THREE BONAIRE GOVERNORS GATHER TO CONGRATULATE BONAIREFXEL

Now every Antillean island wants to get on the referendum bandwagon. Curacao has now pledged to organize a referendum in the first half of 2005, announced Minister of Constitutional and Internal Affairs, Richard Gibson, following last Monday’s “constitutional inter-island summit” in St. Eustatius. Curacao will even look into keeping a constitutional referendum in the 1Q-2005, before the Round Table Conference in the Netherlands slated for the second quarter next year, Gibson stated. It will have at least three options, as advised by the United Nations (UN): status quo, independence and autonomous status. As it looks now, Curacao will be the last island to have a referendum.

Bonaire will have its referendum September 10. It will be the first island of this new round of voting. St. Maarten held a referendum in June 2000 and selected constitutional independence. Saba is next in October, followed by St. Eustatius, which committed itself to organizing a referendum “by the end of this year.” See the Referendum Chronicle on page 6 for the latest on the Bonaire Referendum.

Breaking news: Senator Ramonuito Boui will be interviewed on Sean Peyton’s radio show, Forum, on Mega FM 101.5, at 1 pm this Friday, September 3, offering his views on Referendum choices. Senator Jopi Abraham was on the show last Monday expressing his opinions. Tune in if you are interested in Referendum topics. The Forum, a program in English, normally airs on Sundays and Mondays, 12 noon to 2 pm. Call in if you have an opinion or want to ask a question: 717-2101.

► There’s a likelihood that Bonaire’s Antillean Rice Mill (ARM) will close and its employees discharged. ARM produces most of the rice consumed in the Netherlands Antilles, processing about 5,500 tons of rice a year. At one time, before trade restrictions were imposed by the European Union, ARM was processing 70,000 tons annually. The rice all comes from US growers. (You’ve never seen a water buffalo in the mosai have you?) Bonaire’s rice milling business dates from 1983 when it was granted market protection to produce rice for the Antilles, which at that time included Aruba. In its heyday, after the European Union allowed foreign rice to be imported provided it had value-added by a EU associate territory, it employed 125 people directly and dozens more indirectly. Production dropped when several EU countries demanded a reduction in the quota of EU rice. It now appears that what little quota remains will be usurped by the mill in Curacao because Curacao has favored status from the Central Government. The Antillean Central Government Minister of Economics, Errol Cova, is on Bonaire as we go to press to discuss the matter with local officials.

► The Exel Aviation Group hopes to complete the takeover of the Antilles Central Government-owned, Windward Islands Airways, Winair, by the end of this week. Winair is in extreme financial difficulty. Exel spokesman Patrice Hamers did not want to go into details but indicated that negotiations were going well. Conditions include maintaining regular service between St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius, and taking over the employees. It will be rebranded St. MaartenExel.

► Exel has also announced its intention to fly between Curacao and St. Maarten under the name CuracaoExel. The route is now reserved for Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA). Exel spokesman Patrice Hamers added that Exel was following the developments at DCA closely. “If they stop we will see if we can fly certain DCA routes.” DutchCaribbeanExel Director Harm Prins added that the purchase of Winair fits perfectly into the company’s strategy to increase its market share in the region.

► In a related development Exel-Director Harm Prins, on the night before the celebration of Bonaire’s first anniversary, opened the door to the possibility of Exel’s taking over DCA. “Fear of being laid off is unnecessary.” No one – not even DCA personnel – needs to worry about a job. There is room for at least 500 people at the different Exel-companies if free enterprise in the airline field is allowed to progress,” he was quoted as saying in an interview in Curacao.

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(Redemption Convention, N.Y.)
Bonaire Sky Park
The Stars Have It

► The well founded rumor that a five-story apartment building will be built on Bonaire’s downtown waterfront has some people up at arms. A developer plans to replace the charming historical “Hausmann’s Folly” buildings with a mammoth, for Bonaire, apartment bloc. There was, in the minds of many, an unwritten law that limited waterfront buildings in Bonaire to be no higher than Government House. The pricey four-story Blue Water Residence apartment building in Playa (Continued on page 4)
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Lechi dashed that idea. The government appears to support this new, larger scale construction. Many people think it destroys the unique quality that makes Bonaire what it is. What do you think?

▶️ Save the day: Tuesday, September 21, at 6 pm, at Chez Nous, the restaurant school at the high school (SGB). To help send four deserving culinary students to study for four weeks in Italy in the Emilia Romagna region, there will be a fund raising dinner at Chez Nous. Four students from Bonaire will be leaving with culinary teacher Vernon Martijn on October 4. Those of you who attended the dinners in the past know what a fabulous gastronomical evening it can be. See what the students, with the help of their talented teachers, can do. The pros could learn from them! More information later as it becomes available. This year, students from Aruba and Curaçao will be going to Italy as well.

▶️ Will Curaçao’s Island Council approve a so-called “restart” for ailing Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA), under the name Curaçao Airlines? Commissioner Ivar Asjes, who is responsible for the Island Government-owned airline, said that different scenarios had been analyzed and that was the most realistic option. Asjes and his party believe in a public/private partnership for the airline, where the company is privatized, but the Curaçao Island Territory maintains a minority “golden share” package to safeguard economic interests. Several foreign companies, the DCA employees through their retirement fund, and a private group have expressed an interest to participate in the “new” airline, at least temporarily. Meanwhile, the president of the airline’s largest labor union, NABLP, Frensel Marchena, who is also a Curaçao Island Council member, has stated that, in his opinion, the Central Government and not the Island Territory of Curaçao will be responsible for between NAƒ23 and NAƒ25 million in retirement (cessantia) payments should DCA fold.

▶️ Sam Williams, the parrot researcher who changed the direction of Bonaire’s Lora protection program, will be back on Bonaire in January to continue his research. Also in support of Lora preservation a new conservation-oriented Non Governmental Organization has been formed. The objectives of the new Lora Protection NGO are: to protect, conserve and eventually reinforce the population of the Lora on the island; to expand the knowledge of the Lora and its habitat; to inform and educate the people of Bonaire about the Lora in the wild and to teach them how to take care for the (registered) Loras as pets; and to seek funding for the realization of the above mentioned objectives.

▶️ Last Sunday the Coast Guard received word from the Chinese oil tanker Da Yuan Hu that it had picked someone on a wave runner watercraft about 40 nautical miles west of Aruba. The man, who turned out to be a 37-year-old Aruban resident, had gone out Sunday morning at 9 am but ran out of gas and drifted off. The Coast Guard arranged for the Aruba rescue foundation (SARFA) boat, Jacoba Elisabeth, to pick up the man and the wave runner from the tanker at 9:10 pm, some 15 miles west of Aruba’s high rise hotels, to bring them back to land.

▶️ The Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles Little League team did it! First they defeated Mexico 4-0 to become the International Little League Champions. Then they beat Thousand Oaks, California, 5-2 to become the winners of the Little League World Series. It’s the first time Curaçao has ever played in the final championship game. They were in command from the beginning. Carlos Pineda was the pitcher for the Netherlands Antilles and did a great job, striking out 10 before giving up a two-run home run. The official name of the team is the “Pabao Little League” from Willemstad. The Curaçao team had some of the best defensive plays ever seen. Their offense was amazing with the kind of heads up base running that is usually seen only with older kids. It took four trips to the international finals, but this was their breakthrough year. Congratulations, boys!

(Thanks to Steve Carey for this report)
POLICE UPDATE

In a press conference last week Police Chief Daantje announced that beginning September 1st, his men would begin enforcing the laws with “zero-tolerance.” Simply said, Bonaire’s police will not tolerate ANY type of criminal activity. The goal is to “make Bonaire to a tranquil island once again.” Police will be “on the street” enforcing all laws. (According to Police spokesman Charles Souriel, this includes noise level enforcement—like that issuing from motorcycles and scooters.) The Chief seeks cooperation from the community to make this program successful. They will be assisted by members of the VKB (volunteer militia) who, although they cannot make arrests, will assist the 13 police officers on the Zero Tolerance Team. He also announced that repairs on the downtown jail immediately and be completed in three weeks. Repairs on the downtown jail were caught at the airport with 9 kilos of cocaine hidden in the suitcases of three “mules” (J.S.S., 25, and M.J.S., 24, of the Dominican Republic; C.D. K., 32 of Curaçao. The three were on Flight KL742 to Amsterdam. All three were arrested and are in jail pending further investigation.

August 29, two female Dutch women were caught at the airport with 9 kilos of cocaine in their suitcases, on their way to Holland.

Ever wonder what happens to all the drugs that are confiscated? Police report that they are periodically burned up in secret locations, the attendees wearing protective breathing masks.

L./G.D.

LETTERS - Referendum

The Reporter wants its readers to offer their comments and opinions with regard to the Referendum. Letters selected will be published in the September 9th edition, just before the September 10th Referendum vote. Letters must be received by Monday morning September 6th. Deliver by hand, email or fax.

FOR OPTION B – BUT...

Dear Editor:

In Bonaire a referendum will be held before long in which the voters, approximately 6,000 strong, may make their wishes known about the future status of their island. (According to Bevolking there are 9,557 people eligible to vote. See Referendum Chronicle. Ed.) Four possibilities are offered, which may seem ample, but I wonder how ample and how real these four possibilities are. In my opinion, two of them may be withdrawn forthwith: independence and “status aparte.” In both cases Bonaire will have to become a separate State, with its own government, its own laws, its own judiciary and monetary systems, its own economy and its own pension fund, which will not only be empty but show a hole of more than 35 million guilders in debt. Who will have to pay this debt and all the other debts the Island Territory now has? What is the cork fund, which will not only be empty but show a hole of more than 35 million guilders in debt. Who will have to pay this debt and all the other debts the Island Territory now has? What is the cork

dominating the economy. See the attitude of the State Government towards BonairExel. Nothing but sabotage. For each right BonairExel has, she had to take the State Government to court and even though this Government knew beforehand that she would lose the case, it did not stop her from having herself being hauled into court again and again. Conclusion: very little or no good is to be expected from continuing the status quo.

On the other hand it is a good thing to realize that we are bound hand and foot to Curaçao for medical facilities. Who needs radiation, a CT or MRI scan, kidney dialysis or an operation – apart from the simplest ones – and any medical examination for which expensive apparatus must be used, he or she will have to go to Curaçao.

The third option is continuing the status quo: “Integration of Bonaire in the Kingdom and in the constellation of the Antilles.” This is hardly an attractive prospect, taking into consideration that the present State Government mainly has the interests of Curaçao at heart. From the market protection only a few badly run businesses in Curaçao will profit, but it will be detrimental to Bonaire’s economy. See the attitude of the State Government towards BonairExel. Nothing but sabotage. For each right BonairExel has, she had to take the State Government to court and even though this Government knew beforehand that she would lose the case, it did not stop her from having herself being hauled into court again and again. Conclusion: very little or no good is to be expected from continuing the status quo.

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The only option left then is “Integration of Bonaire in the Kingdom and direct ties with the Netherlands.” A solution? I really do not...
According to published statistics there are 9,557 people (Bonaire’s total population is listed at 13,380) eligible to vote in the Referendum. That includes 6,885 normally qualified voters, 1,370 foreigners, and 332 youngsters, 16 and 17 years old. The extension of the right to vote to 5-year+ foreign residents and 16 and 17-year-olds has expanded the electorate by almost 18%. According the UN guidelines 50% of the eligible voters must participate in the Referendum for it to be meaningful. That means 4,779 votes must be cast.

In review, here are the choices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE REFERENDUM CHOICES</th>
<th>A. Stay within the Antilles</th>
<th>B. A direct link with Holland</th>
<th>C. Autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands</th>
<th>E. Independence from the Kingdom of the Netherlands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition from the Referendum Committee</td>
<td>Bonaire to remain part of the Netherlands Antilles</td>
<td>Bonaire to become an integral part of Holland</td>
<td>Bonaire to become an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands</td>
<td>Bonaire to become an independent state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Papiamentu)</td>
<td>MANTENSHON DI E AKTUAL STATUS</td>
<td>INTEGRASHON DEN MADRE PATRIA</td>
<td>ASOSASHON KU E MADRE PATRIA</td>
<td>INDEPENDENIA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This election may be the biggest in Bonaire history.

Whatever your preference be sure to exercise your democratic rights. VOTE!

The following is The Bonaire Reporter’s summary of some of the advantages and disadvantages of each of the four choices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>ADVANTAGES</th>
<th>DISADVANTAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Bonaire to remain part of the Netherlands Antilles</td>
<td>+Established infrastructure that has endured for 50 years</td>
<td>-A form of government that has been tried and failed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Easiest for maintaining family ties</td>
<td>-Has been proven economically disadvantageous for Bonaire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Economies of scale, strength in unity</td>
<td>-Curacao’s economy and population overwhelms other Antilles members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Now that problems are known, corrections can be applied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Bonaire to become an integral part of Holland</td>
<td>+Potential long term economic and social benefits with eventual equivalence with Dutch standards.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Possible full EU privileges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Dutch police and judicial procedures in force at the grass root level.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Bonaire to become an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands</td>
<td>+Autonomy, Bonaire’s traditions preserved with minimal interference.</td>
<td>-Requires negotiation with and agreement of Holland on far more extensive details than other choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Immigration rules remains under local control</td>
<td>-Open immigration from Holland and EU countries very likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Proven economic superiority of the Aruba model as compared to Bonaire.</td>
<td>-All EU and Dutch laws and rules may apply, autonomy impossible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-Bonaire may not have sufficient economic and human resources to carry out effectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-Requires negotiations and agreement of Holland, Aruba and other Antillean islands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Bonaire to become an independent state</td>
<td>+Freedom to choose alliances (witness Japan/Peru)</td>
<td>-Unable to defend against serious aggressors and imperialists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Able to negotiate for American bases and economic aid</td>
<td>-Insufficient economic, human resources, experience and infrastructure to succeed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+UN membership likely</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When you vote on September 10, and EVERYONE eligible should vote, THINK about what you personally want for yourself, your family and your community. Consider if your choice is a realistic one within the capabilities of the people who govern and those who work on Bonaire; then cast your ballot. A referendum is democracy at its purest and its outcome carries considerable moral weight.

G.D.

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 10TH. Bring your voter card.

If you haven’t received your voter card visit the Post Office or Bevolking (Census) to get it and be sure to bring valid ID: an up-to-date sedula, passport, driver’s license, social security ID or recent Bevolking certificate.

While the organization and administration of the Referendum mission has been able to make things clear enough to separate A (status quo) and D (independence) from the choices that are most confusing: B (close ties with Holland) and C (Aruba style status aparte).

If choice C is interpreted strictly to be the Aruba model, (an interpretation not everyone agrees on), then it boils down to a choice between a dream and a reality. B, close ties, is a dream; a dream that will come true if you listen to its supporters. There’s no existing Dutch state structure wherein Bonaire fits, not a municipality a province. Something new must be defined. That’s not a problem, say B’s advocates. It’s completely realizable because Holland has already agreed to “tailor make” a solution for each Antillean island in accordance with the will of the island’s people and the rest of the Kingdom partners. Certainly long and hard negotiations will be needed if Bonaire is to get the economic support it needs from Holland while at the same time preserving its cultural identity.

On the other hand, C, Aruba-like status aparte, is a known quantity. Simply said; Bonaire must do everything for itself except defense and foreign diplomacy but can still have the right expect “foreign aid” from The Netherlands. Detractors say Bonaire is too small to accomplish all the things needed. However, some of C’s supporters say that modifications from the Aruba formula is allowed if C is chosen by the voters. Does that sort of thinking turn C into B or B into C?

If I were a Dutch official, I probably would see little difference in negotiating a new governmental status for Bonaire whether B or C was chosen by the voters. But we in Bonaire see things differently because we have so many concerns about what precise form our new government will take. And, if we are not voting for the status quo (A) or independence (D), we should carefully think about the fine differences between having a dream come true (B) or choosing a reality that can be altered (C).

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LETTERS, continued - Referendum

(Referendum. Continued from page 5)

I know for it depends on how they/we will go about it. What did the French do with the départements d’outre-mer? Maybe they have set an example? I do not know and yet I think the solution has to be found in this direction, the other options not being realistic or being undesirable, but how realistic and desirable is this one?
                   Ger Vellinga

FOR OPTION B – NO BUTS ABOUT IT…
To The Editor:

As a resident of Bonaire who is eligible to vote in the September 10 Referendum I have spent considerable time studying the 13 issues connected to the Options of A, B, C and D. Options B and C appear to be the major contenders in this race and, while the position of many of the issues for B and C are close to or are the same, there are some very major differences that the voters need to be aware of. Listed below are some significant issues where B and C part company. The following comments and observations are mine, based on my understanding of the issues:

I prefer Option B: B proposes that Bonaire become an integral part of Holland. It would have us step out of the entity known as the Netherlands Antilles but would remain part of the Dutch Kingdom. C proposes to become an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands Antilles thus putting it on the same basis as Aruba. If you want to get out from under our hopeless relationship with Curacao and have close ties with, and advice and support from Holland, you will want Option B. Becoming an autonomous country within the Kingdom as suggested by Option C could be a very dangerous choice. Option B eliminates the possibility of Bonaire becoming an independent state.

Foreign affairs, defense and nationality: C supports the future possibility of Bonaire becoming an independent state. B does not support this. If you realize that becoming an independent state is a very bad move for Bonaire you will want Option B which does not support this.

Commerce and Industry: B proposes that commercial movement to and from Holland be Free (no Customs clearance required). C proposes controlled commercial movement between Bonaire and Holland. If you believe that the movement of goods, capital and services between Bonaire and Holland, without Customs clearance is a good thing for our island choose Option B.

Currency, monetary policy and Central Bank: B contends that sufficient research has not been done to determine which currency should become legal tender in Bonaire. The Euro and US dollar are both being considered under Option B. C implies a whole new currency, the Bo-nairean guilder, to serve as legal tender in Bonaire with a Central Bank of Bonaire to supervise monetary policy. If you think Bonaire having its own currency could wreak havoc with the island financial structure and economy you will want Option B which is considering the Euro or the US dollar as Bonaire’s legal tender.

Prosecution and police; judicial power: Option B proposes that Bonaire come under the Dutch Public Prosecution Office in Holland and would put the Bo-nairean police force under this Office. Public order would be maintained by Bonaire itself but the Dutch judicial power would have jurisdiction in Bonaire. Option C proposes that Bonaire handle its own police force and that the same Common Court of Justice that we have at this time would continue to have jurisdiction in Bonaire. This is probably the most important of all the issues in this Referendum. If you DO NOT want the current police situation to continue and if you DO NOT want to be under the thumb of the Common Court of Justice (read Curacao here) by allowing it to have jurisdiction here on Bonaire, then you will definitely want to vote for Option B which wants public order to be maintained by Bonaire but with the Dutch judicial power having jurisdiction.

Please read these differences carefully. Even though this is a non-binding referendum the will of the majority of the people will be heard and acknowledged and the future of our island will be held in the balance. Think hard about each of the issues then vote your conscience. Your vote counts!

Dabney Lassiter
C FOR ME

Dear Editor:

I’m voting for C — separate status. Why? Because I think Bonaire can handle the duties and responsibilities involved. Why am I sure? Because I can see what the Bonaire has done at the airport: fuel depot, long runway, new platform, catering, bigger terminal and customers-KLM and BonairExel. Look at the success of Bonaire’s NGOs. All done successfully in spite of opposition from Curacao. I want to be free of a big brother: Curacao, Holland or anybody else. Bonaire must keep its values and culture. Special societies, like ours, must strive for the utmost in realistic autonomy. C is the best way.

Name withheld
A most beautiful and moving wedding ceremony happened last week on August 24, when Ferina “Roosje” Goeloe and Jan-Pieter “J.P.” van der Hoek were married at the water’s edge at Playa Lechi, the ceremony conducted by Walter Coffie. Family and friends came from the island and Europe. Roosje works at BonairExel in Marketing; J.P. works with Jacobs Architects. Both are well loved on the island. Guests were treated to a sumptuous array of hors d’oeuvres and exotic drinks prepared by students and teachers of SGB’s culinary school, Chez Nous.

The Sunset Beach Hotel property was cleaned up last week. It’s hoped that the cleanup will make the site more attractive to developers. Right now it remains Bonaire’s most obvious eyesore.

Commissioner Dortalina, Governor Domacassé, Commissioners el Hage, Dammers and head of DROB, Minguel Martes, check the tidy area.

If it’s anything like last year, this year’s Bonaire Day (Monday, September 6) will be full of exciting events. There will be booths selling food, drinks and small items, bands performing as well as formal ceremonies, appearances and speeches. While most of the barios will have some commemoration, most of the action will be at this year’s host neighborhood, North Saliña. During the same weekend the big Motorcycle tour will be underway and the Local Fishing tournament will take place on Sunday. Who says there’s nothing going on in Bonaire? M.

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**HISTORY OF AMORC**

The origin of the Rosicrucian philosophy is in the tradition, philosophy and myths of ancient Egypt. Thousands of years ago in Egypt schools were founded to study the laws of life and the universe. Only serious students were admitted to these schools, where they were initiated into the so-called ‘mysteries.’ These were really natural laws, but to the ignorant they were mysterious. Today some of these laws are widely known, such as the law of karma and reincarnation. But although many people talk about these laws, they do not always have a deep understanding of them. The Rosicrucian Order AMORC, an international non-profit organization, can help you explore these topics. On 24 September 2004 the Bonairean section of AMORC, the foundation Parthenon AMORC Bonaire, is organizing a public lecture on some aspects of the Rosicrucian philosophy. The lecture is entitled: ‘Verlichting is verplichting’ (Enlightenment entails obligation) and will be held by Mr. Michiel Bijkerk. The lecture will be in Dutch, but anybody should feel free to ask questions or join in the discussion in English or Papiamentu. The lecture starts at 7 pm in one of the rooms of Jeugdhuis Jong Bonaire. The evening will end before 11 pm. Any one interested is welcome. Entrance is free. Michiel Bijkerk
During the second half of 2004 Bonaire will host a number of exciting events and festivals, including the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta. One of Bonaire’s largest and longest festivals, the Regatta is an event not to be missed!

The 37th Annual Bonaire International Sailing Regatta, from October 3 - 9, is shaping up to be one of the best events of the year. Boats from micro-size to yachts to windsurfers and sunfish will attract sailors from all of the surrounding islands as well as Venezuela, Holland and the US.

The tentative program for the 2004 Regatta will include not only five days of sailing, but an international softball festival, kayak racing, running races, land and boat parades and much more. Most events take place in front of Kas di Regatta. The evening Regatta Festivals offer a variety of stands with food, drinks, souvenirs, games and shirts plus shows nightly with live local and international bands. G.D.

If you have a Bonaire Registered boat you should take it fishing this Sunday. First, sign up at Doei Diaz’s house (next to Richard’s Restaurant). It’s free. Then get out as early as you can (the event opens at 2 am on Sunday, September 5th. Take along as many crew as you want. Spend the day, but be sure to be back before 5 pm to get your catch weighed in. If you want, you can join in a lottery for the biggest fish or heaviest catch. There are some terrific prizes, all related to fishing. Last time the Tournament was held was in 2002 and over 200 people participated. This year’s event is dedicated to master fisherman-boat builder Luty Craane. So get out there and bring home some food fish. Reef fish, sharks and tarpon are not allowed to be taken. G.D.
Bonair has been known for its “natural doctors” in alternative medicine: wise, gifted, spiritual men and women who were blessed with natural healing powers. Not by applying spooky hocus pocus voodoo but using, for example, the natural resources our island has to offer like herbs and plants. One of these gifted people is the well known Rincon lady, Mrs. Johanita Janga, better known as Mama Johanita or Ma Jochi. Her daughter in law, Mrs. Rudmila “Ruth” Janga, helped promote her products during the traditional end of the year sensia sale (incense to get rid of the bad luck of the whole year) in Rincon. Some of Ma Jochi’s well known products are anti-joint pain medicine, cough syrup, coconut oil, and ground kadushi (cactus) for making soup.

From house-to-house sales Ruth moved to a stand at the now famous Marshé di Rincon on Saturdays. There, her sister Marugia Janga and friend Angélique Salsbach joined the party by adding a
Last Saturday the graduates of Lilian Cicilia’s “Boka Dushi” (sweet things to eat) baking course showed what they can do. There were 16 dishes artistically arrayed on tables – cakes, cookies, candies - that were created by individual students who range in age from seven to 14. Judging was based on taste as well as presentation. Well-known Chef-Judge Anthony Anthony said it was a tough competition with so many tasty candidates! Parents, friends and siblings were all gathered at the Antriol Sentro di Bario, awaiting the outcome of the judging. It was in the kitchen there that the children, all from Antriol, had met once a week for four months to learn from Ms. Cicilia. The courses, held in the different Centro di Barios, are offered to children from that particular barrio.

At last the winners were announced: 1st prize for her cake: Kingsleyan Susana; 2nd prize for her cookies: Monique Janga; 3rd prize for her cake: Raydeline Coffie. Teacher Lilian Cicilia gives her Boka Dushi courses to children from a different barrio each time.

The proud winners show off their tempting entries: Raydeline Coffie (1st prize), Monique Janga (2nd prize) and Kingsleyan Susana (1st prize)

variety of products to the line. These “Three Musketeers” are, in their daily lives, highly trained professionals in the field of public health. Ruth is a registered nurse, Marugia a health scientist specialist and epidemiologist with masters and bachelors degrees in, among other things, Biology and Health Promotions and Education; while Angélique works for the Health Department and is the author of The Bonaire Reporter’s “Ask the Dietician column.” They have been joined by businessman Benito Dirksz who was inspired by the philosophy of Ma Junchi. “We now call ourselves “The Fantastic Four!” Benito says with a grin.

It’s because of their professions that they were concerned about a healthy physical and psychological balance in the human being. Unfortunately they noticed a lot of misbalance during their daily work.

“Our philosophy is based on evaluating people on the holistic level, the total balance. This is to prevent, for example, physical symptoms. The ultimate result would be a well functioning person who can contribute to a better community,” explains Marugia.

“That’s why we provide tools like advice, knowledge, products, lectures and courses to reach this goal,” adds Angélique. “We specialize in aromatherapy, all kinds of oils, incense (more than 80 different scents!), decorative receptacles to burn the oil and incense, crystals, minerals and Feng-Shui products.” In short: all kinds of products to bring peaceful harmony into your life.

And these ladies know what they’re talking about, considering their background in the spiritual field. With more than six years experience and degrees in, among others, metaphysics, Raja Yoga, Hatha Yoga and Spiritual Human Yoga, they’ve already successfully advised many people.

Now, four years after their first stand in Rincon, they are celebrating a new achievement: Ma Jochi on Kralendijk’s Kaya Grandi. Located in the Tambu shop you can’t miss their impressive sign outside: a precious soft orange design with trendy letters and a dazzling but soothing sun. When entering the premises don’t be surprised if you can’t hide your peaceful smile: a cozy corner with a soft ambiance is the guilty party. Honoring one of Bonaire’s wise women, the three ladies and one gentleman show that they didn’t forget their roots. What Ma Jochi offered for more than six decades you are now able to experience in a modern version by the friendly, experienced and professional quartet.

Don’t miss this great opportunity and visit Ma Jochi in the Kaya Grandi, in the Tambu shop. Natalie A.C. Wanga
**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**

Non–Commercial CLASSIFIED ADS (UP TO 4 LINES/ 20 WORDS)
Commercial ads are only NAƒ0.70 per word, per week. Free ads run for 2 weeks.
Call or fax The Bonaire Reporter at 717-8988 e-mail ads@bonairereporter.com

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**FOR SALE**

**MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE** 1993 Honda Shadow. Asking price: NAƒ4,000 o.n.o. Info call 786-1005 or 786-6556.

Brand New Mobile Room Airco with remote – 220v., 50-60 cycles, NAƒ600. Tel. 564-9227 or 717-3303 (Ask for Richard)

For Sale: 2 month-old LG fully equipped automatic washing machine. 10.2 kg. I’m moving, so I don’t need machine now. NAƒ650. Call 717-8811 or 568-6257.

**Toshiba Satellite Computer:**

PSA10C-05HVM , Mobile Intel® Pentium® II- 42.4GHz. 512MB SDRAM expandable to 1024MB; 60GB Hard Drive, 15” TFT Color LCD, CDRW+DVD, V.92 Data/Fax Modem, 10/100 LAN & 802.11b Wireless, 16bit Stereo, 3D Sound, 32MB UMA DDR Video Memory; RGB, 2 USB 2.0, RJ-11, RJ-45, TV-OUT, 2.5 Hours Battery Life; Weight 6.2 lbs, Toshiba World Wide Warranty (2 ½ yrs), Price $1999 negotiable. Phone: 791-4192, thu-sisiva@hotmail.com

**PROPERTY FOR RENT.**

Oceanfront, furnished, studio apartment for rent at Sand Dollar Resort, direct owner rentals; http://dcolvard/home.mindspring.com/condos/index.html; Email: dcolvard@mindspring.com; Tel: (USA) (919) 781-3141

**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. Call Donna at 785-9013

**WAYS & ENGINES for SALE**

Traditional Bonairean Sailing Shop. 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 NAƒ9,999. One of the last of its kind. Call 717-8988 or 785-6125.

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**PET of the WEEK**

A very cool cat is “Carlito.” And he comes with a great personality, says the staff of the Bonaire Animal Shelter! He arrived at a home where he was welcomed by the humans, but unfortunately, the elderly resident cats didn’t care for his intrusion. It was tough for Carlito, but ever since the humans brought him into the Shelter he’s been doing just fine, getting along perfectly with the current residents of the cat cage. He’s very well adjusted and is just a darling. Carlito is about a year and a half; he’s been sterilized already; and of course he’s in excellent health and has had all his shots. Meet Carlito at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

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

Don’t forget the Free Sterilization Program October 18 to 30. The target animals are those running loose in the streets, often being fed by people. Spread the word to your neighbors. This is a golden opportunity to do something about the numbers of unwanted puppies who are born and often abandoned on the island every year. If you can help, call Shelter Director Jurrie Mellema at 717-4989. L.D.
PART TWO

PAPIAMENTU IN THE EARLY GRADES IN SCHOOLS
WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Dr. Nick Faraclas, Professor of Linguistics,
in an article last week, discussed why it’s so important to start teaching children in their mother tongue to give them a good foundation for their educational career. Teachers who were taught in Dutch, they would sit there and ask, ‘Teacher, could you please speak normal?’ The children probably understood less than half of what the teacher said. Can you imagine going to school and not understanding what the teacher is saying and then being expected to do well? Not only are the children totally frustrated by having all their lessons in Dutch, but the teachers are frustrated too: the students don’t learn well and so many of them fail. All teachers want their students to succeed, but to have such a high failure rate is not very encouraging. The Erasmus School teachers said when they got to the school they were overjoyed with the response from the children. The students were awake. Right away they were responsive; they were curious. Right away they were using all their intelligence. This was the first time they had experienced this. Before, when they’d been teaching in Dutch, they were faced with children who seemed very dull; they seemed to lack curiosity; they were very silent, afraid to speak in class, totally inhibited. Now the children seemed very spontaneous, very enthusiastic. Those teachers are so positive about their experience. I think that enthusiasm would catch on immediately if the teachers from Bonaire went there.

Taking Time to Change the System

Of course changing the system takes time. If you try to change in one or two years you’ll miss the opportunity to establish a good foundation. There’s no real short cut to changing an educational system. You have to do it methodically, systematically. So the teachers from Bonaire should come over and see what’s going on and get a sense of what a great experience it is to be a teacher in a classroom where you don’t have to worry about the language problem. The teachers need to understand what’s going on, to be convinced.

Materials

You need to have materials. Now in the area of materials it’s not as bad as in other countries. In Papiamentu there is a good number of materials already being produced by the Foundation for Linguistic Planning in Curaçao. They’ve produced a complete series for the primary level and a complete series for language instruction at the secondary level. They’re putting together materials for the other subjects—mathematics, science, social studies. They’ve done translations of literature—all kinds of stories from all over the world in Papiamentu—and also are producing books by writers in Papiamentu from Curaçao, Bonaire and Aruba. They are adapting the text and the pictures to the particular island so they reflect the society there. They’re doing a great job.

Word Banks

The Foundation is forming ‘word banks’ so if there are areas of vocabulary where Papiamentu doesn’t have words for philosophy, geography, etc. they’re using Papiamentu words and constructions to designate these different concepts. And when they can’t find Papiamentu words they’ll take words from either Spanish or English or Dutch. This is a normal process in our languages. For example 60% of English vocabulary came from French, Latin and Greek. Spanish has a great deal of Arabic vocabulary. Dutch has a tremendous amount of English, a tremendous amount of French. Every language does this, but people shouldn’t think that because Papiamentu borrows from other languages that somehow it’s less of a language.
classes for English, Spanish or Chinese speaking children. Those classes in bilingual instruction can be continued for those children for a two to three year period. As a matter of fact, that’s one reason why those children have such success, because those children got to learn to read and write in their own languages first. These are the star students in the Bonaire system. They’re not the Bonaireans; they’re kids from aboard who’ve had the chance to learn their own languages. This is another proof that learning to read and write in your own language helps you for your entire academic career.”

CAN OUR GRADUATES COME BACK?
Dr. Faraclas believes that when someone has respect for his own culture and cherishes it, he will have the desire to return to his island, bringing with him an appreciation for its poetry, literature and art. He’ll have a strong identity with his own culture. In this time of a global economy he can do business over the Internet and it doesn’t make any difference where he’s operating from. (Professors are teaching on line now; there’s desk top publishing for example.) In this way he can generate jobs on the island – secretaries, support people. L.D. in an interview with Dr. Nick Faraclas

Last school year in Bonaire, Papiamentu as the language of education was begun in the kindergarten classes with 10 to 15 minutes per day of Dutch, according to Hacynphea Pourier of the Education Department. These periods of Dutch, she explains, are used in play – in games and songs. This year the program was continued in the First Grades, with a period of 15 minutes of Dutch a day, again in a play environment. Year by year the program will be extended to another year until the children reach eight years whereupon classes will be totally in Dutch.

Ms. Pourier said there is a lot of support from the teachers who are interested in doing workshops and who are creative and have translated a lot of the teaching materials they already have. As well, they’ve completed books in Papiamentu with pictures of Bonairean people, houses, etc. Working with these books, teachers instruct six children at a time.
**Weekly Movie Showtimes**

**New! Usually 9:00 pm**

**White Chicks** (Shawn and Marlon Wayans)

**Early Show (usually 7pm)**

**King Arthur**

Kaya Princes Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400
Tickets - NA$10.50 (incl. Tax)
High Schoolers - NA$7.75

NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY
SATURDAY 4 PM Garfield
SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM Spiderman 2

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**What's Happening**

**This Week**

**September 2 through 6 - Big Biker Weekend**
There will be rides, parades and lots of parties for the participants and everyone else.

**Saturday, September 4 Rincon Marshé & Soldachi Tours, 6 am to 4 pm**
As this is a public holiday, most stores closed.

**Until September 25, at Cinnamon Art Gallery an exhibition of “Nochi”**

**Coffee’s works.**

**COMING**

**Saturday, September 18—Clean Up the World—Sellbon and Fundashun Tene Boneira Limpi. Tel. 717-8159.**

**Tuesday, September 21—SGB Culinary School Fundraiser Dinner, Chez Nous, at 6 pm. To help send four students to Bonaire Animal Shelter - Volunteers. Tel. 717-8444.**

**EVERY WEEK**

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

**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—Bonaire Talker Dinner/ Gathering at Gibi's Terrace-6:30 pm call Jake at 717-6773 or e-mail jake@bonairerelax.com for more infor.**

**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 87, 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 snacks and sweets, handcrafted candles, incense, drinks and music.**

**Every day appointment - Rossit Lamoenechi Kunuku Park Tours Authentique Bonairen kunuku. $12 (NA$12 for Bonaire residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.**

**Daily- The Divi Flamingo Casino is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and blackjack, 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 Valerie Simpson at 785-3451 or Valerie@tebonet.on**

**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 Hoppenner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844, Special Olympics - Contact Delno Tromp, 717-7679.**

**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 790-2722.**

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Koosman’s. All levels invited NA$5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-8076.**

**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. Jeanette 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 de 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 717-4000 or 790-2018.**

**Go to the source. Visit the Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v. Rie, 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 8-5 am. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017.**

**Sunday at Cai- Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lae Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire’s popular musicians.**

**Rincon Marshé— every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Rincon’s historic town. Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area. Alta Mira Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am. Town Walking tour at 9:30, Bush Tour at 10. Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.**

**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. Wilhelminalpine. Services in Papianum, Dutch and English on Sundays at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm. Rev. Jonk- man. 717-2006.**

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papianum, Spanish and English.**

**Catholic San Bernadus in Kurilendijk – Services on Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papianum 717-8304.**

**Saturday at 6 pm at Our Lady of Coronoto in Antilo, in English. Mass in Papianum on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.**

**Assembly of God (Asamblea de Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). Services in English, Dutch & Papianum 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

**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.

**Calabaz 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
717-5023
Moderate-Expensive
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Open every day
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. Take out too.

**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 Parrilla.

**La Balandra**
On the Water at the Harbor Village Resort
717-7500, ext 62; 785-0902
Open every day 30 am to 10:30 pm
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cuisine by Chef Alberto Roldan of the Bonaire Culinary Team. If you are using the NA/F Beach Pass, a NA/F credit is given for meals Bonaire’s best seaside location.

**The Last Bite Bakery**
717-3293
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. CLOSED Sept. 1 to 26.
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.

**Norchi’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.

**Paza 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

**Airlines**

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

**Appliances/Furniture/Computers**

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

**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. Brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

**Books**

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

**Bonaire Diving Made Easy**

and many other island shops.

**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.

**Divin**

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, 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**

Bonifoo 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 is everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals.

**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.

**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

**Real Estate / Rental Agents**

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire’s oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service 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 tosses including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

**Sailing**

Woodwind has it all: Smooth trimaran sailing, to Klein Bonaire, affordable prices, snorkeling with equipment guide, drinks, snacks. Call 560-7055

**Security**

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

**Shipping**


**Supermarkets**

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

**Visit Bonaire**

Home delivery too.

**Water Taxi**

To get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Call Bonaire Nau- tizers at 560-7254. Ride the Kantika di Amor or Shabby. Hotel pickup too.

**Wineries**

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 Desirée and Don at Jon Bonaire for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

**Attention Businessmen:**

Put your ad in The Bonaire Reporter. The most advertising for your guilder.

Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252.
We sailed from the Canary Islands to Senegal and Gambia. We did part of the Gambia River then crossed the Atlantic to Trinidad and Tobago. Carnival in Trinidad - hundreds of thousands of people - me dancing soca soca. You couldn't walk normally, hearing the music from the steel bands. The idea was to go in steps around the world. This was the first step. We had to go back to Germany and make money. Curacao was a safe place to leave the boat for eight months. The first time I saw Bonaire I’d sailed over from Curacao. It looked so peaceful. I thought I’d like to live in one of those old houses. I found a house like that in 1990 and opened up a boat business, even offering laundry services because there was nothing for the sailors. I did all kinds of stuff. I was honorary port officer from the Trans Ocean Stützpunkt! I built up my business and I survived. I didn’t go to Germany anymore, just once a year ago shortly before my mother died.

I’d lived in Germany, traveled all over Europe, Peru for six months, to Chile, then back to Europe on a cargo ship. Bonaire was the first place outside my country where I’d lived, and from the first moment I felt very much at home. At first I saved my money to put it into the business, but then I started to travel. I am a typical Cancer. I had to learn to open my mouth and not to swallow everything or behave like a crab at the shore that hides under a rock.

“I’ve always wanted to travel, once I was there I didn’t want to go home. Now, when I travel, I say after a few weeks, ‘It’s time to go home.’ I never felt that way before.”

She laughs: “Now I’m 60+ and I feel free to do whatever I like. I can be crazy as can be. I have an excuse - I am an old woman! The things that keep me going in life are the small things. If you can appreciate them there’ll be something good about every day. It goes up and down, up and down. You sit on cloud nine and you fall down very hard – the big bang! Never boring! One has dreams, but reality is a little bit different. Life has so many compromises. You could or should learn from your mistakes, but you don’t listen to yourself. That’s the way you are. Everybody gets hurt in life and it’s like with a wound: some people heal fast, others take forever. But don’t tell me, ‘Life goes on.’ It was hard to learn to be alone, but now I can spend a whole Sunday in my hammock, relaxing and reading. I couldn’t do that a few years ago. I have mountains of books. I need books, books, books. I think just in my bedroom I have more than 200 books. If I don’t have three or four books to choose from I’m very unhappy. I don’t have TV. I read every day, at lunchtime, even when I come home at 3 o’clock in the morning.

Since I was a child I’ve had animals. When somebody said, ‘This animal will die,’ I said, ‘No! It won’t!’ I took what people brought me. I’m still doing that. I can’t say no, but I learned that I can’t take everything. Now I show people how to do it, but if it goes wrong I’ll still do it myself. My house is full of animals. I think I have 22 cats. I have chickens whose eggs I see when they’re already walking around. I have a monkey, three prrikitchis, eight Loras, a big Macaw, three dogs and three flamingos.”

She closes her eyes and says: “Listen to that song; the melody, the words – very touching – the way they fit. It’s the perfect match!” She smiles: “Always happy, always cheerful – what is on the inside is nobody’s business. You know what I also like? Edvard Grieg’s Peer Gynt Suite, beautiful with the sunset! The last time I went to see my brother in New Zealand I came back with 110 CDs, all classical music! Twice a year I go to Panama, to Kuna Yala, Kuna Land - 365 tiny little islands on the Caribbean side of Panama. There I buy the handicrafts I sell in my shop. The Kuna women are quite powerful. This is something I like; they have a lot to say. They handle their own business and the husband has nothing to say about the handicrafts or the selling. If they marry the husband goes to her family and he has to help them. There are about 40 islands big enough for a small village. You can’t just go there. Boat people are allowed, but that doesn’t mean you can walk around all day. They have very strict rules. You must go to the island chief and he’ll tell you what you’re allowed to do. I am a friend of one of the women, so I can stay. I hang my hammock outside the ‘house’ – one big room made out of sugarcane stalks – because inside it’s too crowded. I see the stars and I hear the sea two meters away. I eat whatever they cook and I learn about their culture. But it’s not easy; they don’t want to tell you. It takes a long time. We’re both in a hammock; we smoke a cigarette, then little by little my friend, one of the men, tells me about the rituals of the burials, the carved little persons that are your personal protector and the way they see religion - until his wife tells him to shut up! It’s always very quiet there – no music and they don’t sing - very strange. These things I like to experience. But all in all, somehow, I found my place here. I kiss the ground like the Pope! I like the mixture of the different cultures: we are so many. A tourist asked me once, ‘Don’t you miss culture or nice conversations?’ I got really annoyed, and I said very seriously, ‘If I want intelligent conversation I just talk to myself!’ Here I can live in personal peace – nobody is cutting my wings – I feel free to do things my way. It seems long ago that I arrived. Many things happened in between. It was another world.”

Greta Kooistra

Marlis Seelos-Schmid
Alan Zale stands outside Madison Square Garden in New York City, the site of the Republican National Convention, on Sunday, August 22, 2004 with a copy of the August 20, 2004 edition of The Bonaire Reporter. Alan is a freelance photographer for The Journal News, his home town newspaper in Westchester County, NY, and was working on a story for the paper with a reporter on how people thought the convention would affect their daily lives in New York City for that week. Alan and his wife Joan, who are frequent visitors to Bonaire, just returned from a two week visit to the island.

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.)

George Buckley, a long time visitor to Bonaire and Director of the Marine Ecology Project that has aided in the protection of Bonaire’s reefs and Klein Bonaire, has announced a dynamic new program that he is coordinating at Harvard University. As part of the University’s effort to expand educational opportunities to the world, he has assisted in the development of a series of environmental courses that are now available on-line for credit through Harvard’s Extension College. A graduate Certificate in Environmental Management can also be earned online through the new program whose aim is to provide students with an extensive repertoire of management protocols to address the many types of programs that impact the world’s environments.

The courses are designed to study local, regional and international environmental problems and their solutions. The students who enroll in the course may be from local, state or national governmental agencies, non-governmental environmental groups, industry, the consulting field and the general public. Several of the available courses already use Bonaire as a case study for sound environmental practices. There are several local aspects of environmental studies that local students could use if they took courses through the program.

At present the courses include: Environmental Management; Ocean Environments; Strategies for Environmental Management; Life Cycle Analysis and Industrial Ecology; Environmental Ethics and Land Use Management; Sustainable Development; Global Climate Change; Principles of Occupational Health; Rain Forest Conservation; Sustainability; and Industrial Challenges. People who are interested in courses on the Environmental Management Certificate graduate program can check out the particulars at www.extension.harvard.edu/environment. Specific questions, including course costs, etc., can be directed to the Program Director George Buckley at gbuckley@fas.harvard.edu. George Buckley
September 10th is the Day
When the Moon, Venus and Saturn
Form a Super Triangle
and Mercury Bumps into the Heart of Leo the Lion

I f you do any planet gazing for the entire month I suggest you do it Friday morning, September 10th just before dawn. Not only will Venus, Saturn and the Moon form an exquisite triangle, but the planet Mercury will bump into the heart star of Leo the Lion in what astronomers call a “super close conjunction.”

On September 10th just before dawn face due east where you’ll see an absolutely breathtaking slender sliver of a 25-day-old Moon making an exquisite triangle with the brightest planet of them all, planet #2 Venus, and the prettiest planet of them all telescopically, planet #6 Saturn. And just to throw in a couple of cosmic goodies just above them will be the two brightest stars of the Gemini twins, Castor and Pollux. Please don’t miss this sight because cosmic triangles are always really nifty. But keep in mind that even though the Moon and Venus and Saturn will look close together they’re not. In fact our 2,000-mile-wide Moon will be 250 thousand miles away on the 10th, 8,000-mile-wide Venus will be 83 million miles away; and 75,000-mile-wide Saturn will be a whopping 893 million miles away! It’s all an illusion. But if you’re not turned on by triangles perhaps I can interest you in a super close conjunction just below the cosmic triangle. The brighter object of the two will be planet #1 from the sun, Mercury. And only ¾ of a degree above it, which is less than half the width of a full Moon, will be the brightest star of Leo the Lion, the blue star Regulus, which you may want to compare with the pink color of Mercury. And once again this close visual meeting is also an illusion because on the 10th tiny 3,000-mile-wide Mercury will be only 89 million miles away while 5-million-mile-wide Regulus will be 5 1/2 million times farther away, 85 light years beyond! Don’t miss this please.

And if you want to add even more fun to your viewing begin your watch one day earlier, Thursday morning the 9th when a slender sliver of a 25-day-old Moon will be parked above Saturn just to the right of Castor and Pollux. If you look closely at Mercury and Regulus you will see that they are farther apart, ¾ of a degree apart and getting ready to close in the next morning on the 10th. Then just to show you how rapidly things change in the heavens, on Saturday morning September 11th an even skinner Moon will be well below Venus, and Mercury and Regulus will be much farther apart - ½ degrees. And by Sunday they’ll be a whopping 3 degrees apart. So there you have it. A fabulous cosmic triangle and a super close conjunction on the 10th! And an opportunity to watch the Moon as it gets skinnier and lower in the heavens each day as Regulus and Mercury approach, meet and then distance themselves from each other.