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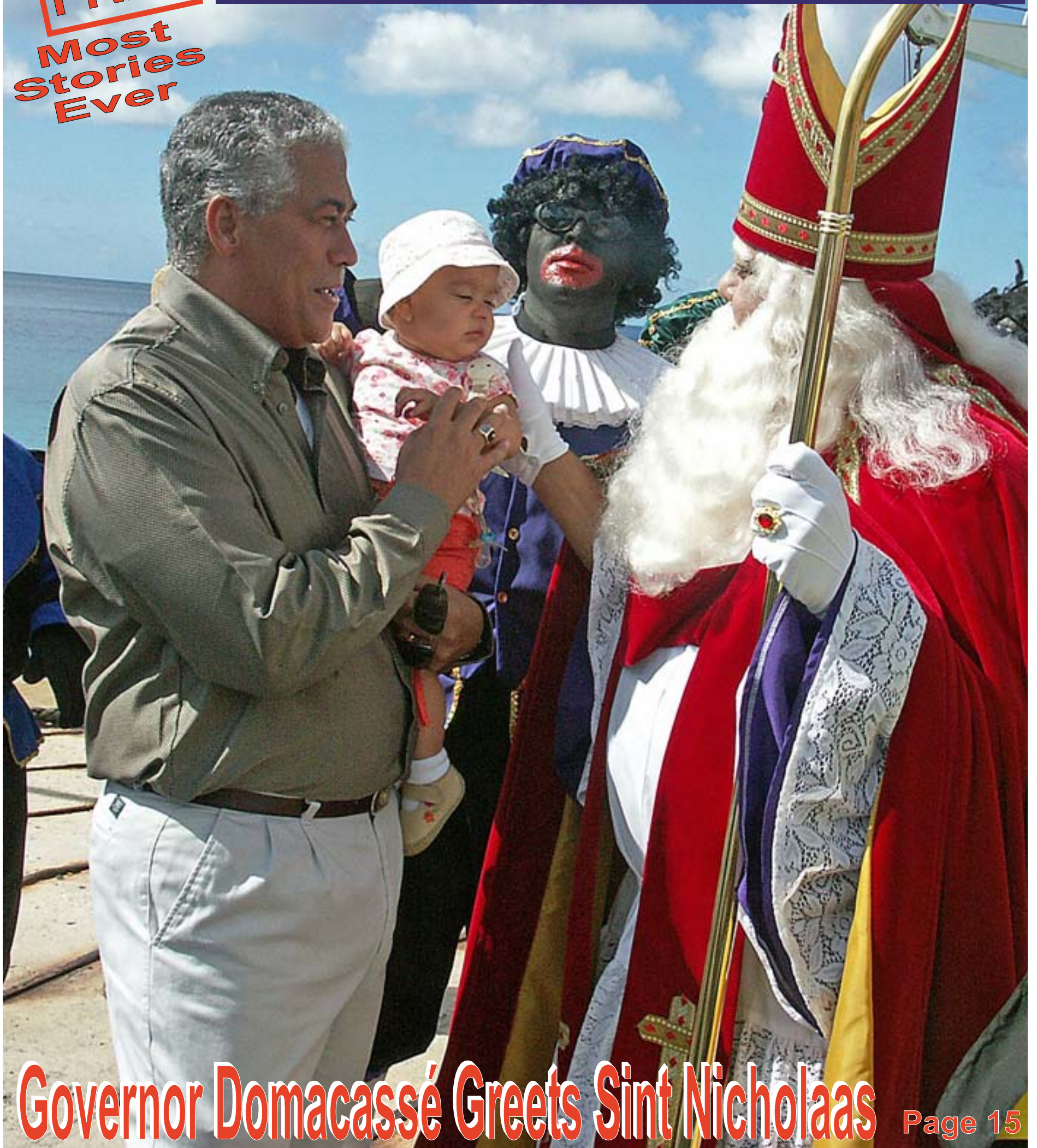
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Ever**

# The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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

SINCE 1994



**Governor Domacassé Greets Sint Nicholaas**

Page 15

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

The Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles has unanimously voted to formally ask Holland for assistance in fighting crime on the islands, including use of the military to patrol the coasts and Marechaussees (Special police) to assist local police.

► **Curaçao will hold its own Referendum** on April 8. Voters will be asked to state their preference for the future constitutional status of the island. A committee recommended that only residents 18 years and older with Dutch nationality be allowed to vote. Both Bonaire and Saba had allowed youngsters 16 years and older as well as non-Dutch legal residents living on the island five years or more to vote in their referenda.

The four options in Curaçao would be:

- A) Remain part of the Netherlands Antilles.
- B) Become an autonomous country in the Kingdom.
- C) Become part of Holland.
- D) Become an independent state.

If none of the four options receives an absolute majority, there will be a second vote between the two leading options on April 15.

Three of the other Dutch Antillean islands have already held similar referenda. Sint Maarten voted for a status aparte in 2000 and Bonaire and Saba decided in referenda recently to seek to establish direct ties to the Netherlands. Sint Eustatius is expected to put the issue to a vote some time next year. What would it mean if Curaçaoans voted for Option A, while all of the other islands choose not to remain part of the Netherlands Antilles?

► Major league baseball star **Andruw Jones has lost interest in building a new sport complex** on his home island of Curaçao after the local government put his request on hold earlier this year. Construction would have started in June 2004 and by the end of next year it would have been completed.

► **The ExelAviationGroup has officially taken over charter airline DutchBird.** Exel CEO Harm Prins said that the deal was signed. "We will con-

tinue with DutchBird clients' contracts as well as keeping their personnel," he said. "There will soon be an integration of DutchBird into Exel. DutchBird will probably be placed under HollandExel from the summer season." The takeover gives Exel five more planes and 250 more employees. Two of the Airbus may be based in Curaçao for regional flights.

► **The Curaçao District Attorney settled the 20 million guilder fine against the world famous Curaçao brothel** next to Hato Airport, Campo Alegre, for 6 million guilders. The money will be deposited in the Crime-Prevention Fund. Almost a million guilders in cash and cars had already been seized. Campo owner Giovanni van Ierland was also personally fined one million guilders in addition to having to serve a 12-year jail sentence. His companies, Wilhire Advisors Ltd, Talisa NV, Krisia NV, Curaned Vastgoed NV, RPS Finance NV and Campos Alegre CV, were also charged with drug money laundering. "We have agreed to this settlement to avoid wasting money and time," stated press officer Giselle Veen-Jonkhout. "If you take the appeals process into account it could take years before the matter is settled."

► **Tourism in Curaçao dropped 13% in October;** a fall blamed on the cessation of DCA flights. The island received at least a thousand fewer visitors from the Caribbean region. Also vacationers from The Netherlands fell compared to the record month of last October when a price war for trans-Atlantic flights was raging. Readers will recall how Bonaire's arrival figures fell when DCA arbitrarily cut service to our island by 70% a couple of years ago.

► Another airline has stepped in to replace service formerly provided by DCA. **British West Indies Airways (BWIA) will start flying** late night round trip flights between Trinidad, Curaçao and the Dominican Republic on December 12 using a 164-seat Boeing 737-800 twice a week.

Normally the Curaçao-Santo Domingo leg is reserved for a national car-

rier of the Antilles or Dominican Republic, but special permission was given in the interest of Curaçao's Free Zone, which gets lot of customers from the two island nations as well as Haiti. The Free Zone has suffered economically since the bankruptcy of Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA) because of the loss of airlift from countries in the Caribbean region.

► **Are Bonaire's two medical schools a boost to the local economy?** According to Ramon Chong, head of the Economic Affairs Department in Curaçao, each year a foreign student going to college in the Caribbean spends NAf52.000, and each foreign teacher, NAf 78.000 on the island they reside. A faculty with 100 students spends NAf 5.8 million every year.

► **Hundreds of tremors continued to rattle Guadeloupe and Dominica** last Tuesday, two days after a strong earthquake killed a girl and damaged scores of buildings, officials said.

In Dominica, a group of children in the northern town of Portsmouth ran frantically from a school building during a moderate aftershock Tuesday morning, said Cecil Shillingford, the country's national disaster coordinator. Guadeloupe's seismological office reported more than 1,700 aftershocks - mostly minor ones - since Sunday's main 6.3 tremor. But there have been several major aftershocks including a 5.4, two 4.9s and a 4.7.

► It's not free. To provide Curaçao local news for Chinese people, Zhisem He, 22, started a **Chinese weekly paper, the Chinese Weekly News.** It's printed in Chinese characters. The first edition was published last Saturday. "Almost all the Chinese people who end up in Curaçao start out as cooks in a restaurant. They can't speak the local language so they can't follow the local news, which is why we started this paper," declared He. The paper costs NAf2.

► **On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) will host its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Awards Event** at the Casino of Plaza Resort Bonaire at 8:30 pm. BONHATA's membership now includes 63 hotels, apartments, restaurants, dive schools, excursion operators, car rental

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agencies, retailers, wholesalers, airlines and airline services, accounting firms and banks.

BONHATA will be honoring individuals, companies and hotel properties that have been nominated by their fellow members in 10 categories. It promises to be a fun-filled evening, full of surprises: Bonaire's newest band, a car auction, a raffle with wonderful prizes such as KLM tickets to Lima, Quito and

*Continued on page 4*

Amsterdam, resort stays and much more. You must be present to win. All raffle proceeds will go towards helping the children of Bonaire.

**Tickets must be bought in advance** at the BONHATA office (Harbour Village Marina) for NAf35 per person, includes a welcome drink, live music and snacks. Call Diana at 717-5134 during office hours or buy your tickets from one of the board members. There is a dress code: black and white with a little splash of RED for Christmas.

► **The Washington Slagbaai National Park would like to invite the people of the island and visitors to take advantage of the situation of the**

*(Continued on page 4)*

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 2)  
**closed roads in the Park for some incredible hiking, mountain biking and bird watching opportunities.**

The Park is extremely quiet and peaceful without the vehicles, which makes it easy to spot different animals by the roads. The green of the vegetation is overwhelming and the temperature is "friendlier" than normal with the clouds. It will take between six and eight hours to walk around the whole Park and between two and four hours to go by bike. The roads are very wet, so be ready for a lot of mud and a lot of fun. Also, be prepared for some showers during the journey. As you can see, these activities are not for everybody but for those in real good shape and well equipped.

► **Did you every wonder what happened to the whale that arrived in Bonaire**, impaled on the bow of the ship *Nieuw Amsterdam* in January 2000 (*Bonaire Reporter* Jan. 18-24, 2000; "Whale Whacked")? It was brought to the Cargill Salt Company until it decomposed and the bones were saved. Archeologist Dr. Jay Havisser's group of Bonai students will take over the project of reconstructing the whale bones to make it a special exhibit at the Washington Park Museum. According to a Bonaire Marine Park report at the time, the whale was a 40-foot long (12+ meters) adult Tropical or Bryde's Whale (*Balenoptera edeni*), locally called a *Bayena Tompoes*. More details on this fascinating project next week.

► Almost everyone needs Bonairean note cards. JanArt has in stock the new **2004 Seasons Greetings Bonaire note cards**. The cards this year depict the scene of Country Garden Dive Site - above and below. The price is NAf26,70 for a box of eight. If you want authentic greeting cards from the island of Bonaire you can find them at the JanArt Gallery on Kaya Gloria 7, Chat N Browse, DePalm Gift Shop at Flamingo Beach and Bonaire Arts & Crafts downtown in Playa.

► Intermezzo Day Spa, with its magnificent location on the waterfront at Captain Don's Habitat, just **added a**



► Last week **Antonio De Palm was honored for his 25 years of service to Bonaire's government** as a messenger at a ceremony attended by his colleagues and family. Commissioner Yonchi Dortalina presented him with a certificate in commemoration of the landmark event. Antonio certainly put his messenger background to good use because he was a **multiple gold medal winner in track at the World Special Olympic Games in Dublin last year and the Caribbean Games in Jamaica this year. He's known as the "Barefoot Flash."**

**delicious new treatment with a luscious scent—a Fruity Scrub** -to its already extensive line of services like massages, wraps and facials. Feel fresh and revitalized. Just imagine exfoliating your dead skin cells on your first day of vacation so you will absorb the rays even better. Call them at 717-8290 or 786-7069.

► Michael Obersi of Dew Point, N.V., the Wimco agent and distributor in Bonaire, reports that they have **Eurotech appliances in stock now**. They are 220 volt and 50 hertz, perfect for Bonaire. On special right now is a JWIN DVD player with home theatre system for NAf345. Dew Point is on Kaya Simon Bolivar #9, up the street from Telbo. Stop by for a copy of their free catalog.

► A warm **welcome** to our newest *Bonaire Reporter* advertisers: **Benetton** (fine clothing fashions), **Bonaire Oceanfront** (beachfront villa), **Bonaire Pro** (accounting and tax consulting), **Cellular One** (cell phone services), **Germaine Nijdam's 2005 Calendar**, **Intermezzo Day**



► **Xavier Medical School students conducted free blood pressure tests** in front of the main MCB-Bonaire Bank branch. There was a brisk turnout.

**Spa** (massage and beauty treatments), **Juli Mar** (government paperwork, immigration, citizenship) and **Littman's Jewelers**.

These businesses, as do all of *The Bonaire Reporter* advertisers keep *The Bonaire Reporter* free. Please give them your support, especially during this holiday season. □ G/L.D.

Continued on page 5



► MCB-Bonaire, Bonaire's leading bank, has **announced two VISA card events**. The first is that you can now get your MCB VISA card with a colorful photo of Slagbaai Park in the background. The second is that you can now pay for your Park entrance fee and any snacks or souvenirs right at the Park because they are now equipped with a wireless credit card machine. Call the bank at 715-5547 for information on the new card and/or the new VISA system.



**Almar Nicolaas, merchant representative of the MCB BankCard Services Department, demonstrates the wireless credit card machine to George "Kultura," Washington Park Chief Ranger.**



*Lando on guitar*

► If you love good jazz and grand Tuscan Italian cooking you'll have an opportunity to enjoy both at **Crocantino's Big Jazz night in the Garden on Friday, December 10.** Jazz greats Herchel Rosario on bass and Ronchi Matthews on piano will be here from Curaçao for the evening. They'll be joined by Guus Gerritsen on sax, Benje on guitar, Lando Tjin a Sjoie on bass guitar and vocalist Linda Anthony. The new chef direct from Tuscany, Fabrisio Bernardini, will serve a delectable four-course meal that would make the Di Medicis swoon. Dinner and music start at 7 pm. Make your reservation now as space is limited. Call 717-7025. The evening is \$45 per person.

**POLICE  
UPDATE**



**Police Hot Line -108  
Police Main Line 717-8000  
Public Prosecutor - 717-8626**

**Public Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius reports:**

• There were six drug smuggler arrests by the Flamingo Team at the airport last week.

• Five people were arrested for burglaries; two of them were minors, 13 and 14 years old. "This is very worrying to me," Wesselius says, "the fact that young people are involved in crimes."

• The police have been very active, he says. Last year he had 350 cases. This year there have been 411. "The police are working hard," he continues. The numbers of drug smuggling cases at the airport are diminishing. The numbers of other cases are increasing as the police are out capturing more suspects and solving more crimes. □L.D.

# FKPD BREAKS GROUND

**F**KPD

(Foundation for the Care of Disabled Persons) Director Lupe Uranie shares a light moment with Angelo Clarinda, owner of BBC Construction Company, last Friday during the laying of the first stone in the FKPD building project. In all, eight buildings will go up: a new recreation center, day care for the elderly and children, a multi-disciplined center and five



*Lupe Uranie and Angelo Clarinda*

houses for people to live independently, but under guidance and supervision. The entire Pasadia, now in Rincon, will move to the new location, while ATV Stanislaus, the work and training facilities, such as the souvenir shop, the greenhouse, the kitchen and the candle, postcard and handicraft workshop and all the offices, will stay in Rincon. The majority of the funds to build the facility came from BZV (the organization that pays for health care) with a donation from *Katholieke Noden*, a Catholic organization in Holland. NAPA donated 2,000 concrete blocks. The new project will be built on Kaya Son Montuno, between the SGB (high school) and Kaya Nikiboko North. □L.D./G.K.

# SUNSET BEACH HOTEL... GOING, GOING, GONE

It was the grandest hotel on Bonaire in its time- the Hotel Bonaire. It included a spacious casino and dining room, where the men dressed in coats and ties, the ladies in gowns, for dinner. It passed through several incarnations as tourist habits changed. It was last known as the Sunset Beach Hotel, rescued from closing by local entrepreneur Hugo Gerharts. But even he couldn't stop foreclosure. The auction of its furniture and fixture marked, for many Bonaireans, a low point in Bonaire's tourism history.

For about the last five years the buildings have been vacant, an eyesore, hazard and a monument to hard times. Last month the Island Government decided to raze the structure. The demolition was completed this week and now only the wreckage remains to be carted away. Reportedly buyers are waiting, but lawsuits are slowing the process.

The demolition team did a fine job of tearing down the hotel without disturbing the venerable old trees on the property.

The hotel may be gone, but you can still get a souvenir. Dive Inn has some great vintage 100% cotton collared shirts from the real old days that say "Sunset Beach Dive Center - Bonaire." They're selling them for only \$5 while supplies last! Dive Inn is located at ChaChaCha Beach, just south of the piers. □ G./L.D.



*Going...*



*Going...*



*Gone...*

# HAVO 4 STUDENTS HUSTLE



On a recent Sunday in November the SGB (high school) Havo-4 class in Geography/History worked hard to clean our cars and did a fabulous job, inside and outside. The whole thing started with the idea of making an educational trip to one of the other Antillean islands. Saint Martin was picked as the destination for May 2005.

It's a "do" project, meaning the kids will have to figure out and plan the whole thing. And when on Saint Martin they will be put to work to do a practical assignment. It's all part of their fourth year education.

The teachers - Mr. Loozen (Geography), Mr. Vriezema (History) and Mrs. Chang (Dutch) - are coordinating the trip. Besides getting and staying there and putting together a program when on the island, the financial component will take a lot of organizing and fund raising.

So a start was made with a car wash in the parking area of the SGB restaurant, Chez Nous. (By the way, for an excellent lunch or dinner there, call the school - telephone 717-8120 - for more information).

The pupils sold over 100 tickets and made some extra cash by selling soft drinks and snacks. The take for the day was over NAf1.000. It's a drop in the ocean so far, but it's a great beginning. Estimated costs are about NAf 900 per participant.

Next to come is a Guinness Book of World Records record-breaking attempt. All kids will be involved in this sporting event. What record will be broken is not divulged yet. We'll keep you informed. □ *Marjolein Hayden*

## WIL'S TROPICAL GRILL OPENS

Despite last Sunday's downpour it was a sunny opening for Wil's Tropical Grill. Guests celebrated with drinks and Wil's tasty hors d'oeuvres which continually poured out of the kitchen. The restaurant is ensconced in a traditional old Bonairean home and garden in the center of Playa, across from Exito Bakery. Wil and his wife Sue previously operated their food emporium at Lighthouse at the Harbour Village Marina and gained lots of loyal customers. At their new location the house and garden have had a complete overhauling and painting. It's charming and sparkling, and you'll know you're in the Caribbean! Wil says he'll be keeping a lot of his old standard dishes -all the popular ones- and it's really Caribbean - fresh and spicy. □ *L.D.*



*Wil and Sue in their spotless kitchen. They replaced everything with their own immaculate stainless steel appliances*

## NORTH SALIÑA NEW BOARD of DIRECTORS

The Sentro di Bario of North Saliña has elected a new board of directors for a two-year term.

They are: Sra. Xiomara Alberto, Sra. Florence Semeleer, Sr. Santiago "Chago" Melaan, Sr. Nazario Alberto, Sra. Enid Semeleer, Sra. Rosina Leonicia-Thomas and Sra. Josefa Cicilia. □ *Press release*



*Five of the seven new board members*

## WEB UPGRADES

Last Thursday, a large group of WEB employees in the Maintenance and Distribution section completed an extensive 10-day basic course in the principles of the "governor" that is part of power distribution control. This upgrade, of vital importance to their daily work, was received enthusiastically, according to management. Engineer Elfried Koots of the Power Management and Control System (PMCS) company was in charge of the course. □ *WEB release*



# "LEGEND of LAC BAY" PLEDGES TURTLE PROTECTION



STCB Photo

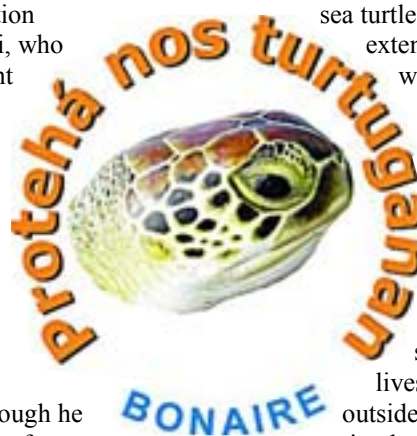
Bonaire Marine Park Ranger Zudmar Obispo (left) and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's Gielmon 'Funchi' Egbreghts (right) with Doi Boekhoudt after he pledged to protect the turtles of Lac Bay.

Doi Boekhoudt joins the effort to protect the sea turtles of Bonaire. Shaking hands with staff from the Bonaire National Marine Park and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), Doi, who is a long-time resident of Lac Bay, declared that he will work to keep turtles in the bay safe from poachers. Harming sea turtles has been prohibited on Bonaire since 1991. The 'Legend of Lac Bay,' as Doi is also known, said that although he has caught thousands of sea turtles in Lac Bay during his lifetime, these animals should now be protected and that he will be watching Lac Bay and beyond to ensure that no more turtles are killed. In recent years, Doi has turned over several live sea turtles

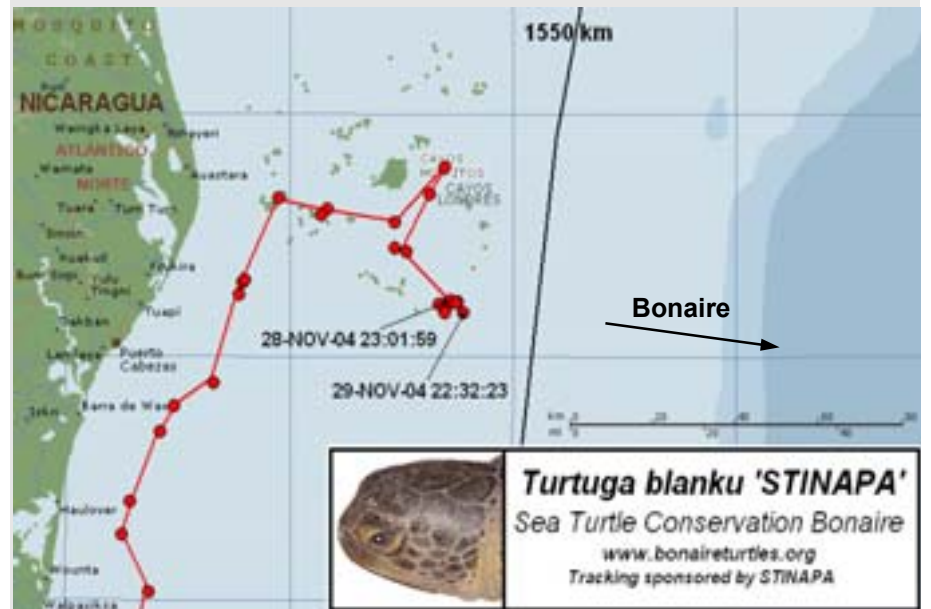
that were accidentally caught in his fishing nets to STCB staff for tagging and release back into the lagoon.

Lac Bay is of special significance to sea turtles because it features extensive seagrass pastures where Green and Hawksbill turtles feed. STCB staff estimate that more than 100 juvenile Green turtles use Lac Bay for feeding during the daytime. Another big group of subadult Green turtles lives on the reefs just outside of Lac and these animals may also feed inside the lagoon, entering and leaving through the Cay channel during the night.

Doi Boekhoudt joins the island-wide outreach and education campaign, "Protehá nos Turtuganan," that started



# TURTLE TRAVELS



Shallow  
Bonaire →

Another of Bonaire's breeding turtles has completed her journey to her feeding ground, dangerous as it may be. 'STINAPA,' our female Green turtle, has arrived in her home feeding grounds. In the last 24 hours, she has traveled only a couple of kilometers and as you can see on the map, her date points are quite closely bunched. She is approximately 1,570 km from Bonaire and 75 km from the coast of Nicaragua. Robert van Dam, STCB Project Director, has asked a colleague who is familiar with the area to provide us with information about 'STINAPA's' location. (We do know it is in the notorious Mosquito Cays, where turtles are taken for food.)

'Funny', our female Hawksbill turtle, the final turtle tagged this year, is still with us and is off Klein Bonaire. □ Andy Uhr

this month, an initiative of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance in cooperation with STINAPA, Fundashon pa Bon Koral and STCB. STCB aims to protect sea turtles through education, research and taking conservation actions. Founded in 1992, the STCB is a Bonaire-based, non-governmental and non-profit organization, part of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network. STCB is supported by the Netherlands Antilles' Department of Environment & Nature Conservation through a grant from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. □ STCB release





**2nd ANNUAL TRIATHLON**  
A JONG BONAIRE EVENT

December 19<sup>th</sup>  
Race starts at 7:00 AM



Sign-up 18 december 17:30 at City Café followed by a Pasta Party for participants

For individuals or teams of three as a relay

\* Entry fee NA\$15, per person, no kids (16+ per relay team)  
\* Each relay team must have at least one member under 18 years of age

\* A great team that will have a great time, all day long!  
\* \$15-\$4000 and we can find someone for you.  
\* The price includes the Race Pack, T-shirt, water and fuel along the route and an information package

## TRIATHLON IS COMING

It's the Second Annual Triathlon (swimming, cycling, running) sponsored by Jong Bonaire, Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19. But there's a difference. In this Triathlon one person doesn't have to necessarily do all three sports. You can split them up among others. **But to promote more sports among the youth of the island it's hoped that each team have one or more kids.** So look around and put together your team, or do it alone if you like.

There are four different types of teams:

1. Mixed team, adults and kids
2. Individual men
3. Individual women
4. Individual kids

On Saturday at City Café all contestants register at 530 pm and get a great pasta dinner ("carb loading" for the next day). Then on Sunday morning meet at City Café at 7 am for the start of the races.

Teams pay NA\$35; individuals pay NA\$15.

Even if you're not a participant you can help, as *The Bonaire Reporter* is, by sponsoring kids. It's only NA\$15 per athlete. For more information call Mabel Nava at Jong Bonaire, telephone 717-4303. □ L.D.

# MARINES GET WET

It can be fun, too, for the Dutch marines who are doing different kinds of training in Bonaire. Hans Voerman of **Outdoor Bonaire** was asked by the Marine Corps to take 20 of their men on kayaking and cycling trips last week, but they didn't expect that they'd need kayaks when a bicycle was supposed to do. (They'd already done the kayak trip). Hans snapped these photos out in the *mundi*. Bikes came from Cycle Bonaire.

You don't have to be a Dutch marine to go on nature adventures with Outdoor Bonaire. On drier days Hans, a great friendly guy who knows the island well, takes individuals or small groups cycling, kayaking, rock climbing and abseiling and hiking through Bonaire's nature.

Outdoor Bonaire is located at the Caribbean Club Bonaire at Hilltop. For more information call Hans at 791-6272. □ L.D.



Hans Voerman photos

Into the stream



And back out again

### KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
12-03	2:13	0.8FT.	52
12-04	2:19	0.9FT.	45
12-05	2:08	1.0FT.	40
12-06	1:44	1.0FT.	40
12-07	1:24	1.0FT.	46
12-08	1:11	1.0FT.	56
12-09	0:46	1.0FT.	69
12-10	11:18	2.1FT.	81

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angie	Nowdays	Pura Vida
Alegria, USA	Indigo	Romance
Aleuya	Inspiration	Sagittarius, Aruba
Bingo	Iolea	Sandpiper, USA
Bright Sea	Jandreso	Serendipity
Camissa, Chan Is.	Jorja	Sirius
Cape Kathryn	L' Intuile	Sylvia K
Dallia	Luna C. USA	Sylvester
Delphinus	Mahi Mahi	Ta-B
Dolpins	Maggi	Ti Amo, USA
Destiny	Michelle	Tsih
Dulcinea	Moon Rice	Tartufo
Elza	Natural Selection, USA	Tween, Netherlands
Flying Cloud, USA	One Way Wind	Ulu Ulu, USA
Gammer	Odetta	Unicorn, Norway
Gatsby, USA	Panta Five	Varedhuni, Germany
Grey Lady	Papillon	Ventura II, Costa Rica
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Pisces III	Windmiller, Canada
Midnight of Goodrich	Plane Sailing	Ya-T, BVI
Nathape	Precocious Gale, USA	Zahi, Malta

# PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER



## Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Mireille Nicolaas sent us these photos of her family taken during their three-week trip to Indonesia this past June.

Traveling were Toeky, Feliz, Mireille and Ethuriel. The photo at the left shows Mireille and her mom, Toeky, in

traditional Batak dance garb. On their trip they visited Sumatra, Jakarta and Bali. The first photo was taken at Samanindo island (museum Huta Bolon) on Sumatra island. The group photo is at another museum. *The Reporter* gets around. □

While at home...



*At the Carib Inn Dive Shop, Carline Cicilia decided The Reporter was too soft to use as a pillow.*

**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](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2004 photos are eligible.)

# BONAIRE HOSTS ABC-ST. MARTIN CULINARY COMPETITION



*Bonaire Student Chef Winners 2002*

Preparations are underway for Bonaire's hosting an International Culinary Student Competition in January 13-16, 2005. Participating will be eight culinary teams from the ABC islands and St. Martin. The students will create, cook and present a three-course menu which will be judged by four or five international judges who will choose the winning team.

The first culinary student competition was held in Bonaire in 2002, when students from the SGB hotel school competed against each other and were judged by internationally recognized rules of the Caribbean Culinary Foundation (CCF). Bonaire invited the school directors and teachers from Aruba and Curacao to observe the competition. They were extremely enthusiastic and Aruba offered to host the first ABC competition the following year. Then it was Curacao's turn in 2004.

On Friday, January 14, 2005, at Chez Nous there will be culinary and possi-

bly bartending demonstrations to which the public is invited. On Saturday, January 15, there will be the Grand Awards Dinner with a magnificent buffet. What else would you expect when talented chefs and their judges get together? Tickets will be available later.

We'll have more details as the competition nears, but we wanted to make sure you got this event on your calendar now.

#### **Donations are needed.**

The committee organizing the event (all non-paid volunteers!) are asking for donations such as money, food for the competition, and chef hats and coats. For more information call Ann Leong or Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn at 717-8120 or Sara Matera at 786-9299. □ *L.D.*



**Spend Friday,  
January 14,  
2005  
At Chez  
Nous**

# 60 PLUSSEERS at CHEZ NOUS

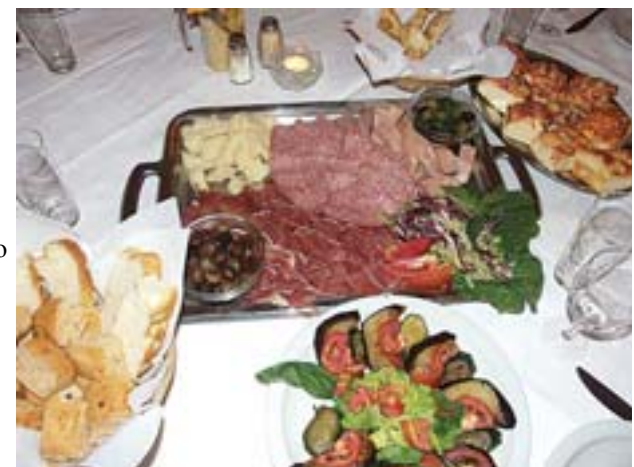


*Members of Flor di Orkidia are served by SGB Culinary Students at Chez Nous*

Last week a group of 60 plussers from the Flor di Orkidia Senior Center in North Salina had a luncheon at the SGB culinary school restaurant, Chez Nous. They were brought there by Maria Koeks of Soldachi Tours who declared, "I'm making sure all the members of the 60 plus clubs get to enjoy a luncheon here." The group dined on Homemade Tomato Soup, Chicken Cordon Bleu and a Mango Bavarois.

You don't have to be a 60 plusser to dine at Chez Nous. Age is no prerequisite; just be someone who enjoys good food and a pleasant dining experience. The restaurant is open for lunch on Wednesday and Friday, for dinners on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Lunch starts at 12:30 and is three courses. It's NAf15. Dinners start between 6 and 6:30 and are four courses. On Mondays, when the higher level students cook, dinner is NAf25. Tuesdays and Thursdays it's NAf22. Call the day before to reserve - 717-8120 and ask for "Chez Nous." □ *L.D.*

## ITALIAN TEMPTATIONS



As a thank you to their parents and sponsors the four young chefs who spent four weeks in the Emilia Romagna region of Italy studying cuisine, Italian style, entertained at Chez

Nous last week. Above is a sample of some of the Italian appetizers the guests were tempted with. As well, Italian wines accompanied all. The students learned their lessons well. They're Wendly Heredia, Luthgarda Serberie, Bram Schmit and Isidro Sinto. Each of them told the audience about some of their experiences, often humorous, in Italy. □ *L.D.*

# WANT TO HELP?



*The Aloe Cooker in Washington Park*

The Manager of Washington Park, Fernando Simal, has announced that he could use some skilled volunteer help for some improvements in the Park. They include:

- Finish the museum exhibits
- Complete the interpretation signs on the walking trails
- Expand the museum with a new exhibit (Archeology)
- Create a small library at the Visitors Center
- Expand toilet facilities at entrance
- Finish the Management Plan for the Park
- Finish the Complete Guide to WSNP (10 chapters)
- Construct housing facilities for scientists/students
- Design and implement a monitoring program
- Upgrade the roads with cement transects
- Obtain a security system for the entrance
- Restore historical structures inside the Park
- Place a whale skeleton at the Visitors Center (in cooperation with BONAI).
- Reforest the Park
- Remove Goats
- Fence the Park
- Construct new employee lockers
- Upgrade shop in stock and "look"

If you think you want to help, call him at 565-5229 or 717-8444 to make an appointment. □

# 2005 - BY GERMAINE

Bonaire's own artist, Germaine Nijdam, shows off her first-of-a-kind Bonaire calendar for 2005. She's standing in front of the original paintings. The calendar features Germaine's scenes of Bonaire, one for each month. Friends of the artist thought she should do a calendar of Bonaire and when she suggested it to Deepak Daryanani of Bonaire Gift Shop he thought it would be a great idea. Germaine says, "I wanted to give something back to Bonaire." There are agendas of Bonaire scenes available, but not a calendar, and it's just in time for Christmas giving. It's \$10 and available at Bonaire Gift Shop, Bahia, Best Buddies, Paradise Photo and Le Flamboyant. For wholesale orders call G.N. Art at 717-2203. The original paintings are on sale at Best Buddies.



The prolific artist reports that she's added another six new Bonaire designs to her repertoire of tiles and mugs, making a total of 14 different designs. These great gift items are for sale at Best Buddies, Bonaire Gift Shop and Bahia. □L.D.

# WET AND WILD - UNDERWATER ART SHOW

There will be a new dive experience available to Bonaire's diving and snorkeling visitors during December and January - an underwater art show. It's the idea of Fred Ros, an unconventional artist to say the least.

In cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund he produced the exhibition "One Hundred Feet Above the Wad" (Wetlands), showing the perception from a helicopter of the Dutch island of Terschelling, in the north of The Netherlands, and its relationship with the Waddenzee.

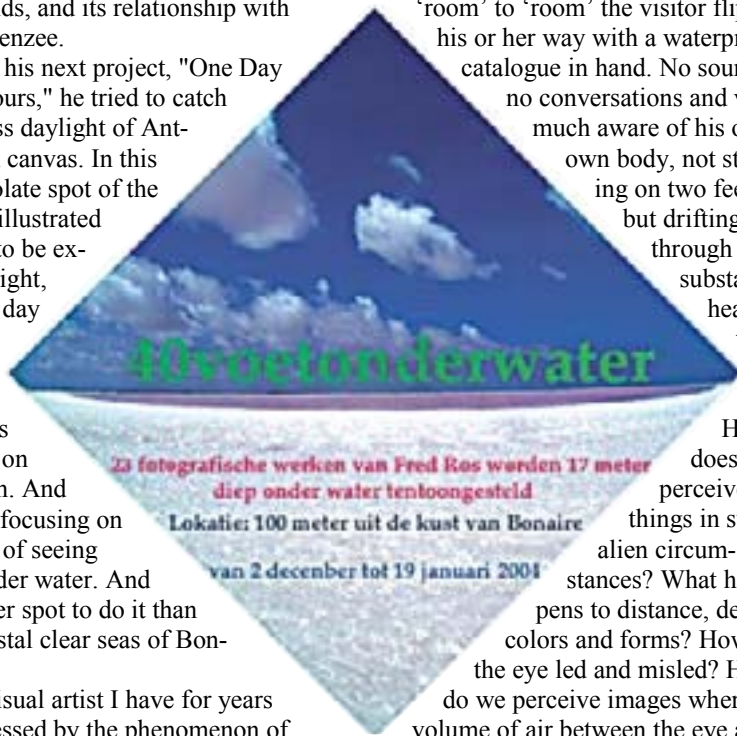
Then in his next project, "One Day of 480 Hours," he tried to catch the endless daylight of Antarctica on canvas. In this most desolate spot of the world he illustrated how it is to be exposed to light, night and day for three weeks and how this has its influence on perception. And now he's focusing on the effect of seeing things under water. And what better spot to do it than in the crystal clear seas of Bonaire.

"As a visual artist I have for years been obsessed by the phenomenon of perception," says artist Ros. And he re-

solved this obsession, at least for a while, by creating an underwater studio and art gallery just a stone's throw off of one of Bonaire's most popular beaches. He calls his latest project "40 Feet under Water."

He continues, "At a depth of about 12 metres the effect of breaking light is phenomenal... under water nothing is what it seems. I see there a gallery where the visitor, provided with compressed air, wanders through. From 'room' to 'room' the visitor flippers his or her way with a waterproof catalogue in hand. No sounds, no conversations and very much aware of his or her own body, not standing on two feet, but drifting through a substance heavier than air.

How does one perceive things in such alien circumstances? What happens to distance, depth, colors and forms? How is the eye led and misled? How do we perceive images where the volume of air between the eye and the canvas is substituted by a more re-



fractive medium like water? What does the eye see and how will the observer relate to what he or she sees? The sea is a studio and exhibition hall rolled into one."

Go see the results for yourself, presented in 31 photographs, all exhibited underwater, at Bongo's Beach Resort/Eden Beach, Kaya Gobernador N. De-brot 73, near the Front Porch dive site. The exhibition runs from December 3, 2004, until January 27, 2005.

The official opening will be around 3 pm this Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Opening hours: every day from 3 to 5 pm and evenings from 7:30 to 9 pm. The entrance fee \$5 for visitors, but free to Bonaireans. Visitors must be certified divers or accompanied by a dive instructor. For more info contact: Trudy Bos, e-mail: [Info@hotelpabou.com](mailto:Info@hotelpabou.com); Phone 717-8077. □ G.D./ Press Release

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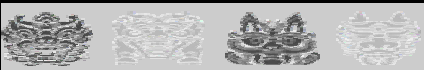
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**CATS: LOST**

**LOST CAT**  
 Betty, a white  
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 pale brown  
 markings on  
 her face and  
 body. Missing  
 since Saturday  
 night, Novem-  
 ber 20. She was  
 last seen at her  
 home next to



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**PET of the WEEK**

“**V**lekje,” which means Little  
 Spot in English, has had an  
 interesting history at the Bonaire Ani-  
 mal Shelter. She’s been there for sev-  
 eral years, and they’ve kept her on be-  
 cause she’s such a sensational cat.  
 She’s affectionate, loves attention and  
 is a thoroughly nice personality. In fact,  
 she’s rather like a “trustee” because she  
 lives **outside** the cat quarters. She’s had  
 her freedom and yet she stays close.  
 Vlekje is a perfect example of a Shelter  
 adoptee: great sociability, excellent  
 health and she’s sterilized. If you’d like  
 to meet her, stop by the Shelter on the  
 Lagoen Road, open Monday through  
 Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until  
 1. Tel. 717-4989.



Vlekje

The Sterilization Program in October,  
 which was primarily aimed at the  
 roaming dog population, prompted a lot  
 of interest in cat sterilization and right  
 now there are 80 reservations out-  
 standing for cats to be sterilized. These  
 are cats that are just hanging around

and maybe being fed but are not neces-  
 sarily owned by anyone. Their plight is  
 not as obvious as the dogs’ but it still  
 exists. The good news is that there are  
 so many people interested in the wel-  
 fare of these cats. The Shelter is trying  
 to figure a way to handle the situation,  
 but of course it always takes money  
 and that’s a pretty rare commodity.

□L.D.

**A PARABLE A GRANDFATHER**  
**...BY MARIE**

**S**omewhere back  
 in time, in a  
 green covered land-  
 scape next to a forest  
 was an Indian wigwam  
 with white smoke com-  
 ing out of the top.

Inside it was warm  
 and comfortable, and  
 next to the low, glowing  
 open fire a little boy  
 was sitting on his  
 grandfather’s lap giving  
 full attention to the



story the old man was telling:

“In each person’s inner being there  
 live two wolves. One represents our  
 good side; the other, the bad or nega-  
 tive one. Every second, every minute,  
 every hour, every year these two  
 wolves are fighting each other. It’s a  
 fight to the death, a battle to survive, a  
 conflict which never ends.

As we go through life we come to  
 situations where decisions must be  
 made, no matter how small or how  
 large. We cannot escape the fact that a

decision **needs** to be  
 made whether we like it  
 or not. It’s at these mo-  
 ments when we must  
 make that crucial deci-  
 sion. You see, grandson,  
 that’s the moment when  
 the two wolves attack  
 each other.”

After these words there  
 was a deep silence.  
 The little boy turned to  
 his grandfather and,  
 looking into his eyes,

asked, “Grandfather, which wolf will  
 win the fight?”

The old Indian looked back and said,  
 “Grandson, the wolf you feed will be  
 the one who will win the fight.”

In this parable it is clear that no mat-  
 ter where we stand in life, no matter  
 what our age or circumstances, we all  
 need to feed the good part in us **if** we  
 want to pick the fruits of goodness in  
 the future. □Marie

COVER

# SINT NICHOLAAS HITS TOWN

Last Saturday, Sint Nicolaas and his assistants, the Black Pieten (Swarte Piet), arrived in Bonaire aboard the ferry boat, *Tribon*. A record-breaking crowd of excited children and adults swarmed the pier to catch a glimpse of him and the 32 Swarte Pieten. Every child on the island must have been there, accompanied by their equally spirited parents or elders. Sint Nicolaas and Swarte Pieten's procession from the pier to Wilhelmina Park was accompanied by the soul-stirring beat of the drum corps. The Swarte Pieten cavorted through the crowd, dancing and swinging their sacks and ropes and teasing the children.



Sint Nicolaas and the Lt. Governor rested on the stage at Wilhelmina Park where speeches were made with more cavorting by the Swarte Pieten. At one point, Sint Nicolaas questioned Commissioner Bernie El Hage, who'd just given a speech, about when Bonaire's roads would be repaired because he'd lost so many tires in the big holes. El Hage answered that work would begin in the middle of December. The response got a resounding cheer from the crowds. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that the Foundation Ata C I Zwartpiet organized such an event and it was an all out success. Thanks to all of them for their tireless work. Although Sint Nicolaas is associated with gift giving and his coming is close to the Christmas season, he has nothing directly to do with the Christian holiday. His history lies in Dutch folklore and tradition, originating more than 600 years ago when the Bishop of Madrid, Spain, gave gifts to everyone on his birthday,

December 5. This bishop, it is said, originally came from Turkey with his helpers who were black (swarte). At that time Holland was ruled by Spain, so when Sint Nicolaas comes, he arrives from Spain by boat. Then he continues his travels on a white horse. He always arrives in November because he has so much work to do, finding out which children have been good enough to receive presents. Those who have been bad will be spanked with Swarte Pieten's ropes or brooms, and those very bad will be thrown into the sacks and taken back to Spain! He keeps a big book with the names of all children and whether they have been good or bad. On December 4, the eve of Sint Nicolaas' birthday, children put out their shoes with maybe some carrots or hay for the white horse, hoping they will receive a small gift in return. On the big day itself, December 5, the family sits together, singing, having sweets and hot chocolate, hoping that the weather will not be too bad so that he will arrive. At 8 pm Sint Nicolaas and his helpers land on the roof



of the house and the Swarte Pieten throw the gifts down the chimney. Or Sint Nicolaas might bang on the door, asking, "Are there any bad children here?" Everyone calls back, "No!"

For the Dutch, this is the time for gift giving, and Christmas is a more holy time, not commercial like that in America, although we've learned that merchants in Holland are now promoting gift giving for both holidays. This Sint Nicolaas tradition is totally Dutch, but the people in the former Dutch colonies all over the world have embraced it. So much so that it seems to be completely accepted that this cleric, bearing gifts and dressed for very cold weather in heavy robes and cloak and miter, does not seem unusual in such tropical climes as that of Bonaire, the other islands of the Dutch Antilles or Indonesia. □L.D.



Members of Foundation Ata C I Zwartpiet, who organized the whole thing: L to R: Benny Martijn, Betty Martis, Shirley Martis, Renzo Thode, Gerald Victorina, Soeraly Pourier

# QUIZ-

## WHAT IS BONAIRE'S MOST ANTICIPATED WEEKLY EVENT\*?

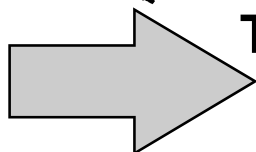
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- D. All of the above

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# BONAIRE'S "WINDOWS": HEIT'S PIER 1962

FROM THE SHIP'S LOG:

"May 21 1962- We cleared customs at the pier in center of town at 1430 hrs. Officials extremely polite. They made little ceremony. Stamped our papers, smiled, told us to enjoy our stay. Said we could stay on the pier for two days then had to find an anchorage to make room for several freighters that were coming in. A wonderful place. The township was neat and clean. I saw a strong Dutch influence here and have never met such friendly people."

On schedule, we left the dock and, coaxing a few revolutions out of our old Hall Scott (engine), worked our way up the coast and set anchor in front of a small wooden ramp. The bay itself in the late afternoon light appeared a spectrum of blues, extraordinarily clear. Beneath our keel a carpet of corals I came to know as a "field of gold."

The town stood on a plateau half a fathom above high water. The beachfront structures, houses, and an old wooden bench, a rickety pier barely standing on worm eaten legs, a fort, and the face of the dike still sound, confirmed no serious storms ever struck this settlement from the west - most likely the very reason the township came to be here in the first place. We felt we could sleep nights, not fearing a sudden blast of air from astern. It really looks to be a fantastic island.

May 24th 1962- We were still there, just offshore, in the calm bay in front of a complex of buildings owned by Jules Heitkoning, a leftover from the internment camp days of 1940. His property was a cluster of old buildings with walls made of mud and stone and sealed sandwich-like with thick stucco painted ochre. There was a workshop for the making of tortoise shell novelties and a store selling jewelry and souvenirs. Jules also had a massive darkroom loaded with antique cameras and equipment. Jules was a fine photographer, black and white, of course, as color was still some years away. All of this was attached to his home which lay centered in this array.

Just across a wide street from this complex was the open sea. Island and sea were separated by a wall, which was hardly more than a gathering of coral rubble cemented together. This kept the road in place as well as keeping the sea from entering Jules' house. The wall appeared to be the namesake of the town which was called Kralendijk or Coral Dike.

At the roadside Jules had a series of small rooms in which he had his passport

photo studio. Behind there was an open yard filled with all sorts of local animals. Jules was an extremely compassionate man who loved strange animals and strange people alike. He showed me his proudest possession, a dog-eared *Life* magazine from the 50s that featured him with his feathered friends, the flamingos. It was not a zoo that Jules maintained but rather a temporary sanctuary for some of his down-on-their-luck friends. A broken wing here, a fish hook in the beak there, or worse, a spear gun wound in the back of a giant sea turtle. It was here that Jules had built his small wooden ramp which everybody called Heit's Pier.

Percy was getting comfortable and I had to remind him that we still had a date in Antigua. However, with June on the horizon there will be hurricanes ripping up islands to our north so maybe a little lay-over was in order.

"Bon tardi, Captain Don," and Percy handed me a scruffy brown paper bag. I took it, looking at the penciled sketch. I saw a drawing of a short pier, a compass rose, and a long line to the west; approximate distances and depths and Xs representing objects. And on the bottom in heavy pencil the words "Heit's Pier."

"God, Percy, we just got here!" He laughed, saying. "We've been here all day. Big jewfish sleeping under the boat. Found more junk in five minutes than I've seen in my whole life." And he held up a large coral-encrusted clay urn that appeared to be several hundred years old. "And enough chamber pots to put under every bed on island."

**"Lt. Governor van Hesteren warned, 'A nuisance, you go, and he pointed to the horizon. 'But if my island is a better place because of you, then...'"**

So it had started, just as in Curaçao before Immigration encouraged us to depart. Here on island two days and Percy was busy opening new windows.

This part of the township was called Playa Pabou, a section of the waterfront that stretched from the Custom House, which was a little to the south of us, to Playa Lechi, just a little over a mile to the north. It was explained to me that it was

called Pabou because the sun sets on this side of town. Playa Pariba was the other side where the sun rises. It all made good sense to me, except that the street ran north and south.

Collecting small aquarium fish was what life was all about, the main reason we dove. It didn't take long before Percy and I came to know every rock, coral, chamber pot, fish and piece of junk on the Playa Pabou sea bed, from the surface to the bottom of the drop off at 120 feet. My ship was happy in this place in a warm, clean and translucent sea, and I couldn't help but wonder if she knew that this place most likely was to be her final land-fall.

Many Bonaireans thought me rich because of the size of my ship, but in truth I had only 63¢ and the ship's papers in my pocket. Lt. Governor van Hesteren warned, "A nuisance, you go," and he pointed to the horizon. "But if my island is a better place because of you, then..." He told me a new 30-room hotel was to open the next year at Playa Lechi, and soon Bonaire was to become involved in tourism. I smiled and told him his island was a rock and just what was he thinking of selling -Arawak Indian ruins? But a deal in principle had been struck. I discovered the sole hotel now on island was called Zee Bad and was built from the debris of a one-time internment camp for Germans during WW II.

I hadn't meant to be snide when I told the Governor that his island was a rock. But let us be realistic. Maybe not a rock, but a million years of dried coral, 112 square miles of cactus, Lignum vitae trees, goats, donkeys and hundreds of assorted varieties of lizards.

"Percy, I have to talk to you... These are the facts. Our 63¢ has been eaten. There are only a few cans of 'I-don't-know-what' in the larder, and we still have 23 cans of maple syrup. Tobacco is just what you've got in that box. But I



Diver meets Jewfish

think this afternoon's dive is one of the finest I've ever done, you know? Right here in the center of town has to be some of the best coral gardens in the world. And there are enough tropical fish here to fill a million aquariums. I vote we give it a try. I'll find some divers and we'll be in clover, if I don't get deported first."

I chuckled, thinking the Governor actually had the balls to challenge me, Captain Don, to a "produce you stay, a bum you go." Well, a bum I have never been! The rest is history, but it all started with Heit's Pier. □ / don

*We spoke on Monday with Capt. Don from his hospital bed in Curaçao. His low blood pressure problem that landed him in the hospital has been resolved. He wants to thank all who called him and sent emails and wishes he could thank everyone personally, but there was such a large number that his secretarial staff (that's Janet) is overwhelmed. The crew at St. Elizabeth's has been wonderful, he said, and has been providing him with top notch care. The Captain has*

*made a decision to solve the problem with his foot that was injured 25 years ago in connection with the salvage of the Sterke Yerke. In recent years it has been giving him lots of pain and has harbored an infection that is not responding to treatment. We'll keep you posted. □G.D.*



Captain Don

# TOPS IN TENNIS



*Some of the Aruba Racquet Club Winners*

A delegation of 25 from Bonaire joined over 100 other tennis players from all over the Caribbean, North and South America and even the Netherlands in Aruba last month for the Open Tennis Tournament at the Aruba Racquet Club. Luckily, there was no rain, a lot of sunshine and, more importantly, lots of fun. Bonaire did very well.

**The winners were:**

- Ladies single B- champion; Lupita St.Jago
- Ladies double B- champion; Marijke Maas and Yvette Hageman
- Ladies single C- runner up; Rosalie Bierings
- Ladies double C- champion; Lupita St.Jago and Prawpahn Wilden
- Mixed double C- champion; Prawpahn Wilden and Elvis Tjin-a-Sjoe
- Mixed double C- runner up; Rosalie Bierings and Theo van de Rijt
- Men's double C- champion; Ibi de Palm and Wolter de Palm
- Men's double C- runner up; Michiel Verhoef and Gregory Beudeker

Almost everybody made it to the semi finals as well. We are all looking forward to the next tournament.

Many thanks to Humprey José for the great organization and to RE/MAX for sponsorship. □ *Yvette Hageman*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**New! Usually 9:00 pm**  
**The Forgotten**  
**(Julianne Moore)**

**Early Show (usually 7pm)**  
**Taxi**  
**(Queen Latifah)**

**Kaya Prinses 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 Shark Tale**  
**SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM**  
**Wimbledon**

## MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

A NEW FEATURE THIS WEEK

*Seen recently in*  
**Movieland Cinema:**

**Taxi** by Director Tim Story, starring Queen Latifah and Jimmy Fallon.



If you're looking for a film with any substance whatsoever then avoid this flick like the plague. The comedy consists mostly of car crashes which are not so funny to watch if you happen to have a relative or friend who didn't survive one. Why would anyone remake something and change and cut out all the good things that were in the original version? Better luck next week. □ *Dodo*

## THIS WEEK

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 2, 3, 4 - The Female in You (Dutch)** See article last week

**Friday, December 3, 2004 until January 27, 2005, Art Show "40 Feet under Water"** at Bongo's Beach. Open every day from 3 to 5 pm and evenings from 7:30 to 9 pm. Entrance fee US\$5. Bonaireans, free. See page 13.

**Sunday, December 5 - Sinterklaas (St. Nicholas) Birthday Celebration**

**Friday, December 10 - Big Jazz and Tuscan Dinner at Croccantino Restaurant in the Garden, 7 pm.** Four-course dinner and an evening of jazz entertainment \$45. Reservations at 717-7025 - See page 5.

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** December 2, 3-Legacy; December 4-Silver Whisper; December 9, 10 -Legacy

## COMING

**Saturday, Sunday - December 11, 12 - Round Bonaire 2-day walk.** Longest walk: 44 km first day, 41 km second day. Shorter walk: 29 km each first and second day. All ages are invited. Longer walkers start at Wilhelmina Park at 4 am; others start at 5 am. Sponsored by Comcabon. More information and to sign up call Richard Pietersz at 717-8629

**Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19 - Second Annual Triathlon (swimming, cycling, running) sponsored by Jong Bonaire.** Saturday at City Café all contestants register at 5:30 pm and get

a great pasta dinner ("carb loading" for the next day). Races start at City Café at 7am on Sunday. Teams pay NA\$35; individuals pay NA\$15. Call Mabel Nava at 717-4303. See page 8.

**Monday, December 20**-Holiday Concert with Freewinds Band Fundraising Evening for King of the Caribbean 2005. Aboard *Freewinds*, 7-10 pm. NA\$17,50 (\$10). Tickets: TCB, Windsurf Place, Gabrielle Nahr, Ann Phelan

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** December 12-Silver Whisper, *Queen Mary 2*; December 14- *Aida Vita*; December 16-Columbus

## 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 on Time Sharing and how to save on your next vacation. 6:15 to 7 pm

**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 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. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

**Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Bonairean 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 black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm- 4 am and Sunday 7 pm- 3 am.

## FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

**Sunday - Bonaire Holiday** -Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat, 717-8290

**Monday Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea** slide experience at the Aquarius Conference Center, Captain Don's Habitat, 8:30 - 9:30 pm.

**Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) 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.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Bonaire Arts and Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonieriano)** 717-5246 or 717-7117

**The Bonaire Swim Club-** Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.an  
**Cinnamon Art Gallery** - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. Contact Wendy Horn, at 717-3902 or 785-9700.

**Bonaire National Marine Park** - 717-8444.

**Bonaire Animal Shelter** -717-4989.

**Donkey Sanctuary** - 560-7607.

**Jong Bonaire (Youth Center)** -717-4303.

**Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care)** Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

**Special Olympics** - Contact Delno Tromp, 717-7659

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

**Bridge Club** - **Wednesdays**, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NA\$5 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, Jeannette Rodriguez.

**Lions Club** meets every **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>**

**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

**Mangasina di Rei, Rincon.** Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

**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.

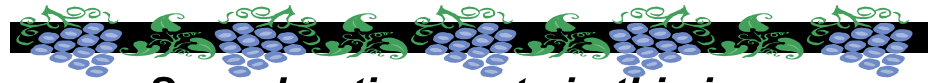
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Send events to **The Bonaire Reporter**

Email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)

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

# DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Ssaturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> 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 turquoise setting when enjoying a breakfast buffet or a la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine.
<b>Caribbean Club Bonaire at Hilltop</b> 717-7901	Kitchen open 10 am for salads and sandwiches. Reasonably priced dinners Closed Sunday	What a place! Friendly bar next to the pool, home cooked meals, happy hours 5 to 7.
<b>Crocantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a delight. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
<b>Garden Café</b> 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
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> Home Delivery or Take Out 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Nonchi's at Cultimara</b> 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/6,50
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> 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 <b>Real Thing!</b> 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



# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## ACCOUNTING SERVICES

**Bonaire Pro** can keep your financial records in order, minimize your tax liability and provide helpful advice. For individuals or businesses.

## 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 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.

## CELL PHONES

**Cellular One** - Special Offer -Free calls to other Cellular One phones on the weekend. Buy NA/300 worth of calls and get a free Nokia or Motorola cell phone.

## CLEANING SERVICE

**Conetal Cleaning Service** cleans homes, apartments, offices. Offers babysitting, gardening, laundry.

## DIVING

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

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

## FITNESS

**Bonfysio** offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

**Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.** Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

## GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS

**The Bonaire Gift Shop** has an wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

## GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK HELP

**JuliMar** assists with the paperwork and procedures needed to obtain permits, citizenship, residency and more. Experienced in Immigration matters.

## HOTELS

**Caribbean Club Bonaire** is in a tranquil setting at Hilltop, adjacent to Oil Slick Leap dive site. Cool breezes, fresh water pool, cozy bar and restaurant.

**Golden Reef Inn** is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk 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

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

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

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

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

## REPAIRS

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

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

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

## RETAIL

**Benetton**, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

**Littman's Jewelers**, where good taste is foremost. Bonaire's official Rolex retailer.

## 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.

## SPA—DAY SPAS

**Face and Body Day Spa** offers the ultimate in advanced beauty treatments, facials and massage. Call 717-2622

**Intermezzo Day Spa** at Captain Don's Habitat is the newest of this ABC island chain of elegant spas. Now offering seaside massages and facials.

## 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.

## VILLAS

**Bonaire Oceanfront** villa for up to nine people: five kitchens, five bathrooms. Ideal for diver.

## WATER TAXI

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

## 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

# ON THE ISLAND SINCE . . .

## Hans and Helen Bolsman

November 1993

**I** did my nursing training in Haarlem, Holland, and worked in hospitals all over the country, mainly in the Operating Room (OR), assisting the anesthesiologist. The last place was in Enschede, in the East of Holland. I wasn't eager to go there as I'm originally from Amsterdam and thought the place would be full of 'rednecks.' However, I met Helen Maxwell from Aruba, who was also taking nursing training and we fell in love. I asked her to come to Amsterdam to study, but she said it would be too big a change for her to go and live in a city like Amsterdam when she'd just come from Aruba. So I stayed in Enschede and it was 200% better than I thought. The whole atmosphere was just great! Very soon Helen and I moved in together, and about a year later, in 1978, we got married.

It wasn't our idea to get married so quickly, but in November 1977 Helen's mother came for a big family reunion, and although she didn't say so, we felt very clearly that she didn't approve of the situation. Practically all of Helen's family members had come together in Holland. We thought we'd never be able to get them together again so we took advantage of it and got married. Two years later we left for Aruba. Helen was pregnant and wanted her baby to be born there. Miquel was born in March '81.

I started working in the Emergency Room (ER) at the Dr. Horatio Oduber Hospital and later became night duty chief. Helen worked there in pediatrics. After our second son Maurice was born in '84 we felt completely at home in Aruba.

We worked only nightshifts and Helen's mother looked after the children, so we could spend the whole day with them. My mother and father visited often, and we went to Holland regularly as we were making good money. Salaries in Aruba were high and working nightshifts also paid well. We'd originally planned to stay for five years, but we ended up staying for 11!"

"In 1991 Hans' mother became ill," Helen says. "Hans' parents were divorced and they had two sons: Hans in Aruba and his brother in California. His mother didn't have anybody to take care of her. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer she wanted to die and refused to have an operation. When she told us, we packed up and left for Holland."

"It wasn't easy," Hans proceeds. "It was hard to find a house and difficult to find a job. There were lots of hospital consolidations and 25 hospitals had been closed. Then, if you were over 45,

you were written off. I only worked for one year at the VU-hospital, an academic hospital in Amsterdam. The rest of the time I was busy applying for jobs and filling in papers for unemployment benefits. Helen stayed at home with the children who really enjoyed living in Holland. My mother had her operation and we looked after her for a year. It was worth it; she lived 12 more years! In 2003 she passed away, just a couple of months after my dad had died."

*Hans and Helen Bolsman are relaxed and open, very sociable and caring.* "Well," Helen says, "after three years Hans was fed up. He couldn't find a job and wanted to leave. His mother was doing fine again, so we decided to go back to Aruba and he left first. The whole household was packed and stored in a container to be sent to Aruba when Hans called me. He'd gone to visit two of my brothers who were working on Bonaire and found out that they needed people at San Francisco Hospital. We talked it over and agreed to change our destination. I called the shipping company to tell them about the change of address and the man said, 'Well lady, it certainly is a change... you have to pay NA/3.000 more!' But I didn't mind. In any case it felt closer to home and I thought we would be able to go to Aruba frequently. However, once I was here I found out that the tickets were very expensive and that there wasn't a reliable flight connection, so there was no way to go 'home' regularly.

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**"Here on Bonaire we had to take a step backwards financially... We never missed the things we couldn't find here, only during the times when we were off the island and were confronted with all the things money can buy, but once we were back we realized we didn't need any of that."**

---

We'd been through so many different stages. Life in Aruba had been luxurious and materialistic. In Holland it had been about the same, except for the difficulties in finding a job. Here on Bonaire we had to take a step backwards financially. But we became very easy going and after awhile it appeared to be a lot of fun. We never missed the things we couldn't find here, only during the

times when we were off the island and were confronted with all the things money can buy, but once we were back we realized we didn't need any of that.

The boys didn't think Bonaire was fun though. They were seven and 10 years old; school was a big change, and compared to Holland there was nothing to do. Miquel did his last HAVO year in a private school in Holland where he graduated cum laude. He and his brother are both living in Holland now. Miquel studies civil engineering and Maurice works four days a week in construction and goes to school one day a week. They want to set up their own construction company in the future, and they're talking about coming back

to the Antilles to put their knowledge into practice." She smiles: "Let's see... it would be nice though...! As far as I'm concerned, I simply love it here: the tranquility and nature. Aruba has changed so much, but in a way Bonaire is still Bonaire. It's clean and the people are friendly. Another important fact is that I really enjoy my work. I started at the hospital as the supervisor of the surgical unit. From 2000 I worked in homecare and since January this year I'm the coordinator/supervisor of the OR."

"When I started work here," Hans says, "it was a bit difficult. We had to improvise a lot and at the time the hospital wasn't much more than an old people's home. Yet I've seen it growing. First came the surgical unit, after that the internal unit, and now we're trying our utmost to give as much care as possible here on the island. However, for that we need infrastructure, materials and accommodation. Nevertheless we're expecting the OR to be ready next year. Originally I started in the ER; after that I worked as a nurse; now I'm doing home and family care. The best thing about my job is the relationship you have with the clients. We're trying to make it possible for them to stay in their own homes as long as possible. All the people involved in giving this care are really working hard and putting their hearts into it.

The last two weeks Fundashon Mariadal (foundation that runs the hospital), ADC (laboratory) and DGH (health and hygiene department) had a



Hans and Helen Bolsman with Snoopy

campaign to inform people about diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure and wounds. Information about prevention is important in motivating people to take care of their health and to prevent the worst, like amputations, cerebral strokes and heart attacks. With Mariadal we're putting up a diabetes outpatient facility.

I'm 58 now and I've two more years to go, work wise, but I have my plans for the future on Bonaire because although I like to try something new now and then, I also want to see the results.

For me the best thing about Bonaire is the way they take care of the environment. That's very important to me. Together with Christie Dovale I was involved in *Amigu di Tera* and I did something like that in Aruba as well. There is an issue, however, that makes me very sad. That's the crime we're dealing with nowadays. I'm ashamed of what Bonaire has become. I feel I have a right to speak my opinion." He gives me a smile: "I think we could still live in Holland, but it depends on the space and the mentality of the people which has become very hard. If you compare them, we're not doing so badly here, and as far as I can see now we'll stay." □ Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

## Renate van der Byl Show

Last Saturday evening the Cinnamon Art Gallery presented the works of Renate van der Byl at a special opening.

Renate was born in Bavaria, Germany, and is the daughter of a well known artist who specialized in painting churches. Renate studied art at the Academy of Munich and has lived on Bonaire since 1994. Her works have been featured in more than 10 exhibitions, both on Bonaire and in Curaçao. In 2002, Renate's work was chosen to represent Bonaire for a large international art exhibition held in Santiago, Cuba. Renate's paintings were also introduced to Holland's Queen Beatrix and her late husband on their last visit to Bonaire.

Her paintings are mostly oil on canvas and feature local people, especially fishermen, the sea, the rugged landscape and elements of Bonaire's traditional island culture, like harvesting and dancing. She is also known for her portraits. Her



*Renate and her latest painting of Bonairean dancers*



*A pallet knife work of a flamboyant tree by Renate*

paintings hang in many private homes around the world and in banks, government offices and company headquarters here on Bonaire.

Renate's work reaches a new dimension in this show, sometimes mystical, mysterious and captivating. Her work just gets better and better. Cinnamon Art Gallery is located on Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi behind the Banco di Caribe. Open weekdays from 9 am to noon, 2 to 5 pm. By appointment call 717-7103 or 786-9563. Van der Byl's work will be on display until January 5, 2005. □ Wendy Horn/L.D.



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

**Venus Has a Super Close Meeting With Mars and the Moon Plays 'Hide the Biggest Planet'**

**N**ext week Venus and Mars will have a super close meeting, plus



the **Moon** will actually hide Jupiter for about an hour and you can watch it all!

This Sunday morning, December, 5th, one hour before Sunrise, face southeast where you'll see three planets, the brightest of which is our nearest neighbor, 8,000-mile-wide Venus. Huddled right next to it less than two full Moon widths away, which is super close, you'll see much dimmer 4,000-mile-wide Mars. Directly above it is the king of the planets, 88,000-mile-wide **Jupiter**. And please notice that Jupiter, Venus and Mars will all appear to be pretty much on an invisible line, a line we call the ecliptic, which is the path along which all the planets, the **Sun** and the Moon appear to travel.

Now if you go out 24 hours later, on Monday the 6th, Venus and Mars will still be almost as close to each other, but you'll notice that Venus is a little bit lower. That's because Venus is getting ready to move downward toward the horizon while Mars is getting ready to move up. In other words, they are in the process of passing each other.

But you'll also notice that on that path of the planets, the ecliptic, Jupiter has been joined by a beautiful waning crescent Moon. And this is where the fun is going to start because between midnight and dawn, Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Moon will actually pass over Jupiter and hide it for a half hour or so. Or, as astronomers say, the Moon will occult Jupiter. If you have a small telescope it will be absolutely fascinating to watch the entire process from the Moon's starting to cover Jupiter to Jupiter coming out from behind it. I suggest you start watching around 2 am, Bonaire Sky Park time, Tuesday morning, December 7th. Sometime between 2 am and dawn the hide-the-planet process will occur, but the times will be different wherever you happen to be.

Now you may recall that in July 2003 the Moon occulted Mars in a similar fashion and the photographs that amateurs took all over the world were absolutely spectacular. But I predict this will be even more beautiful because Jupiter is so incredibly huge as seen through even the cheapest department store telescope. Plus you'll be able to watch its moons disappear and reappear one by one.

Now on Wednesday, the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Moon will be half way between Jupiter, Venus and Mars, and you will see that Mars and Venus have pulled even farther apart. On Thursday an exquisite 27-day-old Moon will be on a perfect line with Venus and Mars. On Friday, if you can still find the Moon, it will be below them. Wow! What a difference six days make because this is what Venus and Mars look like on the 5th, and this is what they'll look like on the 10th. As you can see the planets are always moving, and next week you'll have a front row seat! □ *Jack Horkhimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

**For the week:**

**December 3-10, 2004**

*By Astrologer Michael Thiessen*

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Take time to talk things over. Travel for business or pleasure. You will benefit by taking care of other people's concerns. You will have extra energy; put it to good use. Extravagance will be a problem. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You may want to stay in the background this week. Your outgoing charm and obvious talent will be admired. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive and possibly hurtful. Your personal life will still be experiencing difficulties and you are best to avoid the issues for the time being. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Don't go out of your way, and don't let these unexpected guests cost you money. Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. Lighten up your serious attitude. Insurance pay outs, tax rebates, or just plain luck. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Don't be too pushy or demanding, or you may find yourself all alone. Deception regarding joint finances or investments will cause upsets between family members. Be courteous if you wish to avoid major delays. Children could cost you more than you can afford. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Look into any educational activities involving the whole family. Keep your feelings to yourself if you want to avoid embarrassment. Try to ease any disappointment by making amends. You may find that you are a little lucky this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your financial situation may be draining and it's time to make some serious changes. You will have a greater involvement in groups; however, they may not be to your advantage. Look into alternate means of supporting your financial burdens. Travel and communication will be lucrative for you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. Don't be too eager to buy things for those who really don't deserve it. Get on with business. Be aware that a female you work with may be trying to hold you back. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can expect to face opposition on the home front. You'll have amazing ideas, but superiors may try to block your attempts at implementing them. Don't trust co-workers with important or personal information. Make plans that will take you to exotic destinations. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy don't make for a favorable time. Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. Don't make accusations unless you are completely sure that you are correct. You will be in a high cycle regarding work. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will enjoy lavish forms of entertainment and should consider making arrangements early. You won't impress anyone by being overly generous. Your involvement in sports or entertainment will lead to new romances. Don't settle for less than the best. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can get ahead if you present your ideas to superiors. You must try to include your mate in your activities this week. Health problems may prevail if you don't take care of them immediately. Your lack of attention may have been a factor. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't hesitate to visit someone who hasn't been well. Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. You can make progress if you deal with the right individuals. Don't be angry, but be on your guard. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. □