

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

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The **BONAIRE** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Kitchen Tiles



"Builder signed" roof design



Ceiling Detail

Goodbye to a Grand Old Monument

**Hausmann's
Folly**
See page 3

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Look for rapid changes in the Bonaire air transport picture soon.

A highly placed source in Dutch Eagle Express, the all Antillean-owned aviation company that holds the business permits for

BonaireExel, CuraçaoExel, ArubaExel says the company is accelerating its activity to become more independent of Exel group influence. Another source reported that the leases for the Bonaire-Exel aircraft were taken over by DEE from the Exel Air Group this month. Published reports say that the Exel name, with one exception, will disappear in 30 days. An alliance with KLM is a strong rumor which cannot be confirmed by KLM management. It's unclear whether a new airline, perhaps based in Curaçao, will be formed or if DEE will expand.

According to a DEE spokesman a benefit of independence will be the ability of the local airline to be more responsive to market needs and obtain



Niek Sandmann is a key player in the new direction of DEE

better mechanical services by using what is available in the Caribbean and the USA, particularly in Florida. In fact there has never been a legal Dutch connection between DEE and EAG. There was, however, a great deal of operational cooperation. That cooperation enabled BonaireExel to begin service among the ABC Islands and greased the skids for DCA's demise.

It's known that DEE has been seeking permits for new destination, including the USA. Use of a Transavia (A KLM subsidiary) Boeing 737 for flights to the USA in the short term is a possibility. DutchCaribbeanExel, which flies between Curaçao and Holland four times a week will not be part of the reorganization and will stay with the Exel Group.

The indictment of Exel's top executive, Harm Prins, for financial crimes did not affect DEE. However, it seems that reorganization activity went into high gear after Prins was arrested.



Central Bank

► The national debt of the Antillean governments for 2004 will probably amount to NAf525 million, that's **10% of**

the gross domestic product (GDP)- the national income. You can look up this information in the latest quarterly report of the Central Bank.

The debt is at least two and a half times the approved deficit of NAf200 million, writes Central Bank President Emsley Tromp. Because part of last year's debt could not be financed, 2005 will start with part of the 2004 debts. According to the Central Bank the prime reason is that the Central and island governments don't adhere to a strict budget discipline.

► The Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf* quotes Exel spokesperson D. Ishta as saying a CuraçaoExel flight was allowed to depart for St. Maarten even though the company had received a **report that a bomb was aboard the flight**. Authorities were informed almost an hour and a half later. According to the Dutch paper, the person who took the Papiamentu language call did not take it very seriously and thought the flight had already left. It was not until her shift was finished that she mentioned it to one of her superiors. By then the plane was about halfway to its destination. No bomb was found aboard the plane after a post landing inspection. An Exel spokesperson said all personnel would again be instructed that bomb threats must always be taken seriously. He didn't say if the passengers aboard the plane were informed of the warning in flight.

► Last Wednesday **Air Jamaica's new management warned of staff reductions** to come and said that the salaries of top managers have been cut by up to 30% as part of the restructuring of the troubled carrier. They plan to chop flights to Antigua and Manchester, England, as part of

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the down-sizing of the airline. "I can't stress too strongly that Air Jamaica is in deep trouble and requires significant adjustments and changes and significant cost restructuring for it to survive," the carrier's new executive chairman, Dr Vin

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COVER STORY

**Goodbye to a Grand Old Monument
What's Next?**



Hausmann's Folly may be only a memory when you read this. The historic waterfront compound, sections of which date back 250 years, according to departing owner Petri Hausmann, is scheduled to be torn down to make room for a multi-story apartment hotel and restaurant as soon as the buyer's money arrives from Europe. In anticipation of this sacrilege to Bonaire's heritage, local residents are trying to salvage as much as possible of the structure before the wreckers arrive. One thing they won't be able to remove is the ghost of Ma Didi.

For many years Ma Didi ran her *toko* (shop) from the front window of the house. Although blind, she knew the locations of her stock and was able to handle the cash. People who tried to shortchange her were rarely successful. Eventually she passed away and the house deteriorated until the Hausmanns came along in the 1960s to begin its restoration. Although gone in body, Ma Didi's spirit continued to dwell in her house, particularly in a rocking chair. "It was eerie," says Petrie, "to see the rocker going faster and faster, seemingly all by itself." Sometime a crash of falling dishes was heard in the house. But no evidence of the breakage could ever be found. Ma Didi?

Norman Boekhoudt, 26, has lived in

Hausemann's Folly since he was 10 and remembers the history of Ma Didi and the house. He and his friends are doing most of the work to dismantle the salvageable parts. Ernst van Vliet ("Jibe City Ernst") painstakingly chipped out some classic Delft tiles from the kitchen to make mementos for the Hausmanns. Laurie Dovale is taking the antiques to sell. There are tables, chairs, headboards and more.

For the past few days the materials were placed at the curbside for those in need to take at no charge. One old stove was seen being carried to one of the Venezuelan fruit boats.

Last year, when the Chez Lucille Restaurant was ousted from the building because it was about to be sold, *The Bonaire Reporter* ran a story (verified by two sources) lamenting the loss of a historic waterfront home in favor of a high rise apartment complex. Soon after we received a letter from someone saying she spoke for the soon-to-be-new owner of the property. She defended the project as beneficial to Bonaire's economy and lambasted us for getting our facts wrong. "The plan is to maintain as much of the old building as possible, as it brings the charm and atmosphere to this location," she said. Right now it doesn't seem as if it will happen. □

Marion Walthie/G.D.

Elena Wowws 'Em

Last Saturday night the sky was leaking rain and the temperature was cool, but inside the Cinnamon Art Gallery it was warm, hospitable and welcoming. Helen Sargent, or "Elena," as she signs her work, was having a showing of her eclectic art works and it drew her old and new friends from the art world, from business and those who've known her since she and her family came



Helen Sargent ("Elena") with daughters Laurie and Christy, grandsons Douglas and Dustin and granddaughter Francesca at the opening

to the island years ago. As one friend said, "The energy here tonight felt so good." It's true because it all stems from the artist herself, her daughters and grandchildren – all who pitched in to make this a memorable evening.

Visitors dropped in too to check out Elena's artistic renderings of heretofore castoffs and beach "treasures" that find a new life under her talented touch. A number of pieces were sold, going "to good homes," where they should entertain and amuse their owners for years to come.

Elena's exhibition will continue until

February 9. Don't miss it!

The Cinnamon Art Gallery is on Kaya A.P.L.Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi behind Banco di Caribe. Open weekdays from 9 am to 12 noon, 2 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-7103 or 786-9563. □ L.D.

LUCILLE WINS A BIG ONE



Michael Obersi and Lucille Martijn

Lucille Martijn, owner-operator of Chez Lucille at the Harbour Village Beach Resort, has just won a trip for two to Alaska which includes an all-inclusive cruise through the Alaskan fjords, plus \$1,000 spending money. This was thanks to a campaign by

Wimco, of which the appliance, TV and electronic store, Dewpoint, is an agent in Bonaire. According to Michael Obersi, director of Dewpoint, Lucille's coupon won over one million others from Bonaire and Curaçao that were entered. "Her prize is well worth over NAf12.000," Obersi says. "Actually," he continues, "it's not like she just had one coupon to enter; she bought a lot of appliances (for her new restaurant), so she spent a lot of money and got a lot of coupons."

Congratulations, Lucille! Woe asked who she was going to take along with her. She didn't say, but did admit that a lot of friends had been calling her! □ L.D.

ROTARY SERVICE AWARDS



Rotary Club of Bonaire recognized three members for their Distinguished Service to the Community: Larry Gerharts, Frits Hannenberg and Edwin Vrieswijk. Rotary President Evert Piar presented them each a certificate. These gentlemen were

instrumental in engineering the "Breakfast in School Program" this past year and have shown outstanding service in all the Rotary's charitable endeavors. Congratulations, Good Guys! Shown above: Gerharts, Piar, Hannenberg, Vrieswijk. □ Sara Matera

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
Lawrence, told reporters Wednesday. Lawrence, a long-time member of the board, was appointed to oversee a restructuring of Air Jamaica after its former majority owners, the Gordon "Butch" Stewart-led AJAG group, pulled out of the airline last month, returning it to government ownership after a decade of privatization. **Air Jamaica is the major carrier of American tourists to Bonaire.**

► **The latest ferry operation between Curaçao and Bonaire has admittedly failed.** The owners of the vessel *Tribon* say they had to pump in NAf80.000 of their money each month because government entities such as Immigration, Customs and especially the harbor authorities in Curaçao didn't cooperate and instead "sucked the business dry." The company says it had to pay NAf2.800 every time the boat tied up in Willemstad, based on the fixed rates of Curaçao Port Services (CPS), for off-loading services it did not need. Bonaire only charged NAf25 per car on board and regular harbor fees.

► **In 2005 the top Central Government (Federal) income tax rate drops 6.4%.** A wage-earner making NAf25.000 a year will do even better- he/she gets a 14.4% reduction.



Nimrod plane

► **A British Nimrod plane has been flying patrols for the Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba** since the PC-3 Orion aircraft of the Dutch Royal Navy were taken out of commission as part of austerity measures on January 1. The Hawker Siddeley Nimrod Mk is the only jet propelled maritime patrol plane in service that is equipped with an advanced search radar and navigation system. It is based at the US military's Forward Operating Location at Hato Airport. Fokker 60 planes of the Dutch Air Force are scheduled to take over patrol duties for the Coast Guard on April 1.

► On Friday in Curacao, **AMFO** (agency that distributes funds to NGOs in the Antilles) **will make a presentation on Poverty Reduction** to representatives of the Dutch Government.

► **Minister of Justice Norberto Ribeiro is waffling on his prior decision to replace Bonaire's Police Chief**

Gerold Daantje with Windward Islands Police Commissioner Richard Pannefle. He said he will decide "very soon." The placement of Pannefle in Bonaire has been put on hold, said Ribeiro at a press conference at the end of last week. Pannefle was offered the job of heading the police force in Bonaire, he explained. Bonaire's current Police Chief Gerold Daantje had previously indicated that he was "looking for another challenge" and as such he was offered the opportunity to go to Curaçao, said Ribeiro. As Daantje's departure would have created a "vacuum" in Bonaire, the Minister said he "thought he (Pannefle) could do a wonderful job there." He still has that opinion.

Bonaire's police force, however, protested the appointment of Pannefle, and Daantje's (apparent) change of mind to stay on was part of the reason for Ribeiro's decision to put the matter on hold until there is "complete clarity." "The issue is still open," said the Minister, adding that "very soon" a decision would be taken. Pannefle, meanwhile, is in Curaçao wrapping up his law studies, Ribeiro said.



Isla

► Rafael Ramírez, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's Minister of Energy as well as president of the state-run oil industry (PdVSA), **is not certain what the state's oil company is supposed to do with the Curaçao refinery** it leases from the Curaçao government-owned company, "Refineria di Kòrsou." PdVSA has been leasing the Isla refinery from the island territory since 1985. This has been interpreted as a veiled threat to close the facility if it is required to make it less harmful to the environment.

In the company magazine, *Avances de la PdVSA*, Ramírez stated that "the Curaçao refinery must be evaluated within PdVSA's company strategy. I don't know what we're going to do. We will work hard to change the course of this train." Ramírez didn't clarify what course the Isla is on exactly and why it must be changed. The refinery has been under fire recently for emissions of toxic substances, poor production quality and low efficiency of operation. Its lease contract ends in 2019.



Swearing in Nolly Oleana (right) by Island Secretary Neery Gonzales and Governor Domacassé

► Nolly Oleana was sworn in this week as an Island Councilman. He replaces Edith Strauss Marcera who served for a year. Councilman Oleana represents the Democratic Party (red) and is an official at the SGB High School.



► Congratulations to Aixia Abrahamsz and Roderick Serberie, parents of the **first baby of 2005**, Airick Stiefriek Maria. Commissioner James Kroon (right) presents a basket of baby needs to the family, courtesy of the government.

► **According to the annual report released by the Public Prosecutor's Office, crime on Bonaire increased considerably in 2004.** Almost 30% more indictable offences were committed in 2004 than in 2003. In fact crime has tripled since the year 2000. Most disturbing has been the increase in the number of violent crimes.

Drug offenses have dropped for the first time since 2000. After a sharp increase in 2002, related to the two daily KLM non stop flights to Amsterdam, drug arrests are dropping. According to Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius that is primarily due to the new policy introduced on July 15, 2004. Since then the passport of the offender is confiscated and he/she is banned from traveling for two years.

One of the most severe problems facing the Prosecutor is the lack of confinement facilities on the island. In the year 2000 the house of detention on Bonaire was closed. All long term prisoners were transferred to Curaçao. Only police cells

were available, but this year most of those were made unlivable after an inmate started a fire in the jailhouse.



► **A new sedula, or ID card, will be issued to island residents and citizens from now on.** It's in credit card form, 85.7 mm x 54.0 mm and 0.76mm thick. Everyone on Bonaire inscribed as a resident must have one. The penalty for ignoring this rule is a month in jail or a NAf250 fine. Residents without a current sedula should pass by the Bevolking (Census) office and bring the original and a copy of current residence permit, passport and old ID. The cost is NAf25 for those over 18, less for youngsters. No photo is necessary and the new sedula will be ready in two days according to a government press release. The sedula is good for five years.


► **The most far-reaching Christian radio network in the world has just extended its reach,** now broadcasting in more than 190 languages and dialects. According to **Trans World Radio**, the milestone event was made possible after the network recently added seven languages from the northern Caucasus region of Russia, including Chechen. Other recent additions have been broadcasts in the languages of Pulaar in Western Africa, Uyghur in China, and **Papiamentu--the language of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire.** Currently, TWR's programs are aired from more than 2,700 broadcasting outlets around the globe, including 14 international transmitting sites, satellite, cable, Internet and local stations. TWR's broadcasts reach over 160 countries.

► One of the finest ways to spend some non-diving time is by visiting the **Intermezzo Day Spa** at Captain Don's Habitat. Imagine you and your lover receiving simultaneous massages right at the waterfront in a private cabana on the beach, then after this hour massage, retreat to the private beach area overlooking Klein Bonaire. Ready to go? □ *G./L.D.*


TCB CHALLENGES

Last week Ms. Ronella Croes was named the head of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB). Several years have passed since someone officially headed that position. The TCB has functioned during that time, sometimes brilliantly, sometimes dully. Nevertheless it served a most critical function since tourism contributes the vast majority of Bonaire's income. In the past the TCB set tourism policy for the island and led, as much as was possible, the private sector. Real leadership is long overdue.

Ms. Croes, who is from Aruba, an island territory that receives over 20 times the number of visitors as does Bonaire, faces many challenges. One of the most important is to **revive North and South American tourism** which has been stagnant for several years. Direct flights to major North and South American cities are key to that revival. An improvement is needed from the TCB's American representation, which hasn't been able to influence US air carriers to fly to non-stop to our island, has not produced significant growth in American visitors in almost seven years, and even reportedly vetoed a recent promotional video of Bonaire because it featured the wedding of an inter-racial couple. Admittedly, the political situation in Venezuela is difficult. But with the number of Venezuelans, naturalized or otherwise, on Bon-



NEW HEAD OF TCB



Ronella Croes

After more than a year of TCB's operating without formal leadership, the governing board of the Tourism Corporation of Bonaire (TCB) chose an Aruban to head Bonaire's tourism coordinating agency. Ronella Croes met the press and Bonaire officials in a reception at Chez Lucille's at the Harbour Village Resort last Friday evening. Ms. Croes addressed the group and told of her experience as a key member of the Digicel Cellular Telephone Company team and of her formal training in the tourism field. □

aire wouldn't a direct Caracas flight make sense? And European visitors must be carefully courted because competitive destinations are far less expensive than Bonaire to euro-packing tourists.

Close cooperation and advice to those planning air routes for Bonaire's fledging airline are needed badly as well as interaction with KLM and off-island operations. **Getting back the charter flights** that poured budget conscious tourists into our economy should get priority as well.

Accurate visitor statistics are vitally needed by all of Bonaire's businessmen to allow them to assess their position in the marketplace and for hotels to plan expansion (or contraction). What happened to the figures from the "Tourist Cards" all arriving non-residents must complete?

As Bonaire's popularity as a **cruise ship destination grows, great care must be taken** not to overtax our facilities or allow our tour guides to get so excessively competitive that it gets noticed by the passengers, a situation

common in many ports of call.

The TCB must again **take the lead in promoting and initiating island projects** like *Tene Boneiru Limpi* (Keep Bonaire Clean). It **must apply pressure on the police force to eliminate crime against tourists**. It has to **continue and improve existing successful projects** like Bonaire Ambassadors, Hello Tourist and VIP tours to keep our visitors returning.

It should **not duplicate or compete with BONHATA** or individual resort promotions but **complement those marketing activities**. The TCB has to make sure Bonaire keeps its **lead in web site visibility**, that its **toll-free callers get the proper attention** and that Internet **bulletin boards and "chat rooms" don't exaggerate inevitable negative reports**.

New tourism attractions must be encouraged and nurtured by the TCB until they can support their own marketing. The head of the TCB must make sure she is **always available** not only to Bonaire's customers, our visitors, but to island people who have something to say.

We wish our new Tourism Marketing leader every success in meeting these challenges. It's a very tough job. Luckily, we won't ask her to walk on water as well. Everybody knows that to dive you have to sink to get under the surface. And on Bonaire diving is still the main provider of food on our dining tables. □ *G.D.*

Tsunami Topics

"Hand to Hand" Fundraising Plans

A huge fundraiser for Tsunami victims is planned for Wilhelmina Park this Saturday. As we go to press the list of participants is growing. The proceeds of a big "yard sale" will all go to help a reputable Dutch Relief organization. We will post details on the bonairereporter.com website as they become available. Local radio stations are all participating. The story to the right lists the planned activities. There are more to come.

▪ **Australian researchers said the Earth was still shaking from the earthquake,** the most powerful in 40 years that resulted in December's killer tsunami. "These are not things that are going to throw you off your chair," said Australian National University researcher Herb McQueen, "but it is certainly above the background level of vibrations that the earth is normally accustomed to." The oscillation was fading and equated to about a millimeter of vertical motion of the earth. US scientists say the quake may have permanently sped the Earth's rotation -- shortening days by a fraction of a second -- and caused the planet to wobble. (For more news on emergency relief visit <http://www.alertnet.org>)

▪ University of the US Virgin Islands Physics Professor Roy Watlington was reported to have said that the **Caribbean region is a high-risk area, but not as high as the Pacific Rim, but the same as the Indian Ocean.**

▪ **The most recent tsunami that was experienced in the Caribbean was in July 2003** when there was a major dome collapse of the Soufriere Hills Volcano in Montserrat, which caused a tsunami of about one meter (3.3 ft.) high that was experienced in Guadeloupe and **four meters (13 ft.) high in Montserrat** itself, according to the Seismic Research Unit (SRU) of the University of the West Indies. Earthquakes magnitude 7.5 or higher could lead to tsunamis in the Caribbean and have in the past. **The most recent case with major loss of life was in 1946,** when an 8.1 magnitude quake triggered a tsunami that killed several thousand people. Caribbean earthquakes in 1867 and 1918 also caused destructive tsunamis and deaths.

▪ Boatloads of **volunteer divers** descended into the azure waters of the Andaman Sea on Sunday to clear away the **tsunami debris littering Thailand's famed coral reefs.** The killer waves flung everything from people to televisions to plastic chairs into the pristine waters. "There was a lot of sand on the reef, but the current has moved a lot of the sediment away, so we can see that much of the coral is still alive," said Nippon Phangsuwan of the Marine Biological Centre in Phuket.

Overall, the damage has been estimated at around 5%. Biologists said that while the tsunami rose to a height of up to 11 meters (36 feet) above normal sea levels when it crashed ashore, under the surface of the water there appeared to have been relatively little movement.

▪ We are all stricken and heartsick by the magnitude of the tsunami devastation in Southeast Asia. **Efforts have been organized whereby our community is encouraged to donate towards disaster relief for tsunami victims.** Maduro & Curriel's Bank (Bonaire) NV has set up an account to accept donations. They can be made at any branch, on account number 111020-04 in name of "Afdeling Bonaire van de Vereniging Tsunami: Het Nederlandse Rode Kruis," or thru the MCB@Home Bill Pay Beneficiary List Red Cross Disaster Relief. □ *G.D.*



The community of Bonaire intends to go all out to help the victims of the Asian Tsunami. A huge fair to collect funds will be held this coming Saturday, January 15th, on Wilhelmina square. The purpose of this event is raising funds and create awareness on what had happened.

The day will start at 10 am and lasts all day to 10 pm. There will be live entertainment, a bar and drinks, food, a "bring and buy" sale, an auction, live radio coverage by the big four radio stations and of course fund raising.

Support is growing rapidly as we go to press. Involved so far are the Red Cross, the Governor and local government, BMG, Telbo, Selibon, TCB, WEB, MCB, RBTT, SGB, youth center Jong Bonaire, BonFM, Radio Digital, MegaFM, Voz di Boneiru, Extra, Amigoe, SSS, Catholic schools, several churches, the Rotary and Lions Club, Bonaire motor club, Notary Office, Island Car Rental Bonaire, Movieland Cinema, artists, and many more. The organizers, Diane Gevers, Walter Schut, Bubui Cecilia, Sebastiaan Houthuijzen, Sean Peton and Harold Kurban, have named their group **"Hand to Hand Fundraising- Tsunami."**

More details:

- Two bank accounts are set up to receive donations, MCB 555, RBTT 555. These accounts are linked to the Red Cross.
- Anyone can donate anything that can be sold, from a second hand bike to a beautiful painting. These items will either be sold or put up for auction. Goods can be delivered during the week to Jong Bonaire.
- Volunteers are asked to help provide donations or help with the event itself
- Local and international music is to be provided by the TCB
- The MC during the day will be Papi Cecilia
- BBQ is organized by the Red Cross
- The Bonaire Bikers Club is handling the bar and drinks
- Special Security Services will provide security on the square

One of the organizer's, Sebastiaan Houthuijzen, tells us, "Everybody's help is needed. First of all, and that is easy, we want your support. Being able to say who supports this effort helps to get others to join as well. Furthermore we would like as much help as we can in many different ways.

We need: food to sell, volunteers to prepare this, goods for the auction, and prizes for raffles. Anything is welcome: food, trips local and abroad, dinner vouchers, some of your team members helping out, a few cases of beer, anything. Any money we receive will be donated; we will try to not use any money on the event itself. Please let us know how you can help."

You can reach the volunteer group by email: tsunamihelp@infobonaire.com or phone 787-0707 or fax 717- 7900. □ *G.D.*

ENVIROWATCH

DANGEROUS DEBRIS

David and I were cruising along beneath the Pier last week when he pointed out a turtle. We'd seen the little creature several times and always marveled that it was so blasé about divers, calmly munching away on sponges.

On this afternoon, the turtle explored something inside a tire, then lifted up its head. It began to rock back and forth. I thought, "I wonder why it's rocking like that. Looks like a car rocking out of sand." I was about 10 feet away from the turtle; instead of risking disturbing it by moving closer I ascended a bit – and saw some kind of line around the turtle's left front shoulder.

I got a huge adrenaline rush: an opportunity to help a turtle! To make up, just a little bit, for the turtle that last year fatally entangled itself in fishing line at the Pier. As I moved closer the turtle watched me serenely, still rocking. Since I had the camera I figured I might as well take a photo so I took one (without the flash). As I reached for my shears the turtle rocked free and swam off, still calm. Neither the entanglement nor my presence had affected the tranquility of that turtle, thank goodness. I extracted what had entangled the turtle in the tire: a strip of cloth with a seam. Luckily it was rotten enough to tear when the turtle

rocked.

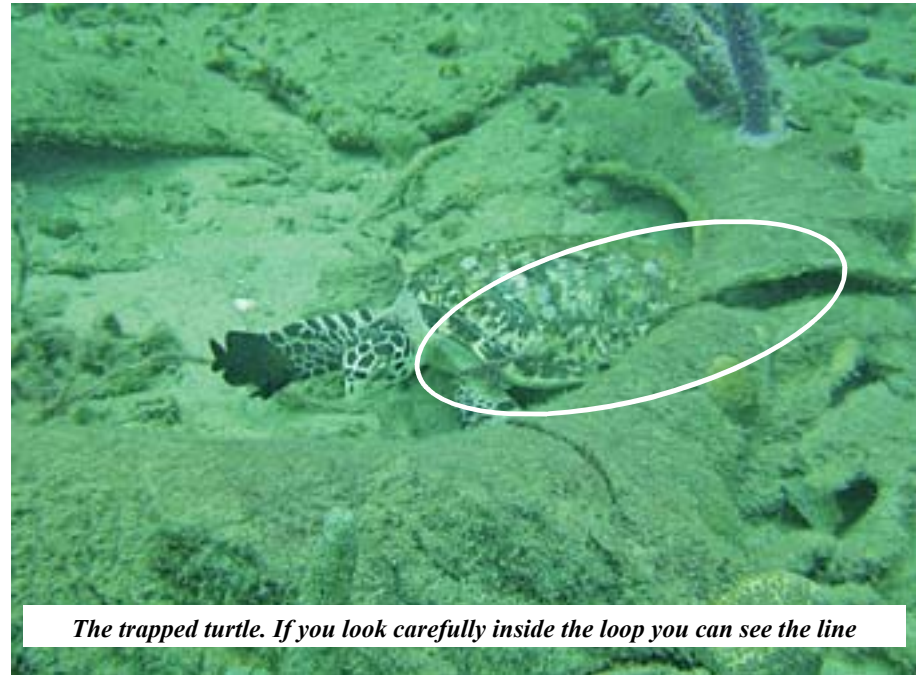
Human debris (or anything else) smothers any stony coral it covers. Aside from that fundamental harm, there are unexpected dangers to marine animals from debris. Here are two examples of dangerous debris (I know of at least two animals that have been entrapped in each). See if you can figure out how it could hurt critters, and then I'll tell you what I found:

- Smooth-sided containers standing upright.
- Cloth, especially discarded clothing.

The victims of **smooth-sided containers** are hermit crabs. In a natural world there's nowhere they can go that they can't climb out of. Once people become involved, that changes.

Twenty years ago there was a doorless refrigerator on a reef I dived. I was delighted that I could always find hermit crabs in the fridge. Then one night I noticed that the coating of algae on the inside of the box began about 3 inches above the bottom. Suddenly I realized that the hermit crabs were not just visiting the refrigerator. They were trapped there, eating the algae to survive! After that I removed the hermit crabs from the refrigerator on every dive.

(Continued on page 13)



The trapped turtle. If you look carefully inside the loop you can see the line



Nonchi cooked and Marie walked in 2003

Only 8 more days before the Walk-a-Thon, Sunday, January 23. The Third Annual Special Olympics BonairExel Walk-a-Thon will be on Sunday, January 23. No matter who you are you're welcome to join the groups and individuals who will be walking, biking, roller blade-ing, whatever, from the Slave Huts to the Pasa Dia in Rincon. No matter whether it will be rain or shine, the Walk-a-Thon will go on, according to Special Olympics Bonaire National Director Delno Tromp, who also reports that groups are forming to do the walk together. People from Selibon, North Saliña, Ennia and even groups from Curaçao will be adding their energies. And even if you don't want to make the trek you can be a sponsor of one of the groups or just buy a ticket and watch from the sidelines. This week Tromp and Roosje Goeloe, Public Relations for Special Olympics Bonaire, will be in St. Martin to help

8 days until the Walk-a-Thon!

that island set up their own Special Olympics team and committee and learn how to fund raise successfully. "You can bet we'll be promoting our Walk-a-Thon, and we expect some groups to join us from there too," said Tromp.

Tickets are only NAf25 and it **all** goes to a good cause, sending our Special Olympic athletes to compete in international games.

Everyone meets at the Slave Huts in the southern part of the island at 5 pm, where the 30-kilometer walk begins. You may leave your car at the Stadium in Playa and take the FKPD bus which leaves at **4:30 am Sharp** to take you to the Slave Huts starting area. It's a wonderfully quiet time before sunrise as you traverse the coastline. Birds will begin to awaken and you'll witness the sunrise. At the end, you'll be able to get a ride back to your car from the Pasa Dia in Rincon. Those who did the trip on bikes can get their bike transported back to the Stadium by Suzy Bakker's Herrera Amstel Beer trucks (no beer; just bikes).

Along the route there will be refreshment stops every five kilometers where you'll be offered water, Gatorade, oranges and plenty of encouragement. The Red Cross will be on the road to make sure everyone is okay, and pick up trucks will be patrolling to give a lift to the tired ones. At the Pasa Dia you'll get a certificate and a delicious BBQ

and drinks and time to re-hash the day. For your NAf25 you get: a free Walk-a-Thon Tee shirt with the date of the Walk-a-Thon (from BonairExel, Malta, Amstel, Fria, TC Herrera), a canvas back pack (from FCB), a water bottle (MCB bank), a baseball hat (Ennia) and the BBQ in Rincon. Get your tickets at TCB (717-8322), Croccantino Restaurant (717-5025) or from any Special Olympics board member. Or email info@specialolympicsbonaire.org. Participants in the past have asked for it and now you can get it: a waistband that holds a water bottle. You can let your hands and arms swing freely! It's NAf15, all proceeds going to Special Olympics Bonaire, naturally. Present your ticket and pick up your gift bag at City Café/Hotel Rocheline in the lobby on January 20 from 1600 to 1900; January 21 from 1600 to 1900; January 22 from 1000 to 1600. See you there! □L.D.



Foot care tips from the pros who've walked the route:

Wear shoes that have been broken in already – and they should be a half to one size larger than you normally wear. Put baby powder on your feet and Vaseline on your toes where you might have chafing. Bring along flip flops in case you need to get out of your shoes.

GET YOUR TICKETS FROM:

Board of Directors 2004/2005

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Head of Coaches – Elizabeth Wigny
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Board members: Mike Gaynor, Chio Semeleer, Sharon and Scott Barlass, Aura Kock, Lucille Soliana

WEAR YELLOW :: LIVESTRONG

Lance Armstrong, Tour De France champ, knows that yellow is a symbol of hope, courage and perseverance—whether you're on the bike or in the oncology ward. Today, nearly 10 million people are living with cancer, and chances are you know one of them. The Lance Armstrong Foundation helps people with cancer focus on living. Yellow wristbands engraved with his mantra, Live Strong, are being sold in an effort to raise \$5,000,000 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF).



In Bonaire, the Live Strong wrist bands are being sold for NAf10 (to cover shipping and other costs to get them to the island) to benefit the Bonaire Cancer Society.

Show your support by wearing a yellow Live Strong wristband and share one with your friends and family.

Buy them at Sand Dollar Grocery, from Stacey Winklaar at the Benetton Shop (tel.717-5107) or contact Delno Tromp at delno33@yahoo.com

WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON

MAGIC WATER

Every day when I gaze at the scene on windy Lac Bay, I wish I had learned to sail on this amazing bay. Lac Bay is perfection for any windsurfer. The water is gin clear and waist deep, making for perfect conditions for a beginner. The sun shines on the white powder sand. It's the perfect setting to sit and relax in between sessions. Unfortunately for me, I learned in the murky cold waters off of Hyannisport in April, eight years ago. I recall the rough sea battering me to and fro. There were clumps of seaweed and the danger of broken beer bottles underfoot. It's amazing I stuck with the sport. Now, I can sail whenever the wind blows and enjoy this spectacular place. Each day in between sailing I shoot photos or sit and chat with locals and tourists. It's a great social setting. After watching the kids and pros train, day in and day out, and see tourists come and go, I have concluded that there is magic in the water here. I do believe.



Hot newcomer: Jose Fajardo Rivera

One example of the magic is with Jose Fajardo Rivera, a local windsurfer. Three years ago I met Jose, a beginner. Jose was just learning to sail that week we met. He was on borrowed gear and was trying to figure out how to get the sail and board to work. I recall going out on the water and trying to teach him some basics. This young man persevered, and within the first week he was using a harness. A harness is something you wear around your hips or waist. It has a hook that allows you to hook in to lines on the boom. It allows you to use body weight vs. your arms to sail. The harness is essential in sailing. In the real world, learning the technique of harness use can take months and sometimes a year to learn. Being secure to use this apparatus to hook into the sail takes patience and confidence. In the beginning it is not uncommon to get catapulted or even stuck under the sail hooked in. This can be very scary. Not for this sailor. Jose was hooked in on day four and flying across the water. I had never ever seen this type of progression. As time passed his skills became further honed, and now entering his third year of sailing, Jose is mas-

tering the hardest aerial tricks around. He is sponsored by Gunsails International and soon RRD Boards. Jose has experienced the magic.

This week some windsurf clients asked my daughter and me to go to dinner.

Molly, a 40-year-old lawyer from Boston and her 31-year-old friend Liz, were beginners learning how to sail with Constantino (Patun) Saragoza. Patun is clearly one of the longest sailing Bonaireans, having represented the country in the Olympics. His two talented sons, Jurgen and Bjorn, are top riders with full sponsorship. The sport runs in their blood. Liz and Molly were blessed, having this seasoned expert to teach them in the magic water. Over dinner



New Windsurfers Molly and Liz

Molly mentioned she was in the foot straps and harness for a few minutes. I looked at her in disbelief. Foot straps and harness? This woman had never sailed before coming to Bonaire. She explained Patun was really challenging her and she was progressing quickly. But wait, foot straps and harness took me over two years to accomplish! What was I doing wrong? It must be the magic.

These are only two examples of some people who took to the water and advanced far faster than had they sailed in another venue. Having sailed in Aruba, Maui, Hatteras and The Gorge, all top sailing spots, I know Bonaire is truly unique.

Bonaire has captured the hearts of many divers and people who love nature. It is also becoming one of the most sought after locations in the world to learn the sport of windsurfing. Two excellent shops have the best in windsurf gear. Each shop has several multitalented instructors to teach the beginner to the advanced how to catch the wind. But don't forget the magic. Bonaire is indeed an enchanted place. Believe me, I know. □ Article and photos by Ann Phelan



Nettie Bernabella and Ivonne Reina of Sand Dollar Grocery with Simone Sweets, Barracuda coach and some of the swimmers

GETTING IN THE SWIM

The Bonaire Barracudas Aquatics Club is organizing the 2005 School Swimming Championships which will be held on Sunday, 27 February at the Meralney Sports Complex. The seven Bonaire elementary schools and the high school (SGB) have been invited to participate. Prizes will be awarded to the top three individual finishers in each age group for freestyle and breaststroke as well as the top three schools based on team performance. Sponsors of the event are AMFO, Ennia, Caribe Insurance, Maduro & Curriel's Bank (Bonaire) and Sand Dollar Grocery. Pictured above, representatives of Sand Dollar Grocery donate stopwatches and megaphones to members of the Barracudas in preparation for the upcoming School Swimming Championship. □ Valarie Stimpson

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
1-14	0:20	0.9FT.	89
	15:59	1.7FT.	
1-15	0:44	1.0FT.	78
	8:02	1.5FT.	
	12:44	1.4FT.	
	17:08	1.5FT.	
1-16	0:53	1.0FT.	65
	8:07	1.6FT.	
	14:56	1.2FT.	
	18:21	1.3FT.	
1-17	0:41	1.1FT.	53
	8:28	1.7FT.	
	16:23	1.1FT.	
	20:08	1.2FT.	
1-18	8:57	1.9FT.	45
	17:32	1.0FT.	
1-19	9:30	2.0FT.	43
	18:23	0.9FT.	
1-20	9:59	2.0FT.	46
	19:10	0.8FT.	
1-21	10:28	2.1FT.	53
	19:57	0.8FT.	

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angie	Guaicamar I, Vene-	Nechtan	Ti Amo, USA
Alegria, USA	zuela	Oniro	Tsih
Ahto	Haxebase	Plane Sailing	Tartufo
Angelique	Jandreso	Precocious Gale,	Tween, Netherlands
Antares	Josina	USA	Ulu Ulu, USA
Bettina, Venezuela	Inspiration	Pura Vida	Unicorn, Norway
BiahaBingo	Isukara	Sandpiper, USA	Varedhuni, Ger-
Bright Sea	Kukara	Sea Wolf	many
Camissa, Chan Is.	La Famalia	Serendipity	Ventura II, Costa
Cape Kathryn	Letrancer	Serenete	Rica
Desire	Luna C. USA	Siddhartna	Verena
Dulcinea	Maebelle	Sirius	Voodoo
Flying Cloud, USA	Mahi Mahi	Sylvia K	Windmiller, Canada
Forewinds	Maggi	Sundance	Windswept
Galandriel	Moon Rice	Surprise	Wyver
Gammer	Nana Marie	Sutamon	Ya-T, BVI
Gatsby, USA	Natural Selection,	Ta-B	Zahi, Malta
Grey Lady	USA	Tartufo	



ASK THE DIETITIAN OBESITY IN CHILDREN

Obesity is on the rise among young children. More than 10% of children going to elementary school are overweight, statistics declare. This is a serious problem because obesity increases the risk of developing chronic diseases, like diabetes, heart disease and cancer, not only in adults but in children too. We should pay attention to this very serious and threatening situation.

What has caused children to become overweight in the last decades? To answer this question we come to the same point I often write about in my articles - An UNHEALTHY LIFESTYLE. A change in lifestyle from healthy to unhealthy shows up nowadays, also in our children. Youngsters have developed a lot of bad eating habits. Many of them don't eat enough fruits and vegetables; they skip breakfast; and eat, on a regular basis, fatty snacks (*pastechi, yohmy cake*, etc.), junk food, sugary foods, soft drinks or other sugary drinks. And to make matter worse, many children have become less active.

So to help deal with this problem, children should be encouraged to have healthy eating habits and get enough exercise. Parents can help a great deal by starting with simple things like cutting down on sugar in their child's daily diet. Focus your attention on sugary drinks like soft drinks and instant drinks, which can easily amount to a half liter or more every day, and which contain a lot of calories. Children who become used to having these drinks instead of water get a lot of unnecessary (empty) calories and can easily exceed their daily maximum calorie input - with the result that they increase their weight (get fat). Besides, drinking these sweet beverages doesn't give a child the feeling of being full like eating does. Children don't have control over this calorie intake.

In America and England school programs were begun to discourage drinking soft drinks at school. The program appeared to be effective in reducing obesity



among children because among the targeted children, the consumption of soft drinks dropped to less than half a glass a day, and all the children drank more water than before.

Of course there are many more factors to help to reduce obesity, but it is good to start with the simple things like cutting down sugar. Teach your children to drink water as their main beverage every day, and let them have a soft or other instant drink only occasionally and in small quantities. Water is calorie-free, fat-free, sugar-free and very refreshing. As an alternative to soft drinks choose club soda or sparkling water. Mix it with 100% fruit juice or with a squeeze of lemon or lime. Your child will get vitamins from the juice, not just sugar like in soft drinks. Another sugar free beverage is tea (hot or cold). Other healthy beverages are low fat milk (which provides protein, calcium and magnesium) and 100% fruit drinks which provide vitamins good for growth and mental concentration.

And instead of letting your children have a lot of sweets, be creative and serve fruits which have the same sweet taste but also give them the nutrients they need. You can make the rules with your child about eating sweets - only one candy a day, occasionally, and not every day.

Let's help our children get back to healthy eating habits. They deserve to have a healthy future. □ *Angélique Salsbach*

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 dietitan@bonairenews.com □

MCB VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED



To recognize their achievements outside of their jobs, the management of *Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V.* honored their employees who were active as volunteers in community organizations. The special recognition was given at the bank's annual Christmas dinner. It's these kinds of people who improve the quality of life for all Bonaireans. □

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

BonaireNet is the leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>

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TV/VCR Combo—Samsung 20" color Television and Magnavox VHS. FL 125.00 for them both. If interested, call 717-2848.

Suzuki Samurai Jeep, in very good condition, color white, NAf7.000, tel. 717-2066.

2 Italian design (LUCE PLAN) ceiling fans, transparent blades, remote control, V220, Never used, still in orig. boxes \$500, tel. 717-2066

Oster (TM) Espresso / Cappuccino Maker, in perfect condition - only used for 6 months - makes two cups simultaneously - filter also holds Senseo bags Asking Price = NAf90.- Contact : Tel 717-2209

RENTAL PROPERTY/TIMESHARE

For Rent: Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-Privacy & security-July 15 to Jan 15-Brochure available-Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293-or (US) (570)-586 0098-e-mail larjaytee@aol.com

BOATS & ENGINES for SALE

Privateer Renegade boat- used for diving. With **200 HP Yamaha**. All very well maintained and ready to go. NAf29,990 Call 717-8819 8 am-5 pm

Classic Sailor
 Traditional **Bonairean Sailing sloop**. Wood, traditional construction, about 21' long. Fiberglassed in and out for minimal maintenance. Two time winner of Bonaire Regatta, Class A. A dream to sail. Make an Offer. One of the last of its kind. Call **717-8988 or 785-6125**.



FOUND

This beautiful and very friendly young calico or tortoise colored cat was found at the Caribbean Club Bonaire, just north of Sabadeco last week. She's been showing up at the Club around happy hour time, but now she's at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, awaiting her owners. If she isn't claimed within two weeks she'll go up for adoption. She's a darling. The Shelter's number is 717-4989.



PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER
in North Andover, Massachusetts

Here's Darlene Ellis showing Mr. Snowman *The Bonaire Reporter* in his home town of North Andover, Massachusetts. She hopes it will entice him into joining her on a vacation to the tropical paradise of Bonaire this March. The photo was taken by husband, Tom Ellis. Darlene says, "I am an avid Bonaire Talker who has been coming to Bonaire for snorkeling and underwater photography since 1999 and my 10th trip will be coming up in March! The very friendly people, the natural beauty and wide range of restaurants to choose from keeps me coming back!"
 Make sure you get your Bonaire Ambassador bronze medal, Darlene! □ G.D.



PICTURE YOURSELF WINNERS



Bonaire Reporter Editor, Laura DeSalvo, presents "A Night on the Town" to Mariella and Janto Djamin, winners of the 2004 Picture Yourself contest. (A *Bonaire Reporter* "Night on the Town" is two tickets to the movies and a large pizza at Pasa Bon Pizza.) □

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.) □

BONAIRE'S BEST SOUVENIR



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Have Bonaire's professional underwater filmmaker, Hendrik Wuyts ("World of Ocean Films" and "Eye On" Series -most recently in Peru and Kenya), custom produce an underwater video of your dive for only \$85.00.

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(Dangerous Debris Continued from page 7)

About 10 years ago, I found a large hermit crab living in a tire. Next dive I checked the same tire and found the same crab. The next dive was the same, but it was a night dive – and, with the light, I saw The Clue: that algae on the inside of the tire didn't reach to the bottom. I freed the crab, of course, and finally realized the problem: unlike most other crabs, hermit crabs can't swim. Although the only creatures I've been sure were trapped were hermit crabs, I believe that other crabs, such as box crabs and maybe even sponge crabs, can also be entrapped by containers.

So now I try to do more than just let the crabs out. After all, other crabs will come along, but you or I may not. The obvious solution is to remove the container from the sea, which is easy enough with a plastic cup that fits into your BCD pocket. Removal is tougher in the case of a refrigerator or tire, but the entrapment danger to marine life can be neutralized instead. Hermit crabs can easily climb out of a tire on another piece of debris placed from the bottom to the top. (What I'd love to do with the tires is cut holes in them, so if you have any ideas as to how to do that underwater, please let me know!)

I always try to pick up cloth because once it contacts coral it sticks and then smothers the coral. One day I picked up a pair of cutoff jeans and felt something wriggling: a goatfish was trapped in the pocket! You can see how that would happen as they forage along the bottom, possibly deliberately seeking the cracks and crevices of cloth for the little shrimp and other creatures who live there. Once in the pocket, the goatfish tried to turn around, but the pocket stayed right with it. I released the goatfish, who was a little battered but swam away just fine. It's not possible to really neutralize cloth, especially with pockets – we need bring it up whenever we come across it. (One exception would be cloth which is buried in the substrate. Animals are not likely to become entrapped there, and bringing long-buried cloth out disturbs a whole section of bottom life.)

Very little new debris goes into the waters of Bonaire these days. But now, if you see some that's dangerous, you know what it represents and how to deal with it. □ Photo and article by Dee Scarr of "Touch the Sea"



THE ABC ISLANDS-ST. MARTIN STUDENT CHEF COMPETITION IS HERE

It's a Caribbean First: A world class culinary competition at the high school level from the ABC islands and St. Martin. And it all started on Bonaire. This week nine teams of culinary students from those islands have gathered on Bonaire to participate in an International Culinary Student competition at the SGB hotel school, Chez Nous. The idea behind the competition, which began on Bonaire as an intramural event in 2002, is to develop professionalism, pride and creativity in the students. There will be two teams from Bonaire, three from Curacao, three from Aruba and one from St. Martin. Each team has four persons and a coach.

The competition is set up exactly as are international culinary competitions for professionals. The students must present three original dishes: an appetizer, a main course and a dessert.

Internationally known judges Helmut Holzer from Atlanta Georgia; Augusto Schreiner from Puerto Rico; Klaus Friedenreich (Director of Culinary Arts Institute of Fort Lauderdale, Florida) and Henny Kolenbrander (owner of the export company out of Miami called "Dutch and Delicious") will be on hand to critique the dishes.

In Bonaire things are heating up as the teams work together to come up with winning menus. They should do well because their two coaches, culinary teachers Kees Leeman and Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn, have both been

members of Bonaire's award winning culinary teams in years past.

The SBO team (higher level) comprises: Team Captain Terence Martis, Vladimir Ghysbertha, Jheison Jaguez and Kelvin Ventura.

The younger team (VSBO) is made up of: Team

Captain Samantha Statie, Bram Schmit, Wendy Heredia and Andres Cicilia. All the logistics have been planned here in Bonaire by an awesome committee made up of school teachers and offi-



Student Chefs from Bonaire's SBO Team: Vladimir Ghysbertha, Jheison Jaguez, Kelvin Ventura and Team Captain Terence Martis.

cial and people from the private sector. As is usual on this very giving island, hotels, food purveyors and numerous other companies have dug deep in their pockets to help out. □ L.D.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, January 14—COMPETITION at the SGB Hotel School, Chez Nous. Nine teams compete from ABC islands and St. Martin. The public is invited to two demonstrations at Chez Nous:

2:30 to 4 pm – a Pastry Demonstration by Lola of Capriccio.

4 to 6 pm – a Bartending Demonstration by bartending pro Brad from Run Runners.

Saturday, January 15 – **SOLD OUT** GALA AWARDS DINNER

MAN OF THE YEAR



Dennis Martinus receives the "Man of the Year" Award from Lion's Club President Rudsel Leito

The Bonaire Lion's Club has awarded its annual "Man of the Year" honor to Dennis Martinus for his exceptional service to the Bonaire community, especially for his leadership in founding the Bonaire Outreach Foundation and working with the island's young people. □

PET of the WEEK

“Carlos” is a big, beautiful dog with the most handsome markings. He was found three weeks ago in Nikiboko, but no one came to claim him and the time is up. Since he’s been in the Shelter he’s impressed the staff so much with his good character that it was decided to put him up for adoption. (Good character is as important in dogs as it is with people.) Carlos just needs some attention and basic training to make him a perfect dog and a fine companion and watch dog. He has such a wanting-to-please attitude that he should be easy to train. Carlos is about a year and a half old and is in perfect health, has had his shots and testing and will be sterilized when he’s adopted. He’s at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



“Carlos”

More good news from the Shelter:

Last week’s Pet of the Week, “Snowy,” the beautiful white cat, has been adopted. All the best to Snowy and her new family. □ L.D.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

**Lemon Snicket's:
A Series of
Unfortunate Events
(Jim Carey)**

Early Show (usually 7pm)
Shall We Dance

**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 The Incredibles

KARNAVAL BONEIRU 2005

- 16 January Election of Youth Queen
- 20 January Night before Grand Tumba
- 22 January Final Grand Tumba Festival
- 23 January Youth Tumba
- 28 January Election of the Queen
- 29 January Youth Parade Rincon
- 30 January Youth Parade Playa
- 5 February Adult Parade Rincon
- 8 February Adult Parade Playa
- 8 February Farewell Parade
- 12 February Festival Closing

fukabo2005@yahoo.com

THIS WEEK

Friday, January 14 – Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005 (students from ABC islands and St. Martin)– Chef demonstrations -Chez Nous, SGB– See page 13.

Saturday, January 15 – Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005 Gala Awards Dinner and Cocktail Reception – NAf55, Chez Lucille at Harbour Village. SOLD OUT. See page 13

Saturday, January 15—“Hand to Hand” Fundraising at Wilhelmina Park for Tsunami Victims, 10 am to 10 pm—See page 6.

Now through February 9—Art Exhibition of Helen Sargent (“Elena”) at the Cinnamon Art Gallery, Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind the Banco di Caribe. See page 3

Now through January 27- First ever exhibition of artwork underwater **“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)

COMING

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Monday, Jan. 24 - *Oceana*; Tuesday, Jan. 25-*Aida Vita*

Sunday, January 23—3rd Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon - You can walk, run, bike, roller blade –Entry fee is NAf25, includes gifts, BBQ at end & more. Get tickets from Croccantino (717-5025) TCB (717-8322) or from board members. See page 8

Saturday, January 29 – Windsurf Expression Session - Event Site 11 am. On site, special industry people from Hi Fly and Starboard.

February 5 & 6 - Bonaire Windsurfing Freestyle Frenzy & Beach Bash - two

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:

National Treasure by John Turtletaub, starring Nicolas Cage and Diane Kruger.

I was quite amazed how a movie with so many action scenes has the pace of a turtle with a hangover. There is no single original idea in this film. My advice; skip it.

But, thank God, there were two shows this week and the other one, **“The Incredibles,”** by Brad Bird is just incredibly good. For kids, but most of all, for parents, an absolutely must see! Fun, action, story, it’s got it all! □*Dodo*



days of the hottest fun freestyle. Ann Phelan (786-3134) or Elvis Martinus (790-2288)

Saturday, February 19—Lora Count. Call 785-1000, 717-8444

Sunday, February 27—2005 School Swimming Championships, Meralney Sports Complex. See page 9

May 15-22 -King of the Caribbean!!! This is a World Cup Grand Prix, so many pros and guests are expected. For info, see www.pwaworldtour.com or www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com

EVERY WEEK

Saturday 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 hand-crafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

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.

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,

Monday Dee Scarr’s Touch the Sea slide experience at the Aquarius Conference

LORA COUNT

The annual count of the Bonaire Parrot, the Lora (*Amazonia Barbaeadis*) is set for Saturday, February 19. Using techniques perfected in past years, volunteers will fan out to 20 different sites around the island to count the Loras at dawn. The count is organized by the Boy Scouts, STINAPA (Parks Foundation) and DROB (Dept. of the Environment). If you know of a Lora roosting site call 785-1000, DROB or STINAPA 717-8444 to report it as it may not already be included. Bonaire’s Loras are protected by law. The last count estimated that there were 350 to 400 wild Loras on Bonaire. □



Bertie Winkle photo

Center, Capt. Don’s Habitat, 8:30–9:30pm.
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 Plaza’s Topsy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

CHURCH SERVICES

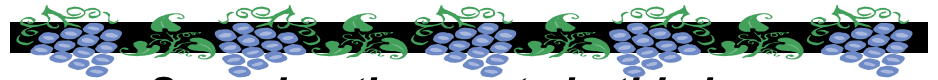
International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle)
Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332
Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am.**
Thursday Prayer 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). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194
New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

* * * *

Send events to **The Bonaire Reporter**
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: 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.
Croccantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Tuscan chef s prepare 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.
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.

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

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.

Ocean Adventures Discover the world of low bubble, quiet diving. Learn, use, and try our Dräger Re-breathing equipment. At Dive Inn. Interested? call 717-2278

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, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

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.

HOTELS

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. Expansive selection of jewelry, collectibles and top name watches. 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

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.

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

Raja Daou

(One of our most popular "On the Island Since..." stories is republished this week)

"We all live the same life, but as a photographer, a painter or a sculptor you see things differently. We have our focus; we see things three dimensionally, things other people don't see or feel. I don't like to be a train on rails; I like to leave the track, roam around and experience the unexpected. I was born June 21st 1937, in Lebanon, in a small village called Bedadoun, about 12 kilometers from Beirut. We could see the hills, the valley and the Mediterranean Sea. We were four boys and two girls: one brother lives in London, one in Caracas and one in Lebanon. One of my sisters lives in Abu Dhabi; my little sister, Maria Magdalena, is an English schoolteacher in Bedadoun.

After I finished school I went to work and studied in my father's photo studio. At 18, I hitchhiked to Paris. It took me three months because when I liked it somewhere, I stayed. It was a beautiful time in my life. Traveling through Syria, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and France I found good people, many friends of all nationalities. In Paris I learned more about photography and studied to become a movie producer.

When I was 23 I went to Venezuela to visit my grandfather who was born there. I loved the country, the tropics, the flowers and the beautiful girls - I was young, an artist, crazy and adventurous - and I stayed. I started a movie company and produced documentaries about Venezuela and the Caribbean which we sold to tourists, schools, clubs and governments. That's how I know Bonaire - from 29 years ago! I came to take pictures for the tourist office and I liked it so much that I started coming back all the time.

After 1968 I came with my wife, Ophelia, and the children for a month every year. As a photographer I liked the nature of the island and the clear blue colors of the sea. Every time I came I said: 'I want to live in Bonaire!' But we must have the patience to wait, like the fruit, like the mango; we have to wait until it's ripe. I don't like to push; I push my ideas, but not the realization of them.

So I went on making movies, until video was introduced. The pirates came and copied my movies and I lost one million dollars! My children asked me, 'Father, what are you going to do?' I answered, 'I am Phoenician and I am Lebanese. The Phoenician people lived in Lebanon for thousands of years; I am going to open a snack and sell sandwiches, *shoarma* and *falafel*!' I had never fried an egg before in my life, but I found a very old Arabic cookbook at my aunt's, and I learned how to cook from this book. I'm an autodidact: I taught myself. After the snack, I opened four restaurants with belly dancers and flamenco as well as a nightclub with shows and girls in Caracas. That wasn't my way; I always say 'I am the son of the sun!' I like to live in the sun, not in the dark! But it was an ex-

perience!

I've been in the restaurant business for 23 years, but I'm also a farmer! I bought 2,000 acres in the plains - I was a pioneer there - and we planted 5,000 lemon trees and 5,000 mango trees. I lost a lot of money, but I enjoyed myself. I lived the real life, natural life.

It's like with people: we're all different, even us Arabs. We all speak the same language, but we're not all Muslims. We come from different ancestors, from different tribes, from different countries with different cultures and different beliefs.

Nowadays, people think they know everything because they see it on TV or travel through the Internet, but they live inside their homes, their offices, looking at that box, and they don't understand anything of the world. Only through your own experiences, your own thoughts and imagination can you learn. You have to see with your own eyes, you have to pick up the smell and listen to the sound. You have to talk to people, exchange thoughts, read their books, eat their food and listen to their music. Maybe then, you'll get a glimpse of what their life is like.

"Only through your own experiences, your own thoughts and imagination can you learn. You have to see with your own eyes, you have to pick up the smell and listen to the sound."

Many people world live an artificial life. We are in the 21st century, but mentally we live in the Stone Age. We don't respect people for what they are, but for what they own: money, power, a mansion, a company. But all these things don't make you a better person. People should learn to give love: to other people, to flowers and birds and animals. That's God. God is love. In all my 67 years I have two real friends. There are many good people that I know, but a friend is someone whom you trust, in whom you have complete confidence."

Raja Daou is one of the rare persons who give you energy instead of taking it. In his quiet, philosophical way he opens up his mind and shows a tremendous lust for life, inner peace and joy.

"I am very happy that I accomplished everything I wanted without the pressure of time. From the minute I stepped on the bridge I've enjoyed everything: the sound and the colors of the river, the flowers and the trees on the banks. I heard the birds singing, I saw the beauty of freedom and I smelled the fragrance of nature. I've looked at the sky; I've seen the blue and the gray, the clouds and the stars and still, after all these years, I enjoy walking that



bridge: the bridge of life.

I've suffered from arthritis since I was 16, but the pain has become my friend; I don't fight it. We must love everything that we have: happiness and sadness, love and pain. We don't realize that we can do many things. I go with the waves, but I always have my position. When I want to do something, I ask for advice, although I have it all in my mind. You can always fill in or leave out. Then I make a balance of what I want.

Three years and three months ago I realized my dream by opening the small 'Garden Café' on the island, together with Esperanza, my second wife. She is my partner in every way and everything. Without her I could never have done it. I can't live alone, I need someone behind me. Esperanza and I have people to help us, but we are the spirit.

To make good food is also an art; it's not as easy as it seems. Lately we moved to a bigger location and it has become more work, but still, I need to do more things, not for the money, but for the spirit. I have a new idea and I want to make it come true. It won't be easy, but we'll do it. We have patience. Although I think that life is very beautiful here, I have to go to Venezuela now and then. When you stay in the same place too long, life becomes monotonous. I also need to be with my family.

I've got three daughters and one son. Sandra, the eldest, lives in Canada with her husband. Frida, the second, is also married and lives in Madrid. Tamara lives with her husband and her two beautiful children - one of them looks exactly like his grandfather - on Isla Margarita. My son, Amir Jose, is 22 and lives with his mother in Caracas. He studied to become an electronic engineer. He is a very mathematical man, unlike me, I am Zero!

Another thing I go to Venezuela for is to play Santa Claus. I've been doing it for six

years now. Before I couldn't, because my beard was red! I make many advertisements for companies, TV and newspapers. It's commercial, but I visit the poor people, the schools and hospitals for free. The rich must pay! The poor enjoy themselves!"

The Garden Cafe is opening up. Pretty women come to work and the place is suddenly filled with laughter and lots of talking in Spanish. Esperanza comes out of the kitchen and rolls up the sleeves of Raja's t-shirt in a very tender way.

"I always loved women," Raja says cheerfully. "First my mother, then my nurse, my schoolteacher, my little girlfriend from kindergarten, my fiancée when I was 14, my love when I was 18. There have always been women. And God sent me three more, three daughters! There are all women behind me!"

I see my life as very normal. Sometimes I would like to do more and that's why I played a role in a movie last year. I played an angel! I was the spirit of a doctor who had died, who came to help a little girl in the hospital. The Italian director said I did very well. It was a new experience! I'd never been in front of the camera!

I enjoy life my way. I don't need extravagance or drugs. I never did. I am a sensitive person; intense emotions come from the heart." He looks at me and smiles:

"You know, in the morning, when I get up, I stop at the mirror. I look at myself; my face, my teeth, my hair in a mess, and I say: 'My God, Raja, you're the best! The strongest! The most beautiful man!' He laughs. "If I don't do that, I can't go out! But I don't feel old, I feel young!" □ G.K.



Greta Kooistra

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

To start this column, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year in good health.

We at Green Label Landscaping had a very successful year 2004 and we want to thank everybody who helped us achieve this. Masha Danki!

I think as a gardener I will remember 2004 as the year with all the rain and strange weather. Hurricane Ivan just missed us, and we had a lot strange winds from the west. August, September and October were really hot, and even in the spring we had some rainfall. And of course, the last months have been really wet! All of this had a lot of effects on the plants, and I think everybody has had their hands full dealing with all the different effects of this weather. And still the rainfall is continuing and making Bonaire more beautiful than ever, although you might feel differently if you've come to Bonaire on vacation to relax in the sun! But if you are interested in plants, and especially in native plants, look along the roads and see all the wild flowers and other strange plants that you only see when it is really wet.

My last columns were about a plant that likes all this rain - the Jasmine - in all its varieties. Here are some general tips for the whole group.

First of all, **Jasmines** are one of the very few groups of plants on Bonaire that also bloom well in shady areas. The only exception might be the **Azahar**.



Azahar Jasmine

But also full sun is not a problem, nor are strong winds which don't affect them very much. Again, the only exception might be the **Gardenia-Jasmine** (*Tabernaemontana*). Because their leaves are bigger and susceptible to the wind, they can look a little bit damaged a lot of the time.

Also, the Jasmine is a very good plant to use in pots. They grow pretty easily, and most types bloom all year round.

The Jasmine comes in all different forms, so for every spot there is a variety. Because neither of the types grow with long runners or too fast, they don't need much pruning. The only time you can prune them back is when they get a little ugly underneath and you want them to fill in again. They will look much better after pruning and show you their really nice and green leaves.

But all of them like to be fertilized regularly. What I always recommend is to use a soluble fertilizer like Miracle Grow or Peters with high numbers of



MOTHER NATURE AT WORK

Thanks to Mother Nature at Playa Funchi in Washington Park there was an opening for a brief time in the beach between the sea and the salina behind it. Due to the heavy rains which saturated the earth and wore away the "dam" between the beach and the salina the opening occurred and there was an "exchange" of fresh water and sea water. However, according to Park Manager Fernando Simal, due to the opening more fresh water came out of the salina than sea water entering. But then the waves brought in rubble, closing the gap and isolating the salina once more. Even though, with all the rains the salina is higher than normal.

Note: The new phone number for Chief Park Ranger George "Kultura" Thode is 786-5681 and for Park Manager, Fernando Simal it's 786-5229. □L.D.

Nitrogen, and then not too much, but frequently, like every month. And, as I've said before, they like to be watered regularly, again not too much, but regu-

larly. Well, this last part hasn't been a problem lately.... Good Luck! □ *Ap van Eldik*

Ap van Eldik owns *Green Label Landscaping*, a company that designs, constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. He has two nurseries and a garden shop in *Kralendijk* which carries terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410. **NOW OPEN SATURDAYS, NON-STOP 9 TO 4.**



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

How to Have a Bit of Fun with the Smallest Full Moon of the Year Next Week

On Tuesday, January 25th, we will have the smallest full Moon of the entire year. And if you've got a camera, with a zoom lens and lots of patience as well as a good memory, you can do something that's really a lot of fun and conduct your own scientific experiment. Let me explain. On Sunday night, January 23rd around 8 pm Sky Park Time, face east where you'll see the seven bright stars that make up winter's **Orion the Hunter**, and just to his left, **Castor** and **Pollux**, the two brightest stars of **Gemini the Twins**. And just below Pollux is Planet Number Six from the **Sun**, exquisite ringed **Saturn**, which is at its closest, biggest and brightest for the year. It's visible all night long and looks absolutely magnificent in even the cheapest telescope. And last but not least, the brightest object in this part of the sky, a not-quite-full Moon, making a triangle with Castor and Pollux.



Twenty-four hours later, on Monday the 24th the Moon will have moved below Castor and Pollux and will be only a few hours away from being officially full. It will look full for all practical purposes although you may notice that it will appear a bit smaller than usual. You can watch it all night long as it crosses the sky with Castor and Pollux and Saturn. And if you get up with the chickens, I suggest you go out at exactly 4:32 am because at that moment the Moon will officially be full and will also officially be the farthest and thus smallest full Moon of the entire year, over a quarter of a million miles away, 251,987 miles to be exact. And here's where the fun part comes in.

Set up your camera using a zoom lens and take a picture of the moon. This is the first half of your experiment. The second half will occur six months later on July 21st just before sunrise when we will have the closest and biggest full Moon of the year, only 222,028 miles away, which will be 30,000 miles closer than next week's full Moon. Now remember to use the same zoom lens and setting in July that you use next week. Then take the two pictures, cut them in half either physically or on your computer and place both halves together and you will see a huge difference because July's full Moon will be 13% larger than next week's. Send your results to *The Reporter* and we may even publish them.

But why, you may ask, does the Moon change its distance from Earth? The answer is quite simple. The Moon's orbit around our Earth is not a perfect circle. It is a slightly stretched out circle called an **ellipse**. The closest point to our Earth on this ellipse is called **perigee**. So July's full Moon will occur when the Moon is near this perigee point. The opposite and farthest from Earth point of the Moon's orbit is called **apogee** and next Tuesday's full Moon will be near it, thus its small size. A simple but elegant explanation don't you think? So get out your cameras or just enjoy next week's farthest and July's closest full moons with your plain old naked eye. □ *Jack Horkhimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
January 14 to 21, 2004
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will be popular with acquaintances; however, loved ones could feel left out and insecure. You will accomplish the most in the work environment this week. You will attract potential lovers, but be sure that they're unattached. Communications with loved ones may be strained. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Your ability to be a self starter will help get things done and motivate others. You may be tired of working for someone else. Don't let your personal partner hold you back. You need to control your temper and deal with the situation rationally. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Deceit with co-workers is apparent. Don't let your partner get you going. You are best to travel or attend lectures or seminars. You will find that valuable knowledge can be gained if you are willing to listen. Travel will also be very informative. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Try not to discuss important matters with colleagues. Think twice before you say something you might regret later. Be careful not to over-exert yourself. You will meet new romantic partners if you get involved in seminars or travel. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job. Be wary of those who have overly strong convictions. Be sure to cover all the necessary groundwork before signing binding contracts. Give everyone in the house a physical chore that will help burn off some of the excess energy. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You may have taken on a little too much, but you will enjoy every minute of it. You may be able to impart knowledge that's innovative to those searching for a new angle. You can dazzle members of the opposite sex with your quick wit and aggressive charm. Joining organizations will provide you with stimulating romantic contacts. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can come up with ways of earning extra cash. Concentrate on work or make changes to yourself. Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. Visit friends or relatives who have been confined. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Friends may not understand your situation. Don't hesitate to talk to your partner about rekindling your relationship. Don't take your frustrations out on the ones you love. Spend some time with the one you love. Pleasure trips will be satisfying. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Take a look at your legal position. You will be attracted to unusual forms of entertainment and foreign cultures. You can do well on stage or behind the scenes, the choice is yours. Either way, you're up for a passionate encounter with someone special. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You need to do your own thing and work on making yourself the best you can be. You will have a problem with your boss if you haven't done your job. Children or friends may try to talk you into lending them money. Try looking into new ways to make extra money. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Enlist the aid of family members and consider the feelings of your mate. Family may not want to get involved but an entrepreneur will. The answers can only come from within. You should spend your day trying to get things completed at work. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Travel for pleasure will be enticing. Involvement in financial schemes will be followed by losses. Social activity should be on your agenda. You may be overly emotional when dealing with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday. □