

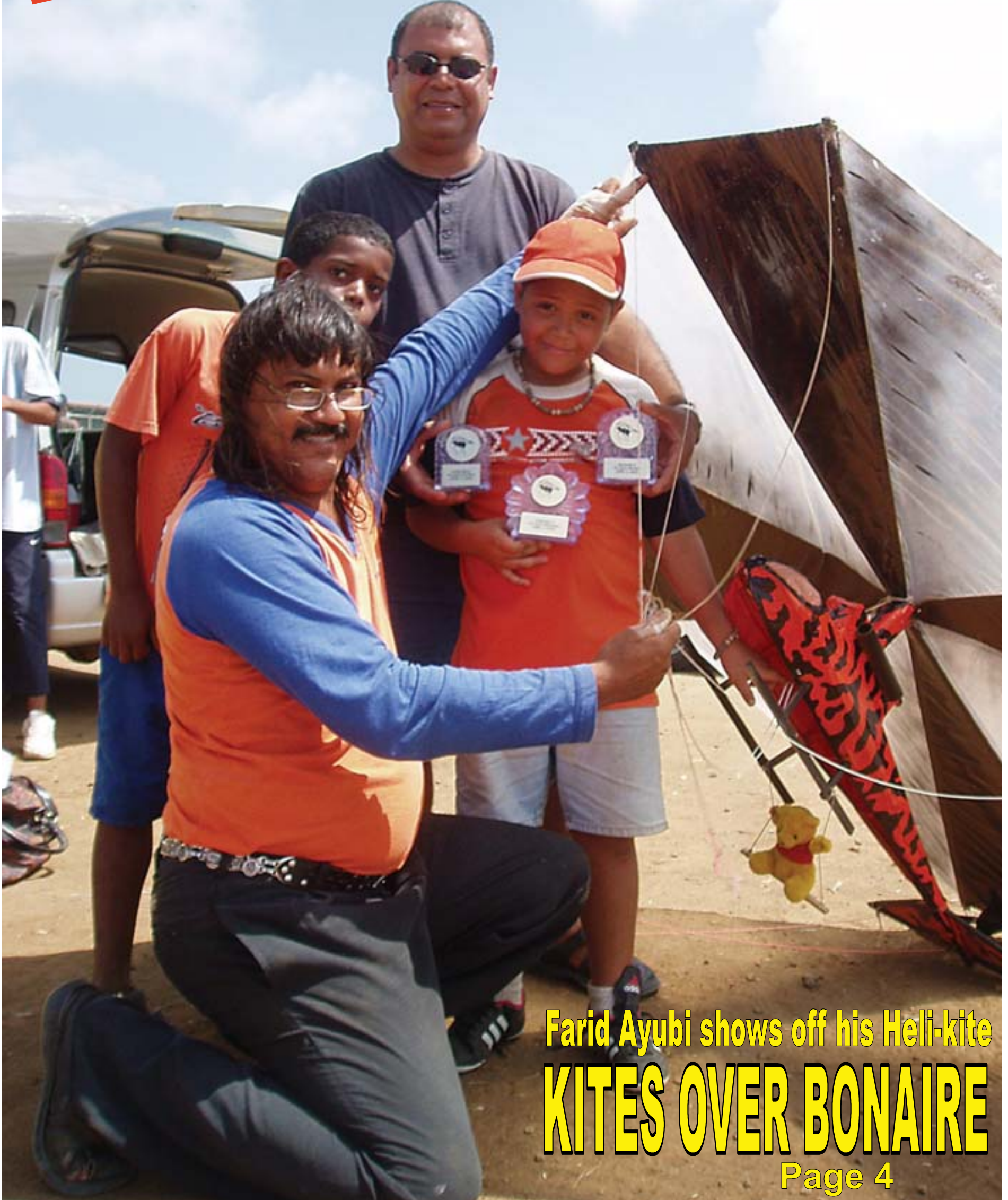
**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

April 8 to April 15, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 14

The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Farid Ayubi shows off his Heli-kite
KITES OVER BONAIRE

Page 4

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

As reported in a *Bonaire Reporter* on-line alert **The Court of Justice in Curaçao lifted the lien that the Dutch company, AirExel, placed on Bonaire's Dutch Antilles Express (DAE), now flying between the islands as BonairExpress.** The judge did not rule on the lawfulness of the lien but lifted it because he considered the potential economic damage for the Antilles too great. Allowing the lien to remain would have left the islands without large scale air connections.

AirExel can still place a lien on DAE if it can post a bond of about NAf7 million to compensate for possible losses if the grounds for the lien are found to be unlawful. It's unlikely that AirExel can come up with this amount as it is tied up with bankruptcies in Europe.

DAE is a successor to Dutch Eagle Express (DEE) which was the parent company of BonairExel. DAE "officially" took over from DEE on April 1. DAE's lawyer, Rob Blaauw, described DAE as a completely new company, with different shareholders. The Bonaire Government was shareholder of DEE. However, Bonaire resident, Niek Sandmann's BHM company, local individuals and KLM are shareholders of DAE.

► According to public documents on file **BHM (Bonaire Holdings Maatschappij NV) transferred the shares of DEE to the private company Bon Air Investment and Participation Company,** having Niek Sandmann, Martine van der Valk, Larry

Gerharts, Norman Evertsz, Antonio Diaz da Silva, and William Felix as shareholders. Transfer Director is Henk Schrijver. The value of the 200 recorded shares is listed as NAf206.237,08.

Supposedly the Bonaire government never actually invested a cent in DEE but was the holder of record as required by Central Government officials in Curaçao. BonairExel was renamed BonairExpress in order to distance itself further from AirExel. Sandmann and associates continue to reform BonairExel into a regional airline in cooperation with KLM as their goal. A senior KLM executive recently was named to replace Fokker van der Veen (also a KLMer) as the Chief Operating officer of BonairExpress.

► Some people thought **BonairExpress was headed for a shutdown.** Early last week its schedule was crippled when one of its three aircraft had to go abroad for an extensive scheduled airframe check while another ATR aircraft was also grounded for maintenance at the same time. At the end of the week normal schedules resumed.

► **The European Commission has allocated EUR 20 million to fight poverty in the Netherlands Antilles.** Most of the money will be spent on projects in poor districts located across the five islands, Radio Netherlands reported. The Antilles receives poverty-eradication funding from the EC every

(Continued on page 3)

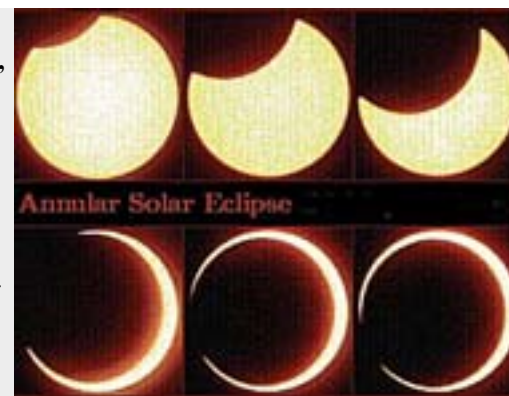
ANNULAR ECLIPSE VISIBLE NEAR SUNSET ON FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH

The sky won't grow dark. Birds won't stop singing. And the corona won't make an appearance. During a partial eclipse of the sun, the moon covers only part of the solar disk, taking a curved "bite" out of our star. The sun remains glaring bright. If you don't know it's happening, you might not even notice. But there is something to see: the shadows.

Look under a tree. You'll notice the sunlight that's beaming through gaps in the leaves make crescent or ring-shaped spots on the ground. Look around the walls of your home or office. You might see crescents and rings projected by slits in the window shades.

Only in the middle of the South Pacific will a small number of people on cruise ships view a total eclipse. Unfortunately, the narrow path of totality does not touch land.

An almost-total eclipse can be seen from Bonaire. Here the eclipse is



"annular." The moon is perfectly aligned with the sun but does not completely cover it. A little bit of the sun pokes out all around, producing a "ring of fire." This fire ring effect will last for less than one minute, so look sharply.

Eclipse sunsets are pretty, but be careful. Even when the sun is hanging low and dimmed by clouds, it is still dangerous to look at. A brief glimpse through a telescope or binoculars can blind you. Try projecting an image of the sun instead or use exposed negatives or eclipse-watching glasses. □

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) five years. **Supposedly, an unspent 20 million euros from the past 15 years is earmarked for a sewage system on Bonaire.** The Antilles and Aruba will also receive 3 million euros to fight HIV-AIDS and for AIDS prevention.

► In last September's referendum Bonaire opted for direct relations with the Netherlands. Finally, some possibly **meaningful steps are being taken to make that happen.** The Bonaire Executive Council has hired Professor Peter Boersma, a Dutch expert in the field of political relations, to coordinate the process. Direct relations with the Netherlands will touch many parts of daily life and may involve changes to the courts, finances, social programs, public health, laws and the economy.

A committee that includes ex-Lt. Governor Richard Hart, MCB Bank Manager Miguel Pourier and former Antilles Governor Jaime Saleh, will assist him.



► Last Tuesday between 8 pm and midnight the police force's Zero Tolerance team focused on violations by bicycle riders and scooter drivers. **During the action 32 violators were cited: bicycles for lack of a bell, lights or brakes, scooters for lack of proper paperwork.** A total of 19 bikes and four scooters were confiscated and impounded until their owners satisfied legal requirements

► **Dutch Royal Highnesses Prince Friso and Princess Mabel welcomed the birth of a baby girl in London** on Saturday, March 26, at 7:17 pm. The baby weighed 3,085 grams at birth and is Queen Beatrix's fourth grandchild. Her name is Countess Luana, short for Emma Luana Ninette Sophie. Prince Friso announced that he and Princess Mabel were very happy and that both mother and child were doing fine. Prince Johan Friso married human rights activist, Mabel Wisse Smit, on April 25, 2004, without the approval of the Dutch government, giving up his claim to the throne for love.

► **Alexander Pechtold, proposed new Minister of Governmental Renewal and Kingdom Relations, was received by Dutch Prime Minister Jan Balkenende last Wednesday,** says the government information service RVD. Pechtold, who succeeds party colleague Thom Graaf following his recent resignation, is currently mayor of the city of Wageningen.



Alexander Pechtold

► **Local fuel prices are expected to increase dramatically** in the next quarter based on increased world oil prices. Curoil has calculated an increase of at least 36 cents per liter. This would bring the prices of unleaded and leaded gas to close to NAf2 per liter (About \$4.50/gallon).

► At the March 17th meeting of the NGO Platform various business topics relating to the activities of the umbrella grant-giving organization were discussed. In addition **new officers were named.**

The new **Daily Board** is made up of:
James Finies, President
Elsmarie Beukenboom, Secretary
Alan Gross, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Julita Winklaar, Culture Sector
Tanneke Bartels, Environmental
Gilbert van Arnevan, Youth and Family Sector
Godfried Clarenda, Care and Welfare

Jona Chirino (beginning August 2005), Community Development
Anthony Cecilia, Social and Economic Development

Ruthmila St. Jago, Education and Training Sector

When James Finies took over the presidency the Sports Sector position became vacant.

► **The road to the Andrea 1 dive site has been reopened.** At the end of it divers will find a smooth paved concrete ramp right down to the beach. Shore dives were never so easy. Who do we thank?

► **Remember to set aside these dates for the HARBOUR-TOWN BONAIRE JAZZ FESTIVAL -May 20-21-22, 2005.**



LATIN AND CARIBBEAN JAZZ are on tap, Featured artists include: Denise Jannah, Ced Ride, Avila Blues House band, Cuban Express, X-Hale, Bernabela Bislip Project, Freewinds Band with guests, Stacey Francis, Latin Quarter, Bonaire Jazz Trio, Stingway and many others.

► **Getting to Bonaire is easier than ever** now that American Eagle, the regional affiliate of American Airlines, has announced that it has added more flights from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Bonaire. In April American Eagle will operate **daily flights to Bonaire.** Then beginning on May 1, 2005, and going through September 6, 2005, the airline will operate five round-trip flights per week. For more information call 1-800-433-7300 or visit <http://www.aa.com>.

Another option for getting to Bonaire is Air Jamaica which continues to offer jet service four days per week from its US gateway cities via Montego Bay, Jamaica. Air Jamaica's US gateway cities with connecting flights to Bonaire include Atlanta, Baltimore-Washington (BWI), Boston, Chicago, Ft. Lauderdale, Los Angeles, New York-JFK, Newark, and Philadelphia. The flights to Bonaire operate on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. For more information call 1-800-523-5585

or visit <http://www.airjamaica.com>.

► **Rincon's venerable Kas di Krioyo, which has been restored, is now open every day from 9 to 4.** Rincon is the oldest and most historic village on Bonaire. Come and see and hear how life was lived in earlier times. Kas di Krioyo is located just around the corner from the Rose Inn in Rincon.

► Have you visited **Pedisa, the wellness and beauty mini-spa** across from the post office yet? Run by experienced Peter Benekendorff and his wife Maria Isabel, they use proven methods of massage and treatments combining energy healing, Reiki and reflexology - all at lower-than-usual prices. Peter has cured scoliosis patients successfully, and Maria Isabel is an expert on nearly every kind of skin facial treatment. Stop in and see them or call them at 717-4111.

► **A reminder that classes in Healing Touch are coming up in early May.** Healing Touch is an energy healing technique that is so effective that it is endorsed by conventional medical personnel in the US and several European countries. See the Healing Touch poster on this page for more details and registration.

► **This week's very pretty Benetton model from Jong Bonaire is Genesis Sint Jago.** The Benetton ad is on page 10.



Gielmon "Funchi" Egbreghts of the STCB with the Leatherback

► Mabel Nava, Project Director for Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), wrote Sunday: **"A 200 kg. (440 lbs.) Leatherback sea turtle was found dead on Baby Beach,** just south of the Seahatch facility at Sorobon. Leatherbacks are the largest of all sea turtles and their appearance on Bonaire is relatively rare although two leatherbacks probably made nesting attempts last year in Washington Park. It's possible that the turtle was planning to lay eggs on the beach. The cause of death could not be determined since the carcass was in an advanced state of decomposition.

The leatherback, *Dermodochelys coriacea*, which can weigh up to 500 kg (1,100 pounds), is more common in other areas of the Caribbean. It has a softer shell than other sea turtles and feeds on jellyfish. For additional information call STCB at (599) 717-2225 or 790-0433. email stcb@bonaireturtles.org, website www.bonaireturtles.org. □ L./G.D.





Gordo

The 27th Annual Kontèst di Fli

Flamingo Bookstore, reports that there were 165 entries. Prizes were for smallest, biggest, most original, strangest and most beautiful. The top winner overall was Jurivino Jansen from Curaçao.

The *Kontèst di Fli* is one of Bonaire's most exciting and fun events, and it's for all ages. It starts at 10 in the morning and goes until all the kites have been flown. There's music, drinks, food and great camaraderie with families and friends setting up picnic sites for the day to compete and to view the spectacle. Serious judges worked hard and long throughout the day, measuring, conferring, and handling contestants' protests. Many thanks to them and to the generous sponsors; SA-BADECO, NGO Platform, WEB N.V., MCB Bonaire and the Government of Bonaire. □

L.D.

What is it about a kite soaring into the sky that fascinates us? Just ask the competitors in last Sunday's 27th annual *Kontèst di Fli* (kite contest). This year's competition was even more spectacular than other year's due to the high winds. Contestants came from Curaçao as well as Bonaire, and the kites were unbelievable. There were "birds," "helicopters," a five-tiered one, a tiny one the size of a hummingbird. At the other end of the spectrum there was a more-than-20 foot kite with ribs and spine made from a tree trunk and branches. It even got off the ground, after being pulled by 15 to 20 strong men. Contestants' kites had to fly for at least two minutes to qualify for a prize. Some kites couldn't take the strong winds and crashed to the ground, a sad tangle of paper and wood.

Originator and organizer of the event for the last 27 years, Iris Semeleer of



Kite judges take measurements



Bonaire From a Different Perspective



Recently, photographer Gert van Zanten (right) opened his exhibitions of "Bonographs" at Le Flamboyant restaurant. Joining in at the celebration were: SEK head Hubert Vis, photo artist Fer de Wit, George Curiel, Commissioner Jonchi Dortalina and artist Addie Figeroa. If you want to see familiar Bonaire sights in a new, different and inspiring way visit the exhibition. The exhibition will continue until April 22. □ *L.D.*



↑ *Flying Gordo the Kite*

→ *Crashed Dreams*

Bonaire Ambassadors

Bernhard Vriesman has been visiting Bonaire for 16 years. Since his first visit in 1989 he makes Bonaire "The Island" to visit each year. He said that Bonaire has the most beautiful underwater life and landscapes. He did his dive course here and obtained his PADI open water certificate. Congratulations to Bernhard Vriesman, a true Bonaire Ambassador! □ Ambassador stories and photos by Joanny Trinidad.



OPINION

Facilities and boats moored along Bonaire's waterfront are being damaged by the wakes from boats and ships passing too close and at too high speeds. Last week we witnessed the Antillean Coast Guard cutter speeding along the front of the southern hotel row. It was NOT in pursuit of an offender but merely heading for a spot off Karel's Beach Bar. Its wake drenched a few diners at Divi Fla-



mingo's Chibi Chibi Restaurant, smashed a dive boat, caused sediment to be washed into the sea and perhaps other damage that wasn't visible.

Come on, guys, you're supposed to be setting an example for mariners. □

G.D.

Bonaire Ambassador Program makes a surprise appearance at the DEMA Dive Industry Leadership Conference

One Bonaire Ambassador proves how valuable a loyalty program can be

At the DEMA Second Annual Dive Industry Leadership Conference on March 9, which was sponsored by Bonaire, Bud Uren of US Scuba surprised conference attendees by holding up his Bonaire Ambassador medal and describing the program as one of the best loyalty rewards programs he has ever seen.

He then told the story of a customer who had booked two dive trips to the Pacific with him last year but had decided to skip

"...a customer decided to skip the Caribbean trip until she learned that it was to Bonaire. It seems this would be her 15th trip and she didn't want to miss the opportunity to get her Ambassador medal, so she changed her mind and booked the Caribbean trip."

the Caribbean trip until she learned that it was to Bonaire. It seems this would be her 15th trip and she didn't want to miss the opportunity to get her Ambassador medal, so she changed her mind and booked the Caribbean trip. This impromptu endorsement and recognition for Bonaire and its Ambassador Program was just one element that made Bonaire stand out at this event. Bud's presentation followed that of Jack Chalk, who spoke on behalf of the

Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association and gave an information-filled talk about what Bonaire does to assist the retailer selling travel.

Recognizing visitors from around the world that have been coming to Bonaire year after year, the Tourism Corporation Bonaire's Bonaire Ambassador Program lets the island's repeat visitors know how special they are by presenting them with medals and making them the island's unofficial ambassadors. Repeat visitors receive med-

als based on the number of consecutive years they have been visiting the island: a Bronze Medal for 10 to 15 years of visiting Bonaire, a Silver Medal for 16 to 20 years and a Gold Medal for 21+ consecutive years. For more information on the Bonaire Ambassador Program and for a listing of all Bonaire Ambassadors visit <http://www.infobonaire.com/tcb/ambassador/>. (See story about Bud and US Scuba at Divi Flamingo on page 8.)

Amboina Dolphins on Stage



Cast of the Amboina Dolphins variety show at Jong Bonaire

Surely no one would dispute that Bonaire's greatest treasure is her youth, and the island could be proud last weekend. The members of the Amboina Dolphins football (soccer) team put on a variety show at Jong Bonaire to raise funds for the team which hopes to travel to Curaçao to compete in October. There was a big turnout of families, siblings and friends in the audience, all enjoying the singing, dancing and humor. Some talented girls joined the boys on stage.

The boys, ages six to 10, are led by Coach Ricardo Alberto, and since being "incorporated" as the Amboina Dolphins, the number of team members is now up to 60 kids, with members from other barios as well as Amboina. "I want all the boys to be welcome to join, not just those from Amboina," says the coach.

Sponsors of the team can't say enough about Ricardo and his devotion to the boys. "When you see something being handled well in the community," explains one of the sponsors, "we should all get behind it. And we think Ricardo is doing a wonderful job!"

A number of adults have volunteered to help with the kids. They must have caught the enthusiasm of Ricardo who says, "Working with the team gives me energy!"

To raise funds, they're selling bumper stickers (see below) for NA/5. Contact Ricardo at 717-5330, ext. 241 or 785-3449. □L.D.



*The team's new logo bumper sticker
Put one on your car!*

MCB Inter Island Tennis Tournament Results



Extraphoto

The third edition of the annual MCB Inter-Island Tennis Tournament finished last week at the Harbour Village Tennis Center. Close to 90 participants from Aruba, Curaçao, US, Germany, The Netherlands, Venezuela and Bonaire competed in three classes (A,B,C) and five categories (Men singles, Men Doubles, Ladies Singles, Ladies Doubles, and Mixed Doubles). The tournament was sponsored by MCB-Bonaire, with co-sponsors Littman's Jewelers, Heineken, Budget Car Rental and Tennis School Sport Bonaire.

For five days the players competed from 0800-2300 in a round robin format, with pool winners continuing into an elimination schedule with a blind draw. Lots of spectators showed up and cheered for their friends and family. With daily Heineken Happy Hours, a players' BBQ and a party night at Vespucci restaurant, tournament Director Elisabeth Vos created one big party for everybody.

During the award ceremony two new sponsors signed up, the Angelo Clarendra's Bonaireaanse Bouw Combinatie (BBC) and Larry Gerharts' Bonaire Air Services (BAS) so next year's Easter tournament will be even bigger. (Thursday April 13th through Monday, April 17th)

All prize winners received a MCB trophy and a prize from a sponsor. □Elisabeth Vos

Final results

Men Single A

Kenneth Ponson – Guido Wever
6-1;6-2

Men Doubles A

Kenneth Ponson/Frank Hodgson- Tonnie Soliana/Gino Domacasse
6-3;6-5 Tiebreak (9-7)

Men Single B

Andres Kock – Bryan Provenzano
6-5;6-3

Men Doubles B

Andres Kock/Emile Domacasse – Leo & Leonard Domacasse
3-6;6-5;Tiebreak (7-4)

Ladies Doubles B

Donna Shea / Prahphan Wildin -Marijke Maas / Thammy Albertsz
4-6;6-4;Tiebreak (7-4)

Mixed Doubles B

Prahphan Wildin/Elvis Tjin – Theo en Marijke Maas

Men Single C

Burney Elhage- Ibi de Palm
3-6;6-5;Tiebreak (7-3)

Ladies Single C

Rosalie Bierings – Justine Gonggrijp
6-0;6-4

Men Doubles C

Roy Celestijn/Carlos van Wilgen – Willy Domacasse/Reggie Belgrave
6-4;6-3

Ladies Doubles C

Dell Squire /Lupita St.Jago- Margot Croes / Lupita Gil-
6-1;6-4

Mixed Doubles C

Renate & Willy Domacasse- Dell Squire / Reggie Belgrave
Walk-over



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

Snip and save so you can always find a copy of The Bonaire Reporter if there are no more at your favorite spot



Airport:

Car Rental Agencies,
Airport Arrivals Area

Banks:

MCB (Playa & Hato
branches),
RBTT

Bookstores:

Bonaire Boekhandel,
Flamingo Boekhandel

Realty Offices:

Harbourtown
Re/Max
Sunbelt

Restaurants:

Bistro de Paris
Brasserie Bonaire
Capriccio
Chez Lucille
City Cafe
Croccantino
Wil's Tropical Grill
Garden Café
Kentucky Fried Chicken

Lost Penguin
Lover's Ice Cream
Pasa Bon Pizza
Seahorse Cyber Café
Subway

Shops:

Bonaire Gift Shop
City Shop
DeFreewieler
Inpo
Paradise Photo
Photo Tours, Playa
Exito Bakery
Bonaire Super Store (old
7-7)

Hotels:

Buddy Dive
Capt. Don's Habitat
Carib Inn
Caribbean Club Bonaire
Dive Inn
Divi Flamingo
Eden Park Hotel
Harbour Village
Plaza
Sand Dollar

Supermarkets:

Cultimara

Consales

More for Less
Progresso
Sand Dollar Grocery
Tropical Flamingo
Warehouse

Others:

Bonfysio
Botika Korona
Bestuurscollege
Caribbean Laundry
Customs
Fit 4 Life
Hair Affair
Harbour Village Marina
Parliament
Rocargo
San Francisco Hospital
TCB
Telbo

RINCON:

Chinese Store,
Joi Fruit Store,
Lemari Grocery,
Rincon Bakery.

*Still can't find a copy? Visit our office at
Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6 or Call 717-8988*

Padrino Fashion Show Special Olympics Bonaire

Get your tickets now for the **Padrino Haute Couture Fashion Show** at Croccantino Restaurant Saturday, April 16. **All to benefit Special Olympics Bonaire (SOB).**

The theme this year is "Broadway of the 50s," with Monica Millar Curaçao singing star .

Your contribution of NAf125 includes the show and a multi-course Tuscan dinner prepared by Chef David and wine. Limited number of tickets left. Call Croccantino Restaurant, 717-5025. □L.D.



Photos from 2004 show



**Don't miss Fashion Event of the Year!
Get Your Tickets Now
Padrino Haute Couture Fashion Show
Croccantino 717-5025**

US Scuba and Divi Flamingo Bonaire

– a 25 year-long relationship



Some of the US Scuba travelers at the dedication of the plaque

It all started here, at a table upstairs in the Chibi Chibi Restaurant at the Divi Flamingo, 25 years ago. College professor Heather Sellick and policeman Bud Uren were having dinner after some fine diving in Bonaire. Bud had been running scuba diving trips for other companies and managing their shops. “I was enjoying being just a ‘scuba bum,’” Bud says. “But,” Heather adds, “he was doing all the work any-

way, so I said, ‘Why don’t you just start your own company?’ That was in December, 1983, and by July 1984 US Scuba opened up in Rochester, Michigan. (The US doesn’t stand for the nation; the U is from Uren; the S from Sellick.)

The couple, apparently happy in business together, got married two years later. Today US Scuba is housed in an over-8,000-square-foot building, pro-

viding retail sales, a full service travel agency and an in-store pool set up for scuba training.

But one of the most important parts of the equation is Bonaire. Heather and Bud, who holds a Bonaire Ambassador Gold Medal (25 consecutive years of visiting the island), enthuse, “Bonaire is our very favorite location in the Car-

ibbean. We come here twice a year, no matter what, and it’s always to Divi Flamingo. Bonaire is safe, friendly, clean, and the people are just wonderful. The diving is just superb. Other places may be lovely but it’s the staff that makes this resort; that’s why we always come here!”

This time they were accompanied by a very amiable and friendly group of 37



At the Chibi Chibi Restaurant at Divi Flamingo, US Scuba and Travel Center’s Bud Uren and Heather Sellick with the plaque where the company was “born” in 1983.

divers. “Sixty per cent of our travelers are repeat guests,” Bud says. “And that includes families. We have groups going out every three to four weeks, and we always like to start with Bonaire for the new dive groups. You know it will always be a success!”

For more information on US Travel/Scuba log on to www.uscuba.com. □

L.D.

Easter Windsurf Competition



Arthuro (Payo) Soliano, Kiri Thode, Jaeger Sint Jago and Taty Frans

There was a tremendous windsurf competition at Sorobon last Sunday. This event was organized by Taty Frans, our professional windsurfer who has excelled in different parts of the world.

The idea to organize this event in the first place was because it's very windy these days. And seeing how many children are interested and practice this sport and how well they've developed in the last three years in the 'freestyle' and 'formula' discipline, this event was organized. It was also a 'warm up' for the big event, "King of the Caribbean,"

which will take place during the week of May 15 to 22 in Bonaire. The 'Juniors' are very motivated to train to compete for the world title. This year will be the first world championship for the 'Junior' class of freestyle during the "King of the Caribbean."

There were more than 20 participants, mostly from the junior class. There were also many eyewitnesses present to see the great moves that our youngsters can do.

The event was a total success. □ story and photo by *Daisy de Jongh*

New Teen Divers



STCB Photo

Mabel Nava, Project Director STCB; Joeri Lieuw, Rafael Rodriguez; Michael Trinidad; Bilha Thomas, Manager of Jong Bonaire.

Recently, three teen members of Jong Bonaire finished their open water dive course at Capt. Don's Habitat with Jenny as the instructor. The course, including the books, was donated by Toucan Diving and Divi Flamingo Dive Center, and the course itself was given by Capt. Don's Habitat. That is the beauty of working together for the common good! The course was organized by Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).

These kids will start diving with the Jong Bonaire program, which is sponsored by Wannadive, every Wednesday afternoon. We'd like to invite all the certified kids from the island to become members of Jong Bonaire and join the club. □ Mabel Nava

Results

Formula Junior:

1. Jaeger Sint Jago
2. Arthuro "Payo" Soliano
3. Demenson "Kiri" Thode
4. Whitney Rudolf

Freestyle Junior:

1. Jaeger Sint Jago

2. Arthuro "Payo" Soliano
3. Bjorn Saragosa
4. Terrence Bernabela

Freestyle Men:

1. Demenson "Kiri" Thode
2. Elton "Taty" Frans
3. Evertson "Choko" Frans
4. Ruben Petrisie

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
4-08	0:30	1.6FT.	94
4-09	1:12	1.7FT.	95
4-10	1:57	1.8FT.	93
4-11	2:47	1.8FT.	87
4-12	3:41	1.9FT.	79
4-13	4:30	1.9FT.	68
4-14	5:26	1.9FT.	57
4-15	6:10	1.8FT.	46

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angelos	Grand Torcho	Safari
Antigone	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Samba
Alina	Honalee, USA	Santa Maria
Barbara Ann	It's Good	Sandpiper, USA
Besame	Jan Gerardus	Sharki
Bettina	Kaviler	Sirius
Bright Sea	La Cucaracha	Sylvia K
Camissa, Chan Is.	Lava	Take It Easy
Cape Kathryn	L'Quila, BVI	Theta
Catalyst	Luna C. USA	Ti Amo, USA
Clemencia	La Escotilla, Caymans	Tish
Dawn Piper	Maebelle	Ulu Ulu, USA
Doodah	Make My Day	Ulysses
Dragonera	Maki, France	Unicorn, Norway
Felicity	Natural Selection	Varedhuni, Germany
Flying Cloud, USA	Pisces	Ya-T, BVI
Gabrielle	Rusty Bucket	Yanti Paratzi
Galandriel	Sabbatical	Zahi, Malta

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

HEDGES FOR EVERYBODY

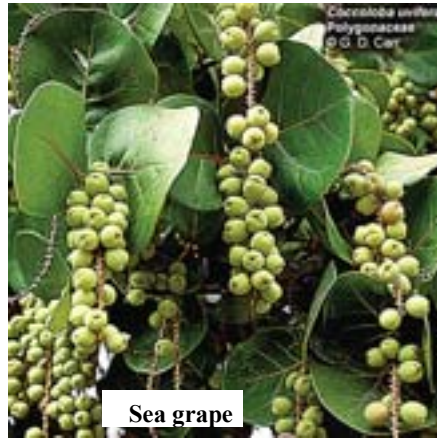
So, how do you like this windy season? Apart from all the nice colorful kites in the air and the great windsurfing, this sure is the time that plants get beaten up. After such a long period of rain and, up until recently, not too much wind, now is the time to be very concerned about the plants in your garden getting enough water. Also this is the period when a lot of trees go into their "dormant" period. Trees like the **Erythrina**, **Flamboyant** and the **Karawara** are losing a lot of their leaves. This is normal, not a sign of drought!

We just received a big container full of new plants and some of those trees also look like they're dormant, but don't worry, with a little bit of water they'll come back in no time!

In my last article I started writing about hedges in Bonaire. Also, plants like the **Ficus benjamina**, many planted as hedges, can lose a lot of their leaves during this period. The trick is to keep them trimmed so well that they don't have to waste their strength on new growth but will stay dense enough.

Most people want a fast-growing plant as their hedge, which makes sense. On Bonaire in the earlier days the **Olijffie** was used a lot as a hedge. They're perfectly green and easy to trim, but they seem to have more and more problems with the mealy bugs. They like the full sun and have to be trimmed in a way so they get light on all sides, otherwise they'll look a bit ugly.

Another great, but not so much used, hedge plant is the **Silver Buttonwood** or **Mangel Blanku**, a very salt-tolerant and easy growing silver-leaved shrub. They are the best for salty areas and can stand even sea waves and a lot of wind. The only problem this one has is that it doesn't grow too fast and you have to trim it regularly before it is a hedge. But after it has reached the height you want it is easy. So if you want to plant a hedge of this type, it might be better to start with a little bigger



plant. They also make a great background for more colorful plants in the front.

Another great plant for salty areas is the well known **Sea grape** or **Uva di Playa**. They grow pretty fast too, but like the **Silver Buttonwood**, they have to be taught how to behave like a hedge! But their big green shiny leaves and edible fruits are really great, although some of you might find them very messy!


My favorite for a smaller staying hedge is the **Red Tip Coco Plum**, a very nice evergreen shrub with red leaves on its new growth. They are easy to trim and don't need a lot of attention, no diseases seen so far. The nicest are the hedges up to 1.75 m or 6 feet.

So far, all of those hedge plants are evergreens and don't come with flowers. If you want flowers on your hedge, there are basically three different types: the well-known **Bougainvillea**, **Oleander** and the **Tuturu**.

Bougainvillea and Oleander I've described enough. The Tuturu is also well known, but fewer gardeners know that they are great for hedges too. How to use them and some reminders on the Oleander I will write in my next article! □

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.**



Culinary Team Invites You to Lunch

Get your tickets now for the three-course gourmet lunches prepared by Bonaire's Culinary Team. In order to practice their skills in preparation for going to the Culinary Olympics - "The Taste of the Caribbean" in June in Miami—the Bonaire team will be preparing, for 30 lucky diners, their three-course competition meal on **two Sundays—April 10 and 17**. Lunch will be served at 1 pm at **Le Flamboyant** on Kaya Grandi. Wine is included. There is seating for only 30 so get your tickets early. They're NAf30. Call Sara Matera at **786-9299** or Laura DeSalvo at **717-8988** or **791-7252**. □L.D.

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NEWSPAPER BY ADVERTISING IN
THE BONAIRE REPORTER

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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 **Dr. 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**

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**

WANTED

Owners of Robin RGD-5000 Diesel Generator **LOOKING FOR WORKING ALTERNATOR SECTION.** Our motor is OK. Contact Captain Don and Janet: 786-0956

VEHICLES FOR SALE

92 Suzuki Vitara JLX, License Plate B-6, 85,000 km, Hardtop, trailer hitch, bike rack, & factory service manual.
 In good condition. NAf9,750 Tel **717-8127**

'93 Suzuki Samurai (jeep)- New Seats, New Battery, Good Tires, Well Maintained for **NAf5,500.** Contact: 786-1465

FOR SALE

For Sale: 18 cu ft Fridge NAf500.00; Laser Printer HP 1012 NAf 400.00; Ladies Mountain Bike NAf 400.00; Living Room Set NAf 250.00. **Call 717-8127**

Freezer (vertical, 280 liter) NAf 300;- **Carpet** (Persian type) 195x295 cm NAf 125; **Two single beds+** mattresses NAf 25,- each; **Heavy trafo 1500 Watt**, 127/220 Volt NAf 50,- tel. 717-5068

For sale:-**Stroller** as good as new. From 175Naf for 100Naf -**Sony prof. stereo surround system** VAC5 with warranty (a.g.a.n), 7500 Watt, MP3, mic, c.d., double tape deck etc from 1,100Naf for 700Naf -**Asahi Pentax K2 DMD prof. photo camera set:** Pentax lenses, tripod, motor drive, prof. case, filters remote etc. Absolute bargain: Was 7,500Naf, now 700Naf! Call 717-7977 or e-mail alexander137@telbonet.an

PROPERTY, Sales & rentals

For rent:-fully furnished 1 bedr. apt. with large porch, beautiful yard, washing machine, alarm, TV., tel., airco, very quiet area for NAf900 incl. Please call 717-7977

For Sale: Special Offer: Chalet in Valencia, Venezuela, in private zone. 1,000 sq. meters property, 1,000 sq. meters green zone. Chalet is 215 sq. meters. Built in 1999. Downstairs: living area with open, built-in kitchen, office, guest toilet, laundry. Upstairs: master bedroom with bath, terrace; 2 additional bedrooms, 1 bath. Many trees. Documents in order. **Tel 717-4111**

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-**May 1st until Dec. 15th.**

Happy 30th Birthday Kresh Bon Bini – Rincon



Today's Kresh kids

Thirty years ago in Rincon Susanita Trinidad started the Kresh (nursery school) Bon Bini. This week on April 7, they'll celebrate that anniversary. Today's leaders are Gedulle Anthony, Valeska Trinidad and Lourds Mercera. The kresh has 25 kids, some of the cutest on Bonaire, as you can see from the photo. The ages of the children go from six weeks to four years.

The new board for the kresh is: Julia Pourier, Amlia Finies, Lisandra Mercera, Nelson Anthony and Alvin Trinidad.

Pabien (congratulations) and keep up the good work! □L.D.

Picture Yourself with the Reporter

Going Under the Ice in Switzerland



Giovanni Carletti writes: "I'm in love with Bonaire. I've come several times. This photo is of me just before diving under the ice on a Swiss mountain. This day had a lot of snow, really nice for diving. I would like to kiss my love Jasmin at Pasa Bon Pizza, greetings to all my friends at Photo Tours, Buddy Dive, Sea Horse Café and others. See you all this month." □

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.) □

THE PET PROFESSOR

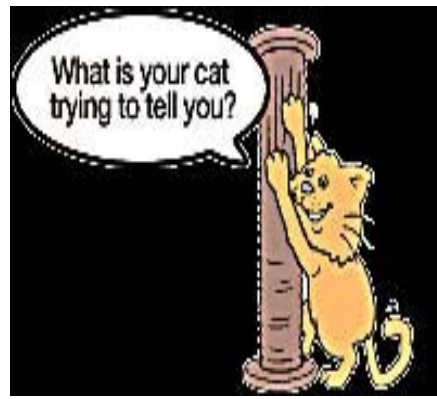
Feline Body Language

Reading a cat's body language is infinitely more complicated than reading a dog's. The key with cats is to always assume the worst and be pleasantly surprised if you were mistaken.

Let's start with the tail. While tail wagging in a dog is usually (but not always) friendly, it is never friendly in a cat. Playful maybe, but not friendly -- remember that playful in a cat is a bit more, well, sinister than it is in a dog. Let's not forget that they play with their food before dispatching it.

There are a few similarities to dogs: a tail raised high is confident and dominant, while a lowered or tucked tail is worried and defensive ("submissive" not being in a cat's vocabulary), and the quivering tip of the tail indicates a predatory state of mind. However, the cat's tail is even more expressive. When he is annoyed it will twitch. If the annoyance continues it will swish more and more violently, followed eventually by biting and scratching. Of course, biting and scratching are fun to a cat, so these same tail motions could be playful...

Let's look at various body positions



and typical behaviors. A cat who is tense and crouching (maybe wiggling his butt the way they do) may be poised to strike. Then again, he may not. A cat who is sprawled on his back, legs in the air, appears relaxed. But it could always be a ploy to lure the unsuspecting near enough to be mauled.

What does a cat mean when he is "making biscuits" on your pillow or your stomach? Not much, this is simply an instinctive behavior from infancy which persists in some adult cats. And rubbing up against you and other objects? Simply marking territory with his scent glands. Why does your cat always groom after you pet him? Well, that's obvious I guess. He feels violated. OK, a raised back with the fur up (Halloween cat) is definitely fearful. Except when it's playful. Or aggressive...Let's move on.

Can the cat's ears give us a clue to his state of mind? Certainly twitching means annoyance. Rotating indicates alertness (the better to pounce on you,

my dear). The most obvious sign, flattened ears, clearly indicates a seriously upset cat. But the cat may be angry or fearful or just plain irritated...

What about his eyes? Yes, I know, they are closed most of the time. But what about that squinting thing? Well, it can mean anything from I love you to I hate you to I'm pretending that you don't exist in my universe. On the other hand, wide eyes can mean anything from fear to playfulness to maniacal alertness to I'm pretending that you don't exist in my universe.

The cat's mouth does very little to help either, and even the wide range of noises which emanate from your cat can be hard to read. Purring is generally associated with contentment, but cats also purr when they are stressed, hurt or afraid. Go figure. Cats will growl when they are feeling aggressive, but also when they are feeling defensive. The same with hissing. And what about yawning? It could mean anything from you bore me senseless to see how many sharp pointed teeth I have. This is getting us nowhere. Cats are, in fact, a mystery. Let's focus on our own behavior instead.

Some tips on how to behave with your cat:

- Do not be stupid enough to think that staring your cat down impresses him or anyone else.

- If your cat pounces on your foot, don't move.
- Hissing at your cat to correct his behavior can be effective. Or not.
- If your cat pounces on your hand, don't move.
- Providing special beds, climbing trees and scratching posts for your cat can be helpful in controlling destructive behavior. Or not.



- If your cat lands on your head, really don't move.

The most important rule: if your cat falls off something, DO NOT LAUGH.

□ Susan Brown

Susan Brown is a professional dog trainer on the island who has been in the "pet business" for 28 years. For all your dog training or pet care needs contact Susan at the Pet Professor, e-mail: bandbfarm@yahoo.com or call 717-2620.

Pet of the Week

This is 'Helen,' one of the sweetest cats at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. She's about two years old and is the mother of little 'Frans,' the black kitten (Pet of the Week) who was photographed in the food dish. Helen, the mom, was left behind when her owners moved. It's very sad because she has such a fine character and anyone should be proud to have her as "their cat." You may meet both Helen and her son Frans at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



Right now at the Shelter there are many cats and kittens that have been brought in for adoption. (Just last week four adults and nine kittens came in). Every cat that is up for adoption is healthy, social and will be sterilized.

If you know someone whose cat has just had kittens let them know that they can get help with their animal's sterilization. They may call the Shelter and talk to Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema. There is a sterilization fund set up that can assist with the finances. Jurrie also wants to mention that those cat owners who didn't have a chance to get their animal neutered during the sterilization program last October can still have the operation done. Call him at 717-4989. If you would like to contribute, it's "**Sterilization Fund**" **MCB Account #1061410 or through**

Support Bonaire, Inc. (website: www.supportbonaire.org).



Good news: There have been **45 adoptions** since **January 1** this year. In 2004 there were 150 adoptions; in 2003, 110 adoptions; in 2002, 90 adoptions. They must be doing something right! □

L.D.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

The Pacifier (Vin Diesel)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

Constantine

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NA\$10,50 (incl. Tax)
High Schoolers - NA\$7,75

NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM
Racing Stripes / Pooh's Heffalump

THIS WEEK

Until April 14—Willie Dijkstra Art Exhibit Cinnamon Art Gallery is at Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind Banco di Caribe.

Until April 22 – Gert van Zanten “Bonographs” – photos of Bonaire. At Le Flamboyant restaurant.

Friday, April 8—A night of poetry, stories and comedy, Jong Bonaire 7:30 pm. More information contact Hubert Vis 717-8868 or email SKAL@bonairelive.com

Sundays, April 10 & 17—Bonaire Culinary Team gourmet lunch with wine. Donation NA\$30. Le Flamboyant Restaurant 1 pm. Tickets: Sara 786-9299; Laura 717-8988 or 791-7252 (page 10)

COMING

Saturday, April 16—Padrino Fashion Show at Croccantino Restaurant—to raise funds for Bonaire's Special Olympics Team. 7:30 pm. NA\$125 donation includes multi-course Tuscan dinner. Well-known singer Monica Millar will perform. Tickets at Croccantino Restaurant. Tel. 717-5025 (page 7)

Wednesday 20th April – Saturday 23 April. Earth Day Events in Bonaire. 2005 Earth Day events on Bonaire include the following:

April 20, Wednesday, 8 – 9 pm, at Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat: “Underwater Caretaking.” A slide presentation and talk.

April 22, Friday, 2 pm: Underwater Caretaking dive.

April 23, Saturday, all day: Land and underwater cleanup at Washington Slagbaai National Park.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Sun. Apr. 24-*Endeavor*
Saturday, April 30-Rincon Day, Queen's Birthday
Saturday, April 30– COMCABON MCB 5 km / 17.5 km run with prizes. 7 am. Call Richard Pietersz at 717-8629, 780-7225.

Saturday, April 30 - Windsurfing Race

MAY 2005

Thursday, May 5—Healing Touch Free Introductory Class, 7-8 pm, Caribbean Club Bonaire (page 3)
May 15th to the 22nd - King of the Caribbean at Lac Baai. The event will kick

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:



CONSTANTINE, by Francis Lawrence, starring Keanu Reeves and Rachel Weisz. It is a very dark and Gothic movie based on the DC/Vertigo comic book *Hellblazer*. Although it is very much a (not my) genre film it did entertain me because of the grim and creepy scenery, great special effects, some scary demons and monsters, but most of all because of Rachel Weisz. Besides Keanu Reeves who plays, well, Keanu Reeves, she puts up a fine performance and actually carries the whole movie.

Funnily, just as in 'The Passion of the Christ' some basic religious knowledge will help you understand the plot a lot better. And after seeing 'The Passion,' watching the violence in this film is a piece of cake. □ *Dodo*

off the 2005 PWA Freestyle Tour. For info, see www.pwaworldtour.com or www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com

May 19 to 22—Bonaire-Harbourtown JAZZ FESTIVAL

May 19: Welcome Concert at Wilhelmina Park. Happy hour and late night jazz in cafes and restaurants

May 20: Main concert at Plaza Resort. Happy hour and late night jazz jam sessions at City Café and other places

May 21: Main concert at Bongos Beach. Happy hour and late night jazz jam sessions at City Café and other places

May 22: Main concert at Kon Tiki Beach Club. Brunch concert on location not yet decided. Jazz all over the place plus three main concerts for only NA\$30! Website: www.bonairejazz.com

OCTOBER 2005

The **International Bonaire Sailing Regatta** has been changed to **October 9 – 15, 2005**, a slip of one week.

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

Marshé Rincon Happenings

During the “Bou di Ramada” (under the porch) last Saturday, Iveth Anthony (left) of the consumer organization Tienda pa Konsumido Bonaeriano, interviewed Wilfred Juliano Piar, President of the Rincon Community Center, and Selibon's Oswin Cristina and Rudsel Leito. One of the topics of conversation was Selibon setting up another landfill area in Morotin, near Rincon. Every first Saturday of the month at the Marshé Rincon interesting personalities from business, culture and government are invited to speak about current topics.



Maria Koeks, originator of the popular “Soldachi” (land crab) tours of Rincon (center) with Lucille Soliana and Lucille Pikeri of the Pasa Dia (handicapped center). Maria took the members of the Pasa Dia on a tour which included lunch at Swinda's at the entrance to Washington Park and later to the Kas di Krioyo (now open every day from 9 to 4). Soldachi Tours offers walking and bus tours to learn about Rincon, “the heart of Bonaire.” To reserve, call Maria at 717-6435 or 790-5657. You'll never take a more friendly and non-commercial tour! □ *L.D.*



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 (NA\$12 for 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 28th. 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 Tippy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

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CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NA\$5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

Darts Club plays every other **Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI. First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire or formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other **Tuesday**, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th **Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions are welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Rendez-Vous Restaurant, Kaya L.D. Gerharts #3. All Rotarians are welcome. Tel. 717-8454

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

DINING GUIDE



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
Brasserie Bonaire In the mall next to Re/Max	Low-Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday and Monday	Lots of parking in big mall lot Freshly prepared meals, the place for a Quick Lunch. Breezy terrace with airco inside
Caribbean Club Bonaire On the Tourist Road 2 mi. north of Town 717-7901	Inexpensive-moderate Breakfast Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Quiet country setting, lovely landscaping, friendly staff Happy Hour from 5-7 pm Inexpensive Bar Hap dinner plus regular menu
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 prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a delight. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
Garden Café Kaya Grandi 59 717-3410	Moderate Monday-Friday, Lunch & Dinner Saturday, Dinner. Closed Sunday	Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties. Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and Latin Parilla
The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open 7 days	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Cuban Chef prepares Caribbean cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 am to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
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



APPLIANCES/ TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances. Fast service and in-store financing too.

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.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

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

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.

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.

The Great Escape

Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, restaurant and bar.

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.

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient.
FedEx agent.

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. 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.

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Born on Bonaire....

Win de Grijze

“**T**he Plasa Machi Mimi on the boulevard where the Venezuelans sell fruits and vegetables was my grandmother’s. She sold fish there practically until she died in 1986 at the age of 94. Last year the plasa was officially named after her. Her real name was Bernabe Everts, and she raised me. Everyone thought she was my mom and to me she was the queen.

My mother is Petra Candida Everts-de Grijze, a Bonairean who now lives in Curaçao. My father, from Curaçao, was stationed as a soldier on Bonaire. He was Sergeant Major Marco de Grijze and his father was Dutch. When they met in Bonaire my mother already had my sister, Lourdes. When I was born in 1943 they got married. When I was eight my family and I moved to Curaçao. After primary school I went to technical school with the friars at Brakkeput. I had a wonderful childhood.

At 17 I returned to Bonaire and lived with my grandmother. She took care of me, did everything for me; I didn’t do anything; I went fishing! It didn’t last very long though; when I was 18, I went to sea, working for KNSM, the Royal Dutch Shipping Company. First we sailed the Caribbean, then we went to Holland and back. When I was furloughed I didn’t go back because I had enough money!

So, on Bonaire I started working for Trans World Radio, building the transmitting towers. Eddy Rijna and I were the only ones who climbed the towers. After the job was done they didn’t need us anymore and I went back to sea, working for Dammers van der Heiden, a shipping company just like KNSM except with smaller ships. We went everywhere: to Panama to deliver electronic equipment, through the Panama Canal to Ecuador where we picked up bananas for Miami, then to the coast of Africa to pick up fish for Puerto Rico, as the Japanese fishing there weren’t allowed to sell it in Puerto Rico. It was a great job! I’d signed for eight months twice, and when my time was up I went back to Bonaire.

The day I arrived I didn’t go straight home; I went to some bars and it lasted all night long! I fell asleep in Kaya Grandi, right on the street in front of ‘Centro.’ A friend of mine, Police Inspector Franssen, woke me up and I said, ‘I didn’t do anything!’ He answered, ‘I know! But we’ve been looking for you for a long time! Someone from Radio Netherlands asked who built the TWR towers. They need you there!’ Franssen took me to Radio Netherlands; I started working for them right away as the foreman, in the same

condition Franssen had found me in the street! Everyone knew me as ‘Win di Machi Mimi,’ so when I went to take a nap to get rid of my hangover the other workers said, ‘Hey, don’t do that! The new foreman, de Grijze, will be here any minute!’ Because of the name, they were expecting a Dutchman!”

Win de Grijze (61) grins. Sitting in his old chair in his garage, Muffler King, and surrounded by his people, engines, cars and noises, he’s completely at ease and enjoys telling his story. “I had wonderful years working for Radio Netherlands - 20 years in all. I have a very good pension; they have the best labor agreement in the Antilles! I didn’t resign my job, I got the caisson disease and after that bone narcosis in my shoulder joint. I am the first bone-transplant patient in the Antilles.

“The most beautiful thing about Bonaire is the people; forget about politics. Everybody knows one another and practically everybody is related by marriage!”

I used to dive a lot; I could go tremendously deep without the aqua lung. Percy Sweetnam and I were the first friends of Captain Don, but I never worked for Don commercially. I wanted to be free and I didn’t want the responsibility. With Percy, Victor and another Aruban guy we got a big job on Curaçao: cleaning the *Queen Elisabeth I* underwater. We started in Curaçao, then to Aruba, then to Trinidad where we finished the job.

I had the accident because I’d made a mistake. I was diving with two bottles and stayed too long underwater. When I came up they went to refill the bottles and I went skin diving, spear fishing, without waiting an hour. But I didn’t add that time to my diving time. After my bottles were filled I went diving again; when I came up... bang! Luckily there were some YMCA doctors on the island. They put me under water for one hour, then I was taken to Curaçao by plane, a plane that had to fly very low. After I’d recovered I couldn’t go back to the Radio Netherlands towers anymore. Dr. Welvaart talked with my boss and they gave me a job for half days - washing cars, making coffee - but it didn’t work out, not with my salary! I left, so someone else could replace me. They’ve always treated me well and



Win de Grijze
Muffler King

now, whenever I go there, they make me feel I’m still one of them.

So, I started Muffler King in 1982, and my hobby is fishing. I built my first boat, a small one to start with, and now I have a real big one, the *Triple J*, named after my two daughters, Juliette and Julisa, and my son Jerwin. I married their mom, Zena Dammers 30 years ago here on Bonaire. She was the cutest; everything about her was just so nice. Now we have two grandchildren, Jean-Marc and Jarrold. I also have another daughter Mary and a granddaughter, Emily. My daughter Juliette is the woman I appreciate most in my life. We’re one of a kind; we understand each other perfectly well.

Yeah, I did a lot and I still do a lot. I take a lot of young kids who don’t go to school or have a job out to sea. I talk to them and try to teach them something and it works; most of them find good jobs after a while. I’ve got a countless number of friends, here and on the other islands, and so I feel I’m the richest guy in the Antilles. But my best friends are the ones from my childhood: George Ammerlaan, Rafael Damascus and Doei Diaz.

I did some crazy things when I was young. Ivan Floris, who now owns the crusher and who was working at the time as the chief mechanic at the Ford garage, and I read a book about helicopters. He’d gotten an engine and every weekend we worked on it. The first flight of our helicopter was quite impressive; we pulled the starter string... and up it went... straight into the electric cables! Never ran so fast in my life! All of Antriol was out of power! Crazy things! I’m not so active anymore; I’m trying to pay off my taxes and hope my son Jerwin will take over Muffler King. Then I’m going fishing!

I’ve never wanted to live anywhere else but here in Bonaire. Life was so easy. I built this garage with friends, and we built each other’s houses. Eve-

ryone helped each other; that was how Bonaire was in the old days – very beautiful. Now we have lots of foreigners. I’m not against them, but every person brings the good and the bad from his own culture and that’s how things start to change.

The Central Government in Curaçao has made many people leave because they were never interested in Bonaire and they never helped us. Then the tax collectors office finished it off by hunting for the small businesses, and that meant death for everyone. They destroyed our economy instead of helping the people and it’s like this in all the Antilles, except for Aruba. We’d be better off if we had a direct connection with Holland.

Our politicians have good capabilities, but they shouldn’t be so divided. Once, in Miami when I was visiting a good friend he went to Cuban political meeting. As I was waiting there for him I met the president of the meeting, and when I told him I was Antillean he said, ‘There are two politicians of great caliber in the Antilles whom you should always support. One is Don Martina and the other one Ramonsito Boo!’ I was so proud! In Miami of all places!

The most beautiful thing about Bonaire is the people; forget about politics. Everybody knows one another and practically everybody is related by marriage! We’re all people and nobody is perfect. All my life I’ve had the most beautiful times and I think it will last... There has never been another place for me; I love Bonaire tremendously.”

□ Photo and story by Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

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

An Exquisite Crescent Moon Pays a Very Close Visit to the Pleiades, the Seven Sisters

Mark next Monday night, April 11th as a super duper night to see an exquisite crescent Moon parked right next to the most famous star cluster of them all, **The Pleiades**, also known as **The Seven Sisters**.

Next Monday evening, April 11th, at 8:30 pm, Sky Park time, face due west. Directly above the horizon you'll see a beautiful three-day-old crescent Moon complete with earthshine, which will look like a bright crescent with a dark full Moon nestled inside it. And only two Moon widths away to its right is the exquisite tiny cluster of stars called The Pleiades, The Seven Sisters, which have been talked about all throughout history and are even mentioned in the Bible.

Now most people can count only six stars here, and there are all sorts of legends as to why most people can't see the seventh, but the truth of the matter is if you've got very good eyesight and if you're far from lights under a dark sky you may be able to count 10 or even 12 stars in this tiny cluster. Plus if you look really close you will see that the six brightest stars trace out a very tiny little dipper. In fact many people mistake this tiniest of all the dippers in the heavens for the famous **Little Dipper** which is always parked directly opposite the even more famous **Big Dipper**.

Be that as it may you may also notice that The Pleiades look a little bit fuzzy; that's because they are embedded in a huge cloud of gas and dust called a "reflection nebula." And the light from these stars is actually reflecting off this gaseous material, which is easily seen in any time exposure photograph.

Now one of the most beautiful ways to observe The Pleiades, especially next Monday when the Moon is so close to them, is to use a pair of binoculars because then not only will you see all seven of the Seven Sisters you'll also see many, many more. In fact The Pleiades are really a huge cluster of over a hundred very big, very hot, blue-white stars, which are all much younger and hotter than our Sun, having been born less than a hundred million years ago, compared to our Sun which was born 4½ billion years ago. All The Pleiades' stars are much bigger and hotter than our Sun and spin much faster. In fact the brightest of the sisters, **Alcyone**, is a thousand times as luminous as our Sun and spins a hundred times faster.

Now on a cosmic scale The Pleiades are relatively close, just over 400 light years away, which means that it takes light from The Pleiades 400 years to reach us. So when we look at them Monday night we are seeing them as they actually appeared over 400 years ago. In comparison our Moon is extremely close - only 242,000 miles away - which means it only takes 1⅓ seconds for its light to reach us.

So next Monday night be sure to see a sight both exquisite to the naked eye and absolutely breathtaking through binoculars. Believe me you'll be stunned by the cosmic beauty of our nearest neighbor and the sisters of legend!

And for you evening star fans... Venus will be back low in the western Sky Park heavens around sundown next week. Will you be the first to spot her? □

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
April 8 to April 15, 2005
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your partner may be erratic this week if you haven't paid enough attention to him or her. Plan your day carefully. If they're too demanding, reconsider this union. Don't let your partner get away with spending too much of your money. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Make changes regarding your friendships. Consider the source before you believe what you hear. Your ability to charm others will bring added popularity. Listen and formulate your course of action. You will be indecisive. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You're in the mood to get out and visit friends. You will profit from home improvement projects and real estate deals. Your ability to take hold of a situation will surely bring you popularity and leadership. Relatives may play an important role in your personal life. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. Don't let your boss make you feel guilty enough to take work home with you. Family members will not be happy with the amount of time you are spending away from home. Business trips might prove unproductive. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Unique forms of entertainment could capture your attention and bring about a romantic interest. Don't make mountains out of molehills if you want to avoid conflict. Much can be accomplished if you compromise. Avoid any intimate involvements with co-workers or employers. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Be aware of deception when it comes to your position, and be sure not to jump to conclusions. Opportunities for partnerships are present; but get every detail in writing. Opportunities for new friendships are apparent. Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack of spare time. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Groups you belong to will not only enjoy your company, but they will also share your interests. Your mate could get on your nerves if he or she backs you into an emotional corner or puts restrictions on your time. Look into career choices and courses being offered. Try to stay calm, and whatever you do, don't nag. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You won't get the reaction you want from your mate this week. Your ability to organize and get everyone together will enhance your popularity and bring interest from potential mates. Try not to upset others with your plans. Romantic opportunities will flourish through travel or communication. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Keep a lookout for any individuals eager to confront you with unsavory situations. You may end up being blamed if anything goes wrong. It's time to get yourself back on track. Include friends and family members in your redecorating plans. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Make the necessary changes that will enable you to advance financially. You will be able to find the perfect outfit, and the greatest new accessory for your house. Exercise programs will be effective. Be sure to pay attention to your financial status. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can make money through solid investment plans. You may have difficulties with family members if you get involved in petty arguments. Try to deal with the problems of those less fortunate; however, don't allow them to make unreasonable demands. Your uncanny insight will help you make the right choices. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will be erratic and quite likely to make personal mistakes. Do not be surprised if your partner doesn't understand your needs. Visit someone who hasn't been feeling well lately. Be discreet about any information you uncover. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. □

Mairi Bhan Witness to Destruction

Another Windjammer Series story

It had been several days since my last visit to the *Mairi Bhan* wreck site. On that visit the wind was strong, the sea was very rough, the sky was gray and there was a strong surge at the shoreline. As we swam to our shore sight markers, the reef below was barely visible. The surge effect had lifted sand and sediment from the bottom and was holding it in suspension. Our plan, that day, was to reach the stern of the ship, enter behind the windlass (winch) and reconfirm our measurements of the steering equipment from a previous visit. As usual we carried powerful underwater lamps to aid with visibility inside the hull.

A Distressing Encounter

On the surface my partner signaled OK to descend and we started down. It was a great relief to get below the waves, but I continued to feel the surge all the way to 100 feet (30 meters). We were making good progress and the water had cleared as we sighted the main mast lying prone on the reef below. The great iron hull of the overturned 1,378-ton clipper appeared out of the gloom. I made eye contact with my dive buddy, signaled a slight course adjustment, and gently kicked my flippers toward our objective. The water, below the keel, shimmered in the beam of my light. I had learned on other visits to this depth that it is an indicator of a colder layer of water called a "thermo cline." We avoided that area as we cruised over the top of the port poop deck rail, 39 feet (12 m) above the cooler water.

My attention was diverted to an area on the outside of the hull plates forward of the huge rudder. There appeared to be dark green dye-stained water seeping out from around the edges of some of the



Inside the Windjammer (pre collapse)

riveted, overlapping plates. I fanned the liquid and it quickly dispersed. Glancing around, I saw pockets of this same colored water in some of the depressions in the encrusting coral layer created by over 90 years of marine growth. We shrugged to each other, pointed toward the port rail and continued around to enter the stern section. As we moved forward the bright beams of our lights disappeared. They were absorbed by an impenetrable wall of suspended dark green-black sediment. We tentatively poked our dive masks into the black "soup" and instantly retreated and faced each other with dumbfounded expressions. Since there was clear water and no current outside the ship, I decided to inspect the stern mast and crow's nest. After four to five minutes we returned to the top rail, made our way to the adjoining reef and completed our ascent with the necessary decompression and safety stops. We made our way safely back to the entry/exit point, staying below the rolling surface waves. We were clearly "distressed" by this bizarre encounter.

Return to Discovery

Today there is only a slight chop to the sea surface and the visibility in the shallows has improved. Fully equipped, Barbara and I start to drop below the waves, determined to investigate the source of the mysterious green-black sediment inside our favorite shipwreck. With partly cloudy skies above us, there is intermit-

tent sunlight illuminating the reef below. We sight the hull in clear, calm water and start toward the stern area. Over my shoulder, I see a slightly distorted outline of the ship, but it does not register as a subtle sign of what we are about to discover.

Reaching the poop deck, with no sign of the green water on the outside of the ship, we are all set to enter her, but, something is wrong! The shape of the port rail has changed. Is this possible? It is pointing downward and the iron plates look clean and very smooth in places. Below, we see large, jagged sheets of the thick encrusting coral lying on top of the hard tar that spilled from the ship when it sank long ago on December 7, 1912. What has happened? We are bewildered as our minds try to comprehend the implications of the vision before us. We are not fully prepared for what we are about to witness on this dive.

An Unimaginable Event

Maintaining our depth, heading toward the bow, we encounter an awesome sight. The entire mid-section of the port side hull has split apart. The crack, that previously measured only 54 inches (1.4 m) at its widest, is now a gaping void approximately 10 feet (3 m.) across. On the tar below, we can see more gigantic sheets of the thick encrusting coral lying on top of the tangled remains of broken deck beams. Some of the riveted plates near the keel have buckled and popped their rivets. Other plate sections, closer to the port rail, apparently lacking the interior support of the cross beams, have collapsed under the weight. They are bent and sag down to the level of the hard tar layer. These plates are clean of coral and have already taken on the distinctive orange hue of fresh rust from exposure to seawater. The graceful, uninterrupted profile of the huge clipper ship has, once again, been distorted and destroyed by the power of the sea.

The cause of this recent damage, a weakened structure by salt water corrosion, has taken longer to do its work, but, for us, is no less dramatic than the sinking. With each new revelation it's difficult to control our breathing. We suppress the urge to enter the now unfamiliar confines of the hull. Peering inside, we see the suspended sediment has not completely settled. Our eyes adjust to the

darkness and we can see a tangled mass of plates and beams. Where there once was symmetry of lines there is now disorder and chaos. We have overstayed our time on this dive to our beloved "Bonnie Mary" and slowly make our way back to the safety of the surface.

Ghost Wreck?

As we pass the time of our decompression and safety stops, I recall the sight of the green water seeping from the hull plates and the black cloud of sediment inside the wreck. What devastation caused that internal murk? Did the massive iron water tank, suspended overhead on the port side, drop from its precarious position? Did this trigger the interior damage to the cross beams? Was that what we were witnessing just two days ago? Is the *Mairi Bhan* truly a "Ghost Wreck" as characterized in the book *Dream Wrecks* by our friends Dominique Serafini and Catherine Salisbury? Were we saved from severe injury or death by her message to us on that day? ... "Do not enter this black alien environment" ...

Join us, when we return to continue our search for the answers. □

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(Ed. At the moment there is a sign put up by the owners of the land, BOPEC, which prohibits diving and other activities in this area. However, serious negotiations are underway, hopefully, to re-open the site.)