

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

January 28 to February 4, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 5

The **BONAIRE** REPORTER

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

SINCE 1994



**WALK-A-THON
TRIUMPH, pg 8**



FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

**The Bonaire Reporter will not be published next week.
The next issue will be available on February 10.**

The Council of Ministers has agreed to “sober up” the lavish pension rules for Central Government Ministers and Parliament members, and at the same time to introduce a pension scheme for Commissioners and Island Council members of the Windward Islands and Bonaire, who never had any.

The Cabinet also approved new rules for the financing of political parties.

The reduced pension arrangement will go into effect with the appointment of a next Central Government, while the intention is to have the rules for financing politics in place before the Parliamentary elections of 2006. The pension benefits have been criticized for years as excessively generous as compared with the private sector.

At the moment ministers can accrue a complete pension within four years, at 70% of their government salary, to be paid out once they're 45. The new ruling requires 23.3 years of service. Additionally, (Former) Ministers won't be entitled to receive their pensions until age 60.

The new pension regulation will also apply to Commissioners and Island Council members of Bonaire, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba, who up to now have had no such arrangement. It won't apply to Curaçao, as the administrators on that island already have their own pension arrangements.

The Council also agreed to new rules

for the financing of political parties in the country. They propose that a political party may not accept donations or gifts of more than NAf15,000 a year from individuals or companies. Contributions to the parties may no longer be anonymous. All donations and gifts must be registered and the records must be kept for 10 years.

Violation of the rules can lead to a maximum sentence of three months in prison and a fine of NAf10,000.

Prime Minister Ys hopes the proposals can be drafted into a law by July, so that it can be introduced before the federal elections next year.

► **Many people believe that Dutch rules prevail in the Dutch Antilles. That's not always true**, especially when it conflicts with religious beliefs and local customs. The Netherlands Antilles will not recognize gay marriages, announced Prime Minister Etienne Ys after the matter was discussed in the Cabinet. The Central Government is sticking to what the new Civil Code says: that a marriage is between a man and woman.

According to Ys, article 40 of the Kingdom Charter, which requires that official Kingdom laws must be respected in all parts of the Kingdom, does not refer to marriages. The executive branch is taking the same position as the Antillean Parliament, which has already condemned gay marriages.



Prime Minister Ys meets with Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ben Bot

Another issue revolves around euthanasia, which in a limited form is allowable in Holland, but is completely illegal in the Antilles.

► **Dutch Queen Beatrix will visit the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba** as

part of the commemoration of her 25 years on the Dutch throne. The visit to the islands will start on July 29, 2005, announced chairman of the Silver Anniversary



Queen Beatrix

Reign Committee, Yvonne Timmerman-Buck, in The Hague. The visit will coincide with the Kingdom Games being held in Cura-

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çao. The visit is focused on youth and culture. The queen will perform the ceremonial closing of the games at the national sports centre and witness some of the events in various disciplines. After the finals the games will end with a cultural presentation involving youngsters from Holland and the islands.

► Windsurfers and shoppers take special note. **Jasta Travel, a Venezuelan**

(Continued on page 4)

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
air charter company with a counter at Flamingo Airport, is flying direct to Isla Margarita. Their 12-passenger propeller driven aircraft takes about 1 hour and 50 minutes for the trip. After Bonaire and Aruba, Margarita is known as a windsurfing mecca. It is also a duty free port and a shopper's paradise.



Passengers on BonairExel's first flight

► **Exel will announce the details of its reorganization within two weeks** an Exel spokesman in Holland, Dig Ista, confirmed last week. The airline is working to obtain new financing, but Bonaire resident Niek Sandmann will remain the main shareholder. It is expected that his former partner, Eric de Vlieger, will eventually withdraw as a shareholder. The new director of Exel, the former KLM-manager, Bart Drechsel, is, according to Ista, cleaning up the "the heap of trouble" that former partner and CEO, Harm Prins, left behind. Prince is free pending his trial on extortion and money laundering. He was dismissed from Exel and his shares withdrawn.

The emphasis at Exel is to rebuild through cooperation between Exel businesses in the Antilles and KLM. Exel will eliminate its unprofitable operations at Maastricht and Eindhoven among other cost cutting activities. **Bonair-Exel's first aircraft to enter service flying between Bonaire and Curaçao, PJ-XLL, is returning to Europe.** That leaves the airline three aircraft to serve Bonaire, Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten.

► **You thought that pollution from Curaçao's Isla refinery was only a Curaçao problem?** Think again. Last week's west wind blew the smog all the way to Bonaire. Those with sensitive noses could detect it and the Divi Divi airplanes had to fly higher for better visibility. Curaçao's coasts were being polluted by oil. If the winds had continued westerly it could have reached Bonaire. From Venezuela, you think, but no. The nautical advisor of Curaçao Ports Authority, Ramon Fränkel, said that it was oil from Curaçao own oil refinery harbor. "There's always oil at the harbor's bottom. After heavy rains the oil seeps up from the bottom of the Schottegat (the harbor) and forms a layer at the water's surface. When the wind changes directions, such as the case with the south-southwesterly winds, the oil drifts towards the south coast (into the open sea)." There is no solution at hand. "Only if the refinery were to leave and the bottom were to be completely cleaned up, would the problem cease to exist," Fränkel emphasized.



Anna Kleimer

► **RE/MAX real estate agency announces that Anna Kleimer has joined the firm** as a senior agent. Anna brings to RE/MAX her over 20 years of experience as a realtor. Her objective is to help sellers and buyers achieve their goals quickly, easily, and in a positive way. Anna capped a sterling career by being the first person ever to be recognized as a "Starpower Star" within 4 years of becoming a realtor. In 15 years only 220 people worldwide have been selected as a "Starpower Star." She started her career in Vail, Colorado. Her e mail address is Anna@BonaireHomes.com

► Cleopatra bathed daily in it, just like Napoleon's Empress Josephine. These ladies knew what we seem to have forgotten: **donkey milk is a benefit for your skin and terribly healthy for your body's systems.** People with auto-immune diseases, allergies, chemotherapy effects and psoriasis seem to especially benefit. Currently a farm in Belgium is specializing in producing donkey milk for therapeutic purposes reported last Sunday's Dutch newspaper, *The Telegraph*. The Belgian farm's 75

female donkeys are milked by hand. Production is about two liters per day per donkey. Now that Bonaire's Keeshi Kiki goat cheese farm has proven to be a success, perhaps someone will get organized to produce donkey milk.

► **Journalists suffered possibly their highest death toll ever in 2004**, when at least 129 reporters and media staff were killed--more than a third of them in Iraq, an international press group said on Tuesday. "By any standards 2004 has been a bad year, perhaps the worst year ever, for the killing of journalists and media staff," the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said.

► **Buy your wine this week from AWC** (see their ad on page 11), **and donate to charity.** This year, as it has for the last 3 years, AWC will donate to the Special Olympics Bonaire NAf 1,00 for every regular bottle of wine sold from January 24th-30th.

Or you can donate to Tsunami Asia. The 84 bottles of Novello that could not be auctioned due to lack of time at the Tsunami Hand to Hand fundraiser, are available for NAf 15,00. All profits will be donated to Hand to Hand.

► As you've probably noticed in the Benetton ads in *The Reporter*, all the models are from the island, in particular, from Jong Bonaire. This week the Benetton models are: Marino Leonicia, Miangela Semeleer and Joemy Ribardo. □ *L./G.D.*

LETTERS

JESSIE STEPS DOWN

It has been my pleasure to coordinate the activities of the Bonaire National Marine Park Volunteer Group, now know as the STINAPA Volunteer Group, for the past 5 years. During that time I have had lots of fun working on many different types of projects and have met some wonderful people. Bonaire is lucky to have so many good people willing to help preserve the environment. We have surveyed for baby corals, conducted Reef Check, surveyed fish, painted dive marker rocks and assisted several researchers. Not all the work was easy but in the end it was all satisfying.

My husband and I are leaving the island this spring so the time has come for me to step down as your leader. But the work doesn't end. Ramón, the new Marine Park manager, needs your help with several projects starting with Earth Day in April. So a new leader, Chile Ridley, assisted by his wife Linda, has agreed to begin coordinating the activities starting now. You will be hearing from them soon but if you want to contact them this is how: Phone 786-2397 or 791-4262; email to ERi7070670@aol.com.

Thanks to everyone for the support and help you have given me over the past 5 years.

Jessie Armacost



THANK YOU MESSAGE

A couple of months ago there was an article in this paper that was titled "On The Island Since..." and because of that article my animals, all 15 of them, want to say "Thank you." They have received many gifts from the readers of *The Reporter*. Some of the gifts were just placed in the back of my pickup truck while I was at work with just a "thank you" note attached...no names I've also received a few gifts from people in the US by mail. On behalf of them and myself I want to take this opportunity to say Thank You so much, you will never know how much they and I appreciate these gifts. My two new puppies that you saw in the picture are growing so fast, in fact, they have now learned how to jump on the bed and are so proud.

Well, thank you again so very much and have a healthy and very happy 2005.

My email address is
TSEA1@hotmail.com
"TC" and my family of dogs

The Bonaire Reporter welcomes letters from readers.

Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number or e-mail address. Letters without that information will not be published.

If a writer wishes to remain anonymous or just use initials we will honor the request. Letters should not be more than 400 words in length and may be edited at the Editor's discretion. Send letters or diskettes to The Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire; via fax 717-8988 or E-mail: letters@bonairenews.com



Bonaire's Tsunami Relief project continued following the incredible fundraising effort of the previous weekend. Donations and money keep coming in. MCB contributed NAf5.000 and Telbo NAf1.000 The total contributions are around the mid 60's now.

However, a lot of prizes haven't been collected. If they are not picked up soon, the organizers want to auction them off, (They think perhaps they will invite people to fill out a coupon to bid on multiple items, and then have them deposit the bids in boxes set up in the supermarkets.) *The Reporter* will keep you posted.

The latest report from the *Reuters News Service* says the global death toll from the Asian tsunami shot above 226,000 Wednesday after Indonesia's Health Ministry confirmed the deaths of tens of thousands of people previously listed as missing. The ministry raised the country's death toll to 166,320. It had previously given a figure of 95,450 while Indonesia's Ministry of Social Affairs had put the death toll at around 115,000 before it stopped counting. □ *G.D.*



THIRD 'KAREDA HUBENIL- YOUTH RACE' Lions Club Comcabon Race



Comcabon Awards

Last Saturday Richard Pietersz sounded the start signal for the Third Lions Club Comcabon Race, 'Kareda Hubenil.' The race, 2.5 kilometers for children and 5 kilometers for adults, started at the Stadium and finished at Karel's Beach Bar. Thirty runners participated. The Bonaire Lions Club Bonaire organized the event. The runners earned prizes—bowls, medals, certificates and gifts—that were generously donated by the Comcabon spon-

sors, who included MCB Bank, Ennia, RBTT Bank, Tung Fong Store, Karel's Beach Bar, Special Security Services, Bonaire Printing Services and Budget Car Rental.

The results:

MALE

- 7 – 9 years:**
 1. Maxim Wilsoe – 5 min 20
 2. Gilio Emers – 5 min 42
- 10 – 11 years:**
 1. Sharlon Sumter – 8 min 05



Race Start

2. Kevin Abdul – 8 min 41
 3. David Lee Winklaar – 8 min 42
- 12-13 years:**
 1. Jancarlos Migia – 9 min 55
 2. Ariel Monero – 12 min 12
- 16-24 years:**
 1. Benito Coffie – 18 min 01
- 25 years and older:**
 1. Cassius Coffie – 18 min 39
 2. Perry Martin – 19 min 21
 3. Elmer Frans – 19 min 23

FEMALE

- 7 – 9 years:**
 1. Marvien Soliana - 6 min 02
 2. Ridaloes Emer – 6 min 15
 3. Charisa Abdul - 7 min 12
- 10 – 11 years:**
 1. Eusvine Soliana - 9 min 54
- 12-13 years:**
 1. Thammy Albertsz - 11 min 46
- 14-15 years:**
 1. Daymaris Mercera - 22 min 28 □

Photos and Story by *Marian Walthie*

TUMBA FESTIVAL 30th Anniversary...

into the depths of the night.

It wasn't until 4:00 am that Deputy of Education, Geraldine Dammers designated the winner of the 30th TUMBA Festival of Bonaire. (She was substituting for Deputy of Culture, Reginald Dortalina who couldn't preside because he was one of the contestants himself!) Rignald "Tiri" Trinidad, named the King of Tumba-2005, was awarded the robe and crown. The excited "Tumba Ganador (winner)" is no stranger to the stage, as he has won seven times. Tiri was delighted to sing his Tumba song "Tur ku tin" again for the handful of people, including your reporter, who decided to stay awake to witness the ceremony at the tremendously muddy stadium. He was accompanied by Glen & Friends Combo. The composer of the song, which will be the Carnival hit in coming weeks, was Johnny Leoneta.



Geraldine Dammers crowns 'Tiri' Trinidad King of Tumba-2005

Out of 17 participants the jury picked out the 10 best to be honored on the stage.

The festival started with the Children's Tumba. Four groups entertained the large roaring crowd.

Mark Abdul accompanied by the Kriojo Band was voted the "King of Tumba for Kids 2005" with the song "Bai Skol" written by Alvertico Wanga.

Marjan Maldonado, Secretary of FUKABO, proudly said, "I am overwhelmed by the massive and frantic crowd. Over 1,100 people came to encourage the Tumba participants, fantastic!" Some severe rain showers turned the field into a mud bath and some technical problems with the music made the festival last much longer

than expected. Nevertheless, the spectators danced and cheered the night away.

Marjan continued, "the acts were very entertaining and the Tumbas turned out to be of a higher level than former years. *Hopi great!*" It was a good prelude for the coming Children's Carnival Parades during the 28/29th of January and the Grand Parades during the weekend of 5/6th February.

The 30th Tumba festival was dedicated to Mrs. Violeta Rosiario Cicilia, honored on stage, for all her enormous efforts over the years in teaching island music. Many of those participating in the Adult Festival now learned from her as children. Patricio Thomas was also specially honored. Patricio was the Master of Ceremony for Tumba from the beginning but couldn't be on this night because he'd lost his voice. The honor was presented to his grandson, Papi Cicilia, who took over as MC for the evening and did a great job leading the Festival.



Mark Abdul was voted the 'King of Tumba for Kids 2005'

The 10 finalists: (the first three in order of finish)

1. Rignald (Tiri) Trinidad – *Tur ku tin*
2. Juan Angela – *Hisa Man*
3. Richard Molina – *Lele Karnaval*
- (The following are in no particular order)
4. Rignald (Jonchi) Dortalina – *Chikitu Pero Grandi*
5. Johny Vlijt – *Karnaval Zudoep*
6. Gwiovara Alberto – *Pla pla pla*
7. Gaby Simon – *Wes 'i Lomba*
8. Luigi Statie – *Hala Dilanti*
9. Robert Sanchez – *Bolbe Aki*
10. Evelon Jano – *Awa*



□ Photos and Story Marian Walthie

WALK-A-THON TRIUMPH

It was rainy, dark and cold at 5 am as walkers and bikers congregated at the Slave Huts last Sunday to begin the Third Annual BonairExel-Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon. But nothing deterred the hardy. Off they went, full of spirit. Some stayed in their cars, waiting for the rain to slow down; it did, and they too took off. No one could say it was too hot and actually, the cool weather was rather invigorating. The stands that were situated about 5 kilometers apart were manned by cheerful volunteers who offered water, fruit, Gatorade and whatever they could to help out. Students from Jong Bonaire participated thanks to the donation from Wega di Nember who paid for 20 entrance tickets.

There were more bikes this year. Although we can't give an exact figure we do know that it was around 50. Frank at De-Freewieler rented out 12 of his for the event.

Some people, like Malin Kaijser, got sponsors who not only pledged money but who autographed her t-shirt to prove it. "I raised about NAf400," she said proudly. Thanks to a handy little computer gadget that Malin purchased at Littman's she



Maikel Bergsma, Elesier Angel and Andrea Simal, all from Jong Bonaire, walking in the downpour

knew exactly how many kilometers she walked (nearly 30) and even how many calories she expended (1,356, if the walk was on flat ground... but all we walkathoners know the Karpata-Rincon hill multiplies that figure a lot.)

At the end at the Pasa Dia in Rincon, runners, walkers and bikers emerged through the rain amid cheering and clapping. Waiting for them was an abundant, hot, delicious barbeque. Was it all worth it? Absolutely, they said.

In all, 471 tickets were sold, according to Special Olympics Bonaire National Director Delno Tromp. "We want to thank all those sponsors, volunteers and people who came out, despite the weather," Tromp said.

The Special Olympics Bonaire Board is happy to announce that their next fund raiser will be a high fashion showing of the designs of Juan Carlos Padrino on Saturday, April 16, at Croccantino Restaurant. Last year this event was a sellout and many were disappointed when they couldn't get tickets. So put the date on your calendar and we'll give you more information as we receive it. □L.D.

Stretching—A popular activity after walkathon activities



Malin collected another NAf400 from her sponsors



THE GORGE-

A WINDSURFER'S DREAM COME TRUE

After years of training hard and competing in local and national events, I finally realized my dream to make it to the windsurf hot spot, The Gorge at Hood River, Oregon. I've wanted to go there since my teammates Tonky and Ro traveled there and told me about it. I was lucky enough to meet by a super guy named Rob Wymore. Rob is the owner and board shaper of Realwind Boardsports. Rob



Clay Emer

helped me in the biggest way by being my first sponsor. I am so proud to be a part of his team because his equipment is the best. I have tried a lot of gear and believe Realwind works best for me as a freestyler and racer. Once I started using his boards I immediately started to improve. I even find I win more competitions. I started by winning King of the Caribbean in the amateur men division and went on to win other events.

I was stoked to have the boards and the sails and was training hard everyday after school and on the weekends. When I heard that Gorge Games were on again, I was so happy and prayed I could go. First Rob sponsored me to attend King of the Cape, which I won. The water and weather was very cold, but I worked hard and did well. I came home for four weeks to train hard and then went to Aruba Hi Winds. We had no wind but it was a lot of fun. I was as crowned "Prince of the Huts." Everyone should go to at least one Aruba Hi Winds. JP and his team put on a great show.

I then flew to Oregon for the Gorge Games. We had good times hanging and

sailing. It was training, going back home and then eating the good food Laurie or Rob always cooked for me so I could be all fit for the next day. Then back on the water. This family took such good care of me. I am so thankful for all they did.

When the competition started I was a little bit nervous. This is a great event so well organized and well attended. It was very different in that the conditions are harder and sailing is such a challenge. Everyone was so warm and friendly and made me feel at home. Despite the challenge I performed well and won the juniors division. After the competition it was hard training and chilling with my bro's and having fun.

I competed in the pro's division for The Triple XXX class and I did pretty good.

On no-wind days we would skate-sail in the parking lot. Two days before I came back home it got crazy!!! It was blowing 50-55 knots so I was sailing with a tiny 2.7m² sail having the time of my life. This was survival sailing in what seemed like a hurricane!!! It was great.

After three weeks in the Gorge, it was

FUTURE RANGERS



Teacher Christy Dovale poses with her students who recently graduated from a swimming and snorkel program. The kids, all from the Maria Hoppner Home spent six weeks training with Christy as part of the Jr. Ranger program sponsored by the Bonaire Marine Park and the Maria Hoppner Home. The boys, from 12 to 14 years old are: Luigi, Fransen, Remi, Royson, Elvison, Vianni and Axel. As part of a pilot project the boys will be taking a wide change of courses, often with the assistance of Jong Bonaire, in first aid, diving, computers, radio operation, etc. The pilot project was developed by Mick Smit. See On the Island Since....page 17. □ L.D

all over and I had to go back home. I had a good time there and met a lot of nice people. The people in Swell City were all so friendly to me. My first trip to the Gorge; thanks to Rob and Laurie and the cool sailors and community at Hood River who made it very special. I will go back again next summer for sure. □ Clay Emer

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
1-28	13:55	1.6FT.	78
1-29	14:12	1.5FT.	75
1-30	8:10	1.4FT.	70
1-31	7:08	1.6FT.	64
2-01	7:29	1.7FT.	56
2-02	7:59	1.9FT.	51
2-03	8:34	2.0FT.	50
2-04	9:20	2.1FT.	56
2-05	10:01	2.2FT.	66
2-06	10:46	2.2FT.	78
2-07	11:35	2.2FT.	89
2-08	12:19	2.1FT.	97
2-09	13:12	2.0FT.	101
2-10	4:00	1.2FT.	102
2-11	4:32	1.3FT.	98

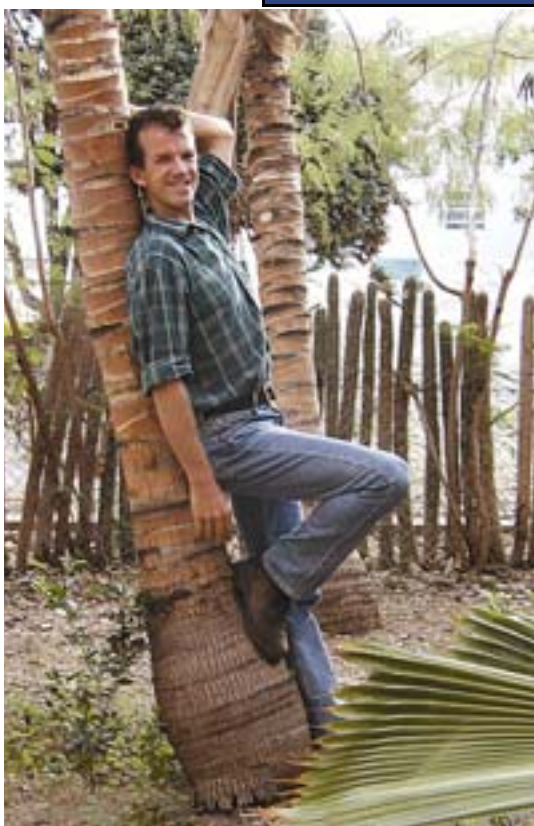
VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angie	Kamila	Sea Fever
Antares	Lady Alice	Sea Festa
Bettina, Venezuela	La Familia	Sirius
Bright Sea	La Orana	Sylvia K
Camissa, Chan Is.	Letrancer	Surprise
Cape Kathryn	Little Mermaid	Ta-B
Cava	Luna C. USA	Tartufo
Clemencia	Maebelle	Ti Amo, USA
Cordelia	Mahi Mahi	Tsih
Delphinus	Maggi	Tartufo
Desire	Nava Maria	Tween, Netherlands
Flying Cloud, USA	Natural Selection, USA	Ulu Ulu, USA
Forewinds	Nechtan	Unicorn, Norway
Galandriel	Oniro	Varedhuni, Germany
Gammler	Precocious Gale, USA	Windmiller, Canada
Gatsby, USA	Rire II	Ya-T, BVI
Guaicamar I, Ven.	Santa maria	Zahi, Malta
Haxebase	Sandpiper, USA	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ON THE ISLAND SINCE . . . 1 February 1995

On February 1st Imre Esser will celebrate his 10th year anniversary at Bon Fysiotherapie. He came to Bonaire to work with Simone Sweers in her, until then, one-woman-practice. He arrived with Aida (the three children then only in his carry-on). He was hired mainly because of his "non-complicated" character. Since then he has been, and still is, a key factor in the success of Bon Fysiotherapie. He is a very dedicated physical therapist who has helped a large number of people with his expertise and compassion. He has seen a number of coworkers and substitutes come and go and remained to be a stable and loyal influence.



He is also well known for his "turtle" vision, his never ending humor and his deep love for Bonaire.



Imre, we would like to thank you for the great time we have had and will have.

The team of Bon Fysiotherapie

NUMBER 70 FOR CO AND KLM

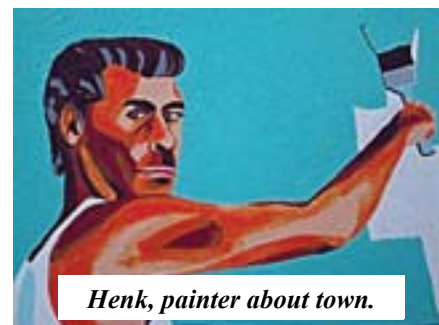
Congratulations to Co de Koning, Bonaire part-time resident, *Bonaire Reporter* contributor, business consultant and philanthropist on celebrating his 70th birthday. He did it in fine fashion with a fantastic birthday party for his many friends at the Mangazina di Rei. Coincidentally, the party also commemorated the 70th birthday of KLM whom Co served for many years as a consultant. Many credit him with helping to get that airline to use Bonaire as a "technical stop" on some of its South American flights. On hand to help him celebrate were: Leo van Wijk, KLM's top executive, Senator Ramonsito Booi, Co's fishing buddies, wife Hanne Vibbeke and children and grandchild and his many island friends.



Keep those years ticking by, Co. You are living proof that good scotch and cigars mean longevity. □



Henk Roozendaal and Herma Merx were married on January 5, 2005 after 17 years together. Following was a small private party at Jibe City's Hang Out Bar. You might recognize Henk as the wild harmonica player who occasionally appears with Bonaire's jazz groups, or as the painter of Cultimar's murals. Congratulations to the newlyweds. □



Henk, painter about town.

Readers are invited to send their photos of their anniversaries, engagements or weddings to The Reporter.

TRAVELING TO LEARN

Students of the SGB HAVO 5 class (Academic track, level 5) used an art project to earn money for their January field trip to Curaçao. As part of their study of the colonial period, they had to make masks reflecting the culture of several Caribbean countries. The Benetton shop downtown paid them to decorate its window with the masks. On their trip they will visit the Rechtbank, Police



Academy, Capriles Clinic, Curacao Museum, Bon Futuro Prison, Maritime Museum, Theater Luna Blou, Jubi Kirindongo and Kura Hulanda. □ Wilna Groenenboom

WATCH FOR ...



Bonaire Optimist Sailors in the 2005 Curaçao Regatta

The Optimist youth team of the BSSA (Bonaire Sailing School Association) will represent their island 28-30 January in the Curaçao ABN-AMRO Regatta at Baya Beach. Nine youngsters will sail. Jim, Urs, Calvin, Youp, Chip, Nanouk, Ezri, Olivier and Desire will be at the helms of their small pram-bowed boats. Special thanks to sponsors NASAF, *Free-winds*, BonaireExel, Budget Marine and to the commitment of a lot of volunteers. Contact nadorp@bonairelive.com; or tel. 717-4567. □

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

January continued as December ended, with a lot of rain! Suddenly on Bonaire a real Dutch habit appeared: Talking about the weather! Everybody is very surprised about the continuing rains and liked to talk about it. Let me remind you of what I wrote on earlier stories: This cannot hurt the plants, just make sure that they don't stay too long with their roots in the water, especially Bougainvillea doesn't like this!

One problem that appears with all these wet circumstances is the infections of the plants with a lot of bugs like the Mealy Bug. Because it is so humid in daytime and relatively cold in the nights, they multiply even faster than rabbits. So if you see even the beginning of an infection (which you can recognize on the bottom of the leaves as white crawling small insects), act fast, prune it off or clean it with just water or in the last case spray it with chemicals. I will give you a list of plants that are venerable to what on Bonaire are called Pies-Pies-bugs:



- **Very much infected at the moment:** Frangipani (*Plumeria obtusa*) and Oleander di Boneiru, a white flowering *Plumeria* that grows tall.
- **Some infected at the moment:** Bougainvillea, especially old specimens, Texas Sage (*Leucothophyllum*) and some variety of Crotons.
- **In danger of being infected:** All Citrus-fruits, *Ixora coccinea* Red, Allamanda and of course several other types.

The biggest problem with controlling these diseases is that maybe you are trying to control the bugs, but you neighbors are not for some reason, it is so contagious that your garden will also be infected all the time, especially in this time of the year. This is giving us and other gardeners a lot of headaches. Nobody likes to use chemicals, but sometimes you have to. So if everybody helps to control the bugs, that would really help a lot. You don't have to spray all the time. If you have problem at the moment, you can cut off all the infected branches, rake all the dead and infected leaves, and get rid of all that, then spray the trunk of the plant just with clean water with a high pressure hose. You can find "nests" of the bugs on older infected plants everywhere.

Even these measures will help us gardeners big time and of course yourselves. This time of the year is like I wrote many times before, excellent, because your cut-back plants will grow back in no time! Good luck. □ *Ap van Eldik*

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

**GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL?
REACH MORE READERS THAN ANY OTHER WEEKLY
NEWSPAPER BY ADVERTISING IN
THE BONAIRE REPORTER
FREE FREE FREE FREE**

Non-Commercial CLASSIFIED ADS (UP TO 4 LINES/ 20 WORDS)
Commercial ads are only NAf0.70 per word, per week. Free ads run for 2 weeks.
Call or fax *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988 e-mail ads@bonairereporter.com



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

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



PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE BONAIRE. Consultation, Supervision, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy **Drs. Johan de Korte, Psychologist, Phone: 717-6919**



CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER
Trees and Plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² of plants and nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). **Phone: 786-0956 or 787-0956**



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

Bonaire Images

Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lovers Ice-Cream and Sand Dollar. *Photography by Shelly Craig*
www.bonaireimages.com



Visit **Gallery "MyArt"** Marjolein Fonseca-Verhoef Call: **785-3988**

NEW **NEW**

BRASSERIE BONAIRE

Restaurant – Terrace – Take away
*** SPECIAL DINNER - MENU ***
NAf35.00 - \$ 20.00

**CRAB BISQUE
CATCH OF THE DAY
COUPE CARIBE**

OPEN: 11.30 a.m. – 02.00 p.m.
DINNER 06.00p.m. – 09.30p.m.
Sunday and Monday closed

**ROYAL PALM GALLERIES,
DOWNTOWN KRALENDIJK,
Kaya Grandi 26 F/G, TEL/FAX :
717-4321**

NEW **NEW**

RENTAL PROPERTY/TIMESHARE

For Rent: Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-privacy & security-**May 1st until Dec. 15th.** Brochure available. Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293; (US) (570) 586 0098. Email larjaytee@aol.com

FOR SALE

Apollo Color Printer by Hewlett-Packard, comes with extra set (1 black and 1 color) of ink Cartridges (uses HP ink cartridges), software, and user guide. NAf100.00. Call 717-2848.

Brand New (never been used, in the box) **Sea & Sea MX 10 Underwater Camera and YS-40A Strobe.** NAf360.00. Call 717-2848.

Mitsubishi Pajero 4WD, 5 speed, Good condition. Perfect motor, Color white. **NAf 4.500 Phone: 786-7045**

HP Notebook model: ze5400. P4 (2.4Ghz), 40GB, 512mb, Wireless e-card. Almost brand new, carrying case included, \$1,600 (US). Info (599)785-7425 after 3pm

1996 Mitsubishi Lancer. 60K miles, 4-Cyl. Very good condition. Asking \$5,200US. Info (599)791-6009 after 3 pm

Laptop Computers for sale: Sony VAIO V505DX, Pentium M 1.4 GHz Centrino - RAM 512 MB - HD 60 GB - CD-RW / DVD, LAN, Wireless 802.11b - Centrino 12.1" TFT XGA Screen Size, \$2,000 (negotiable) and...

a **Toshiba Satellite A75-S229**, Pentium 4, 3.2 MHz, 15.4 TruBrite Wide-screen, TruBrite, 512MB RAM, 80GB Hard Drive, CD & DVD Writer, 802.11g Wireless, LAN, \$2,800 (negotiable). Call **786-5119** or thussisiva@hotmail.com

FOUND

FOUND: Dive Knife at Windjammer boat ramp on Jan 20. Call 717-6354

FOUND DOGS

1) This brown short haired dog with the beautiful face was found recently at the airport. She's about 1 ½ years old. She had no collar.



2) This brindle colored dog was found by Sand Dollar Resort. He'd been around for about five days and some kind tourists fed him. They called him



"Velcro" because he was sticking to them. But the tourists had to leave, and because he was such a nice dog they wanted him to have a chance at life so they took him to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. He's a young male, about five months old. The Shelter will hold a dog for 10 days for the owner to claim him. After that he can go up for adoption. Call 717-4989. □



This Saturday & Sunday 10am to 4pm at Kaya Rotterdam in Hato. Kitchen appliances and supplies; Sewing supplies, fabric, toys, games, etc.

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

Traditional **Bonairean Sailing sloop.** One of the last of its kind. Call **717-8988 or 785-6125.**

TRIP

Sabana Eco-Cultural Tour to Surinam, March 24 to April 2. In Dutch and English. 8-day tour includes all tours, accommodations, food and drink. Free day April 1. Air round trip Curaçao to Paramaibo NAf678. Tours – Euro 455. Anglieg Baidjoe, Kaya Betico Croes 17, Tel. 717-5634 after 8 pm.



MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?
Make it more livable from the start
FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS
Interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy healing China trained, Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at **785-9013**

ART FOR FUN

Try a Little "doodle art"

Doodle Art releases creative energy! Have you ever wanted to paint or create something and felt you didn't really want to do all the thinking that it takes to compose a really good painting? Doodle Art is a way to dance your way into a nice painting without the stress of worrying about how it will work out. Try out this technique.

Supplies Needed:

Watercolor Paper, cardboard, or cardstock paper
3 colors of watercolor paint – Magenta (red/pink)
Thalo blue (turquoise), and
Lemon yellow
Sharpie black marker



Julia and Kaile demonstrate Doodle Art projects

Technique for "Under the Sea" 16"x20" Watercolor

1. Mix water with Lemon yellow watercolor paint. Pour it onto the paper and tilt the paper so the paint dribbles and slides in all directions. Let this layer dry slightly.
2. Repeat above step with Magenta (red/pink) paint and splatter it over the first color. Some of the color will bleed with the yellow, creating orange. Let this layer dry completely.
3. Mix Thalo blue (turquoise) with water and pour on the paper, letting it run over some of the Lemon yellow to create green. Let the paper dry completely.
4. Take a look at your new color creation. Marvel at the patterns created by applying color to paper. Now I let my imagination roam. One of my favorite subjects, fish, comes to mind.
5. Pick up the Sharpie pen and start tracing some line of color into a **doodle**. After drawing one doodle fish, I then find more and more underwater fantasy creatures. Sometimes I like to start in the center of the paper and just draw around the middle doodle. Other times I start at the edges and work towards the center. There are no rules!
6. Incorporate words to express your doodles. "Under the Sea" was very appropriate for this fun painting!



Doodle Art

So Doodle your Way into a Happy New Year!

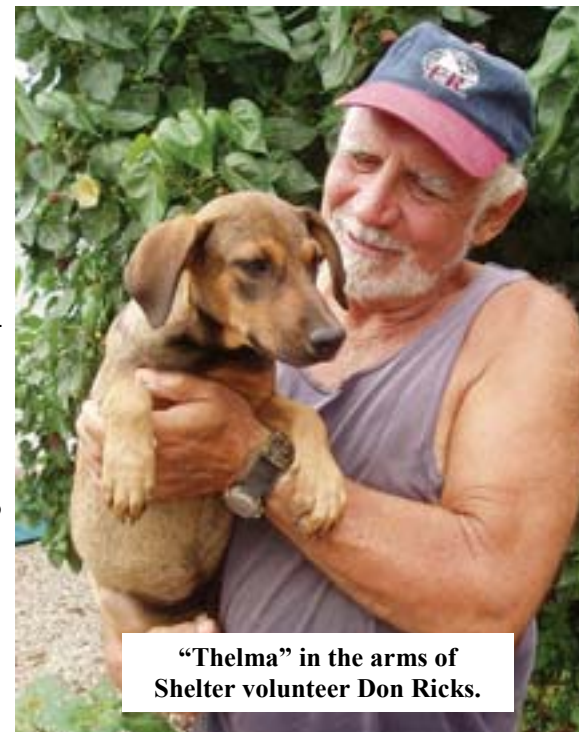
Janice Huckaby
JanArt



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 □

PET of the WEEK

Here's "Thelma" in the arms of Shelter volunteer Don Ricks. She was found wandering on the street all alone and brought into the Shelter where her winning personality made her a good candidate for adoption. Thelma is only about four months old and she has the sweetest disposition. She's a smooth haired pup who should grow into a big dog. Of course she's been checked over by the vet, given her tests, shots and worming and is ready to go. The NAf110 adoption fee includes all that as well as her sterilization. You're always assured of a healthy and sociable pet when you adopt from the Shelter. The rest is up to you!



"Thelma" in the arms of Shelter volunteer Don Ricks.

What would the Shelter be without its devoted volunteers? Under staffed and overwhelmed! It takes a lot to run a fine Shelter such as we have on Bonaire and it in turn makes working there a pleasure and something to look forward to every week. Volunteers like Don and his colleagues do a myriad of jobs in the care of the animals and help keep the residents happy. Thanks to all of you who devote your time, energy and love to Bonaire's Animal Shelter. You're indispensable!

If you're interested in spending some fun hours during the week as a volunteer, give Shelter Director Jurrie Mellema a call at 717-4989. They can work out a schedule that goes with your lifestyle. The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1.

Notes: "Carlos," the big beautiful dog in Pet of the Week in *The Reporter* (January 14) has been adopted. Congratulations and best wishes to all. Since the first of the year there have been seven adoptions. □ L.D.

PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER in Rostock, Germany



Gwen Mueller writes, “This picture was taken in front of my University- University of Rostock- in Rostock on the Baltic Sea in Germany. It’s the main building located in the city and is one of the oldest universities in Germany- founded in 1418. I was in Bonaire with my brother for two weeks in December 2004. We had a great time and plan on going back there next Christmas again. □

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.) □

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

Blade Trinity (Wesley Snipes)

Early Show (usually 7pm)
Ocean's Twelve

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

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

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

Monday, January 31st at 7 pm - Documentary of 'Proyecto Italia' (The ABC Islands Jr. Chefs in Italy) on **Tele Curaçao**.

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.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:

COMING

February 5 & 6 - Bonaire Windsurfing Freestyle Frenzy & Beach Bash - two days of the hottest fun freestyle. Ann Phelan (786-3134) or Elvis Martinus (790-2288)

Monday, February 14 – St. Valentines Fundraising Dance Party to benefit the FKPD (disability foundation). Featuring "All in Two" professional singers from

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:

Blade starring Wesley Snipes. Lots of violence and profanity in this movie. It has the looks and feel of a first shooter game. Plenty of weird monsters to shoot at, a lot of weapons and other gadgets to choose from and it's hard to die. The movie is from the Marvel factory and it sure looks like a comic. I had the feeling it was a visualization of heavy metal music. If you're into the genre, it's probably good. □ *Dodo*



Curacao and local DJ, Juan Danger. At Gran Chaparal, 8 pm to 1 am. Tickets NAf100 per person. A 10% discount to groups of 10 at a table – NAf180 per couple. Call Shunilla Kroon 717-6210 or Ansherella Frans 717-6292 during office hours.

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

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

15th to the 22nd May 2005 King of the Caribbean at Lac Bay, Bonaire, in the Dutch Antilles. The event will kick off the 2005 PWA Freestyle Tour. 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 handicrafts, 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

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.

Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for Bonaire residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

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 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.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018
Visit the Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

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

Rincon Marshé- every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Bonaire's historic town.

Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area. Alta Mira Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am. Town Walking tour at 9:30, Bus Tour at 10. Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.

CHURCH SERVICES

International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle)
Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at**

10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm. Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

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

Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 . **Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, **in English.** Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). 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 by a 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 sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine.
Crocantino 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 a 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 procedures.

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.

VILLAS

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

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 Desirée and Don 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 guildler.

Mick Smit

In Holland I was working in youth care with problem children from ten to 18 years old; children from all different ethnic backgrounds, but mainly Moroccan, Turkish, Dutch and Antillean. What struck me about the Antillean children we were working with was that once they'd moved from the Antilles to Holland and they ended up in the care-system they were dealing—besides their personal problems—with two other issues: A whole different culture and the vast memories that still connected them to their island. You start wondering: Wouldn't it be much better for a child like that if he could receive professional help on his own island?

At the time lots of discussions were held in Holland about Antillean youth, their problems and what goes wrong. I talked about it with several people and came to the conclusion that I wanted to go to the Antilles and work on the problem at its source. Jose, my wife, had been to Bonaire once and she told me that it was just great, so everything fell into its place and we decided on Bonaire. We made the decision in March, together with our three sons: Bram who's 17, Lars who's 16 years old and Youp who's nine. We arrived in August.

For me, it's not so important to talk about my personal life, but I feel it is of great importance to let people know what's going on in youth care on the island. I'm speaking for the children. I didn't have this job when I came here; we just came to see what it was we could do. But before I left I had found a foundation in Holland that was willing to pay me a salary if I could put up a project on the Antilles. For six months I talked to everybody who was involved: the police, SASO, the child welfare board and many others, and I ended up with the Maria Hoppner Foundation. After all the conversations I'd held it seemed to be the most reasonable thing to do: connect with an institution that already exists. I had been talking to Elly Albers at the Hoppner Foundation several times and the outcome was that we got along and that there was a need for a professional with experience. In spite of the fact that they had done several workshops with their staff it remained difficult to accomplish essential changes with untrained personnel. So, I started working full-time with Maria Hoppner.

In the meantime I'd founded my own foundation together with Selly Pourier, Theo Knevel and Marcella Djamin: "Stichting Project". It contributes to organizations specialized in youth care,

by giving them training, support, advice, coaching, team building, training on the job and a training method in group-education. Group-education implies that all the members of the group are responsible for one another and also they are corrected by each other. All of this with one goal: To change the course the youngsters are on.

At the moment I'm working 40 hours per week for Maria Hoppner but with the purpose that when the time comes and they are ready for it, they themselves will take over. Before I came here people were doing their job with the best intentions but each one of them had their own vision about education, so there was not one definite policy and that didn't work out for the children.

"Every child has a right to education, to a stable environment, a safe place. If they can't have it at home, the government has the obligation to offer them an alternative."

At the moment we have 11 boys here. Four are in a group between the ages from six to nine; the second group is in the age from nine till 14. All these boys were taken from their homes by court order for different reasons; they are not criminals, but they went through a lot. Many of them suffer from some sort of disturbed behavior and offering a home and giving them shelter until they are 18 is definitely not enough. Of course they were going to school, they were fed and taken to their clubs and from the outside it seemed they were well taken care of, but the problems they were carrying inside were lingering there and professionally speaking, nothing much was done about that. The staff had a hard time, because the boys weren't listening and they didn't know how to handle them as their training was insufficient. So first we must look at what we can offer the children. Secondly we look at what is realizable for the child and also if it appeals to him. And we look at the environment they're living in: The Antilles.

The group with the eldest boys is in a social phase: they like to sit together, chat and do things together. In this age they look for excitement and adventure. And many times they look for it in a negative way. What we wanted to offer them was excitement and adventure in a

positive way and so I came up with the idea to train them to become park rangers. We started in September 2004 and the entire course a ranger gets—they get, but on their level. Part of the course is given by Stinapa and part of it is done by professional volunteers. The whole week, after school, they're busy with it. The course includes sports, computer lessons, swimming and rescue swimming, boat handling, history, underwater navigation, diving, and snorkeling, radio operating, flora and fauna and coral fishes, basic training for mechanics, a first aid course, social skills, communicative skills, open water junior and signals. The aim of this course in the long run is to offer these children a future, to improve their self-esteem, to prevent youth criminality and to protect Bonaire's nature. The project itself couldn't be more Bonairean!

The boys are doing really well, they love it and they want it to last forever... It gives them a great deal of self-esteem, of confidence; they feel proud of themselves at school and at their clubs, that's the most important thing! Because of that they change and the image they have about themselves becomes positive. And not only that: now they've experienced several sides of various professions they know there's always a choice and that it can be fun to have a job that you like. However, in August 2005 this project ends and the boys will be certified junior rangers. The necessary follow up would be that these boys would move from this reformatory home to a home where they can live independently but under guidance; that should be their new perspective.

Next door on this terrain there is a property, exactly the same as this one and suited for 12 boys. If these boys could go and live there, the ones that are still on the waiting-list could move here. The problem is money. There are funds to fix the property, but we don't have money, structured funds, for personnel. The foundation which is paying me is very much aware of the fact that in the long run prevention is much cheaper than the fight against crime. I wonder why the government can't see that. It should be a priority to politicians, but so far they don't seem interested. Once a boy is 17, 18 and he's on the wrong track, it's almost impossible to turn that around. It's not only society that suffers, it's also another lost life. And I'm not even talking about the girls!" *Mick Smit, a hard faced man,*



Mick Smit

but with a kindly character, raises his hands in despair: "There is no facility whatsoever on Bonaire for them! The way I see it: Every child has a right to education, to a stable environment, a safe place. If they can't have it at home, the government has the obligation to offer them an alternative.

Well, one of the structural things we changed at Maria Hoppner is that now we involve the parents too; once a month a newsletter goes out to the parents and once every two months we invite them over. We talk about the boys, but we also listen to the parent's problems. And the family that's coming is really willing to make a difference! Another important thing is that 'Stichting Project' is paying one member of Maria Hoppner's staff to specialize in becoming a team-leader. As I said before, my aim is that they themselves will take over when the time is right. Then I can lend my services to other projects on the island as well. In the meantime, we're working hard and I really enjoy the progress I see in the boys and the staff; everyone is functioning much better.

As for my personal life: Bonaire is a terrific island and it's a great place to live; the people are nice and nature is beautiful. Our sons are doing fine and I admire them for picking up their lives so fast, especially at their age. For all of us it has been and still is a bit of an adventure and a great experience. We're still learning and enjoying." □ *Greta Kooistra*



Greta Kooistra

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BONAIRE'S "WINDOWS": KARPATA MAY 1972

Karpata, a word in the Caribi Indian language meaning "cockroach," means "tick" in Papiamentu. Karpata is also the name of a large plantation that produced aloe during the 1800's, and which came to be the landlord of a small cove where exists one of the most fantastic reef systems of all Bonaire.

For some time it had been my intention to open the cove of Karpata as a new window. My opportunity arrived with Joe Strykowski, a YMCA instructor, who was bringing in a small group of divers to see what Bonaire had to offer. "A week of fantastic diving" is what I had promised. If all went well, this group could christen the site. I, also, a little selfish perhaps, was looking forward to polishing my operational functions. We were the best simply because we were the only dive operation hereabouts, and I was always eager to learn.

The Flamingo Beach Club's diving operation was just Ebo and myself. We had the only air compressor and what little diving gear there was. We also had the best knowledge of the reefs. For qualifications, Ebo was a certified NAUI Basic Diver, and I was a self-certified Captain Don Diver, more a blessing than a certification.

I had eagerly been looking forward to meeting Joe for a long time. I had heard of him from the owners of Dacor Diving Equipment, located just outside Chicago, divers whom I knew well.

Joe, I understood, had authored a book on diving in 1969 called *Diving for Fun*. I really wanted to meet this guy. Further, I wanted a copy of that book. Up until now we island divers had nothing in writing concerning the sport. I wanted to know more about those gas laws that some of my divers were talking about.

The truth is that I had been winging this diving thing since the beginning. Thinking back, I frequently wonder how Percy and I had ever gotten away with it. I was teaching diving and awarding my students the certification of Captain Don's Divers. I taught my students how to swim like sharks, as if they were born with fins and a tank on their backs. I was a good instructor and my students excellent in the water; however, our theory was rather weak.

Joe's people arrived late that afternoon. I got them registered and quickly shown to their cottages. Then, I wanted them to do a little snorkeling. The reef

just offshore in front of the Club was beautiful, a fine example of things to come. Joe's people weren't the first group I had ever serviced but certainly were among the pioneers.

After snorkeling, followed by dinner, they got their gear ready for the morning dive and listened to my instructions, which I called the "reading of the articles," an expression left over from my sailing days. Nowadays, we call it "the orientation."

That evening after Joe's divers went to bed, my anger and frustration at the new owner's perversion of my family resort came to a head and we fought. I saw the Flamingo Beach Club as a family resort, a place for guests to experience the beautiful Caribbean sea. Alberto had a stable of girls and another use for the tourist cabins. I knew that Joe's group would be my last at the Flamingo.



The traditional yellow road marker tells you you're there.

The next morning, although my body showed signs of the tussle with Alberto the previous evening, none of the group mentioned my appearance. I got the ton and a half old blue Dodge loaded with gear, after dive treats, a case of beer, and rolled out of driveway, heading north for the undersea surprises of Karpata. Although the journey itself was not a long one, being able to introduce Joe's group to Karpata had required some time and a lot of work. The government road crew had built stairs down to a small secluded beach. I marveled at the beach which was covered not with sand but with small mocha colored stones, none larger than palm of my hand.

The bases of huge staghorn corals grew tight against the shore line, making it almost impossible to gain entrance to the sea beyond. My first entrance had

left me bleeding. Remember, in those days there was no rubber to cushion being swept up against the corals that abraded like a rasp.

My next dive from that small beach I used my coral tamers, a heavy solid iron bar and a small short handled 8 oz. sledge hammer and set about making an entrance. When cutting channels I never wore gear, just mask and snorkel with sneakers on my feet and heavy work gloves.

I always felt there was an art to the cutting of a new channel. In my mind it wasn't just a trench, but the doorway to a church. It had to follow the natural curve of the corals, be deep enough to admit a prone body even at low tide and wide enough not to beat a diver against the walls when a surge was running. It was an art and I thought myself rather good at this type of sculpting.

Until the storm of July 21st 1975, I felt the Karpata dive site was the best. As with all of my diving tours, I had established a routine swim pattern. I would always be the first one through the channel, moving out to the first mooring which was a submerged floating Clorox bottle suspended just at the mouth of a vast vertical canyon that plunged down into the deep.

I would wait and start counting divers as they came through the pass. Some times I would have a diver hung up in the channel with some gear tangled in the corals and have to swim back into the channel to untangle them, then worry myself out by swimming backwards.

My pattern was to dive down the first of the gorges which started at the second mooring bottle at 60 feet. I would then turn left and swim across the next three gorges and continue to incline downward until I hit the one hundred and twenty feet level-off, ending at the mouth of the Karpata Cave. I would peek in but not enter. This was the fourth gorge.



The anchor at Karpata. "The World's Biggest Anchor"

I would swim up the gorge to 35 feet then turn left and beyond would be Jules Verne's bathysphere. Fifty feet further was the world's biggest anchor with its chain sliding off into the deep. From there I would head back to the channel mooring, fool around, burn off some air and then swim back in.

Joe's group and I christened the dive site called Karpata and had the fantastic week of diving that I had promised them.

On my last day at the Flamingo, Joe inscribed his book to me as he and his group departed for home: "For Don Stewart. A truly civilized citizen of the underwater world.

Best Personal regards. Joe Strykowski. May 1972"

My karma then took me to the beach of the island's largest hotel, actually the only other one on island, which had been dormant for just over a year. It was to be a brand new future for both of us. On June 1, 1972, the Caribbean saw the birth of a new and exciting venture of undersea tourism.

Aquaventure, my new diving company, was the pioneer of many new and wonderful things to influence the world.

As for Joe's book, it became our bible.

□ / don



Captain Don



**BONAIRE
SKY
PARK***

***to find it, just look up**



Saturn's rings showing the Cassini Division (see story).

Saturn Takes Center Stage Among Winter's Hexagon Of Bright Stars

Right now the ringed planet **Saturn** is about as good as it gets because it's extremely close to **Earth** and thus much brighter and bigger to both the naked eye and through small telescopes. And it's visible almost all night long. Plus it is nestled within the great hexagon that is formed by some of winter's brightest stars. During this week and next, about 7 pm, face southeast, where just above the horizon you'll see the brightest star visible from Earth, **Sirius**, which is the eye star of **Canis Major**, **Orion's** bigger dog. Directly above him you'll see the seven stars which make up his owner Orion the mighty hunter. Two bright stars mark his shoulders and two bright stars his knees and three not quite as bright, equally spaced stars in a row mark his belt, which you can use to find two other bright stars. First if you're not positive that you've located Sirius then shoot an arrow down through Orion's three belt stars and it will land smack dab on Sirius.

Conversely if you shoot an arrow through his belt in the other direction it will pass very close to **Aldebaran** the fierce red eye star of **Taurus the Bull**, which is one of the six bright stars that make up winter's hexagon. To form the first part of our hexagon draw a line from Sirius to Orion's bright knee star **rigel** then up to Aldebaran and then hang a left and continue that line to **Capella** the brightest star of **Auriga the Charioteer**. Hang another left and go down to **Pollux** the brighter of the two brightest stars of **Gemini the Twins**, the other of which is **Castor**. Then drop your imaginary line down to the next nearest brightest star **Procyon**, which marks the eye of Orion's smaller dog **Canis Minor**. And finally draw a line from **Procyon** over to **Sirius**, and you have connected the six bright stars that mark the points of the Winter Hexagon.

Now after you've done that you may notice that there's another very bright light in the hexagon this year that isn't usually there. In fact, only **Sirius** is brighter. It's located just below **Pollux** and is beautiful, brilliant **Saturn** almost at its best. And please if you've got a small telescope or a friend who has one make sure you look at Saturn now while it's still very close because it will absolutely stun you. You'll actually be able to see the dark gap between its two major rings called the **Cassini division** named after the 17th century astronomer who first discovered it. And if the name sounds familiar it's because our **Cassini** spacecraft is exploring Saturn and its moons right now. For even more fun watch Saturn and the Winter Hexagon as they slowly climb the heavens hour after hour because there are more bright objects in this part of the heavens than any place else in the entire sky. Around 10:30 p.m. your local time Saturn will reach its very highest and in some places will appear almost overhead. So there you have it six super bright stars making a great hexagon in winter's skies and a super bright visitor nestled among them. □ *Jack Horkhimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:

January 28 to February 4, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Matters pertaining to work must be completed before you leave. It might be best not to spend your money on luxuries this week. You will be uncertain of your feelings. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Try to be precise in your communications. You may have major blowups with someone you love if you don't back down. Losses could occur if you haven't been careful when dealing with joint financial ventures. Get involved in worthwhile endeavors and meet new friends. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Do your chores and get on with the things you enjoy doing. Dazzle them with your intellectual conversation. You can expand your circle of friends if you get out and socialize. Career changes may not be your choice right now, but in the long run they will be to your advantage. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Talk to the party involved and make sure that they are informed as to what actually happened. Your tendency to dramatize may be a little much for your partner to take constantly. Make arrangements to spend quality time together. Instant romance could be yours if you go out with friends. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Do things for them but don't allow them to make unreasonable requests. Don't let coworkers get wind of your ideas or they might try to take credit for your hard work. You will be entertained and intrigued by the logic foreigners possess. You will have a problem dealing with groups. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. You can make moves, but they won't be settling. Your time, not your cash, will do a lot more for your relationship. Put your plans into motion by presenting your intentions to those who should be able to give you financial support. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Make changes to your home that will be pleasing to everyone involved. Be careful not to exaggerate when interacting with your lover. You can expect opposition at work. Don't let your competition be privy to information that could be in criminating. Changes will not be easy for the youngsters involved. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Older family members may try to make demands that are impossible for you to handle. Opportunities to expand your circle of friends will result in possible new romantic encounters. Emotional upset at work will set you back. Your partner's a little jumpy. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't let emotional upset force you into the poorhouse. Your self confidence will attract members of the opposite sex. Don't be afraid to confront situations concerning loved ones in order to solve any problems that may exist. You may find your self a bit frazzled if you allow someone to goad you into an unsavory debate. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can make financial gains through your unique and creative approach to business. Social get-together will bring you in contact with intelligent new friends. You need to enjoy the company of those who enjoy the same pastimes. You can make money if you concentrate on producing services that will make domestic chores easier. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Be prepared to take care of the issues at hand. You may have difficulties with someone who lives with you. Attend to things that you should have done yesterday. Uncertain changes regarding your personal life are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Dig deep to find out how costly a new venture will be before you sign on the dotted line. You may find yourself mixed up in a triangle of sorts. Talk to others about your plans. Your lover may be annoyed if you have been flirtatious or not attentive to their needs. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □