fired. Suspect R.W. accompanied by three men (O., B., R.) and a woman (C.) drove up to the house in a white pickup and shouted for a man in the house to come out. As he did, R.W.

fired 3 shots at the ground by the victim's feet, then aimed the gun at the victim but it didn't fire. He shot at a wall, then shot 2 more at the victim's feet. The 5 drove away. They were identified by the victim and are still at large.

•A significant number of "traffic tickets" or *proces-verbal* were issued for a variety of infractions at a police checkpoint on Kaya Korona on Monday afternoon, August 16. Motorists should expect to encounter similar checkpoints in the coming days. *L.D.*

Referendum Chronicle



Referendum fever is in the air. Bonaire's political parties are pressing their positions in the media and face to face. However, even the political leaders are saying don't necessarily vote your party's choice if your conscience directs you to another. While the result of the Referendum is non-binding and does not have the force of law, you can be certain it will have tremendous influence on the negotiations to set the Bonaire's governmental structure for this century. The two leading choices, running nearly neck and neck according to our informal poll, are B and C. To review, here are the four options, as described by The Referendum Commission, that will be voted on. Only one can be selected.

“Option A: Bonaire remains part of the Netherlands Antilles

Bonaire remains part of the Netherlands Antilles, together with the other two, three, four, or five islands that want this. With this option, the Netherlands Antilles remains a constellation of islands. The central government system will be maintained as well as the Island Councils (island parliaments) and the Executive Councils. With this option, The Netherlands determines the international policy and The Netherlands is responsible for the military and diplomatic affairs. The people retain Dutch nationality and passport. Complete autonomy remains a future option. At this moment, the Netherlands Antilles has

LGO-status (an Overseas Territory of Holland). UPG-status (ultra peripheral territory of the European Union) is another “association” option.

Option B: A direct relationship with the Netherlands

Bonaire steps out of the Netherlands Antilles but remains part of the Dutch Royal Kingdom. In this option, Bonaire has her own parliament and government. The other Antillean islands have no say in the developments on Bonaire. (As described by the promoters of this option, Bonaire does as much as possible alone and only asks the Netherlands for help when required.) Also with this option, the Netherlands is responsible for military and diplomatic affairs. Bonaireans keep the Dutch nationality and passport. Bonaire can herself choose for the LGO or the UPG status.

Option C: Autonomous within the Dutch Royal Kingdom

Bonaire steps out of the Netherlands Antilles but remains part of the Dutch Royal Kingdom, has a parliament and government of her own, and is protected against the ‘interference’ of the other islands. Bonaire “reports” directly to Holland. A new Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands needs to be defined in cooperation with the other members of the Kingdom (Aruba, Holland and other islands, depending on their status), in which Bonaire is being added to the Kingdom as an inde-

pendent country, just like Aruba. Also with this option, the Netherlands is responsible for military and diplomatic affairs, and the people keep the Dutch nationality and passport. Still, with this option there is the possibility to extend the degree of the autonomy to complete independence and Bonaire can choose LGO or UPG status on her own.

Option D: Complete independence

Bonaire becomes an independent country and is no longer a part of the Netherlands Antilles. Bonaire will no longer fall under the Charter of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As an independent country, Bonaire pursues her own domestic, financial and foreign policy and is completely responsible for defense. The population gets a Bonairean nationality and passport. The choice for an UPG or LGO status becomes moot since Bonaire is no longer indirectly part of the European Community.”

While choices A and D are straightforward, at first glance B and C appear similar. Both keep Bonaire tied with Holland and separate from a Curaçao-dominated central government. Both choices recognize that the island cannot thrive without significant Dutch support. Both may need another Referendum to select how to handle subsequent relationships with the European Union.

However, **there are significant differences** once these issues are passed. **Option C** allows for the possibility of separation from Holland at any time in the future.

Option B would make that as impossible as having Rotterdam become an independent country. The ties with Holland would become unbreakable for practical reasons since basic government services would

have to approach the Dutch standard in administration and level. It's seems inevitable that Bonaire would become “more Dutch.” It's likely that Dutch or EU trading rules would be mandatory. The euro would become Bonaire's currency.

Option C could better preserve the character of Bonaire, but at a price. Bonaire would be expected to step up to providing social, educational and judicial services, among others, on its own, although technical and financial assistance from Holland are not ruled out and in fact should be expected. It could allow closer ties with the other Antillean islands, and the island could make its own rules regarding trading with the Americas.

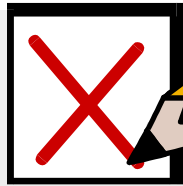
While there seem to be obvious differences between the B and C choices at this point in time, the way Bonaire ends up may be as much a result of the negotiations among the Kingdom partners as the definition of “direct ties” and “status aparte” are. This is when the political parties have the opportunity to present a united front to use their negotiation skills to obtain the concessions necessary to best serve the interests of the people of Bonaire. *Chronicle*

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

WANT TO VOTE IN THE BONAIRE REFERENDUM?

This year, for the first time, the Bonaire Government decided to let resident non-Antilleans vote in an island election. Although the Opposition is against this move, the rule stands. The Government feels that it is important for foreigners who live on Bonaire, who have a stake in the island's future, have a say in its future. Therefore, it is that every foreigner - Caribbean, European, North American, South American, or any one of Bonaire's 38 other nationalities, if eligible, get out and vote on September 10th.

To make it easier reporter Dabney Lassiter has prepared this article:



vital

Everyone who pays taxes and obeys the laws of the island rightfully feels that he or she should have a voice in which direction the island takes in planning its future. The question is, are you eligible to do so? The answer is, if you are not a native Antillean you must have lived here for five years before you can vote in the September 10th Referendum. How do you know if you're eligible? Look at your Sedula (National ID card). If the date on your Sedula indicates you have been a legal resident of Bonaire for five years or more then yes, you can vote. But ... how do you do it? Where do you go? What's the procedure?

Walter Coffee, a Coordinator of the Referendum Committee, shared with *The Reporter* what you need to know in order to vote.

1. Check the date on your Sedula. To be sure you have been a legal resident for at least 5 years.

2. Beginning this week the Post Office

will be delivering voting invitation cards to everyone who is eligible. You must be home to receive this card; it will not be left in your mailbox. Two attempts will be made to deliver the invitation card; after that you must go either to the **Post Office** BEFORE September 7 or to the **Bevolking** office AFTER September 7 to get the card. At both the Post Office and the Bevolking office you must present your Sedula, passport, and Residency Permit to receive your card. If the Post Office does not have a card for you then you must go to the Bevolking office. Be sure to bring the appropriate paperwork at that time. You must bring your voting invitation card to your polling place on election day.

3. The voting card you will receive will be in Dutch, but this is what it will say. At the top of the card you are told that the card is an invitation to vote. Next it lists your birth date, name, nationality, address, address of your voting place, your voting district, the hours that voting will be held, and that you must bring valid ID

as well as the voting invitation card to your polling place. If you are not Antillean you **MUST** bring your Sedula and your Residency Permit which has your stamped picture on it. It wouldn't hurt to take your passport too as you never know what you might be asked to present! Make sure that all your papers are valid at least through September 10th (voting day). Do NOT wait until September 10th to check your paper dates! Remember to bring your voting invitation card to your polling place.

4. Important voting rules:

- You **MUST** use the red pen given to you when you go into the booth to vote. If your ballot is marked with any other pen your vote will be cancelled.
- You may not fill in more than one option or your ballot will be cancelled.
- You must vote between the hours of 8 am and 7 pm.

When you arrive at your polling place you will be given a folded paper ballot in either English, Spanish, Dutch, or Papiamentu – your choice. The Lt. Governor will have signed his name on each of the folded sides which makes the ballot official. When you receive your ballot, your name and your voting registration number on your invitation card will be called out and noted in the voting register. You will then take your ballot into the voting booth, mark it, and put it into a metal container. As you put it into the container a poll worker will make a note of your name and voting number, indicating that your vote has been put into the container. After the polls have closed the

people working at the polling places will separate the votes into piles of A, B, C, and D to be counted. They will be observed by designated officials from various political organizations. The tally from each voting location will be called into the Central Office, and when a winner is declared an 'unofficial' announcement will be made at that time. On the following Wednesday the President of the Central Office will have a meeting at 10 am and will officially announce the results.

A note of interest: from September 9 at 6 pm until September 11 at 6 am no liquor will be sold at local bars and stores. The exceptions to this rule are resorts catering to tourists.

PLEASE ... be a good citizen and exercise your right to vote on September 10th between 8 am and 7 pm. If you don't, then you have no right to complain! According to UN guidelines, if the Referendum is to be meaningful, a minimum of 50% of the eligible voters must cast their ballots.

Polling locations:

#1 Jong Bonaire

Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar 16

#2 Centro di Bario Tera Cora

Kaya Monseigneur Niewindt 51

#3 Klaslokaal Criston Bon Wardador

Kaya Avelino J. Cecilia 56

#4 Centro di Bario Nikiboko

Kaya Pos di Amor 44

(Continued on page 8)

► **Next Thursday, August 26th, BonairExel will celebrate its first anniversary** in spectacular fashion. In the early afternoon (1:20 pm) the modern Boeing 767 of sister airline, Dutch Caribbean Exel, will make a special landing at Flamingo Airport. Then, at 6 pm, BonairExel will host a party at Wilhelmina Park. **All are invited.**



Officials from the government were on hand to greet the first plane in 2003



Patrick Angela waves from the cockpit after the landing of BonairExel's first plane on Bonaire soil last April. Unfortunately it took almost another four months before the Central Government, under duress, allowed it to fly.

passports with biometric measures like fingerprints, the US State Department said last Tuesday. The nations affected now have until October 26, 2005, to start issuing the passports under a US law designed to tighten up border security after the September 11, 2001, attacks.

► **As of now 326 new students have registered at the University of the Netherlands Antilles located in Curaçao:** 177 at the Social-Economic Faculty, 82 at the Technical Faculty, 36 at the General Faculty, and 31 at the Judicial Faculty. However, the enrollment of some students is contingent on the release of scholarship funds from the Central Government. Starting this year UNA students can't receive student loans from The Netherlands. The UNA enrollment fee is NAf1.000 per year (plus a college card of NAf 10.50, books and other study materials). The new school term starts next month.

► The STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire) **"Turtle Talk" is now being given at the seaside veranda at the Carib Inn.** It's a perfect venue, with no distracting bar noises or loud music and is becoming very popular with turtle aficionados. Andy Uhr is the speaker and gives a very informative show with slides and even some video footage of newly hatched babies. It's definitely worth a visit. The show goes on at **7 pm every second and fourth Wednesday** of the month.

► **Bonaire will host a big Biker (Extended) Weekend from September 2 through 6.** Along with the more than 100 bikers on Bonaire, about 260 additional bikers are expected from abroad: from Curaçao, Aruba, St. Martin and the US. There will be rides, parades and lots of parties for the participants and everyone else. An extra added attraction this year will be the "old timer" cars – real beauties – 12 vintage convertibles from Aruba and six classics from Curaçao. Orlando of the Bonaire Motorcycle Shop says that the 12 convertibles will take up the whole ship, *Ron*. Coming with the cars will be another 40 people. And to get

ready for the celebration the Bikers' Saloon next to Zee Zicht has been painted "shocking pink." You can't miss it.



► **Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has survived a referendum to recall him,** according to results released by the country's top electoral officer on Monday. National Electoral Council President Francisco Carrasquero said in a national broadcast the "No" option opposing Chavez's recall had obtained just over 58% of the vote, while the "Yes" vote obtained nearly 42%. Pro-opposition electoral officials questioned the result, but the results got the approval of election observers, including the Carter Commission.

► Do you prefer Bush, Carey or perhaps Ralph Nader? **Did you know that there are 7,100,000 American citizens living outside of the US?** Can you imagine what an impact that many votes would have on the results of a federal election? George Bush beat Al Gore by only **537 votes** in the 2000 US presidential election. And you think your vote doesn't count? Well think again, because it does, and your vote really can make a difference.

If you live on Bonaire and are an Ameri-

COVER Bonaire's dive shops are flourishing along with the increase in tourism. Last week the Carib Inn took delivery of its newest dive boat, a Privateer Wanchese. This new boat is 26 ft. long with a 10 ft. beam which is 1 foot wider and 2 feet longer than the Privateer Renegades that the Carib Inn is presently using. It also handles rougher seas extremely well and will keep its divers drier while underway. It's equipped with a new Yamaha 225 hp 4-cycle engine. The Carib Inn now has 4-cycle engines on all its dive boats. These are far more fuel efficient and affect the environment far less. Visit the website at www.caribinn.com for more details. Or contact Bruce at info@caribinn.com. Carib Inn staff pictured on the cover in the new boat are: Edward Thomas, owner Bruce Bowker, Kitty Handschuh, Ralf Klug, Frank Schwarte, Rishi Anthony, and Wendy van Leeuwen.

can citizen please check out the following websites and find out how to obtain an absentee ballot. There's still time to do this if you hurry. Not every state has the same rules and procedures for obtaining absentee ballots so check out the rules for the state in which you lived prior to moving to Bonaire. Even if you no longer have an official address in that state or own property there you are still eligible to register for federal elections. Here are some websites that will give you all of the information that you need:

OverseasVote2004.com
TellAnAmericanToVote.com
FederalVotingAssistanceProgram.com
Depending on the rules of your state, if you cannot have a ballot faxed to you and fax it back to your Board of Elections, you may want to consider FedExing your forms to your state board and enclose a prepaid address slip so that the board can FedEx your ballot to you. It's worth the price of the shipping to know that you were able to have your say in what is turning out to be the most important presidential election of our time. Please act on this information ASAP because.....**YOUR VOTE REALLY DOES COUNT!**

► The name "Bonaire" is not unique to our *dushi* island. We've in the past reported about Bonaire, Georgia, and Bonaire, California. Now we'll tell you about one in Florida. **Bonaire, which is part of the villages of Oriole, in Delray Beach,** is what some would call a "naturally occurring retirement community." This community is made up of apartment buildings or neighborhoods where a

group of younger residents move in and stay through the years, aging together. And then there's the classy **French three-year-old filly racehorse, Bonaire.** She was a Group 3 winner last year in France, but made her US debut in mid-July at Hollywood Park, California. Since then she's been finishing in the money but has yet to win a race.

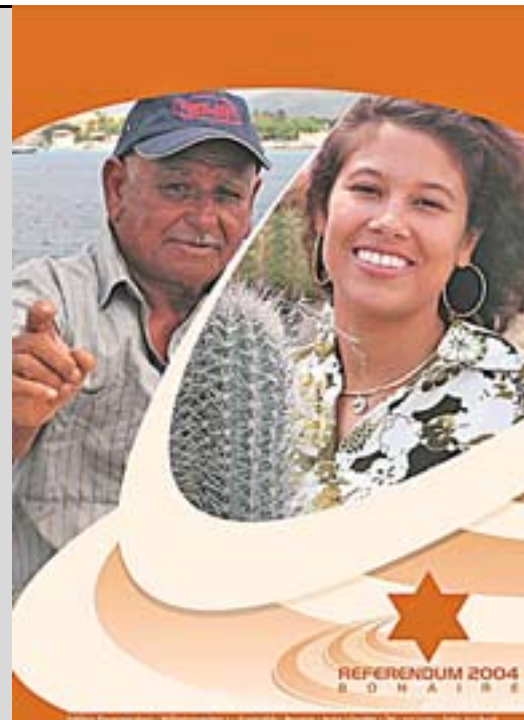
► **Let's Go Latin Jazz Concert to benefit Special Olympics Bonaire** is Sunday, August 29, 7:15 to 9 pm aboard *Freewinds*. Show your support! Tickets are NAf17,50. Get them at Croccantino Restaurant, Sharon (717-8658) or from any other board member.

► **WHO FILLS THE PAGES OF THE BONAIRE REPORTER?** Although the publisher and editor are Americans, many of the contributing writers count English as a second, and in some cases, a third language. We are very proud that so many fine international writers have contributed to make *The Reporter* what it is today. Here are a few examples: Greta Kooistra –Dutch • Ap van Eldik – Dutch • Desirée – Dutch • Josée Bolduc Frosst – French Canadian • Gwen Wildeboer – Dutch • Co de Koenig – Dutch • Imre Esser – Dutch • Robert van Dam –Dutch • Angelique Salsbach – Antillean • Ruud Vermeulen – Dutch • Femke van der Valk – Dutch • Marcel Nahr – Antillean • Natalie A.W. Wang – Antillean • Jiri Lausman – Czech-Dutch • Juliet Somers – Antillean • Rosita Paiman – Surinamese
D.L./L./G. D.

(Continued from page 7)

Polling locations:

- #5 **Centro di Bario Antriol**
Kaya Gatú 2
- #6 **Klaslokaal Kolegio Reina Beatrix**
Hanchi Amboine 2
- #7 **Klaslokaal Papa Cornes School**
Kaya Barakuda 33
- #8 **Centro di Bario Nord Salina**
Kaya Cacique 9
- #9 **Centro di Bario Rincon**
Kaya Rincon 62
- #10 **Lokaal Fundashon Kwido**
Kaya E. B. Sint Jago 10



Look for the number on your invitation card that corresponds with one of the numbers above. That will tell you where your polling place is located. If you have any further questions please check with the office of the *Bevolking*.
Dabney Lassiter

Bevolking is now located across the street from Telbo, behind Immigration offices. Tel. 717-5517.

BONAIRE'S "WINDOWS" GATEWAYS INTO BONAIRE'S MAGNIFICENT REEF SYSTEMS

With this issue we begin a series of stories by Captain Don Stewart – one of Bonaire's "Living Treasures" and the man credited with focusing Bonaire on Dive Tourism. The first article, about the naming of Bonaire's dive sites, introduces the series.

During our short stay on Curaçao in early 1961, Percy, my mate and I, two starving aquarium fish collectors, had numbered and charted literally dozens of windows into their reefs. We were students of nature, and our windows admitted us into the greater coral mass, the portal of life itself. Each site, almost sacred, deserved to be named, charted, and properly inscribed. However, Curaçao Immigration had other plans and we moved on.

The gods sent us to Bonaire. To be the first gives a fellow a great deal of latitude. Prior to May 24th 1962, there were no windows into the reefs of Bonaire. "Heit's Pier," just out front of Jules Heitkoning's place (house north of Zee Zicht) was to be our first. We stretched a mono-filament line perpendicularly from underneath the little pier, past my anchor, under my ship, ending at 120 feet. We secured our floating sentinels and charted the reef. We found numerous chamber pots, zinc roofing canoes, a vast colony of Royal Grammas at 50 feet and named it Heit's Pier.

This was to be our formal introduction into the reef systems of Bonaire. The exact location of a window was imperative, as the staghorn and elkhorn coral were so thick that in many places channels had to be cut and entrances cleared of debris.

Charts had to be drawn and recorded and sentinels set for divers or snorkelers to enter at that exact location. After all, what value is a church without a doorway?

In 1963 I took a job with *Zee Bad* which eventually became the Flamingo Beach Club. Things changed. Percy went on to commercial diving while I chose to stay with tourists. Between May of 1962, when we introduced commercial Scuba to Bonaire, and 1972, when we became serious about Scuba, many new reef windows were opened.

Typically, I invented ways to name these sites. In no way was it haphazardly done. As a Hollywood boy, I insisted on plenty of hoopla. I

would talk up one of my favorite unnamed windows, toss my divers into a rented garbage truck and take off to a new adventure. 1000 steps, La Dania's Leap, and Snake Valley are good examples of this. Then we returned to the hotel, partied, and immortalized that particular window.

For example, there was a place on Klein Bonaire which I knew quite well. I rented several fishing boats to ferry a group over to a sandy beach with an old battered jetty. The diving was superb. That night we had a fine party and got a little drunk. By midnight I was still waiting for the name. I delivered them to the plane the following morning, and they still hadn't come up with even a hint. So I did. I named that window without group

guidance. I simply called it "No Name."

Between 1963 and 1972, there were many windows named. Then in June 1972 I got in a fight with the new owner of the Flamingo who didn't care for me or my divers. The following day I was unemployed, but I still had to fulfill my contract with Joe Strykowski's group from Chicago who were on island. We christened Karpata.

June 1st 1972, I found myself involved in the re-opening of the then defunct Hotel Bonaire. Aquaventure was born, and I pulled out all the stops. The diving industry was now in vogue. We built specially crafted pontoon boats, revitalized old tour buses and built a very special diving truck.

From 1972 until 1975, I produced reef windows like crazy. Our guys, Eddy Statia and Ady Evertz, got in their two bits worth, with Valerie's Hill and Leonora's Reef, as did Bruce Bowker with his Invisibles, and Ebo Domacasse with two sites, Ebo's Reef and Ebo's Special. At least 75% of the present sites had been opened by that time. Then in 1974 I got into a fight again, this time with the Food and Beverage department of the Hotel Bonaire. It was obvious they cared little for my divers, prompting me to envision Habitat.

Here's the story. Aquaventure owned a big diesel boat called the *Coral Queen* whose captain was a lovable giant of a man named Basilio Marin. "Bas" captained the long hauls, usually to the west-

ern end of the island. They were all-day runs, great diving, the best. But Food and Beverage could not be convinced that Basilio needed the lunch boxes early if he ever wished to get back before dark. Because of this constant battle, we tried another tack. "Bas," I told him, "enough. We will buy a piece of property up at that end of the island near the Park and build another dive station, a restaurant with beaches and a pier." Well, we didn't buy, but rented a virgin cove that few knew about. We built a special utility truck that had it all, built a dock, stationed a boat there, and called this special place NuKove.

1975 ushered in Teach Tours with Peter Hughes filling my void at the Flamingo Beach Club, and late 1976 saw the opening of Habitat. I now had two operations, the Hotel Bonaire and Habitat, while Hughes had the Flamingo.

By 1979 the Marine Park was attempting to get started. However, it was hampered by numerous difficulties and really never did get airborne for several years. Tom van't Hof, the Manager of the struggling Park, and I designed the dumbbell moorings that we still see around today. Then in 1982 the Park finally was able to successfully commence operations.

In 1980, I lost the Hotel Bonaire contract and had to absorb Aquaventure into the Habitat operation. In 1980 the dive operators were Peter Hughes and me, as well as the new operator, Al Catafulmo, at the Hotel Bonaire. Fortunately, the three of us worked together in harmony to maintain the moorings as well as the

(Continued on page 14)



All underwater photography was black and white in those days

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)				
<i>Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides</i>				
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		COEF
8-20	1:32	1.2FT.	4:13 1.3FT.	82
8-21	2:55	1.1FT.	17:53 1.6FT.	75
8-22	3:52	1.0FT.	18:35 1.8FT.	67
8-23	4:32	0.9FT.	19:26 1.9FT.	59
8-24	5:18	0.8FT.	20:10 2.0FT.	55
8-25	5:59	0.8FT.	20:59 2.1FT.	57
8-26	6:35	0.8FT.	21:49 2.1FT.	65
8-27	7:18	0.8FT.	22:33 2.1FT.	75

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

3T	Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Santa Maria, Sweden
Angie	Horta	Scintilla, Germany
Alegria, USA	Jacuzzi	Side by Side
Alaluya	Luna C, USA	Sirius
Aleria	Macaby, Netherlands	Sojourner
Avatar, USA	Makai	Southern Cross
Batje	Marathon	Sylvia K
Brehorn	Marnel IV	Ti Amo, USA
Bright Sea	Natural Selection, USA	TopCat
Camissa, Chan Is.	Nonesuch, USVI	Tohill
Camperdown	Pamela Jean	Ty Dewi, USA
Cape Kathryn	Pastime	Ulu Ulu, USA
Chacuco	Polecat	Unicorn, Norway
Delphinus	Pomona	Varedhuni, Germany
El Sabor	Pow Wow	Wind Born III
Flying Cloud, USA	Precocious Gale, USA	Wingin It
Gaspard de la Nuit	Rumbacon	Windmiller, Canada
Gatsby, USA	Safari	Ya-T, BVI
Gonzo II	Sandpiper, USA	Zahi, Malta



SELIBON CAN DO IT ALL FOR YOU

Selibon, the island's waste management company, does an incredible job of keeping the island clean. Bonaire's cleanliness consistently tops the list of tourists' positive comments. Ever notice how after Karnaval, or parties on the street that by the next day it's all cleaned up?

Selibon offers many services, and they're pretty reasonable, and often absolutely free. For instance, if you want to **clean up construction or garden debris** around your house or garden you can rent a very large container, 8 cubic meters, the size of a small car, for only NAf26,50 a day. When you take it for the weekend you only have to pay for one day! Selibon delivers it to your site on Friday sometime and then picks it up on Monday.

If you have **big items that don't fit into a container**, like tree stumps, large appliances, beds or bundled garden clippings, call them, tell them what you have and they'll pick it up – at no charge whatsoever! For loose debris like leaves, package it up or put it in cardboard boxes. Usually they'll pick it up the same day as your regular Selibon garbage pickup. (They offer this same service to businesses for a low price.) **They even pick up junk cars.** You simply have to go down to their office and sign a form which says you are the owner and what kind of car it is, or was. They take it from there.

When your **septic tank needs emptying**, call them. They're quick, efficient and reasonable. Another service they offer is **picking up dead animals**. That direct telephone number is 785-9740 from 7:30 am to 4 pm.

If you'd like to go **to the landfill yourself**, feel free. They're open every day of the week, including holidays! Monday through Friday they're open 7 am to 6:30 pm; Saturday, Sunday and holidays they're open from 7 am to 4:30 pm.

You may have seen the **Polis Ambiental** car traveling around the island. To protect our fragile environment the Bonairean government introduced the Environmental Police which is working with Selibon to make sure people are living by the rules that are set to protect our environment and to book those who violate these rules. **If you see someone polluting the environment (that includes builders and contractors) report them by calling the Polis Ambiental at 717-8159.**

Selibon regularly works with the community in the areas of hygiene, litter prevention and proper disposal of waste, working closely with organizations like *Fundashon Tene Boneiru Limpi*, Stinapa, TCB and the government's environmental department.

Selibon's office is now on Kaya Grandi, above the offices of the TCB. When there is a charge involved they ask that you pay ahead at their office, open from 7:30 am to 12 noon; 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Their telephone is 717-8159, Fax 717-7339. Email: selibon@selibon.an L.D.

Selibon sponsors projects such as recycling activities, neighborhood cleanup campaigns and the annual CLEAN UP THE WORLD action which this year will be on September 18.

NOTABLE VISITORS

Visiting Bonaire recently on their ninth holiday to the island are artist Marcela de La Torre and writer Jorge Biggs from Chile. The couple always stays at Sorobon Beach Hotel, which they call "a special paradise." Jorge relates, "Ten years ago we found out about



Marcela & Jorge at Sorobon Beach



Bonaire and Sorobon Beach in a guide book and we immediately fell in love with the island. We've been to many other places in the world, like Corsica, Maui, the Canaries, but we still love Bonaire the best."

Artist Marcela creates sculptures from cement, iron and wood. Some of Biggs' published works are *Voy Y Vuelvo* (I Go and I Come), *¿Por Que a Mi?* (Why Me?), *Cuentos Verdaderos* (True Tales) and *Casa de Madame Lorraine*. Three of the short stories from *Cuentos Verdaderos* have been translated into English and one into Swedish. L.D.

STARTING THE DAY RIGHT

Breakfast... such a normal word, meaning your first meal of the day. Unfortunately, not for everyone. Some of Bonaire's children do not live in a situation that can provide them a healthy breakfast. A study of six to 12-year-old

children resulted in the chilling fact that some children on Bonaire come to school without breakfast. Breakfast at this tender age is necessary for proper development and growth ...and not just to concentrate at school.

After further analysis at three schools, it was determined that about 100 children come to school without breakfast every school day. For about 200 school days this comes to 24,000 breakfasts.

The Rotary Club of Bonaire decided to remedy the situation. After consulting a dietician about healthy nutrition for this age group, it was decided that a sandwich with a piece of fruit and a beverage would do the trick. After two months of preparation, on August 12th 2004, at breakfast time, the program went into action at Mango's Restaurant, where Eddy, from Eddy's Gourmandise, prepared breakfast packages for students at three schools. Eddy's will continue to do so very inexpensively. In addition to Mangos, other sponsors are MCB Bonaire, Buddy Dive Resort and Divi Flamingo Resort. The Cultimara Bakery is supporting the program by supplying the bread at a special discounted price.

The teachers of the Papa Cornes School, Kollegio Reina Beatrix and Kristo Bon Wardador Elementary Schools are great supporters. They pick up the breakfast packs every school morning and distribute the breakfasts to the kids selected by the schools.

Despite all the volunteer help and dis-



Past president Henk Schrijver, Chairman of the Community Service Committee Frits Hannenberg, President Evert Piar, Treasurer Jan Gielen, Coordinator Larry Gerharts, Secretary Ruud Vermeulen, and Head of the Papa Cornes School, Mr. Kurban at Mango's

counts this project will be a very costly one for the small Bonaire Rotary Club. Additional financial support to keep this project on track is

very welcome. **To help or for more information, contact Sara Matera at 560-7301.**

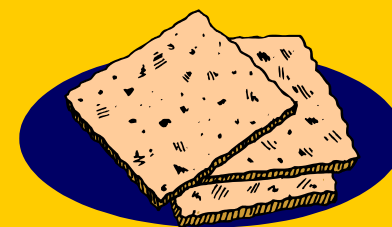
Press Release



Cultimara Bakery Chef Aart Burger discounts the bread for the Breakfast-In-School program.



Want to make a donation? Send to: MCB Bank Bonaire, account number 831088-02, Swift code- MCBKANCUBON



PETS of the WEEK

Kitten brothers "Randy" and "Roy" were brought in just recently to the Bonaire Animal Shelter with their siblings "Ryan" and "Rita" and their mom, "Elta." They came from a family who had "just too many cats," an often-heard reason. But the good thing is that the family had children who handled the cats a lot and made them extremely easy going. In fact, the mother, "Elta," is such a nice cat herself that she will be sterilized and is up for adoption too. Like their mom, the kittens are happy, playful and so well adjusted that they adapted immediately to the social structure in the cat cage. They weren't skittish or scared. That's pretty surprising for ones so young, only eight weeks old. You may meet this exceptional cat family at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Telephone 717-4989.



"Randy" and "Roy"

Who doesn't love puppies and kittens? They're just so adorable when they're young that it's not hard to understand why people want their adult pets to have litters of darling kittens and puppies. The prob-

lem is, not that many people enjoy grown up dogs or cats and cannot commit to caring for them for all of their pet lives. That's why it's so important to have our pets sterilized, not only to prevent an overpopulation of too many unwanted puppies and kittens, but for the pet's health as well. But there is some good news for all of you puppy and/or kitten lovers. Drop in to the Shelter and get your "fix." Play with them; have a ball; and know that you're helping to keep those wonderful pets "social" and used to having an interaction with people. Give it a try - everyone will benefit! Note: as of August 11, there were 100 adoptions from the Shelter. Last year there were 110 for the whole year; in 2002, the total was 90. L.D.

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

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



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



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**



START MASTERING YOUR COMPUTER NOW. Learn how to use Microsoft Office in English, Dutch or Spanish (Word only). Call 717-4200 or email peejee@myway.com



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

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Wanted: Restaurant helper – wait tables, help in kitchen. Day shift, part time. Must speak English well. Will train. Call 717-8003.

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

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

FOR SALE

Baldor 20 hp electric motor 230 volt 50 hz. TEFC model. NAf1.200. 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

BOATS & ENGINES for SALE

Achilles inflatable 16 feet with trailer. Both in very good condition. NAf5,950. Tel 717-8819 8am-5pm

Privateer Renegade. 25 ft with 9' 3" beam. Cabin boat with 200 HP Yamaha. \$19,500. 717-8819 8am-5pm

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.



PERSONALS

Jamaican woman in her 40s – looking for a single male companion 50 to 60 years old. American, Bonairean or Dutch. Call 785-3774.

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

This column concerns this time of the year. I always try to keep you up to date about opportunities or threats relating to your gardens and plants. Unfortunately this is about threats. As you've probably noticed, the hottest months of the year are here again! These months are the most difficult for your plants. Even when you keep them watered, sometimes it seems that you're not getting any results. There is



Mealybugs close up

no need to give a lot more water, but if you have a mature garden it might be wise, if you are watering for example 20 minutes at a time, to change that to twice for 10 minutes each. Also if you are watering by hand and if you can find the time, do it twice a day, each time not too much.

You can still keep on planting new plants, no problem, but soak them before you put them in the ground and make sure they get enough water after planting. It is also important that they retain as much soil from the pot as possible. This time of the year also brings more bugs, and the strong winds and weakened conditions of the plants make them much more vulnerable. So try to keep your plants strong and healthy and they will be less likely to get bugs. But even though you may be taking good care of your garden, if you live in a neighborhood with a lot of sick plants, the chances that your plants will be infected is of course much higher! There is no use spraying them over and over this time of year. (Later I will give you a list

of plants that are likely to get contaminated with insects.) If the infestation is really serious, don't hesitate to cut back a lot of the contaminated branches. Don't forget to rake all the infected leaves and spray them afterwards, preferably in the late afternoon. And after that, make sure you fertilize the plants a bit to get new growth quicker, and of course, keep an eye out for new bugs!

This year many Coconut palms seem to have a lot of scale and the Frangipani (Plumeria) are having a lot of trouble with insects too. That is too bad, because they are very beautiful. Also the Oleander di Boneiru is likely to get the Pink Mealy bug and a lot of our nice Bougainvilleas are having troubles with insects as well. Still, all over the Antilles the Hibiscus is contaminated with the mealy bug. It would be wise not to plant them.

I hope I didn't frighten you too much. Let's hope for some nice rain, but in the meantime, give your garden a little bit more attention. *Ap van Eldik*

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



PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER

Florence, Italy

Michaelangelo's David isn't even looking at the copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* that Anna, Sharon, Elisabeth and Sara brought with them all the way to Florence. But with so much beautiful art in that classic Italian city we can understand.

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.)



(Gateways to the Reefs. Continued from page 9)

Park's ideals. It's not always easy for macho operators to do this.

In 1987, in my opinion, the island's mooring system lay in complete disarray. My plan was to add more moorings to the system to bring the total moorings to 100 and arrange them close together like piano keys. Then, like Mozart, CURO (Congress of Underwater Resort Operators) was to call the chords to be played that quarter. Some windows would be closed while others would be opened, allowing the reef to rest and rebuild minor diver damage. Everybody liked it, and the system is still in use today. However, the Park remained silent while I was looking for funding and thus came another brainstorm, the Sea Tether project, but that's another story.

A STATEMENT- November 2003

I am now knocking on the door of 80 years on Earth and, quite surprisingly, find that the old memory is still rather good. Over the years I have had fun reminiscing about the happenings that have led up to the naming of some of the island's best known dive sites ("windows").

With the exception of seven, all of these windows had been named and were in use before 1975. Further, I should mention that windows such as Karpata and Willemstoren are the established names which I chose to keep after appropriately charting and setting out the undersea sentinels.

Windows like Ebo's Reef 16, Hilma Hooker 22, and the Front Porch 18 were so widely spoken of that I can't claim these reefs as my discovery. However, because I am the guy who made them famous, I have added them to the list. I am writing these stories for the pure fun of it. If you fail to see the humorous side of the diving business of the olden days, well, then maybe you should take up skiing. Huh!



Captain Don

Captain don /

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! Usually 9:00 pm
Spiderman 2
(Tobey Maquire)
Early Show (usually 7pm)
Garfield
(Bill Murray)

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 Garfield
SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM
CALL FOR INFO

THIS WEEK

Saturday, August 21, 7-9 pm Cinnamon Art Gallery opens an exhibition of "Nochi" Coffie's works which runs August 21 - September 25.

Saturday, August 21—Rincon Marshé & Soldachi Tours, 6 am to 4 pm (more on page 5)

Sunday, August 22 - International Bible Church of Bonaire - 40th Anniversary Celebration & Worship at the TWR Activities' Building on Kaya Amsterdam 3. 10 am to noon

Thursday, August 26—BonairExel First Year Celebration Party—Food, drink, games, fun, Wilhelmina Park, 6 pm

COMING

Sunday, August 29—Special Olympics Bonaire Fundraiser -Let's Go Latin/Jazz Concert aboard the visiting cruise ship, *Freewinds*, 7:15 to 9 pm, tickets NAf17.50 from Croccantino Restaurant, Sharon (tel. 717-8658) or any Special Olympics board member.

Sunday, September 5th - Bonaire Local Fishing Tournament. Only Bonaire registered boats. Crew may be from anywhere. Sign up at Doei Diaz' (next to Richard's Restaurant)

September 2 through 6—Big Biker (extended) Weekend. There will be rides, parades and lots of parties for the participants and everyone else.

EVERY WEEK

Sunday -Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambience 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 -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 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.

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 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

Wednesdays (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation Slide Show by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

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

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.
Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4303.
Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.
Special Olympics - Contact Delno Tromp, 717-7659

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every **other Tuesday, 7 pm.** Tel. 717-5595, sec. 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 popular musicians.
Rincon Marshé- every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Bonaire's historic town. Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area starting at 10 am. Call Maria at 717-6435. To reserve.

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 7:00 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 pm.** 717-2194
New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

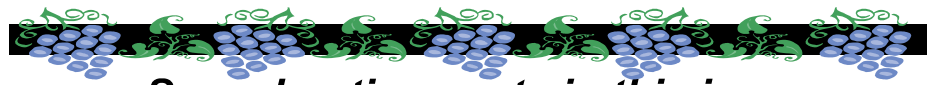
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Send events to *The Bonaire Reporter*

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

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

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
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. 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 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. Lunch from NAF7-
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



<p>AIRLINES BonaireExel. Bonaire's own ON TIME airline flying between Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. Look for <i>The Bonaire Reporter</i> on board.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BEAUTY PARLOR Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION APA Construction are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.</p> <p>CYBER CAFES See Restaurant Guide for The Seahorse Cyber Café.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>REPAIRS Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc.</p> <p>RESORTS & ACTIVITIES Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.</p>	<p>SAILING Woodwind has it all: Smooth trimaran sailing, to Klein Bonaire, affordable prices, snorkeling with equipment, guide, drinks, snacks. Call 560-7055</p> <p>SECURITY Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable. Call 717-8125.</p> <p>SHIPPING Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. FedEx agent. Call 717-8922/8033.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>WATER TAXI Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Call Bonaire Nautico at 560-7254. Ride the <i>Kantika di Amor</i> or <i>Skiffy</i>. Hotel pickup too.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN: Put your ad in The Bonaire Reporter. The most advertising for your guild. Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252</p>
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Aldith Pieters

“I’m not sure, but it must have been about 50 years ago when I came from Jamaica to Curaçao to work for the advocate general as a housekeeper. I thought Curaçao would be like New York. When I arrived the first thing I asked the chauffeur was, ‘Where’s the train?’ He looked at me like I was crazy! In Jamaica we had the train and the tramcar. Listen, Jamaica has 14 parishes.

I was born in St. Elisabeth, and if they put Curaçao, St. Martin and Aruba together, St. Elisabeth would still be bigger! There were a lot of differences and I cried for at least three months! I stayed in my job for quite a while and then I fell in love with this man from Curaçao, Odulo Frans, and we got married.

Many years later when I was working at the Intercontinental Hotel I met Mr. Miller, the owner of Hotel Bonaire in Bonaire.

He asked me to come and work for him. He and the owner of the Intercontinental were friends. My boss told me that he didn’t want to lose me, but if I wanted I could go. He gave me a two-week vacation to see Bonaire and to see about the job. After 10 years my husband and I were separated, so there was no reason not to go. I went. I stayed only one week. I didn’t like it. Then again Mr. Miller came to Curaçao and he begged me and so I came.

Hotel Bonaire was the best hotel on the island with the most beautiful beach and a casino. I became head of housekeeping. I didn’t have a supervisor or an assistant; I had to check everything alone. I was in charge of the room maids, the house men, the kitchen, the cleaning and the maids who cleaned the casino. We didn’t have a laundry. Every Sunday I had to send everything to Curaçao. Once a week a plane came in with gamblers. In those days there weren’t many planes coming to Bonaire. When a plane came from the States it came to drop off the guests but also to pick the other ones up. That means that there was very little time for us to clean the rooms between one group checking out and the other arriving. I wanted my hotel to be clean, no matter what time, night or day, I was there to make sure.

One day I told Mr. Miller, ‘I’m going to need a laundry here.’ He said, ‘Can you manage it, Mrs. Pieters?’ I said yes, and so I did. There was an office that nobody used and together with Viola Anthony we cleaned it and fixed it as a laundry. We had to hang everything on the line. People were happy because I put them to work, to wash and iron. Then Mr. Miller got me three washing machines and a dryer from the States. I had six people working there and they also did the guest’s laundry. The way I worked I should have worked for myself.” *Her eyes fill up with tears and she wipes them away angrily:* “I worked like hell in Hotel Bonaire! We had laundry from BOPEC when a ship came in. I made money for the hotel, not for me. When you want to know how I worked in the hotel, you should ask Sylvia Abraham. She can tell you, she worked there. After 25 years you

should have something...”

Aldith Pieters (60+) is quite a character; there is no denying it. You fall in love with her the moment she starts talking. She’s witty and entertaining and smart and she dares and she has the most beautiful smile.

She’s just a person that makes your day!

“I did my job and of course I took pride in my job, I ran the hotel. I am a Taurus, born in May. You have to know how to talk with people, how to treat people, you have to be nice with people; it takes two to make a fight, you know. It’s the attitude you have with people. I love to

work with tourists.” *Her little nose wrinkles up and makes a cute frown.*

“I know Nat King Cole, I met him in Curaçao and Eartha Kitt too, and I met Harry Belafonte in Bonaire.

When Queen Juliana came from Holland with her husband she took room 201 and he 202. Both of them were nice! I talked to them, the old mother dear. I said to her, ‘Please, Your Highness, I don’t speak Dutch so good, I am Jamaican.’ She spoke English immediately. God bless those people; they go straight to heaven. People who have a little money, they come with such an attitude, but the Queen was so down to earth. All those famous people stayed at Hotel Bonaire; it was the best. When the groups of gamblers came they brought their own ‘girls.’ Sometimes

these young ladies came home with me to relax, really nice girls. We’re all human beings, everybody lives the life they want, it’s their own body, I don’t mind! I always mind my own business! I love reading romantic books and every Monday night from 7 to 10 I listen to Radio Digital’s Reflection Time, romantic music in English, and I love baseball! Especially Andrew Jones, he’s my favorite! The Atlanta Braves are my favorite boys! When I came to Bonaire you could get a whole goat for five guilders, and a nice, big fleshy fish, *gutu*, now NAf10 a kilo, they threw back in the sea! No lights on the streets. Bonaire is completely different now.

If I go home I go to Kingston and from there to St. Elisabeth. That’s many, many hours; Jamaica is a big country. Now I’m not going there. Drugs spoiled everything. My sister wants me to come and live with her in New York, I’ve been there and I had a good time. My sister didn’t give me a chance to sit down, God bless her good heart! I love lobster and shrimps and New York is shrimps and ‘Kentucky!’ I don’t know how many brothers and sisters I have; I can’t even count them. You see, dear, my father was a hot man! Tall and good looking, big eyes, a nice moustache. All the girls, they loved him!

My grandmother raised me. If she was alive I would have never left Jamaica, I was so close with her. I had a son in Jamaica, before I went to Curaçao, Eric Earl. He died in a car accident in Jamaica when he was 23. I was arranging for him to go to my sister in New York. God only knows... He’s the one who brings us in and takes us out.” *Her cheeks get wet with tears:*

“Here I have my neighbors across the street, the Ellis family. They’re more than friends, they are family and he’s like a son to me! I’ve lived in this house for 33 years and I want to stay here because of them. This is home now; you get so much accustomed. From here you can walk to Playa, no train, no bus packed with people. I hate that! I like small countries.



Aldith Pieters

Here I’m sitting watching the birds, the donkeys (you know what they like: chicken bones! Here the people don’t know the use of a donkey, but at home I used to ride them. In Jamaica we use them; they are smart you know. Jesus used to ride donkeys, so it’s a very good animal!), the stray dogs, the traffic and the people. In other countries you’re locked up. In other places you could drop dead; nobody has time for you. Here they say, ‘I didn’t see you yesterday, Mrs. Pieters. What happened?’ Here they call me on Mondays to tell me: *Bon dia Senora, bon siman!* Everybody knows me here. When you come to my house, talk to me about sex or how to cook food but don’t talk about gossip! I have no time for that! I don’t care, I live my life. I get up early in the morning to take a cold shower to feel alive, I cook my own food, I don’t go to take out, (except for crispy ‘Kentucky!’) and I never put a piece of bread in my mouth without thanking Jesus. I clean my house because when you’re clean God lives with you, and I read and relax and sit on the porch... so many people passing by, I don’t feel lonely. After 40

years, this is home. And, dear... don’t put my age in the paper, it might spoil my chances!”

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

ART OPENING

Nochi Coffie Exhibition at Cinnamon Art Gallery Opens August 21

Cinnamon Art Gallery continues its Guest Artist program with an exhibition August 21 – September 25 featuring the works of Juan Guillermo Norwin “Nochi” Coffie. His exhibition, “*Identitat, Model & Sombrando*,” opens with a special reception on Saturday, August 21, from 7 – 9 pm at the Gallery. The event is open to the public and will include 27 of Nochi’s paintings, live Bonairean music, and appetizers from Bonaire’s popular Middle Eastern restaurant, Garden Café. The Gallery is located just off Kaya Grande in Kralendijk, behind Banco di Caribe. (Kaya APL Brion #1). For more information, call the Gallery at 717-7103.

Coffie was born in Rincon, has lived his whole life on Bonaire and is a true island talent. His paintings, many in his favorite medium, oil, depict rural and natural Bonaire: old houses, cactus, goats and sheep, rocks, people and his wonderful cloud formations. Recently, he has also added some mystical themes. “I create my style,” he says. “I draw direct.” He may be driving along the coast road and see an interesting rock formation at Tolo; “I might see a face in a rock or an interesting shape of a divi divi tree.” The image goes in his head and must stay there awhile until he calls it back. He will see the vision in its entirety and “once I start to paint a piece I have to finish it. I do it in three to five hours.” He’s learned recently that he can create a visual art work by listening to the words and music of a song.

Clouds are very special to him, and he is a master at painting them. He loves to



Juan Guillermo Norwin “Nochi” Coffie

see the patterns they create in the late afternoon or the early morning. “And in the middle of the day I can see figures in the

Sweigert opened a gallery on Bonaire several years ago they invited Coffie to display his art. “Then I started back with

cloud background,” he explains. He epitomizes the Bonairean spirit. “When you want to do something, you get it,” Coffie says. He makes his own canvas and he creates his own style. As a youngster in elementary school he had only pencils and paper to work with, but he always won the art prizes. Later, in high school he got to use watercolors and house paint on wood and hardboard. Art didn’t seem like a career that could support him so he went to hotel school and worked for the next 20 years in several island hotels, learning just about every department. When

my art in a big way. I took some lessons from Jon Lambada (a talented muralist) and his wife.”

You can see some of his commercial signs and murals done to help finance his art at Lion’s Den Restaurant, the Banana Tree Restaurant, Divers’ Paradise, Cozoli’s, Toucan Divers and a big underwater mural at Lagoen Hill. During the week he works at the Bonaire Museum planning activities and coordinating projects, but he still paints every day. He has a very understanding wife and children who often inspire him, pointing out an interesting cloud formation or the way the sun reflects on an object.

Coffie’s work has been exhibited in solo and group shows in Bonaire and Curaçao and his paintings have appeared in several editions of the Netherlands Antilles Art Diary. Wendy Horn



A Nochi Coffie from the year 2000

Cinnamon Art Gallery is a project of the Bonaire Artists Foundation, a non-profit entity created to promote the work of local artists in a permanent gallery setting. The Gallery opened in April, 2004, and will feature the works of a variety of Bonaire-based artists over the next year. Visit the Gallery’s website (www.cinnamonartgallery.org) for a schedule of upcoming guest artist exhibitions. Bonaire Artists Foundation and Cinnamon Art Gallery were brought to life by three local artists: Linda Richter, Jake Richter and Avy Benhamron. Their work is permanently on exhibit in the Gallery.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

The Moon Pays a Super Close Visit to a Humongous Star And Two Cat's Eyes Stare in Summer Skies

As most of you regular readers know, my favorite star of summer, **Antares**, marks the heart of my favorite summer constellation, **Scorpius**. So it is with great excitement that I await Monday night, August 23rd, when a first quarter Moon will be parked less than one degree away from it. Plus even though there is no constellation of a kitty in the cosmos, nevertheless two cat's eyes can be seen staring at us from the heavens on summer nights.

This Sunday, August 22nd about 9 pm Sky Park time, face due south to see a pattern of bright stars shaped like a giant fish hook or the capital letter J, which is Scorpius the Scorpion. And not only is the star Antares in the right place for a scorpion's heart but it's also the right color - red. And the reason it's my favorite summer star is because it's the biggest star we can see in summer skies. In fact it is 700 times wider than our own almost-one-million-mile-wide Sun, so huge we could fit 350 million Suns inside it. Or if you'd like to think of it this way, it is so gigantic that if we placed one edge of it where our Sun is it would reach out past the orbits of **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars**, even beyond the orbit of **Jupiter**. Wow!

Now to the right of the three stars which mark the top of Scorpius you'll see an exquisite first quarter Moon. Although the Moon visited Scorpius last month, nevertheless it was not nearly as dramatic as what will happen next Monday. Indeed if you've never been able to find Antares before you'll have no trouble on Monday the 23rd because the **Moon** will be parked only 3/4 of one degree above Antares which is a sight that should knock your socks off. Don't miss this, please. Because if you do, on the next night, Tuesday the 24th, the Moon will be well past Antares and parked directly above the two stars which mark Scorpius' poisonous stinger. Their Arabic names, from left to right, are **Shaula** and **Lesath**, which both mean the sting. In folk legend, however, they're not only the sting but are also the two eyes of an ancient celestial cat, staring out at us every single summer. And although they don't appear to be all that exceptional to the naked eye, if we look deeper into these cat's eyes with a telescope we can see how truly wonderful they are. Indeed, while our Sun is about a million miles wide Shaula is almost twice as wide. But it is a much hotter star than our yellow Sun and burns a fierce blue white, which makes it 1,200 times brighter. Lesath is even more marvelous and appears dimmer than Shaula only because it is so much farther away, because in reality it is 7 times as wide as our Sun and 15,000 times brighter.

Some pussy cat, eh, folks? So find the cat's eyes in summer skies and don't miss the Moon as it visits the heart of the scorpion. *Jack Horkimer*



Moon Info First Quarter on August 23rd Full Moon on August 30

Last Quarter on September 6th New Moon on September 14th



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:

August 20 to August 27, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. You will have to check your cash flow before you decide to indulge in hobbies or entertainment that may be beyond your budget. Someone you live with may feel totally neglected. Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about romance. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Try looking into new ways to make extra money. You can pick up additional responsibility that will lead to higher wages and a better position. Your sensitivity toward those you love will capture their hearts. Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack spare time. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Put your efforts into physical fitness programs or competitive sports. Opportunities to get together with friends will be enlightening and entertaining. Tone down and put some of that hard earned cash into a safe, long-term investment. Eliminate situations that are no longer to your advantage. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Pamper yourself for a change. Get involved in creative projects that will enhance your earning power. You may find that someone you live with may be irritable; you're best to leave them alone. Try to include the one you love in your plans this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Uncertainties are still prevailing. Money problems will be difficult to deal with if you have a partner. Your anger may be impossible to contain if you get into debates with family members. You can make or break your personal relationship this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) If you have treated them equitably, you might be able to count on their loyalty. Education may be the answer. Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. You can make money through solid investment plans. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You would be wise to consider attending lectures that will broaden your awareness concerning your professional direction. Find an outlet for any mounting frustration. Consider a creative hobby. If they're really interested, they'll wait. Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't get intimately involved with a co-worker. You can sort out any differences you have in an amiable manner. Your ideas are good and career moves can be realized. Be cautious and use your head wisely in situations that deal with the use of machinery or vehicles. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Jealous colleagues may try to undermine you. Trips will be more than adventurous. It's a great time to attend social functions. Your dedication and fortitude when dealing with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan. 20) Disharmony in your relationship may cause minor ailments. Your home may be in an uproar and you are best to stay out of the line of fire if at all possible. You won't have much time for your mate this week. Avoid lending or borrowing. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Make changes that will enhance your appearance and entice potential partners. Older members of your family may try to take advantage of you. You will enjoy getting together with friends. Observations will be far more productive. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Being unappreciated by your boss could make it hard to do your work effectively. Problems with female members of your family may play on your emotions. Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about romance. Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.