

Official On-Board Newspaper

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It's about time!

September 3 to 10, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 34

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

The **BONAIRE** REPORTER

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



THREE BONAIRE GOVERNORS GATHER TO CONGRATULATE BONAIREXEL
Raymundo Saleh (1st Antillean Gov and the youngest, at 32, 1969-1973), Herbert Domacassé (present) Richard Hart (1999-2003)

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Now every Antillean island wants to get on the referendum bandwagon.

Curaçao 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. Curaçao 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, Curaçao 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 Status Aparte, but was blocked by Holland so is still part of the Netherlands Antilles. 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 Ramonsito Booi 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 *mondi* 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 Curaçao because Curaçao 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 reborn as St. MaartenExel.

► **Exel has also announced its intention to fly between Curaçao and St. Maarten under the name CuraçaoExel.** 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 BonairExel's first anniversary, **opened the door to the possibility of Exel's taking over DCA.**



Harm Prins

"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 Curaçao.

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► **The well founded rumor that a five-(5) 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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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

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 gastronomic 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.



► **Congratulations to Island Councilman Eddy Thielman** on being awarded the royal title and ribbon “**Knight in the Order of the Oranje**” for his performance of duties of Secretary of State last year.

► **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 NAf23 and NAf25 million in retirement (*cessantia*) payments should DCA fold.



If DCA changes its name to Curaçao Airlines, only their planes’ tails will need repainting.

► **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!



Carlos “Big Papi” Pineda

(Thanks to Steve Carey for this report)

(Continued on page 8)



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 jail in Rincon would begin almost immediately and be completed in three weeks. Repairs on the downtown jail are set for some future time.



Officer R. Abraham is in charge of the Zero-Tolerance program

•Last week the Police Department released some figures, covering the period between January 1, 2004 to July

31, 2004:
During those seven months there were a total of 250 arrests: Playa, 83; Amboina, 18; Rincon, 11; and 138 arrests by detectives.

•The Detectives Section issued figures as well, covering the time from January 1, 2004, to August 26, 2004. During that period there were **138 arrests**. They handled **52 cases; 30 persons from those cases are still being held.** (Charles Souriel explained that even though not all are in jail they will still be prosecuted).

Confiscated during that period were: 197.2 kilos of cocaine, 357.5 grams of marijuana and 400 grams of hashish.

•On Wednesday, August 25, the Flamingo Team at the airport received a tip and intercepted **10 kg, 480 grams 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.

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 the economy must float on, considering that the Government is the greatest employer by far? Where do we get the ex-

pertise and the manpower to run this little country? Just forget independence and status aparte. They are no real options.

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 BonaireExel 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 only option left then is “Integration in the Kingdom and direct ties with the Netherlands.” A solution? I really do not

(Continued on page 7)

Referendum Chronicle

The Referendum enters the final week before voting with the 70% island population, according to a TV-11 poll, saying they are still confused on the choices. The opposition political parties are accusing the Referendum Commission of not providing sufficient or impartial information. Indeed, except for the actual balloting poster, no information has been officially released by the Commission in English (There are three official languages in the Antilles; English is one of them).

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 to 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:

THE REFERENDUM CHOICES	A. Stay within the Antilles	B. A direct link with Holland	C. Autonomous country within the Kingdom	E. Independence from the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Definition from the Referendum Committee	Bonaire to remain part of the Netherlands Antilles	Bonaire to become an integral part of Holland	Bonaire to become an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands	Bonaire to become an independent state
(PAPIAMENTU)	MANTENSHON DI E AKTUAL STATUS	INTEGRASHON DEN E MADRE PATRIA	ASOSASHON KU E MADRE PATRIA	INDEPENDENSIA

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:

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

OPINION

A REFERENDUM CHOICE BETWEEN A DREAM AND REALITY

While the organization and administration of the Referendum may be attacked as being deficient, the Commission 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 or 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).

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.

(Referendum. Continued from page 5)

know for it depends on how they/we will go about it. What did the French do with the *départments 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 Neth-

erlands Antilles thus putting it on the same basis as Aruba.

If you want to get out from under our hopeless relationship with Curaçao 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 im-

plies a whole new currency, the Bonairean 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 Bonairean 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 Curaçao 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 Curaçao.

I want to be free of a big brother: Curaçao, 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



(Flotsam. Continued from page 4)

► 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 barrios 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.

A lecture series organized by the Rosicrucian Order AMORC will be held at Jong Bonaire.

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 Jeugdhuys Jong Bonaire. The evening will end before 11 pm. Anyone interested is welcome. Entrance is free. □ *Michiel Bijkerk*



THE PLACE TO BE THIS SATURDAY THE RINCON MARSHÉ

September 4 starting at 6 am

“Folklore” is the theme of this week’s Marshé. Special guest, Anisa, will be doing her famous story telling. Another highlight will be will a celebration of the link with Bonaire’s Surinam community.

Sign up for the Soldachi Tours: the Alta Mira Nature Walk, Town Walking Tour and Bus Tour. Call Maria 717-6435 □ L.D.

REGATTA PREVIEW

LOCAL FISHING TOURNAMENT



This year's inaugural press conference was held on the seafront promenade.

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 vari-



Promoting the 1981 Regatta

ety 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.



Ready to go



KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
9-03	1:39	1.1FT.	17:09 1.6FT.
9-04	2:47	1.0FT.	17:59 1.7FT.
9-05	3:42	0.9FT.	18:41 1.8FT.
9-06	4:20	0.8FT.	19:26 1.9FT.
9-07	4:57	0.8FT.	20:02 1.9FT.
9-08	5:35	0.8FT.	20:35 1.9FT.
9-09	6:05	0.8FT.	21:14 1.9FT.
9-10	6:32	0.8FT.	21:50 1.9FT.

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

3T	Honalee	Safari
Angie	Infinity	Sandpiper, USA
Alegria, USA	Jacuzzi	Santa Maria, Sweden
Alaluya	Macaby, Netherlands	Scintilla, Germany
Aleria	Maggie	Side by Side
Aurora	Makai	Sirius
Avatar, USA	Marathon	Sojourner
Batje	Marina Em	Southern Cross
Blueprint	Marnel IV	Starlight Dancer
Brehorn	Misty Blue	Sylvia K
Bright Sea	My Dream Israel	Ti Amo, USA
Camissa, Chan Is.	Natural Selection, USA	Too pfarr out
Camperdown	Nonesuch, USVI	TopCat
Cape Kathryn	Nut N Honey	Tothill
Chacuco	One Way Wind	Ty Dewi, USA
Delphinus	Ottifant	Ulu Ulu, USA
El Sabor	Pamela Jean	Unicorn, Norway
Escapade	Pastime	Varedhuni, Germany
Fan-Fan	Polecat	Wind Born III
Flying Cloud, USA	Pomona	Wingin It
Gatsby, USA	Pow Wow	Windmiller, Canada
Gonzo II	Precocious Gale, USA	Ya-T, BVI
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Rumbacon	Zahi, Malta

IT'S ALL ABOUT HEALTH

Dienst Gezondheid En Hygiene (The Health Department and Hygiene) in Kralendijk offers many incredible no-cost and low-cost services to Bonaire residents. As one of their many services, they have an open door program every Wednesday between 8 am and noon whereby anyone seeking help or guidance is welcome to come in and meet with their staff free of charge. They can help you with a wide range of things -from locating a walker for your grandmother to handling many types of family issues. This service is free of charge.

While The Health Department and Hygiene has many responsibilities, their primary focus includes:

1. Prevention

Does your school or organization want or need alcohol or drug prevention education?

The youth of Bonaire is one of our most important assets! The Health Department and Hygiene reaches out to our youth by offering drug prevention education. They have worked in our schools and Jong Bonaire to provide young people with skills that they may use to resist the pressures to use alcohol and other drugs.

Do you need condoms or birth control? Free condoms and low cost birth control aids are available through the Health and Hygiene Department.

Do you need information about sexually transmitted diseases? Information and training about sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/Aids is available through the Health Department and Hygiene to companies, schools and Jong Bonaire. In addition, individual HIV/Aids patients can receive counseling on preventing the spread of the disease.

2. Control

Did you ever wonder who controls food handling and process inspections on Bonaire? The Health Department and Hygiene is responsible for the inspection of the food handling processes at restaurants, grocery stores and other food oriented operations. And, they provide education to these organizations on the proper handling and preparation of food.

Complaints regarding hospitals, dentists and clinics should be directed to the Health Department and Hygiene. They will obtain information, analyze the data and if there is concern, they will request inspections via the Central Government.

3. Health Promotion

They work in partnership with dieticians to develop programs that promote healthy eating, positive nutrition and prevent obesity.

Oral health is promoted through education to our children in the school system.

Mental health care in dealing with depression, family and social problems is available through their staff of nurses.

4. Factor Control

Do you have mosquitoes, rats, cockroaches and termites? The Health Department and Hygiene will arrange for inspections of your home or business, provide advice and they have a variety of products available for purchase. In addition, they inspect and certify incoming tourist ships and cargo ships for cleanliness.

The Health Department and Hygiene plays a major role in advising the government on policies that involve the public health system. Their offices are located at Kaya General C.M. Piar #9. Office hours are 7:30 am to 1 and 1:30 to 5 pm. **To learn more about their services** you can call them at 717-3737 or email them at DGH@bonairelive.com. □ Sharon Barlass



drs. Maria Roselly Gromotka-Pourier and drs. Marugia Janga talked about health with author Sharon Barlass.

THE BONAIREAN NEW AGE TOUCH



Bonaire 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



Benito Dirksz, Angélique Salsbach and Marugia Janga

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

(Continued on page 11)

(New Age. Continued from page 10)

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 Jonchi. "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*



YOUNG BAKERS WIN COMPETITION



The proud winners show off their tempting entries: Raydeline Coffie (3rd prize), Monique Janga (2nd prize) and Kingsleyan Susana (1st prize)

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 bario.

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 bario each time. □ *L.D.*

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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**



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



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BOATS & ENGINES for SALE

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



FOR SALE

MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE 1993 Honda Shadow. Asking price: NAf4.000 o.n.o. Info call 786-1005 or 786-6956

Brand New Mobile Room Airco with remote - 220v., 50-60 cycles, NAf600. 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. **NAf650.** Call 717-8811 or 568-6257.

Toshiba Satellite Computer: PSA10C-05HVM, Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 2.4GHz, 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 1/2 yrs), **Price \$1999 negotiable.** **Phone: 791-4192, thuisiva@hotmail.com**

PROPERTY FOR RENT.

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

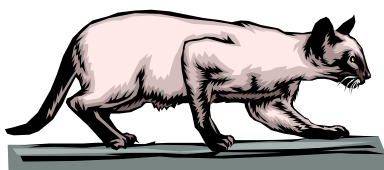
We want to rent a house, Oct. - Dec. 2004, or swap with our house in Soest. Call 035-6022307, dick_janny@hetnet.nl

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.

WANTED

WANTED: (The services of) a Siamese male cat for our female one. Fam. Jonkman. **Tel. 717-2006**



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.



"Carlito"

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.

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.

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

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

PART TWO

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.

Dr. Faraclas participated in a study in Papua, New Guinea, where English is the "official" language (like Dutch is here). Traditionally the children, who spoke languages other than English, were taught in English. As a result, **only 3% of the students finished Grade 12.** During the study a class of children in the first two to three grades (Class A) were taught in their mother tongue. Gradually, English was added, and by the fourth year, it was totally in English. **At the end of the fourth year the children in Test Group A were tested in English and 100 % of them passed.**

This test group was compared to a class of children (Class B) who were taught in the traditional English-only way. However, **of the students from the traditional all-English system, Test Group B, after the Sixth Grade, only 20% passed.** The premise is that if a child has a good foundation in his own language (for the first couple of years), then he can build on that foundation. In other words, "Success Breeds Success."

As a result of the outcome, the government of Papua, New Guinea, gave in, and the parents determined which language, of the more than 350 languages in New Guinea, would be used. (Bonaire does not have that problem; it has only one – Papiamentu!)



IMPORTANCE OF TEACHERS' SUPPORT

"Without the teachers' support, no program will succeed. Now the teachers have been trained to teach in Dutch all these years, so imagine if you were a teacher and all of a sudden someone came along and said you have to change everything. Many teachers have no experience in teaching in Papiamentu so it would be like starting their careers all over again. (In changing over to the new system) you need the time to train the teachers, to re-train them, to explain the program very well because I think a lot of teachers aren't really sure; they have the same kind of doubts that the parents have.

It would be great if all the teachers in Bonaire could go the Erasmus School in Curaçao to visit and see the teachers there because this would really convince them that teaching in Papiamentu is the best thing. Those teachers are so enthusiastic. They all taught in Dutch before, and they know what a brick wall that was. When they taught in Dutch, the kids 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 intimidated. 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

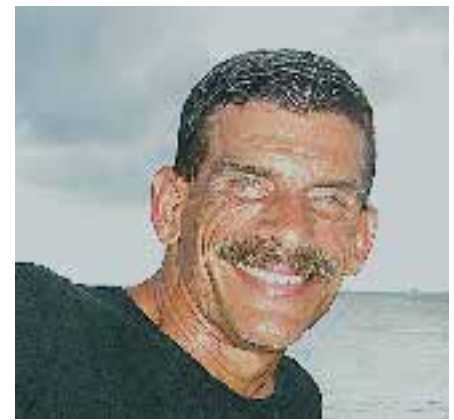
Of course changing the system takes time. If you try to change in one or two years you'll miss the opportunity to establish a good foundation. There's no real shortcut to changing an educational system. You have to do it methodically, systematically. So the teachers from Bonaire should come over and 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



Dr. Nick Faraclas,
Professor of Linguistics

Papiamentu is not "simple" at all. It has a fully developed grammatical system, a fully developed sound system – which is tone, stress, and accent - a fully developed vocabulary for most needs. But if there are technical, academic needs it's very easy to either use Papiamentu words to name the concepts or, if necessary, take words from other languages. Right now the Institute is doing a word list about psychology and many other different areas in Papiamentu. Papiamentu does have a sizeable vocabulary but it hasn't extended to different realms like psychology or sociology – very technical concepts. It hasn't gotten there yet, but it's not hard to get there. Think of all the vocabulary you use for computers. In French most of it comes from English. In Dutch a lot of it comes from English too. As new things are developed languages have to find words for them. If they can't use their own words, they pick them from other languages. It's a normal process in languages; it's not exceptional. In fact it's a sign of a language that's really alive. The only languages that don't borrow are dead languages, and Papiamentu is certainly not a dead language! It's a sign of its vitality that it can borrow from other languages without losing its identity.

CHILDREN COMING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

There are different ways to deal with children entering the educational system who have come from other countries. If the children have learned Papiamentu as a first language even though their parents have come from another country, there should be no problem. Many may have grown up speaking Papiamentu with the other children. For those children who don't have Papiamentu as a first language there's already a provision in the system for special

*(Papiamentu in the Schools.
Continued from page 13)*

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.

□

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! Usually 9:00 pm
White Chicks
 (Shawn and Marlon Wayans)

Early Show (usually 7pm)
King Arthur

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
Spiderman 2

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 (more on page 5)

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)



Monday, September 6— Bonaire Day Celebration at the Sentro di Bario in North Saliña. Public Holiday, most stores closed.

Until September 25, at Cinnamon Art Gallery an exhibition of "Nochi" Coffie's works.

COMING

Saturday, September 18—Clean Up the World—Selibon and Fundashon Tene Boneiru Limpi. Tel. 717-8159.

Tuesday, September 21—SGB Culinary School Fundraiser Dinner, Chez Nous, at 6 pm. To help send four students to study cuisine in Italy for 4 weeks. More information coming.

EVERY WEEK

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

Monday -Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20- Call Maria 717-6435

Monday -Rum Punch Party on the beach at Lion's Dive. Dutch National Products introduces Time Sharing and how to save on your next vacation. 6:15 to 7 pm

Tuesday-BonaireTalker Dinner/

Gathering at Gibi's Terrace-6:30pm -call Jake at 717-6773 or e-mail jake@bonairetalk.com for more 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 #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 Topsy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valarie@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 . Alta Mira Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am.**

Town Walking tour at 9:30, Bus 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. 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.

* * * * *

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. 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 Parilla
La Balandra On the Water at the Harbour Village Resort 717-7500, ext 62; 785-0902	Moderate 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/25 Beach Pass, a NA/15 credit is given for meals Bonaire's best seaside location.
The Last Bite Bakery 717-3293 Home Delivery or Take Out	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers gourmet class items - always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The 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.
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 NA/7-
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
The Seahorse Cyber Café Kaya Grandi #6. Phone 717-4888	Low-Moderate Open 7 am - 7 pm Closed Sunday	Tasty breakfasts, pastries, fresh tropical juices, homemade bread, special sandwiches, delicious desserts and more make this a favorite.



SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



AIRLINES

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

APPLIANCES/FURNITURE/COMPUTERS

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

BANKS

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

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

De Freewieler rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

BOOKS

Watercolours Bonaire and **Eye on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao** are the most original ways to remember Bonaire and the islands at their best. At Photo Tours and many other island shops.
Bonaire Diving Made Easy, Third Edition, is an essential in your dive bag. The latest information on Bonaire's shore dive sites.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

APA Construction are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

CYBER CAFES

See Restaurant Guide for **The Seahorse Cyber Café.**

DIVING

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Dive Inn Seven studio apartments and dive shop/school directly on the waterfront in the heart of town. Friendly, highly experienced with an exceptional staff.

FITNESS

Bonfysio offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.
Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

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

Paradise Photo in the Galeries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints and slides plus a variety of items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.
Re/Max Paradise Homes: International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community.
Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

REPAIRS

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

RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

SUPERMARKETS

Tropical Flamingo is convenient, clean, modern, efficient and has the lowest prices on Bonaire. Located behind NAPA.
Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

TOYS AND GAMES

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

WATER TAXI

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

WINES

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

YOGA

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

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN:
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
The most advertising for your guild.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

Marlis Seelos-Schmid

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. Curaçao was a safe place to leave the boat for eight months. The first time I saw Bonaire I'd sailed over from Curaçao. 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 10 years 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've 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. There are still quite a few places left that I want to see: Easter Island, the south of Chile, Patagonia. As long as I can afford it I'll give myself a ticket for my birthday and for Christmas. I like places with very strange cultures like Mexico, Peru and Ecuador - the Indians - and the small islands in the Pacific. I never get enough of islands. I don't know why. It's just wonderful to explore an island where the people still live like a hundred years ago. I love marketplaces where I sit and watch the people for hours, talk to them. I want to be outside, sleep in a

hammock and wash myself and my clothes in the river together with the local women. I think, on the other hand, Bonaire is enough, but I wouldn't have known that if I didn't have the opportunity to travel."

Marlis Seelos-Schmid (60+) is an extraordinary, extravagant woman with a big heart, a beautiful soul and a tremendous lust for life. "I was a little devil as a child- more like a boy than a girl. We were four children and my father died when I was eight. It wasn't easy for my mom, but she managed. She was a great person. We lived in a small village. At 14 you dropped out of school because it was a waste to let a girl learn a profession as she would marry anyway. At 15 I worked in a photo business. I worked there for three years and went to school once a week. Then I passed my exam and became a professional photographer. My mother

pushed me to do it. She taught me sewing too; now I make my living from it! My mom and I were always singing. When she heard a waltz on the radio she would push the table aside and we danced. A real waltz is gorgeous! I love to dance and I love music - every kind - as long as you can hear the instruments clearly. My parents had a gramophone - a piece of furniture it was. My favorite music was the Overture to the Barber of Seville from Rossini. I sat there in my nightgown, singing and playing the harmonium like a diva!"

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 prikitchis, 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 handcrafts 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 handcrafts 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



Marlis Seelos-Schmid

"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."

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



Greta Kooistra

PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER

Republican National Convention, New York City

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.) □



HARVARD COMES TO BONAIRE

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*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

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

If 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 26-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 1/4 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, 3/4 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 skinnier Moon will be well below Venus, and Mercury and Regulus will be much farther apart - 1 1/2 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. □ Jack Horkheimer



Moon Info ☾ Last Quarter September 6th ● New Moon September 14th ☽ Full Moon September 21st ☽ First Quarter on September 28th



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
September 3 to 10, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Unexpected events may upset your routine. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. Offer consolation, but don't give them any direction. Make changes that will enhance your appearance. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You are best to deal with those outside your family. Don't allow personal problems to conflict with professional duties. Now is the time for completing hobbies that you've been working on for a long time. If you're willing to cut loose you will find yourself in the midst of an exciting encounter. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Deal with in-laws this week. Driving too fast or double parking will result in difficulties with officials. Don't hesitate to sign up for creative courses or physical fitness programs. Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You can make changes to your living quarters, but not everyone will be pleased with your efforts. New romantic partners will evolve through group endeavors; however, the association may not be likely to last. You will be attracted to unusual forms of entertainment and foreign cultures. Try to deal with the problems of those less fortunate; however, don't allow them to make unreasonable demands. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Extend an invitation to clients you enjoy spending time with. Don't let them blame you. You are best to work at home if you can. You can make career moves that will bring you a much higher income. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Channel your energy into decorating or household chores. In-laws may cause difficulties. Travel should be considered. Try to be patient and understanding. You are in a high cycle where travel, education, and creative endeavors are concerned. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your outgoing nature will win hearts. Do something special for them. Be sure to take care of the needs of your immediate loved ones first. Do you really want to start something with someone you can't reason with? Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can complete any projects efficiently, especially if you put the effort in yourself. Residential moves will be hectic and may be unsatisfactory. If you've been really busy, try to schedule some time to spend with loved ones. Try to bend to their wishes if you want to avoid conflict. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can make it up to them later. Plan to do things with your faithful pet or with youngsters who have interesting hobbies. You can dazzle members of the opposite sex with your quick wit and aggressive charm. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You should be able to tie up loose ends this week. Avoid any erratic behavior or it could cause isolation at home. You'll find travel or involvement in large groups gratifying. Changes in your home may be disruptive and upsetting. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't let your partner start any arguments. Passion should be redirected positively. You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. Partnerships may be strained if one of you has been erratic and hard to deal with. Watch for empty promises that may give you false hope. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will meet some interesting people if you attend promotional functions. Don't jump into investments too quickly. Take time to help children with projects that may be too hard for them to do on their own. Use your charm to get your own way. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday. □