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It's about time!

December 10 to December 17, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 47

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

The ^{BONAIR!} REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



BONHATA's Person of the Year

Corine Gerharts presents the award to JACK CHALK Page 21

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Antillean Justice Minister Norberto Ribeiro said during his working visit to Bonaire almost a month ago, **"You will get the (anti-crime) money for sure, probably next week."** But as yet, almost a month later, Bonaire has not received any of the promised minimum amount of one million guilders.

The Minister explained that a number of "bureaucratic omissions" were the reason why Bonaire is still waiting. On the positive side funds have come *directly* from the Netherlands for the repair of the jail.

Reportedly, the police cells in Rincon are almost complete and may go into service by the end of the year.

► **No wonder Air Holland flights to Europe were such a bargain.** Two former managers of bankrupt Air Holland, including Director Cees van Dormaël, have been arrested on charges of laundering drug money. A part of the 25 million euros in drug money was invested in the financially ailing airline, reported Dutch newspapers last Tuesday. A "line" was established to regularly smuggle drugs into The Netherlands.



Governor Domacassé and Minister Ribeiro – You know there are no guilders in that envelope.

Air Holland flew between Amsterdam, Curaçao and St. Maarten from August 2003 until the beginning of 2004 when it was declared bankrupt. During their investigation at the homes of the suspects, Dutch officials found 600 kilos of cocaine, 50,000 euros and a firearm.

The Exel Aviation Group recently bought parts of the bankrupt Air Holland. Exel CEO Harm Prins said he knew nothing about the drug case. "We only dealt with the bankruptcy trustee," he told Dutch news agency ANP.

► **Convicted politician Nelson Monte is back in Bon Futuro Prison** in Curaçao after being hospitalized since October 24 because of kidney problems caused by high blood pressure.

Rather than his previous first-class stay when his party was in power, this time he is in third-class accommodations. Monte is serving a four-year sentence for his involvement in corruption in government companies. Monte is also a suspect in the case surrounding the evasion of the mandatory visa requirement for prostitutes working at the Campo Alegre brothel. No trial date has yet been set for the case.

► **The Central Government has managed to cut NAf 28 million** from the 2005 budget, announced Prime Minister Etienne Ys. The budget now has a deficit of NAf150 million. The budget will be presented to Parliament for ratification shortly.

► Prime Minister Etienne Ys has asked the Dutch Government to "reconsider its position" and **provide more than the promised 12 Marechaussees** (Dutch military police). A mixed Antillean/Dutch Committee recently determined that St. Maarten would receive three Marechaussees, Curaçao seven and Bonaire two. Antillean Justice Minister Norberto Ribeiro had initially asked for 49 Marechaussees.

The Antilles wants the men not only to be deployed at airports, as the Dutch

(Continued on page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Prince Bernhard Obituary	5
Tsunamis on Bonaire	6
Rincon Marché Lustrum	7
Part of Capt. Don Back on Bonaire	8
Turtle Travels (STINAPA)	8
Fish Spawning	9
First Underwater Photo Expo	11
Playground Art	12
SGB News	12
Breaking World Records	13
Christmas Market at SGB	13
Where to Find the Reporter	14
Join the Triathlon	15
Dietitian (Diets)	17
Whacked Whale Goes to Museum	17
Bonaire Ambassadors (Sorobon)	18
Yoga (What Is Yoga)	19
BONHATA Awards	21
Art for Fun (House Names and #s)	21

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Police Update	4
Letter (Thank you, Marina)	4
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Pet of the Week (Rockie)	11
Picture Yourself (<i>San Francisco</i>)	15
Classifieds	14
What's Happening	19
Micro Movie Review	19
Shopping & Dining Guides	20
On the Island Since (Miriam Geerlings)	22
Bonaire Sky Park	23
The Stars Have It	23

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Housekeeping: Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij**

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
Government has indicated, but also to assist the local police forces.

► Reported in the Curaçao press: Violence is becoming such a problem in Curaçao that a group of inmates inside Bon Futuro Prison has announced that **criminals who needlessly hurt or kill their victims will be taught a painful lesson if they end up in jail.**

► **The breath analyzer test used to measure the amount of alcohol consumed by motorists cannot be used in Antillean courts as legal evidence.** This was revealed during the case against a 60-year-old Curaçao man who ran over and killed a 34-year-old pedestrian on June 18. The defendant voluntarily took the test and registered 710 micrograms. The allowed amount is 220 micrograms. However, tests for alcohol consumption, whether blood or breath analyses, have not been regulated by federal or island decree that is required, according to article 24 section 10 of the new Road Traffic Ordinance that went into effect in the year 2000. Nevertheless, based on other evidence, the defendant was convicted to 15 months in prison.

► Are there too few police in Bonaire to even protect Justice officials? Last week both Judge Van den Brink and Prosecutor Wesselius were furious about the **lack of police protection in the courtroom.**

Only Servisio di Seguridat i Vigilansia (SSV) officials were at the courtroom entrance. Their function is to search the persons entering the courtroom for weapons, check whether the mobile phones were turned off, make sure the people do not wear head covering and keep order during the sessions. Last Monday, a 19-year old who was sentenced to four years in jail for attempted murder with a firearm became very aggressive. There were no police on the spot to restore order.

► According to Colorado State University Professor William Gray, **next year's Atlantic hurricane season will again be more active than usual** but is unlikely to be a repeat of this year's damaging series of storms. On the heels of the most destructive season in more than a decade, the 2005 season is anticipated to produce 11 tropical storms and hurricanes, slightly more than the average, but four less than last year. Next year's storms are also unlikely to be as intense or to hit land as frequently as this season's, which officially ended on Tuesday. Tropical Storm Otto petered out Thursday after succeeding in extending a mean and miserable Atlantic hurricane season that showed the Caribbean no mercy and inflicted billions in damage in America.

Bonaire experienced its closest call in decades this past September when mega-hurricane Ivan turned north less than 50 miles from Bonaire. Ivan's winds fluctuated during its life and it reached Category 5 status on the Saffir-Simpson Scale several times, with top winds of 165 mph, making it the season's most powerful storm.

The team bases its forecasts on read-

ings of sea water temperatures, atmospheric winds and pressures, the strength of the El Niño warm-water phenomenon in the eastern Pacific and other climate predictors.

Of the predicted 11 storms next year, Gray said six will become hurricanes and three of those will be major hurricanes.



► It's nearly here and there may be still time to reserve a place at **Crocantino Restaurant this Friday, December 10, for the "Big Jazz and Tuscan Dinner" event, starting at 7 pm.** Jazz pros from Curacao, Herchel Rosario and Ronchi Matthews, will team up with Guus Gerritsen, Bentje, Lando and Linda Anthony. Tuscan Chefs Fabrizio Bernardini and David Bernardinia will create the four-course menu. Call 717-7025 for reservations. The evening is \$45 per person.

POLICE UPDATE

Police Hot Line -108

Police Main Line 717-8000
Public Prosecutor - 717-8626



Sharlon Willems, Coordinator

Security Coordinator Named
The Executive Council has recently appointed Sharlon Willems as Bonaire's first Security Coordinator. His job is to coordinate law enforcement to improve the island's order and safety. His appointment follows a spate of violent crimes that shocked the island.

Willems was a former member of the Bonaire police, first as policeman and then detective. He went to Holland for more training and belonged to the 1,300-member South-Holland-South Police and was involved in district police teams in Dordrecht. He will encourage Bonaireans to prevent, report and fight crime.

Police Brutality?

An incident last week has raised the question of freedom of speech. Biologist and ex-teacher Klaas Bakker, who runs nature tours, had his bus broken into at the Thousand Steps dive site last Monday afternoon while he was snorkeling

with tourists. All the tourists' belongings were stolen. Klaas is a slender, older professor of biology who has been conducting his tours for many years.

In protest against escalating crime in Bonaire, Bakker parked his car in the Lt. Governor's reserved spot at the Government House. He held a sign with a protest letter that the government should do something about the thefts on the island.

In an overreaction, Bakker was dragged away by the seven-person Zero Tolerance Team. According to reports, he was roughed up, held for a number of hours and examined at the hospital while under guard. Governor Domacassé said what the police did was extreme.

Regarding the Sabadeco armed robbery and assault, Prosecutor Wesselius reports that the police believe that all persons involved who were in the house are now in jail. The latest person arrested was a 17-year-old male, R.F. Suspects Elery Nicholaas and Sergio Mercera reportedly confessed their crime to the police.

Personnel of KLM reported to the police that there was a group of about 30 Russians aboard the plane causing a disturbance and three of them were smoking. As the plane landed, Prosecutor Wesselius, Police Chief Daantje and police were at the airport. Three of the Russians were drunk and taken to jail.

□ G.L.D.



Dutch Prince Bernhard (center) is escorted by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (left) and her sister Princess Irene during the funeral service for his wife Queen Juliana of the Netherlands in Delft in this March 30, 2004 photo.

**PRINCE BERNHARD
1911-2004
FAREWELL TO
A FRIEND OF BONAIRE**

Dutch Prince Bernhard, whose *Prince Bernhard Fonds* and other charities supported many worthwhile programs in Bonaire, died last Wednesday at 93.

The condition of the prince, who underwent several operations for cancerous tumors, had worsened in recent weeks. He died at the Utrecht University Medical Centre. "The Prince was taken in at the Utrecht University Medical Centre with urgency in the

afternoon due to an increase of complaints and a worsening condition," the government said in a statement. "At the hospital, in consultation with the Prince, it was decided not to take further measures. The prince's wish was respected," the statement said.

Married to the late Dutch Queen Juliana and father of Queen Beatrix, the German born Prince was admired by the Dutch for flying Spitfires for the Allied forces during World War II. Despite his German heritage and role in the pre-war German army, Bernhard was also loved for his hard work in putting the Netherlands back on its feet after liberation.

"Prince Bernhard was a man who enjoyed life. A vital man, who was active up to an old age and continued to dedicate himself for people and issues close to his heart," Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said in a televised address.

There are ladies on Bonaire who remember how the prince flirted harmlessly with them.

Prince Bernhard was stripped of his Dutch armed forces uniform and leadership in 1976 when a parliamentary commission found he had solicited bribes to promote the sale of Lockheed fighter planes in the Netherlands. The scandal shocked the Dutch people and nearly forced his wife to abdicate before a diplomatic solution was found.

Bernhard used his top-level contacts for causes like the World Wildlife Fund, where he was founding president from 1962 to 1976.

Bernhard, Prince of Lippe-Biesterfeld, was born on June 29, 1911, in Jena, Germany. He went to school in Berlin and studied law in Lausanne and Munich. An adventurous traveler all his life, he left Germany for Paris after graduating in 1935. While in Paris, the dashing young businessman was selected by Dutch Queen Wilhelmina as a suitable future husband for her only daughter Juliana. They married in 1937 and had two children--Beatrix, the current Dutch queen, and Irene--before fleeing the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands for England in May 1940. Two more daughters were born during and after the war.

The Prince flew with the Royal Air

Force from 1942 to 1944 and helped organize the Dutch resistance movement. After 1944 he helped negotiate the German surrender.

In the aftermath of World War II he resisted the idea of a temporary lifting of democratic governance.

Aware of the onslaught on the environment by the accelerating growth of mankind, he devoted endless time and energy to the World Wildlife Fund.

Without any political power he earned great international standing. His list of achievements in service is impressive. Prince Bernhard met the challenge of his title. He should be remembered for what he became: a true prince. □*Press release*

LETTER

A WELL EARNED THANK YOU

While negative thoughts, words and actions abound, compliments and kind words seem harder to get off the tongue. If anyone deserves them, it's our self-appointed guardian of the donkeys. From a lot of us, Marina, *thank you* for all you've done in getting the donkeys off the streets, out of town and out of our neighborhoods.

You've done a wonderful job and your hard work, persistence and dedication are greatly appreciated, not only by those of us whose lives are not only more peaceful (and *safer on the road*)...but probably by all your donkeys as well! □*H.S.*

TSUNAMIS ON BONAIRE?

Do you think that Bonaire is exempt from the effects of a tidal wave or, more properly named, a "tsunami?" Well think again. The coast of Bonaire, especially Klein Bonaire, the "flats" near Spelonk on the east and Tolo on the west coast, tell a detailed story in the rocks that litter the landscape of past monster tsunamis.



Two views of tsunami rocks at Tolo



Occurring in all oceans of the world, tsunamis may form locally and strike quickly, as in the 1918 wave that was caused by an earthquake in the underwater Mona Canyon 10 miles northwest of Puerto Rico adjacent to the area where one of our nesting sea turtles, Schille, is currently living. Or they may travel vast distances, as in the 1755 tsunami that formed off Lisbon, Portugal, and slammed into the Caribbean islands of Antigua, Saba and St. Martin hours later. The massive swells may speed across the open ocean at more than 500 mph.

Ninety-one tsunamis have been reported in the region since Columbus's time. Scientists have verified 27 as true tsunamis and nine more as very likely true. The impact of a strike on a populated area can be catastrophic. By some estimates, as many as 1,800 people were killed by the tsunami that struck the northeast coast of the Dominican Republic, just across the Mona Passage from Puerto Rico, on August 4, 1946. Recent data records 20 tsunamis in the last 100 years. That's one every five years on average.

Because of its climate and natural beauty, the Caribbean coastal regions have thousands of residents and most of its tourists. While most everyone who lives in this region is fully aware of the hurricane threat and is, to a great extent, prepared for dealing with the hurricane hazard, on the contrary, most of the people living in this region are not informed as to what has been very nicely described as "the forgotten hazard,"

which is the tsunami. And while Bonaire seems to have dodged many hurricanes it has no climactic dispensation from tsunamis.

A few years ago Bonaire became concerned about the active submarine volcano, Kick'em Jenny, close to the islands of the southeastern Caribbean (just 10 km north of Grenada). Past eruptions during the last century (1939 and 1965) resulted in observed deep water tsunamis, with the one in 1939 being measured as 1 meter high (<http://www.uwichill.edu.bb/bnccde/grenada/grendoc/KickemJenny/kickemjenny.html>). The concern is such that, for the first time, the Caribbean Development Bank is funding a monitoring program of the underwater volcano. However, luckily for the nearby islands, its rumblings did not produce tsunamis.

Tsunamis are a true threat to the Caribbean region and, depending upon their strength and travel direction, to North Atlantic shores beyond. According to Jim Lander of the University of Colorado, **"since 1530, tsunamis have caused more deaths in the Caribbean than in Alaska, Hawaii, and the US east coast combined."** Tsunami sources include volcanic activity, submarine landslides and tectonic movements of the seabed.

Tsunamis are generated when these



Anya Scheffers

geologic events cause large, rapid movements in the sea floor that displace the water column above. That swift change creates a series of high-energy waves that radiate outward like pond ripples. Offshore tsunamis would strike the adjacent shorelines within minutes and also cross the ocean at almost the speed of sound to strike distant shores. In 1946, a tsunami was initiated by an earthquake in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. In less than 5 hours, it reached Hawaii with waves as high as 55 feet and killed 173 people.

Tsunami waves can continue for hours. The first wave can be followed by others a few minutes or a few hours later, and the later waves are commonly larger.

To find out how big the tidal waves were that hit Bonaire in past times, we asked Anya Scheffers, a post-doctorate scientist at Essen University in Duisberg, Germany. Anya, in her studies for The Institute for Geography, has spent considerable time on Bonaire and the surrounding islands. "The weight of the boulder that was moved, can, with mathematics, determine the height of the wave that was required to move it," she explained. Around Spelonk are two huge boulders, 137 tons and 126 tons, that were once a single larger boulder. A 12m (40') tsunami would be required to move them, and if they were a single rock a 23m (76') wave would be necessary to move their combined weight of 263 tons. The rocks are hundreds of meters from the present shoreline.

What about hurricanes, we asked, couldn't they have moved the rocks. "No," says Anya. "Hurricanes just don't have the force. Hurricane Lenny brought ashore 2 to 3-ton boulders on average with a 7-tonner being the heaviest. This year Hurricane Ivan moved 25-30 ton boulders in Washikemba, but these weren't from the sea bed. The largest moved by Ivan, which was at maximum category 5 strength as it approached Bonaire, moved a 45-ton rock. Based on my calculations an 11m (36') high sea wave was required to do that."

Right now there is no tsunami alert network in the Caribbean. One has been proposed. What should be done to prepare Bonaire for tsunamis as other islands do for hurricanes? To their credit the Dutch Army conducted relief-providing exercises that were based on Bonaire being inundated by a tidal wave.

Bonaire should take advantage of the ease that these ancient tsunami tossed rocks can be observed by establishing a "Tsunami Park" in Spelonk (Bonaire's Bolivia area). A parcel of 300m from the water's edge for a distance of 500m south of the Spelonk lighthouse should do to capture the spirit of the rugged past. Perhaps the owners of the land will donate it to the people of Bonaire?

□ G.D.

Next Week: Are tsunamis responsible for Bonaire's "missing reef?" Perhaps. Learn about it in the next *Reporter*.



Tsunami waves are incredibly destructive

RINCON MARSHÉ LUSTRUM

This Saturday, December 11, the very popular **Rincon Marshé open market will celebrate their 5th year (First Lustrum) at 11 am.** All the stands will be set up, selling handcrafts, local sweets, barbeque, foods and drinks, plants, candles, gifts, you-name-it. There's always a warm welcoming feeling from the friendly stand holders. That's one of the reasons these weekly marshés have been such a success and have continued every Saturday. They start early in the morning at 6 am, to serve breakfast, Rincon style, and stay open until mid-afternoon. □*L.D.*



Ladies at last year's Christmas Marshé.

PART OF CAPTAIN DON BACK IN BONAIRE

We can expect to see Captain Don Stewart, Bonaire's diving pioneer, back on Bonaire within a few weeks. However, his troublesome leg has already returned.

Readers will recall that last week we mentioned that Captain Don, having been air-ambulated to Curaçao for treatment of low blood pressure, once restored to his former health, decided to do something about the leg that had been a problem since injuring it while attempting to salvage the wreck of the *Sterke Yerke* 25 years ago. And indeed he did. After conferring with the doctors he agreed that it should go. Last Wednesday, December 1st, it was surgically removed below the knee at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Captain Don never forgot that over 40 years ago Curaçao declared him *persona non grata* and he had to set sail for Bonaire. It was an event that changed his life and the future of Bonaire. Since Don plans to return to Bonaire after some more healing, physiotherapy and being fitted for a prosthesis there was a question of what to do with the detached leg. One thing was for sure; he didn't want it to stay on the island that threw him out.

Captain Don, from his hospital bed in Curaçao declared, "There will be no part of Captain Don left behind! I love Bonaire too much to leave any of myself anywhere else." Enlisting the aid of his old friend, Lilyann Stewart de Guiss, he dispatched his leg, the one no



Jack Chalk, Annette Roswell and the gravedigger watch as Janet Thibault drops in a handful of Bonaire soil.

longer attached, to Bonaire for a decent burial. Last Saturday at the Protestant Cemetery, at the site of the Captain's future resting place, there was a burial of his amputated leg and foot. A group, led by Janet Thibault, dearest partner of the Captain, was on hand for the brief ceremony, and each tossed in a handful of Bonaire soil. It was a bit sad but it was far more joyful because everyone realized that when the Captain returns in a few weeks, it will be without the pain that has plagued him for years. □ L./G.D.

TURTLE TRAVELS



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is confident that 'STINAPA,' our female Green turtle, is indeed back home. Her radio signals show she is swimming in the same general area day after day. She is currently 80 km off the coast of Nicaragua in a feeding area with coral at a relatively shallow depth. In her 29 days of travel, 'STINAPA' covered almost 2,100 km (1,300+ miles), sometimes swimming as much as 100 km in a single day! With all her meandering she now holds the title of "Longest Distance Traveled" of all of Bonaire's radio-equipped sea turtles. For now, there will no longer be updates on 'STINAPA.' If her status changes, we will let you know. We still have one more turtle to track this season, the fourth, 'Funny.' 'Funny' is still hanging around off Klein Bonaire and we will start posting updates when she departs.

Earlier this year, a female Loggerhead 'Extra' was tracked from her nesting beach at Klein Bonaire to her feeding area off the coast of Honduras, over 1500 km away. Male Hawksbill 'Tom' headed towards the northeastern Caribbean, over 600 km from Klein Bonaire before his signal was lost.

Last year both of the tracked turtles, 'Schilie' and 'Nautila' headed north toward the Dominican Republic, then on to nearby feeding grounds. It seems the turtles are a bit like some of our tourists. Then "work" elsewhere but come to Bonaire every few years for some fun.

The turtle tracking works through signals sent out by the transmitter, which is switched on whenever the turtle comes to the surface to breathe. □ STCB/G.D.

IT'S SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION, HONEST! or WATCHING FISH SPAWNING

Interested in watching fish spawn? You just need to be in the right place at the right time – whether with scuba or snorkel -- and know what you're seeing.

The fish I most often see spawning are parrotfish. Clues include: two parrotfish (rather than a foraging group of three or more) paying attention to each other (rather than nibbling rocks), usually 10 feet or more up off the bottom. One of the fish will be dull gray or gray and white in color, the other brightly colored. In parrotfish the female is almost always dull colored while the male is marked with bright blues, greens, pinks, and/or yellows. When you see such paired-off parrotfish, hover in the water and watch. They'll circle a bit, and maybe he'll chase her. They might dart away from each other, but don't despair. They'll usually circle and begin interacting again. Eventually, together, they'll face upward and swim up in an especially wriggly way, and you might notice the cloud in the water from their simultaneous release of eggs and sperm (gametes). The instant the gametes are ejected, the parent fish bolt downwards. In some subtle way, the moment they eject gametes the two fish cease relating to each other. She resumes foraging routinely once she reaches the bot-

tom.

If you missed the actual spawning, don't worry: the male often begins courting another female almost immediately.

Several years ago Dr. Eugenie Clark did some studies on razorfish living in

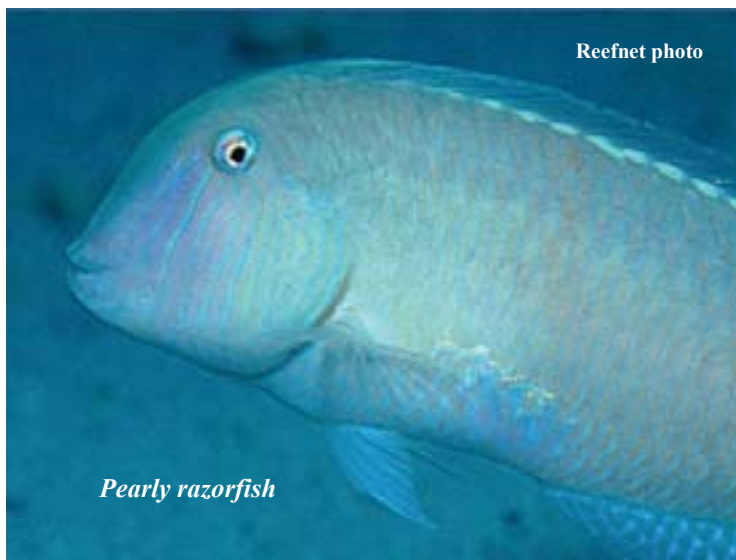
the shallow waters along Bonaire's coastline. One reason razorfish are so rewarding to study is that they spawn every single day. If you're willing to make a little effort to see fish spawning, razorfish are your fish.

First you need to be able to recognize razorfish, which are side-to-side-flattened wrasses. (Check them out in a fish I.D. book such as Humann's *Reef Fishes*). Rosy and Green razorfish are 3" to 6" long. The third Atlantic/Caribbean razorfish species is the Pearly, which grows to about 9" in length on Bonaire.

Razorfish are fascinating to watch even when they're not spawning because one of their common behaviors is to abruptly dive -- right down into the sand! Where they dive is not random, but rather a "dive site" in which they keep the sand loosely packed. From sunset to sunrise they sleep in their dive

sites too.

So, since razorfish seek sanctuary beneath sand, to find a colony of razorfish you'll have to find some sand. I've seen razorfish colonies on coarse sand bottoms as well as fine, densely packed sand, and in depths down to about 35'.



Eventually each female stops foraging, watches his displays and joins her mate in the synchronized upward swim which results in the cloud of gametes.

If the Rosy razorfish had harems or any social groupings or protected any territories, we didn't see any evidence of it. But like their relatives, the Rosies spawn daily in the two hours prior to sunset. The males seem to court any likely female, and there's a lot more movement throughout the colony than with the other species of razorfish.

Ta dah! You've seen fish spawning, on the day of your choice and the time of the razorfish's choosing. Not only have you seen spawning, but you've seen the kind of paying-attention-to-each-other behaviors, exaggeratedly-wriggling, dashing-upwards behaviors, and circling-side-by-side behaviors that are so commonly a part of fish spawning. The next time you see those behaviors, you'll recognize them and stick around and watch and understand what you're seeing. Remember, it's not voyeurism, it's science! □Dee Scarr

We've found them at Red Slave, off Bonaire's entire harbor area, and even in Lac Bay. At these depths, razorfish spawn during the two hours prior to their sunset bedtime "dives." Once you've found your razorfish colony, arrive early and watch from the surface off to the side. Alternatively, you can find a place on the sand where there's no coral and no razorfish dive sites and rest there as motionlessly as possible. After a short time the razorfish will resume their regular activities.

Pearly and Green males maintain harems, with as many as seven females. Each female supervises a mini-territory within her male's territory. He spawns with each of his mates every single day in the two hours before sunset. Find a male (both Pearly and Green males are a little bigger than the females and have a spot on each side) and watch him. He'll check on his females, one at a time, and do little wriggle-upward displays ("see what we could do?").

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
12-10	11:18	2.1FT.	81
12-11	11:58	2.2FT.	92
12-12	12:43	2.2FT.	99
12-13	13:34	2.2FT.	103
12-14	14:23	2.1FT.	101
12-15	0:34	0.6FT.	96
12-16	1:12	0.7FT.	87
12-17	1:40	0.8FT.	76

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

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

► In connection with Bonaire's "Protect Our Turtles" campaign, a special mailbox was set up at the TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) where children can deposit letters, drawings and ideas. A primary school monthly newspaper dedicated to the campaign is also being published, with puzzles, games and comics about sea turtles. The newspaper is part of the "Protect our Sea Turtles" campaign, the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), Fundashon Pa Bon Koral and STINAPA to organize educational activities to make children aware of the necessity of protecting sea turtles. The December edition will focus on the different kinds of sea turtles present in the waters around Bonaire. More information on the campaign or for copies of the newspaper contact STINAPA, telephone 717-8444.



TCB's Rolando Marin and Eveline Marchena

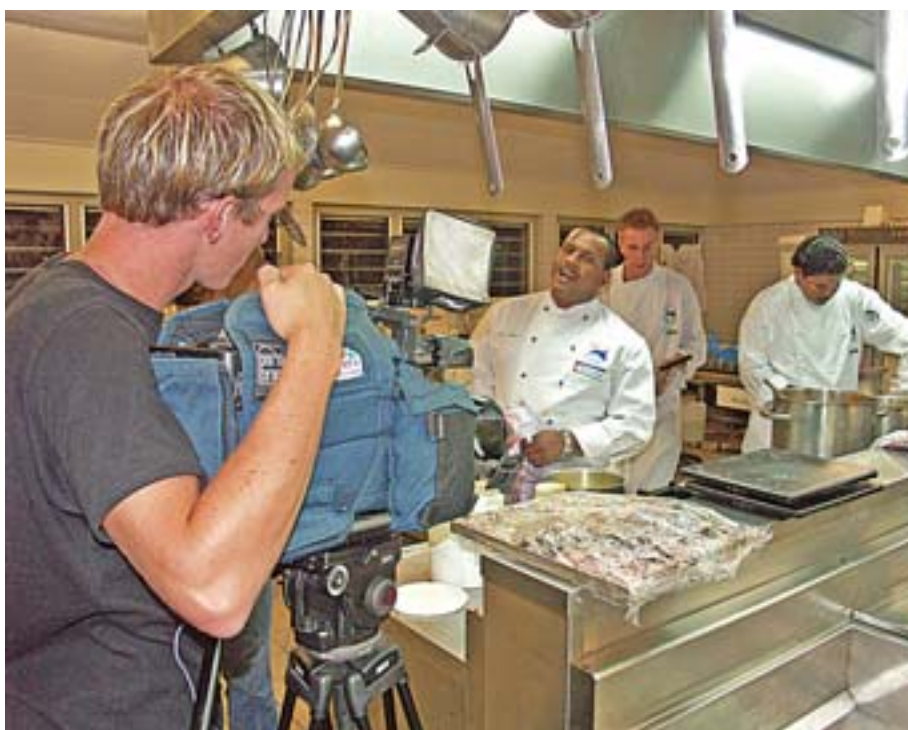
► Washington Park Manager Fernando Simal advises that after some repairs during the last two days, the short route in Washington Slagbaai National Park can be traveled by motor vehicles again. However, the condition of the road is far from perfect, so **ONLY jeeps, pick up trucks and vans** with high clearance can drive on it. You do not need 4x4 vehicles.



Sediment from the heavy rains has had its effect as you can see.

The bad conditions of the roads are truly compensated by the luxurious vegetation, amount of water and birds in the salinas.

A bicycle trip to explore the rejuvenated Park is planned for next Saturday at 7:30 am. Meet at the Park gate. More info in Happenings, page 19.



► Aruba Television Broadcasting N.V. (ATV) was here last week shooting footage in the kitchen of the **SGB Hotel School, Chez Nous**. Brigette Katelaan and cameraman Arjen Ellens are putting together a piece on the hotel school chefs from the ABC islands who spent four weeks in October in Italy studying cuisine, Italian style. Being interviewed above is teacher Vernon Martijn. The team will be filming hotel school students on the other islands as well as showing the features each island has to offer. In Bonaire they'll film kayaking through the mangroves and windsurfing. The film will be shown on TeleCuraçao in January. □L.D.



► The **Bonaire Caribbean Club at Hilltop** on the tourist road just added this pleasant "watering hole" and snack bar at the front of the hotel. If you're heading north to see Bonaire, stop in and get hydrated and relaxed. The hotel is located opposite STINAPA/Marine Park HQ near the Oil Slick Leap dive site. □ G/L.D.

WORLD'S FIRST UNDERWATER PHOTO EXPO

The first underwater photo exposition ever—"Forty Feet Under the Sea" - opened last Saturday at Bongo's Beach. The passionate Dutch creator, Fred Ros, opened his art show by putting his own wax statue (he named it his 'brother') under water to serve as the expo guard to watch over the 31 diverse pictures anchored 40 feet under the sea. But before he plunged under the surface (Ros had never been diving before) he explained to the audience the procedure for the exposition.

To enter you need a ticket (Visitors: \$5 - Bonaireans: free). These tickets will be sold between 3 and 5 pm by box office girls, as Ros said, "Especially flown in from Holland." He even in-



Artist Fred Ros is congratulated by Governor Domacassé

tends to put an ancient cash register at the bottom of the sea. The waterproof ticket has a map to guide you in viewing the huge underwater canvasses.

You can also buy a brochure for \$30, and even that is a well thought out and special gadget. It's a small waterproof "Pelican" dive case with all the photographs sealed and numbered, corresponding to the numbers on the map. With this case you can take part in a lottery with prizes that include an all-expense paid holiday in Bonaire for two for two weeks, including round trip tickets Amsterdam-Bonaire, hotel and diving. Second prize is a plasma TV screen. Third is a round-trip to your hometown in Holland. The drawing will



Wilna Groenenboom before an underwater canvas

be in February 2005 after the closing of the expo. Fred Ros, who fell in love with Bonaire and plans to live here, handed over the official opening to Governor Hubert Domacassé. The Governor said he was very proud to have such a creative project in Bonaire, especially because it is the first one in the world. "It's a

positive piece of public relations for the island." Domacassé continued, "With this kind of opportunity Bonaire can 'come out of the box!' And," the Governor said, "I'm thinking of keeping the exposition permanently." Shaking hands he congratulated Ros for his tremendous piece of artwork. Fred Ros handed the Governor the Bonaire Government seal to add to the sponsors' board.

Ros gave special thanks to STINAPA and the Bonaire Marine Park. Without their cooperation this piece of work would have never been accomplished. Both organizations worked with him on a tryout last June and gave their approval that the exposition wouldn't harm the corals and underwater life.

PET of the WEEK

This golden eyed inquisitive cat is "Rockie." Rockie is only eight months old but already she's given birth to four grey kittens, two of which have been adopted. But now that she raised her kittens she's back in shape and ready to be a perfect companion to the right person. Her owner said they couldn't keep her and her kittens any longer and brought them all into the Shelter. Maybe five was just too many. But Rocky is a personality on her own - affectionate and smart. She's in perfect health, has had her shots and testing and is ready to go. She's at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm. Tel. 717-4989

Why is it so many of us are fascinated by cats? Maybe it's because they remind us of the jungle cats whom they so resemble - their sinuous movements, they're rarely in a rush, the way



Rockie

they stretch out so languorously or hang draped over a branch, their self confidence and bearing. But then even though they are such free spirits they can also be loving and appreciative. Many believe that cats are psychic and can read your mind. People who live with cats will understand this. So the next time you see a cat better think positive thoughts about it. □L.D.

Fred said that he could have never accomplished this without the driving force of his "mirror," Jan Welten (who lives partly in Bonaire and Holland), with whom he discusses and holds all his projects 'against the light.'

Among the 38 sponsors were four especially mentioned by Ros: his friend Hans van Dijk of Vertical Vision (NL), who printed the images on the huge and specially treated canvasses; Bonaire Fun Travel who financially supported the project; Bonaire Exel for the tickets and transporting the loads of materials; and of course Wannadive's Roeland and Bart for their underwater support. Ros says it would never have happened without the other sponsors.

The next day I dove the Expo myself to see what it's all about. What I found going down on the sandy reef was the impressive sight of the canvas boards. The influence of the sun makes it thrilling and exciting, especially on one of the images of the landscape of Antarctica. The sun in the photograph is shining at you intensely. Then there's the extraordinary experience of feeling the cold and clean air of Antarctica while drifting in the crystal blue and warm waters of Bonaire.

Another special effect you get is an

image of a cave which leads to the ocean. The underwater tour takes about 40 minutes.

Actually it's best to see the exhibit more than once because the changing position of the sun gives a different view of the two-sided canvasses. In the morning sun the images pointing towards the beach are bright and impressive, but in the shadow side they take on a sinister aspect. And don't let the "brother" of Fred scare you...It's just a dressed-up doll. (It was face down on the bottom during my dive. Some guard!)

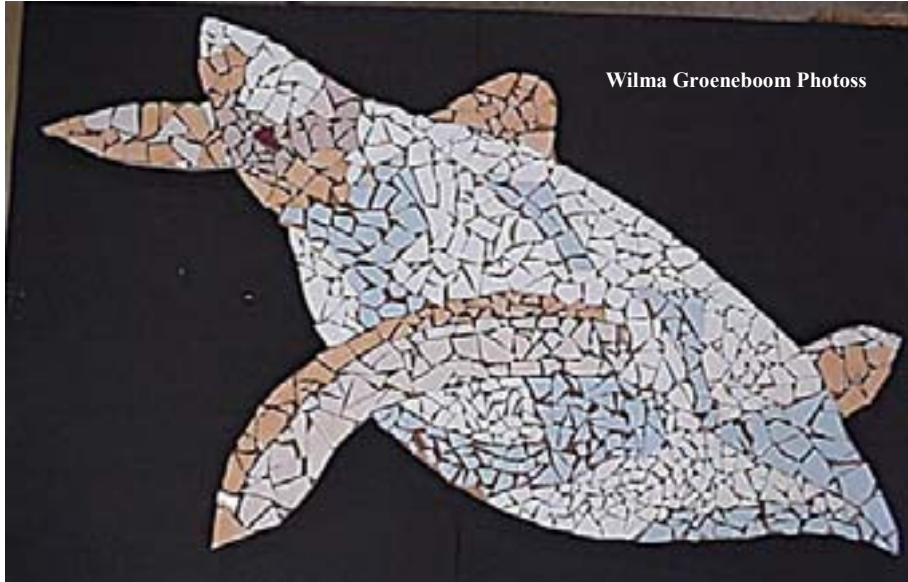
Some of the canvasses are placed at only four meters deep (12') so snorkelers will be able to sample the show.

The photographs which are displayed are mainly from Ros' projects: "One Day of 480 Hours at Antarctica," "One Hundred Feet Above the Wad" (Dutch island of Terschelling), some views of Prague (Tsjechie) and of course some colorful pictures of Bonaire.

Anyway, the best thing to do is to see for yourself what effect the "moving light in an unlimited territory" does to you personally. □ Marion Walthie

The "Forty Feet Under the Sea Expo" will be at Bongo's Beach until February 1.

PLAYGROUND ART



SGB students are working on a turtle mosaic for the wall of the **playground at Playa Pabou**. According to art teacher Wilna Groenenboom this mosaic is a trial one. The school will be buying new tiles in order to have a more colorful background and be more weatherproof. Students are from SBO and SPW, 17 and 18-year olds, who are learning to work with children, older people and the handicapped. Teachers are Helen Chiang and Wilna Groeneboom.

Students working on the project are Desiree Frans, Dietrich Winklaar, Sharellen Richardson, Sarai Reinoso, Cristina Dominguez, Friso Framsma, Terence Bernabela, Denise Ellis, Yurley Castellanos.

Hopefully the mosaic will be finished for the public to see by this Saturday, December 11. □ Wilna Groenenboom/L.D.



A Job Well Done! Last Saturday, December 4, students did a cleanup on Kaya Industria to earn money for field trips. They were paid by Marisela Croes, owner of Rocargo and Benetton.

Other SGB Activities:

Twenty students from the Havo Four Class are working to raise money to send themselves on a field trip to St. Martin in May

Nine students from Havo Five are doing the same in order to make a cultural and educational visit to Curaçao January 27 to 30. They'll be visiting schools, companies and industries to observe and to help them in their future career plans. □ L.D.



CAN THEY BREAK THE WORLD'S RECORDS?

On Friday, December 10, at the stadium in Playa there will be two attempts to break existing Guinness World Records by the 950 students (from 48 different



classes) of the SGB (high school). During the school's "Play Day," as part of team building, all the students in different colored shirts will come together to display "the World's Largest Living Bonairean Flag." Then, with the addition of teachers, security people - enough to make 1,000 - the students will create the World's Largest Human Conveyor Belt." Everyone will be on their knees, lined up in front of each other, and a windsurf board (or stretcher) with a person lying on it will be passed overhead from person to person.

The teachers concocting these ideas are shown above: (L to R): Ben Vriezema (History), Herma Ver Linden (Art, Health), Edi Carolina (English, Dutch, Papiamentu), Willie Dijkstra (Tourism, Hospitality, Health) and Sipke Stapert (Physical Education). Guno Gerling, not shown, (Social Science). The idea for the human conveyor belt came from Head of School, Peter Haak.

As teacher Ben Vriezema says, "This may be a small island, but it sure can think big and globally!"

The Play Day starts at 7:30 am with all the students marching to the Stadium behind a brass band. There will be games, food and drinks as well as the world record breaking awesome events. Thanks go to Cultimara, City Café and Hotel Rocheline for their generous donations for Play Day. □L.D

CHRISTMAS MARKET AT THE HIGH SCHOOL



On Thursday, December 16th, *Scholengemeenschap Bonaire (SGB)* will have its **Third Christmas Market**. All classes of the SGB will either perform on the stage or will be selling articles or services, competitively priced, from stands. In most cases these articles and services are made by the students themselves, giving visitors the opportunity to see what skills the students are learning.

There will be art works made of wood or metal, delicious snacks and tasteful foods, Christmas decorations, makeup (*schmink*) and manicure services. There is also a class that will offer games and activities, especially a very original Ookey Spooky Ghost House. These games can be played with the entire family, so bring the kids.

There will be second hand books and information made available by the parents committee. There will be dance performances, Christmas carols, a mini play and many more surprise acts! All the students will get the chance to show what they are good at. All the money raised by the students will be used for their own class projects, so they have an incentive to do their very best for this Christmas market.

The famous Tio Roly will be there together with his group, 'Inspiration,' to delight visitors with Christmas songs. All acts are performed on a podium made by SGB's very own talented tech-

nical students, and all Christmas lightning is in the hands of the skilled students of electro at SGB!

This great Christmas market is at the SGB on December 16th from 18.30 to 22.30. Entry is NAf1 per person and there is also a door prize from Bonair-Exel. You must be present to win. If not, another winner will be picked!

Come one, come all to support this great activity and the students of SGB. For questions call Ms. Coffie on 717-4428 / 09-5277145. □ *S.R.F. Coffie, MBA (Coordinator Christmas market).*

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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.

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We want to buy 40 ft container, in reasonable condition. Call 791-4750

Need right away:
Propane refrigerator
Gas stove
Cement mixer
 Call 717-2844, 786-9013 or 785-9332.

HELP WANTED

WANTED: Part time waiter or waitress for December holiday times. Call Croccantino Restaurant at 717-5025 after 4 pm.

HELP WANTED- Part time Server, Part time Chef Helper. Wil's Tropical Grill 717-6616.

Restaurant Helper – wait tables, help in kitchen. Day shift part time (30 to 35 hours a week). Must speak English. Will train. The Lost Penguin 717-8003

FOR SALE

High End Road Bicycle with 60.5cm Dean Titanium Frame, Carbon fork, Shimano 105, Ultegra and Dura Ace components, two sets of wheels, NAf1.875. Phone: 717-8800 (work) or 717-8814 (home)

Larry's Jeep Wrangler for Sale, 350 Chevy Engine, 400hp, good condition, NAf27,000. Phone 790-9156, 717-5246

Slide and negative Scanner; Minolta Dimage Scan Dual II, Use with Win-

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Inflatable Boat - Achilles 16 ft with trailer. Very good condition Now only NAf4,990 Call 717-8819, 8 am to 5 pm

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PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER in San Francisco, California



The story behind this picture is love. Roger Willems has lived and worked on Bonaire since September 2002. Last Christmas he met Chris Corwin, who lives in San Francisco. Since then they have been visiting each other and staying in touch via Internet

and phone. When they met again in San Francisco, they took this picture with the Golden Gate Bridge in the background and *The Bonaire Reporter* in the foreground. Soon Chris will move to Bonaire. Story to be continued... □

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.) □

JOIN THE TRIATHLON

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.



*Getting read for the Jong-Bonaire Triathlon
Runners Andrea Simal and Stephany Rommy; Swimmer
Javis Weyman; Biker Papito Lugo*

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 5:30 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 NAf35; individuals pay NAf15.

Even if you're not a participant you can help, as *The Bonaire Reporter* is, by sponsoring kids. It's only NAf15 per athlete. For more information call Mabel Nava at Jong Bonaire, telephone 717-4303. □ *L.D.*

QUIZ-

WHAT IS BONAIRE'S MOST ANTICIPATED WEEKLY EVENT*?

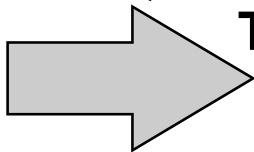
* If you read English

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- C. The Bonaire Reporter
- D. All of the above

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ASK THE DIETITIAN HEALTHY EATING NOT FAD DIETS



There are hundreds different kinds diets nowadays, and most of them can lead to successful weight loss if you follow them exactly as they are designed. But this doesn't mean that the foods that fit into these diets are necessarily healthy. Most of the time you must follow these diets for a short period of time and change your eating pattern drastically to fit the diet rules. The results: you lose weight, but then when you return to your old eating patterns you gain that weight back again. The weight that you worked so hard to lose comes back, so you return to a diet. You lose weight once more, and go up and down, up and down, like an elevator. You can become a slave to diets.

So think about eating healthy and having a healthy lifestyle instead. **Think about changing your eating habits into healthy ones rather than doing a two or three-week "crash diet."** When you start by changing your eating habits you are attacking the cause of your overweight. And shouldn't we start with the cause?

Eating healthy makes you feel good physically and emotionally. You have energy and enjoy every day. By eating healthy you are promoting your own good health.

SOME HEALTHY EATING TIPS

The closer a food is to its natural state, the better it is for you. Fresh fruits contain lots of vitamins and minerals and will satisfy a craving for sweets. Eat lots of vegetables every day, three to four serving spoons. Choose yellow, green and orange vegetables. Steam them to retain the most nutritional value. Be careful with sauces; always choose the low fat ones. Any starches or complex carbohydrates, like bread, pasta, rice, etc, should be high in fiber and whole grain. Complex carbohydrates that are high in fiber contain vitamins and minerals.

Avoid sugar and sugary snacks and cakes as much as possible. Eat them only occasionally.

Stick to water as your main beverage. If you get tired of plain water add a slice of lemon or lime to add a touch of flavor. Avoid high sugar beverages like sodas, instant drinks, etc. Herbal and fruit teas are also sugar free. Choose

100% fruit juices instead of "fruit drinks" and "nectar drinks." Read the labels to be sure.

Shop for lean meats and skinless poultry and don't forget fish. Remember, the serving size of meat is 100 grams uncooked weight and 75 grams cooked weight. Fish contains the good types of fat so try to have fish at least two to three times a week. Limit your eating of processed lunch meats like hot dogs, bacon, sausage, cold cuts, etc. Pick the less fat versions and with limitations.

Use little margarine or oil when cooking - 15 grams= 1 tablespoon per person- and use low fat cooking techniques like stir-frying, baking, stewing, grilling, etc.

Choose low fat or fat free milk and milk products instead of fatty ones.

Remember to eat a variety of foods. Give new foods a try even if you think you may not like them. Create variations with different kinds of fruits and vegetables mixed with grains, etc.

Once you learn what foods are good for you, you need to look at what the recommended daily quantities are for your age, and of course you need also to look at your eating habits.

HOW TO ANALYZE YOUR EATING HABITS

Do you eat because you are bored, sad or happy?

Do you snack in front of the TV without even giving it much thought?

Are most of your meals eaten at home or in restaurants?

How often do you eat fast food?

Do you like to cook?

Do you skip breakfast or lunch, then overeat later in the day?

How big are the portions you eat?

Do you crave sweets?

Do these questions sound familiar? If they do, then you should start focusing on how to change these bad habits into good and healthy ones. □*Angélique Salsbach*

WHACKED WHALE SKELETON TO WASHINGTON PARK MUSEUM



Jay and Bonai student group work on whale backbone

The Bonai group, an after school study program which involves teens in cultural anthropology, pre-Colombian archeology and historical archeology, has an exciting new project. They will be reconstructing the bones of a whale that arrived in Bonaire, impaled on the bow of the ship *Nieuw Amsterdam* in January 2000. (*Bonaire Reporter* Jan. 18, 2000, "Whale Whacked") The final product will end up as an exhibit at the museum in Washington Park.

Since the time it arrived the remains of the whale have been resting and decomposing at the Cargill Salt Company. It was decided to take it to the salt company rather than the landfill due to its intense stench. Cargill has donated a container for the reconstruction work which has begun in front of the Bonaire Museum and SKAL (foundation for

literature and culture) building. The project is being funded by the Prince Bernard Funds in Holland. According to the Bonaire Marine Park report at the time the whale was a 40 foot (12 meters plus) long adult Tropical or Bryde's Whale (*Balenoptera edeni*), locally called a *Bayena Tompoes*.

The Bonai group, led by archeologist Dr. Jay Havisier, is a pilot project for the rest of the Antilles.

Thanks to all the organizations and people who helped put this whole project together. You might say the whale gave his life for a good cause. □*L.D.*



The original whale is trucked away

Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Write her at dietitian@bonairenews.com □

BONAIRE AMBASSADORS



This group of visitors makes the Sorobon Beach Resort their home while on Bonaire (L to R):

AWARDED BRONZE: Glenn and Lucy Wegiel; AWARDED SILVER: Cor and Gerry Huisman, The Netherlands; AWARDED BRONZE: John and Betty Marlow, Texas, USA

It's been awhile since we've published photos of the wonderful people whose visits to Bonaire year after year make it the successful tourist destination it is. The TCB (Tourism Bureau) honors repeat visitors by naming them honorary Bonaire Ambassadors.

AWARDED BRONZE: Glenn and Lucy Wegiel

Glenn and Lucy tell us, "We were

told not to go to Bonaire in general, and in particular, not to go to Sorobon, because there was nothing there. This became a challenge for us! Boy, were we wrong!! We soon discovered that this incredible island and the quaint resort (Sorobon Beach Resort) have everything that anyone can need, and more! Unspoiled, Unhurried, Unforgettable. And that's why 10 years and almost 20 trips later, we keep coming back!"

AWARDED SILVER: Cor and Gerry Huisman, The Netherlands

Cor and Gerry Huisman from Holland have been coming to Sorobon Beach Resort for 15 years and they still love it! They used to go to Curaçao also, but this year they have chosen to stay on Bonaire only. Cor is also the oldest guest of Sorobon and is 81 years

young!

AWARDED BRONZE: John and Betty Marlow, Texas, USA

John and Betty Marlow visit Bonaire and Sorobon Beach Resort twice each year and have been coming since 1995. They live in Texas, but they say the trip, which is not always easy, is always worth it! One year they even rented a private plane to come to Bonaire from Aruba because ALM was not flying, and they didn't want to spend the night on Aruba! That is loyalty! □
Delno Tromp

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! Usually 9:00 pm
Alfier
(Jude Law)

Early Show (usually 7pm)
The Forgotten

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 Shark Tale
SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM
Taxi

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:

"The Forgotten" by Joseph Ruben, starring Julianne Moore and Dominic West.



There's absolutely nothing wrong with looking at Julianne Moore for one and a half hours. She is gorgeous and a terrific actress, but that's about the sole attraction in this movie. It starts out well, the suspense builds and you wonder where it's gonna go, but then, as the story develops, you find out that it's going nowhere. And in the end, when the credits finally do roll, you can't help but wonder what this was all about. □ *Dodo*

THIS WEEK

Friday, December 10 – Big Jazz and Four-Course Tuscan Dinner at Croccantino Restaurant in the Garden, 7 pm. \$45 per person. Reservations at 717-7025

Saturday, December 11—Rincon Marshe Special 5-year Celebration, 11 am, Rincon

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

Friday, December 10 – SGB Play Day for students – at the Stadium - see page 13

Saturday, Dec 11, Bike trip through Washington Park. Meet at the Park gate at 7:30 am. Bring water and energy food. For more information call 717-8814 or 717-8800.

Thursday, December 16 – SGB Christmas Market – entertainment, food, crafts, etc. 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm, at the high school. See page 13

This week through- Jan 27, 2005
 First ever exhibition of artwork under-

water **"40 Feet Underwater": Moving Light into an Unlimited Territory,** Dutch artist Fred Ros. At the dive site Front Porch, located at Bongos Beach at Eden Beach Resort. Entrance Fee \$5 (Bonaireans free)

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Dec. 9, 10 –*Legacy*, Dec. 12 –*Silver Whisper*, *Queen Mary 2*; Dec. 14 –*Aida Vita*; Dec. 16 –*Columbus*

COMING

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 7 am on Sunday. Teams pay NAf35; individuals pay NAf15. Call Mabel Nava at 717-4303. See page 15.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Dec. 19 –*Adonia*; Dec. 25 –*Oceana*; Dec. 27 –*Queen Mary 2*, Dec. 28 –*Aida Vita*, Dec. 29 –*Silver Whisper*

Saturday, December 18—Bonaire Windsurfers Holiday Freestyle Frenzy Event—Lac Bai
Sunday, December 19—Bonaire Windsurfers End of the Year Race, Playa

Monday, December 20—Holiday Concert with Freewinds Band Fundraising Evening for King of the Caribbean 2005. Aboard *Freewinds*, 7-10 pm. NAf17,50 (\$10). Tickets: TCB, Windsurf Place, Gabrielle Nahr, Ann Phelan

Dec 25 - Christmas Day (Holiday). Saturday/stores closed

Dec 26 - Boxing Day (Holiday). Sunday

Dec 31 - 5k San Silvester Run. Call Richard Pietersz, 717-8629

Dec 31 - Fireworks all over Bonaire! - stores close early

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

YOGA FOR YOU

What is Yoga?

Many centuries ago, in that area of the world now known as India, men of great intellectual and spiritual stature perceived in a very direct way that human beings are "disjointed." That is, the body, emotions, mind and spirit pull in their own directions as each, in turn, demands the fulfillment of its own needs and desires. This causes a continual separation and prevents the individual from functioning as an integrated whole wherein his full potential is realized. To make possible an integration of the body, mind and spirit, these wise men or gurus of ancient times evolved and perfected, over the centuries, a system of self-development known as yoga, a Sanskrit word meaning "union" or "joining together."

Yoga is composed of a series of postures or poses (asanas in Sanskrit).

As you perform the asanas you must be aware that they have been carefully designed to promote health and beauty as well as stimulating energies that will be of extreme importance while you practice, and especially during the rest of the day after your practice.

Life is beautiful and yoga helps you realize it.

Embrace yoga for what it gives your mind and body. □

Merry Christmas
Don and Desiree



Yoga is closed December 7 to 21.

Yoga mixed levels will start again on December 22 at 8 am at Plaza Resort

As of December 23 Ashtanga/power yoga will be given at the Harbour Village Spa: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 pm

Wednesday - 8 am - mixed levels yoga Plaza Resort

Friday - 8:30 am - mixed levels yoga Buddy Dive resort

Saturday - 10 am - Gentle flow yoga Buddy Dive Resort

We would like to thank Jong Bonaire for the use of their facilities over the past year. For more information call 717-2727 or 786 6416

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 (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; 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 (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.

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.

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. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Ssaturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
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 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.
Caribbean Club Bonaire at Hilltop 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.
Croccantino Italian Restaurant 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.
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
The Last Bite Bakery 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 gourmet class items -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The Lost Penguin Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
Nonchi's at Cultimara 791-4280	Low Open 5 am-8 pm Monday-Saturday	Delicious local and international food to take out or eat there. Everyday a different combo. Sandwiches and roast chicken too. Lunch from NA/6,50
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



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.

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.

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.

Pedisa Day Spa —for all your body and wellness needs, 40 years of experience Classic and specialty massages, Reiki, Reflexology and more..

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



Entertaining the revelers was a new band, SILK: Jon Hilgers, Debby Wauben, Robur DeVries, Chris Morkos and Nick Davies

Last Saturday evening BONHATA, the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association, held its 4th Annual Awards Gala in the casino at the Plaza Resort. Its purpose was to honor BONHATA members who had been voted tops by their peers and at the same time raise money to fund a breakfast program for needy high school students. The event was an over-the-top success with the winners roundly cheered and money to fund four months of breakfasts pledged. In addition to the NAf3.700 raised by BONHATA for one month's breakfasts for SGB students, other companies came forward and donated enough money to fund an additional three months.

□L./G.D.

And the winners are:

Category	Winners
Person of the Year	Jack Chalk
Property of the Year > 20 rooms	Harbour Village Resort
Property of the Year < 20 rooms	Windsock
Supervisor of the Year	Mathilda Suydon
Employee of the Year	Jeanette Trinidad
Dive Operation of the Year	Photo Tours Divers
Green Award	Captain Don's Habitat
Good Samaritan Award	(All three for the "breakfast in schools project") Frits Hannenbergh, Eddy Carrillo, Larry Gerharts
Excursion Operator	Bonaire Tours & Vacations
F & B Excellence Award	Chibi Chibi Restaurant □ G.D.



In the photo to the right, Marjolein Hayden of the Antillean Wine Company presents Jolanda vonGinneken her raffle prize. The raffle generated more than enough money to support a month of school breakfasts.

Decorate your Home with a Name and Number

Have you ever tried to find someone's home and noticed that not many people have house numbers? I think it is even more traditional in Bonaire to have a house name rather than a number. For people who have not lived in Bonaire all their life, it would make it easier to get around if we all had house numbers and house names. It would also be fun to look at people's houses and enjoy their sense of humor or artistic point of view if everyone made a house number or name. So to get you started I'll give you two examples.

Example of a House Number and Name

#22 Innisfree

The "#22" was made using a small piece of driftwood. Driftwood collected from the beach needs to be cleaned first. I suggest soaking the driftwood completely in fresh water and letting it dry out in the sun. Repeat this step several times to make sure the salts are flushed out of the wood. Paint the driftwood with one coat of white latex house paint. The white paint makes a good base coat so that the next color will show up better. Then paint your next color of choice. You may need more than one coat of paint for the color to show up well. After it is dry, you can pencil in your house number or you can print out your numbers on your computer and transfer with carbon paper. I paint the numbers with two coats of paint. The second coat defines the numbers better. When this is dry, apply a coat of water base varnish to seal it.



The "Innisfree" fish is made with several pieces of driftwood. All are processed following the directions above and then nailed, glued, and stapled together to form the fish design.

Example of a House Number

#7

I cut out a square piece of plywood and sealed it with two-part epoxy. The epoxy is the type used on boats for sealing wood. This layer will keep the plywood from separating in the weather as time goes on. The board was then sanded and painted with three coats of water-based white paint. The shell and wave design are stenciled on with a plastic stencil guide. The #7 was printed with WordPerfect and traced onto the board using carbon paper. A finish coat of water-based varnish was then applied.



Hanging your Name and Number:

Saw-tooth hangers are put on the back of both projects. The hangers can sometimes be found at Kooyman. If they are not available, then you can make a wire hanger with bailing wire. Form the wire in an arc and staple it to the back. Curl the ends of the arc upward with pliers to keep it in place. I hope to see many Happy House Names and Numbers in the neighborhood soon! □ Janice Huckaby



This article is part of a series by Janice Huckaby of JanArt. Call 599 717-5246 or 791-5246 for information on art lessons or to view her artworks □



Manager Nick Davies and some of his staff: Winner of Large Property of the Year, Harbour Village

Miriam Geerlings

“I came and I left, and I came and I left... and finally, I stayed. The first time was in '91. I'd just finished hotel school and wanted to become a stewardess, but the Gulf War had broken out and cabin staff training had stopped. A girlfriend of mine told me about a friend of a friend who'd opened a restaurant on Bonaire called 'Raffles.' I called the owner, Peter Lensvelt, and took my chances. A couple of weeks later I arrived. I was supposed to stay for a year, and because Peter had paid for my ticket I was really planning to do so.

In the fifth week I met Martin van Bekkum who had come for a short vacation. He'd lived on Bonaire from 1982 to 1984 helping Loes and Karl build Sorobon Beach Resort. This time he'd come to visit Ernst van Vliet from Jibe City. The night I met Martin was the opening of the 'renovated rest-rooms' at Raffles. Only 10 people showed up, amongst them Martin and Ernst. When I saw Martin I fell for him, head over heels. There was something in the way he smiled; he was absolutely gorgeous, so charming. I just felt, 'This is him!' I was madly in love. It was mutual and passionate and we only had one week. Then he left and I immediately wrote five, six letters, but I got only one in return in which he excused himself for not answering, explaining that he was very busy and telling me to enjoy my year on the island the way he'd enjoyed his stay so many years ago. He also said he'd definitely see me once I came back to Holland. I felt he wasn't in much of a hurry and that if he wanted me to have a good time on Bonaire, then I would.

During the Regatta in October I met this American and I decided to spend my vacation in the Sates. We had a nice time together. He fell in love with me and I liked him a lot, and by the time I returned to Bonaire it was decided that when I'd finished my year here I'd come to see him in California. I'd put Martin out of my mind. There was no contact between us; he'd never written me anymore. So, in 1992 I lived for six months in California, doing all kinds of odd jobs. But it wasn't what I was looking for and I wanted to go back to Holland. I'd had management training and I wanted to do something with it.

I arrived in Holland just before Christmas and thought of Martin, but I didn't dare call him after one and a half years. Maybe he was married; maybe he was living with someone. I didn't know what to do, so I thought, 'I'll send him a Christmas card!' Well," *Miriam Geerlings smiles*, "the moment

he received my card he went to a lot of trouble to find out where I was because I hadn't put my phone number on the card because I didn't want to make it look too obvious. Once he found me we talked on the phone for two hours, and at the end of the conversation he asked me when I was coming to Amsterdam. We spent Christmas separately, doing the things we had already planned, but then, on December 28th 1992, he came to pick me up at the Amsterdam train station and from that moment on we've stayed together and have never been without each other anymore."

Miriam is pretty and very easy to talk to, spontaneous and open-minded. She orders a soup for us and when it arrives it's absolutely to die for. "Conch chowder," she smiles, "Spicy! Well, Martin was working as an export manager for several clothing lines and I thought, 'I have to make a career.' I worked as a hotel manager, as a sales manager and with a marketing company. Nevertheless, both of us were still thinking of going abroad.

In 1994 we came back to Bonaire for a vacation, dreaming of starting our own business. We looked around but it didn't work out; we went back to Holland frustrated. Between 1994 and 1998 we tried to start a business here three more times, but every time something interfered at the last moment, so we thought that Bonaire wasn't meant to be for us. We'll close the book and see

“... You can be yourself; you have your own life, and it's not dictated by society. It seems as if people here are more balanced and more spiritual.”

what we can do elsewhere.

We went to Costa Rica to visit friends and found a piece of land for sale in Arenal. Martin liked it; he's better than I am when it comes to living in remote places and dealing with very little. He always says: 'Less can be more. The less you have, the richer you are.' I'm not so good in that sense; I like to have a social life and friendships. So, we blew off the Costa Rica thing. In January 1998 we got a fax from Ernst: 'Hey, old pal, do you know that Rob Seket's Oasis is for sale or for rent?'

Immediately Martin left for Bonaire to find out if it was something for us and in June '98 we finally arrived. We bought Oasis and changed the name to



Miriam and Martin

Kontiki, literally 'God of the sun.' And as it says in our flyer, it was and is a dream come true. Our son Finn was 13 months old. We lived in a little room upstairs and we cleaned and painted, decorated and renovated the whole place by ourselves. On August 12th we opened. The first customers were two people who came on a bike for coffee. I'll never forget them... it was so exciting!

When we look back we can't figure out how we did it. Martin became the chef; he had no experience, but he was very self confident and did a good job according to the customers! I was the waitress. I remember one night when Finn didn't want to go to sleep. Martin took him in the car and was driving around so he'd fall asleep, and every time he passed by the restaurant I saw him nodding 'no!' and I'd ask the customers, 'Would you like to have another drink?' Of course I couldn't tell them that the chef was driving around with our baby and had no time to cook!

We were doing okay though and when we had the opportunity to take over the rental of Lac Bay Apartments it was a logical step. In May 2001 our second son Lars was born and I felt I needed some space. We had no privacy living on top of the restaurant. We found a very nice house in Belnem and ever since I feel life has become more tranquil.

For four years we had the jazz concerts and it was something we'd planned when we were in Holland: live music and exhibitions. It went very easily because of the location and the people. This place is a unique spot. People get married here, people come here to

propose, we have lots of honeymooners, lots of couples and I see beautiful, romantic things happen and many people share their love stories with us, so much that it makes me think. Martin and I have been together for 12 years now and have two children. I would really like to marry him. It doesn't have to cost a fortune and if it will be in 10 years that's fine with me too. Then the boys can carry the train and we won't need any bridesmaids! But seriously, maybe it's a good idea for us too..." *She looks at me and her eyes twinkle:* "It was something that just came into my mind driving down here; I'm a very impulsive person!

Well, for me life on Bonaire is being part of a mixture of cultures and nationalities, and although we can't travel a lot I feel when you're living here you get to know many things about other countries and other people. You can be yourself; you have your own life, and it's not dictated by society. It seems as if people here are more balanced and more spiritual. Maybe it's because we're living in the midst of nature. And it's also because this island attracts nice people. I can't say that we'll always stay here. The future is open. I myself would like to make a move sometime and so does Martin in a way, but the question is: Is there a more beautiful and a better place? And wouldn't we be terribly sorry...?" □

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

How to Watch Next Week's Geminid Asteroid Meteor Shower

Next Monday night, December 13th, from sunset to dawn on Tuesday, we will be able to see the only known asteroid/meteor shower. Officially it's called the **Geminid Meteor Shower**, but I like to think of it as the **Geminid Asteroid Shower** because it's different from all the other meteor showers. We see it every December and it's always one of the best of the year, but this year it should be even better because there'll be no bright moonlight to wipe out the faintest meteors.

Next Monday evening, December 13th, about 8 pm Sky Park Time, face east where you'll see some of the brightest stars of winter, the seven bright stars of **Orion**. Just to his left will be **Castor** and **Pollux**, the two brightest stars of the constellation **Gemini**, the twins. And this is where the Geminid meteor-asteroid shower gets its name because all the meteors appear to come from Gemini. You'll also notice that this year Castor and Pollux are joined by the exquisite ringed planet **Saturn**. So what can we expect to see of the Geminid meteor shower this year? Well, because there's no bright moonlight, if you're far away from Kralendijk lights, you may see 40-50 meteors per hour. And by meteors I mean streaks of light flashing across the sky which most people incorrectly call shooting stars.

Now a meteor is nothing more than a tiny speck of space dust which slams into our **Earth's** atmosphere so fast that its friction heats up the gasses in our Earth's atmosphere and causes them to glow like the gasses in a neon tube. What we see is a brief flashing streak of light as the tiny speck burns up and plunges to its fiery death. Now a few times every year our Earth regularly plows into massive concentrations of this space dust which we call meteor streams. But meteor streams are really great rivers of comet dust and debris. You see, comets orbit around our sun just like the planets, and every time a comet comes close to our sun it sheds some of its material. Eventually this comet debris gets spread all along its orbit and whenever our Earth plows into one of these space rivers of comet debris we see many more meteors than usual and we call such an event a meteor shower.

The best one usually occurs in August and is called the **Perseid Meteor Shower**. The second best is often December's Geminid meteor shower which we now know is different from all other meteor showers because its debris does not come from a comet but from an asteroid named **3200 Phaethon**, which makes the Geminid meteor shower the only known asteroid shower. This shower is also different from the others because unlike the other showers which are really good only after midnight the Geminids are also good before midnight.

So we suggest you do your watching from 8 o'clock Monday night until dawn Tuesday morning. Gemini will be overhead around midnight and in the west around dawn. But look all over the sky to see its meteors. Happy asteroid showering. □ *Jack Horkhimer*



Geminid meteor near the Big Dipper (Ursa Major)



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
December 10-17, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Deception in your home is evident. Don't beat around the bush. Your efforts won't go unnoticed; however, someone you work with may get jealous. You will enjoy getting together with friends. You can make the most headway if you put in some overtime. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Opportunities for new partnerships will develop through the organizations you encounter. Secret activity is evident. Try to avoid being extravagant this week. The home environment will be unpredictable this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. Emotional relationships will be plentiful if you attend group activities. You should be getting into self-improvement projects. Be careful not to lead someone on if you truly have no interest. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will be erratic and quite likely to make personal mistakes. Be aware that joint financial ventures could fall apart. Take whatever time you can to get to know each other all over again. This time was meant for love. Make creative changes to your residence. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. Don't deny yourself this week. Your mate will be pushing you to do things that you really don't want to do. Communication must be open, precise, and honest. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) If you're preoccupied, be careful while operating a vehicle or any kind of equipment or machinery. You can make it up to them later. You could be cornered, so be prepared to tell the truth. You will be prone to carelessness that could result in accidents. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You must try to lay your cards on the table. Talk to your mate and tell them how you feel. A passionate encounter with your mate should help alleviate that pent-up energy. Be careful when dealing with female members of your family. Make the necessary changes that will enable you to advance financially. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can make new friends if you get involved in group activities. You need to pamper yourself for a change. Some relatives will be extremely perplexing. Look out for yourself this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be careful when dealing with superiors. Your efforts won't go unnoticed; however, someone you work with may get jealous. Use your own ideas to further your interests. Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may have the opportunity to get involved in some interesting conversations. Look into the cost factor, but don't try to get backing yet. Confusion regarding other people's money and joint ventures will come to a head. You're best to channel your energy into work. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric individuals. You should get involved with activities that can be enjoyed by both young and old alike. Don't be shy; if you want to spend more time with a special person, make a commitment. Dinner, theater, or a comedy club may be just the place. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Self-improvement could bring amazing results. You're in the mood to spend time with your lover. Do some research if you want to find information that you can apply against the opposition you face. Uncertainty about your relationship is prevalent. Your lucky day this week will be Friday. □