

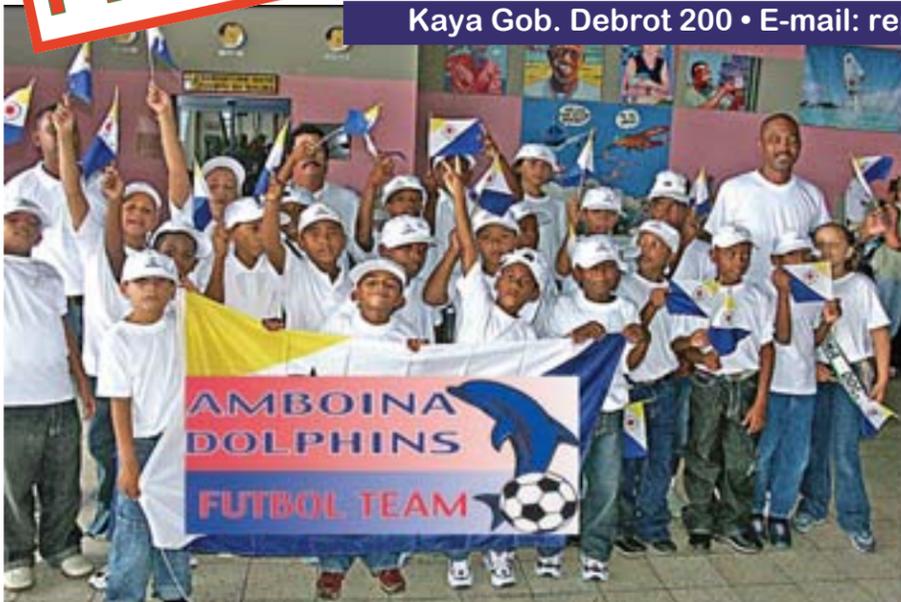
**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

June 3 to June 10, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 21

The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



FORMA



Rincon Marshé



What do all these people have in common? Answer on pages 6 & 7



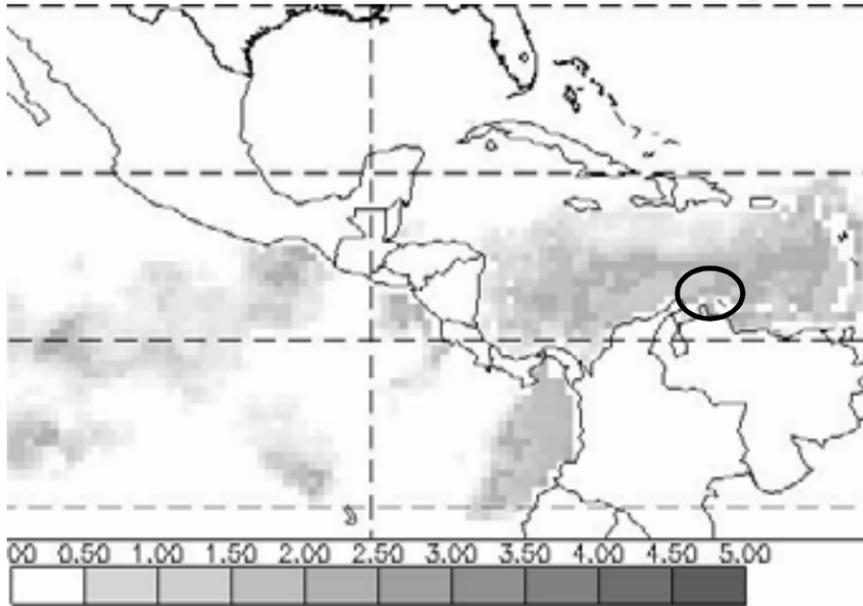
Senior Citizens



Jong Bonaire



FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



The darker, the warmer the water. Bonaire water temperature is currently a bit over 80° F (26.7°C)

Last week while diving off the beach at WannaDive we noticed the water seemed warm for May. We weren't imagining things. Paul C. Hoetjes, Senior Policy Advisor for the Central Government's Department of Environment & Nature (MINA) writes, "Various messages on the coral list are indicating that water temperatures are rising rapidly and that it may be a very hot season. Reports indicate that upwelling in the southern Caribbean is inhibited by the recent anomalous lack in trade winds, and that the gulf stream this past winter has been very weak, and a large body of warm surface waters is located east through northeast of the lesser Antilles.

Consequently we may face a potentially very serious (coral) bleaching event in the Caribbean.

Please keep an eye on the developments on the reefs around your islands. The NOAA/NESDIS hotspot chart indicates a developing hotspot in the area of both the Lesser Antilles and of the leeward islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao.

Management of four Bonaire resorts have banded together to bring **non-stop air service from the US to Bonaire for the next peak tourist season.** The plan is to charter a Boeing 737 with a 180-seat capacity for once-a-week return flights from Ft. Lauderdale (FLL) every Saturday. The seats will be made

available first to the resorts and tour operators who "guarantee" the flights, then to the public and other resorts. Prices will be significantly lower than current US-Bonaire airline tariffs. The modern FLL airport is a hub for low cost intra-US airlines and already exceeds Miami (MIA) airport in traffic. We will provide additional information as details become available.

Bonaire officials led by Senator Ramonsito Booi have been meeting with US airline officials to try for **direct flights from the US** now that Air Jamaica has announced it will cut service to Bonaire this August. An official delegation consisting of Burney el Hage, Tourism Deputy; Ronella Croes, Head of the TCB; Larry Gerharts, owner of Bonaire Air Services; and Candice Kimmel, TCB-NY, offered various possibilities to representatives of Continental and Delta Airlines. One possibility is that Continental will extend its recently announced Curaçao flight to Bonaire. According to sources the matter of airlift to America is being given highest priority.

American Mid-west-based Spirit Airlines last Thursday announced its **entry into Jamaica** with a warning to competitors, including Air Jamaica, that its



low-cost strategy may force them to lower their fares to match its prices. The low-budget carrier will begin flights to and from Jamaica in six months, phased over November and December. Spirit, which will begin service to and from Kingston and Montego Bay with introductory rates starting from US\$99, plans to reel in business travelers from Jamaica and tourists from the US with low fares.

Spirit flies to 16 destinations within the US, as well as Mexico, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic from its hub in Fort Lauderdale. Spirit's service to Montego Bay will begin on November 10 and Kingston, December 15, using Airbus A319, Airbus A321 and the MD-380 aircraft. (*Jamaica Observer*)



Coast Guard Fokker

The **two Dutch Fokker 60 patrol planes** adapted for coast guard duty in the Antilles and Aruba to the tune of NAf33 million have been on the job since early April. They include a NAf5 million observation radar specifically for searching at sea and infra-red cameras. More modifications will be made in July to allow for nine hours of uninterrupted flight.

Last Friday, the **Antillean Parliament accepted the 2005 budget** with 12 votes for and 8 votes against. The budget deficit is NAf153.4 million, which, according to the Central Bank, can be financed. The budget was submitted on September 14th, 2004, but was changed three times before the Parliament signed off. The grand total of the budget is almost NAf1.413.441.300.

Alex Rosaria (40) has been proposed as the new Minister of Economic Affairs to replace Errol Cova who was voted out of parliament. Because he still has to be screened by the National Security Directorate, Rosaria will probably be sworn in later in the week. He is against market protection as opposed to Cova who was for it.

In 2002, after graduating with an MBA

in international business-economic relations from the University of Iowa, Rosaria served as a staff member of the Cluster General Business Politics/ Foreign Economic Relations of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and was responsible for working out the business policy of the Antilles.

The **Antilles Central Government narrowly averted a crisis** when it booted Cova out for inflammatory statements. He took his party with him and that reduced the ruling coalition's majority to a single seat. But the worst may still be to come because the coalition lost its majority on the Curaçao Island Council and there is a strong possibility the popular FOL party controlled by convicted criminal Anthony Godett, currently free awaiting an appeal to be heard in The Netherlands, may form an Island Government and be in a position to topple the Central Government.

The **Antillean Expulsion law** passed Dutch Parliament two weeks ago. Essentially the law says that **Antillean youngsters visiting Holland without a return ticket must prove they have a job or are studying. If not they will be sent home.** The law was motivated by the high number of crimes attributed to Antillean youths in The Netherlands which is in order of magnitude higher than their European Dutch counterparts. Proponents of the law say it is necessary to protect Dutch people. Opponents say it is an apartheid that makes Antilleans second class Dutch citizens and that a next step will be to have Antilleans wear

some insignia of their origin as Jewish people were made to do in Nazi-controlled Europe. There have been peaceful demonstrations in Curaçao and Holland opposing the measure. It is not yet being enforced because the necessary procedures still have to be set up.

Citizens of The Netherlands and 26 other US allies who are permitted to enter the US **without a visa must have machine-readable passports by June 26** or they could be denied entry into the country, the US government said on Thursday. After that date, airlines, cruise ships or other transportation carriers will be fined \$3,300 for each time they allow a foreigner from a visa-waiver country without a machine-readable passport or a

(Continued on page 4)

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JCI Delegation



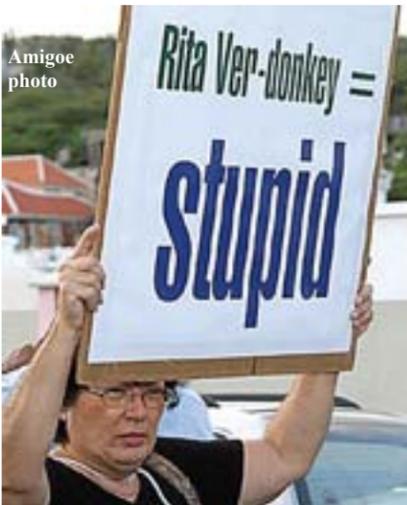
Bonaire sent a delegation to the recent JCI (Junior Chamber International) Conference in São Paulo, Brazil. The conference was for members from the Americas and Caribbean and focused on Leading and Achieving results. JCI membership focuses on entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 40 who work towards positive improvements in their community.

Bonaire's delegation consisted of Renata Domacassé, Caroll-Ann Soliano, Soerally Pourier, Anthony Nicolaas, Claire Sealy and Leroy Sedney.

Sponsorship was provided by Bonaire's NGO Platform. For more information call Renata Domacassé at 516-4252 or Anthony Nicolaas at 786-9147. □ *Press Release*

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)
visa to travel into the US.

► You think that Bonaire Talk relates bad news? Consider this: **Britons visiting Tobago are in danger of being raped,**



Amigoe photo
Curaçao marchers protest Antillean Expulsion law

robbed and beaten, and the United Kingdom has warned its nationals about travel to the island. The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which updated its travel advisory to Tobago last Friday, has also advised that British nationals hire private security guards for their protection "night and day."

► **Beginning December 31, 2005, the only document accepted for entry into the US for a US citizen traveling from Bonaire will be a valid passport.** Other documents (like Border Crossing Cards, SENTRI, NEXUS or FAST cards) are only acceptable for land travelers. This new requirement will also affect certain foreign nationals who currently are not required to present a passport to travel to the US. For more information and any updates on these new regulations visit http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html

► As we went to press with the last issue **prisoners in Bonaire's police cells staged a protest** against a "Zero Tolerance Team" search as well as the sweltering conditions in the lockup. They made a lot of noise and stuck wooden pegs into the cell door locks preventing them from

being secured.

Police Commissioner Gerold Daantje intervened to calm things, but as a precaution he activated the riot squad, which fortunately did not have to take action. The team had confiscated two cell phones, a screwdriver and several marijuana cigarettes.

The protestors demanded that fans be installed. Chief Daantje was able to convince the prisoners to go back into their cells. With the help of the Prosecutor's Office, he arranged for three fans to alleviate the heat problem somewhat.

► There is now a **Rincon Fitness Center** in the basement of the village's Centro di Bario. The air conditioned facility is open daily from 6 am to 11 pm. Cost is NAf25 a month. The fitness center was set up, not to make money, we were told, but to help the people of Rincon and others. For more information call Gonzalo Goeloe at 717-6166.

► **Albert Bianculli's 8:30 pm Sunday slide show at Capt. Don's Habitat now has a new version** featuring a manta encounter, spotted eagle rays and some incredible jawfish photos. *The Reporter* has been publishing a series of Albert's naturalist articles, but if you want to view the latest developments on a big screen go see the show.

► Looking for a memorable Sunday morning? Try the **brunch at The Great Escape resort** located about a kilometer south of Flamingo Airport. In their lovely garden you can enjoy a champagne brunch with mimosas, omelets, crêpes and more for just NAf 20 per person.

► The model in this week's **Benetton ad** on page 12 is eight-year-old **Jonathan Cranston**.

► Remember to say "**The Reporter sent me**" when patronizing our advertisers. □ *G./L.D.*

The Bonaire Culinary and Bartender Team Invites You to its Very Last Dinner

Taste the team's competition skills and masterpieces, **Saturday June 4th at SGB Chez Nous 7 pm. Donation is only NAf 50/pp** Included is a three-course meal plus samples of Competition Cocktails And, of course, wine donated by local wine merchants. Only 30 seats available. **Please join us.** RSVP for tickets to Laura 717-8988 or Diana 717-5134.



The team and some members of the committee at the Blue Moon fund raiser dinner last week.



STINAPA staff at Washington Park

► **Washington Park celebrated its 36th anniversary this weekend with a party** atmosphere at the Park Gate. Hosted by STINAPA there was plenty of food, drink and activities for the children. Adults could tour the museum, exhibits or hike the nearby trails. Washington Park just keeps on getting better and better and now includes a skeleton of a huge whale. Look for the story of how it arrived in the Park in next week's edition.



HARBOUR VILLAGE COURT CASE, POINT - COUNTERPOINT

Condo Owners Lose a Round

Dear Editor:

On May 18, 2005, the Court in Bonaire issued a judgment in the case that some condominium owners started against the developers of Harbour Village. The owners claimed that certain fees were unjustified and blew up the case by putting a lien on the property in June 2002. The Court of Appeals already ruled in November 2003 that the lien was illegal and lifted it. Now the Court of First Instance in Bonaire has ruled that all the claims of the group of owners, headed by Mr. Co de Koning, were without any merit. On the other hand the Court decided that the group of owners that placed the lien in 2002 are liable for all the damages this lien has caused to the development of Harbour Village. The amount of these damages shall be established in a separate follow up procedure, but has already been calculated in the millions by a reputable accounting firm. Also the Court has ruled that the owners will have to pay the maintenance fees, since they have not been proven to be unreasonable. The developers and management of Harbour Village – who have been represented in Court by attorney Rudi Oomen from Aruba – are very satisfied with this judgment, because of its solid and well balanced considerations. In the event of an appeal Harbour Village is confident that the Court of Appeals will confirm this decision. In the mean time Harbour Village will use all remedies to secure payment for the damages caused by the owners who placed the illegal liens.

Frank Gonzalez

Condo Owners Expect Eventual Victory

Dear Editor:

It is not in our habit to comment on court proceedings while the final verdict is still out in appeal.

We have met Mr. Frank Gonzalez and his legal representatives seven times in a N.A. courtroom. Five judgments went our way, two his way. It will take a little while till the due legal process has run its course. When I say "we" I mean all fourteen condo owners who were living in Harbour Village in early 2002, when our differences led to a legal suit. Among them are Venezuelan, Dutch, American, and Swiss families.

As Abe Lincoln said: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." That's where we base our trust on, in the final judgment which we expect to be rendered by the Dutch Antillean Court of Appeal sometime later this year, possibly followed by the Dutch Supreme Court sometime next year.

Personally speaking, I am honored Mr. Gonzalez mentions me by name, but truly, we are one cohesive company and certainly I do not need any further promotion on Bonaire, especially not from this source.

Co de Koning

A Force for Good



AMFO and the NGO Platform

A continuing series beginning this week in The Bonaire Reporter.

Beginning with this issue *The Bonaire Reporter* is going to help in getting the word out to the people of the Antilles, especially Bonaire, that money to benefit their lives is available from donor organizations and how to apply and spend it wisely. The financial help is to alleviate poverty on the islands, for worthwhile social causes and, to a lesser degree, environmental activities, that don't qualify for government support. Our aim is to provide information and dispel rumors by providing a transparent view of how a considerable sum of money is being spent.

It all begins with an organization named AMFO. AMFO is the acronym for the Antillean Co-Financing Organization. It was established to allow the Dutch government and private Dutch donor organizations to help the needy more directly than through the Central Government in Curaçao, as was done in the past. In fact, government doesn't even get involved. AMFO oversees and helps each island individually by awarding grants to qualified non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others in need via an "NGO Platform" on each island.

In April 2004, AMFO had NAf20.4 million from Dutch donors to distribute to all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles. On each of the islands an NGO Platform Committee established criteria for funds to be given to their respective NGOs. Bonaire's NGO Platform is considered

the best organized since it has been able to allocate all its funds, and more, while the other islands haven't. In 2004 Bonaire was allocated NAf2.4 million and awarded NAf2.6 million. For 2005, about NAf5 million is available.

In Bonaire, according to Alan Gross, NGO Platform Treasurer, its aims are to:

- 1) **strengthen families;**
- 2) **help the needy (disabled, young, old, poor);**
- 3) **strengthen the socio-economic situation of the Bonairean people;**
- 4) **improve social relationships**
- 5) **reinforce the NGOs so that they can deliver better services (for example: conducting seminars and training programs, giving advice, procuring computers, setting up offices, helping with bookkeeping services).**

The Bonaire AMFO office is on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 31 and administers fund giving to Bonaire and Curaçao. The Project Manager is Lisandro Cicilia. Werner Wiels, the head officer of AMFO, explains, "AMFO is funding projects for the elderly, for youth, for better health care and more. But care must be taken to ensure the money is being spent wisely." Wiels continues, "We must take measures as to where new jobs are needed and train the people. We've aided the Amboina community center where people have been hired to work as social workers, and we've given money for furnishings. FESBO (Foundation of Centro di Barios)



After long discussions NGO Platform officers get voted in.

got NAf300.000 for salaries for social workers to aid children and the elderly," he said.

Wiels added, "Even if someone in need is not an NGO they can apply to the Platform Committee for help to either establish an NGO themselves, or become associated with a relevant NGO."

Most of the people and groups looking for help will go first to Bonaire's NGO Platform. The Platform is an association of the more than 60 local NGOs working for the improved welfare of Bonaire. The Platform has eight sectors, each of which has a representative on the Platform board, plus three officers (President, Secretary and Treasurer) who serve as a daily board and are responsible for the opera-

tion of the NGO office, at Kaya Korona 5C. Irene Winklaar and Pancho Cicilia are there to help you. For those with Internet access the website at www.ngobonaire.org has lots of information and detail.

In the coming weeks *The Reporter* will be bringing you success stories of Bonaire NGOs, ideas from NGOs in the US and Holland that might work in Bonaire, details on how you can bring ideas forward for consideration and behind-the-scenes looks at (see the story "Truth or Dare" in this issue) what's happening to make Bonaire a better place to live for all because of the generosity of Dutch donors. □
L./G.D.

Truth or Dare

NGO, AMFO, FUNDS, PROJECTS: acronyms that can lead to rumors and controversy because money, lots of it, is involved.

Burning community issues: What Goes on Inside the NGO Platform?

NGO, AMFO, FUNDS, PROJECTS: acronyms that can lead to controversy and rumors because money, lots of it, is involved. In the past Bonaireans have often been disappointed by what funding organizations were able to deliver and sometimes even failed completely. In addition, people questioned whether the funds were granted objectively or whether they were even allocated to the 'right project.'

To answer these concerns we used a favorite American game, *Truth or Dare*, to test the temperature of these hot items in the community.

Our contestant is Mr. James Finies, the new President of the NGO Platform.

So James, which one will it be? A 'truth' or a 'dare'?

"Natalie, you pick one."

Well, let's start with a 'truth' and then we'll switch.

Truth: A great part of the funds goes to finance parties for NGOs and cover the operational costs of the NGO Platform.

Finies: We have five categories or areas linked to the funds (*for the categories, see lead article "What Are AMFO and the NGO Platform?"*). These are the criteria for judging whether a project qualifies for subsidy. I've not consulted the statistics yet, but maybe it seems to an outsider that we're only funding parties. But I have to add also that in the first year we started we were cautious about spending money. We wanted to foster goodwill and gain the trust of the Bonaireans. They were often disappointed by past experiences. So partly it's true that we financed some parties, but it was to convince people that we were serious about this whole new 'body' (AMFO-NGO Platform). Besides, they were parties of only NGOs, whose main objectives met the criteria that lead to the social well being of Bonaire.

Don't forget either that these parties had social and educational value. Members developed organizational skills by organizing these parties, groups were joined together, and it was a positive recreational activity. That's significant. By financing a party, we as the Platform, could 'guide' these NGOs into the direction to reach their goals.

In reference to the operational costs for the platform itself, I want to introduce the word, *capaciteitsversterking* - a Dutch term that might be translated as reinforcement or strengthening the abilities of an organization. We had to create the necessary infrastructure before we could proceed. In any case, the operational costs are still very low compared to the amount of the work that needs to be done. We actually need to expand our operation and we're working on this now.

People can get the wrong idea. I want to teach that when NGOs create a new project they need human resources and capital. These are the requirements for a continuous, enduring project and self-sufficiency. NGOs should become independent eventually or be so well organized that they can reach out for funds other than AMFO's.

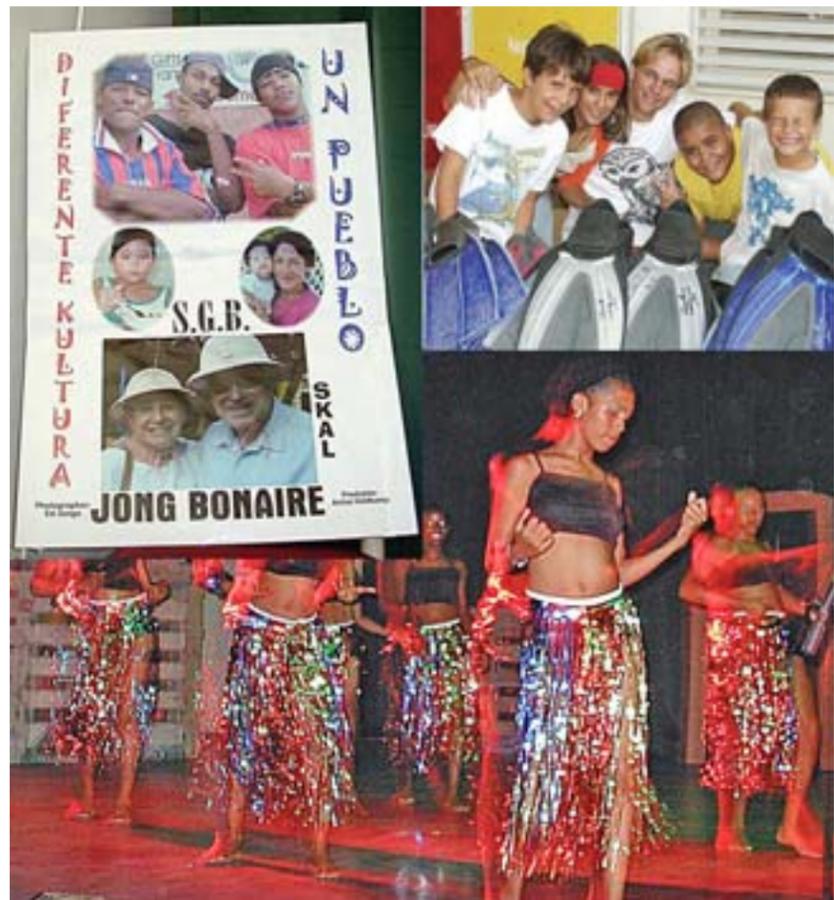
Let's go to our first 'dare': The NGO Platform promises not to be politically influenced when granting a subsidy.

Finies: The term NGO speaks for itself: Non Governmental Organization. So this is an easy 'dare.' The policy framework is designed in such way that the system works 'beyond' politics. The board members are not elected by politicians but by the NGOs. It's a very democratic system. We have all 'political colors' on the board. The same goes for AMFO.

Like I said we work within guidelines. We have a clear direction about subsidizing projects that lie outside governmental responsibilities. This means that projects that are under governmental policy and responsibility are not subsidized. All this is defined in our statutes. Be aware, however, that we have contacts with the government for cooperation as we all pursue the same goal: improvement of the social education and well being of Bonaire, but we still respect each other's limits.

Time again for a 'truth': Funds don't reach Nort di Saliña.

Finies: Once again I don't have statistics (*Natalie refers to and shows an overview available on their website that show no grants to Nort di Saliña*). It should not be the case that one barrio gets more funding than others. Neither should this be the case for religious or social groups, etc. My question would be why aren't there any projects from Nort di Saliña? Weren't they active? Weren't there any requests? Did their projects fall within the framework of one of the five categories? They should be encouraged to contact our secretary or board members personally or in writing to express their discontent. If the



Many Jong Bonaire Youth Center projects are aided by AMFO/NGO Platform funds

inhabitants of Nort di Saliña have this opinion then I invite them as a group to come and talk to us. By the way, the NGOs are categorized in "sectors" not in barrios.

On the other hand we, as the NGO Platform, need to be more pro-active, to reach out to organizations to provide us with enduring and structured projects on a long-term basis.

Our second 'dare' for today: Some financed projects like 'opbouwwerkers den barrio' (social workers assigned to each neighborhood) by FESBO (Foundation of Centro di Barrios) are not quite working out. The NGO Platform should monitor projects in a better way.

Finies: This brings me once again to 'truth' challenge #1. We started with a staff of one full time person and one half time person. Due to lack of personnel, we just could not monitor every project in depth during our start-up phase. Besides, the system was initially not designed with an 'aftercare' program.

But we **do** monitor the financial proc-

ess. One of our first goals is to have a field coordinator for the 'aftercare.' In fact, we are in the process of getting one. But let's not jump to conclusions regarding the FESBO issue. Remember that the social workers are FESBO employees. FESBO should be the one monitoring their personnel. What we as the NGO Platform can do is to supervise and make sure that the project on the whole is succeeding. But we can't keep an eye on whether an employee comes to work or not.

To conclude this 'dare:' Bonaire is the only island in this program which managed to allocate all the funds.

Okay, let's go to our fourth 'truth:' You already ran out of money for 2005!

James Finies: This is NOT the case. Everybody can still apply for this year. Of course funding is not unlimited. Our first priority is micro projects focusing on *capaciteitsversterking* (strengthening skills and knowledge) and combating poverty. AMFO may also attract additional (international) funding if necessary. In short: this is a

Continued on page 8



OBITUARIES

Jose Leonicio - Regales "A Tall Cultural Tree Has Fallen"

José "Djo" Regales, also known as Jo Mariachi, passed away on May 19. Many consider him, a musician and a composer, the "Soul King of Bonaire." Gentle Jo was born in the barrio of Antriol on February 12, 1915. At 15 he went to live in Curaçao with his family. Here are some excerpts from an article about Jo written by Josie Olgers for *The Bonaire Reporter* in August 2003.



Guus Gerritsen photo

"When we listen to Jo, we remember. We remember what life on Bonaire is about, what life in general is about. His words are applicable to all times and of eternal value for anyone who is open to it. He writes most of all about love, all the things we as humans encounter: forbidden love, hidden romances and hope. Jo Mariachi not only represents the soul of Bonaire, but he represents life in all its forms.

'He is a great musician and a great performer. And he has always stayed modest. And he has a way of saying things. In that way he is unique. His words are sensitive, touch real life, and bring life to its essence: simplicity and most important of all love.' At the debut of his CD, 'Mi Paranan,' in August 2003, he says with a great smile, 'This is the suit I wore in 1976, when I first performed with the Mariachi on Bonaire.'" I knew we had to do it now, I knew it was the only chance left, because Jo is getting older, to put in into eternal digital form! For everyone in the future to enjoy And that is exactly Joe's goal: to give the people his voice and the sound of his clarinet when he is not here anymore...."

May he rest in peace and our deep condolences to the family. □ L.D.

Johannes Wilhelmus Mestrum – better known as "Jan of the Rose Inn Bar Restaurant" or "Rooie Jan" (Red Jan)

Always there behind the bar at the Rose Inn in Rincon, Jan was a fixture, making and serving drinks to all the customers. He passed away on Saturday, May 21. Originally from Limburg in Holland, Jan was a master mechanic who worked as an AAA service patrolman for more than 25 years, helping motorists in need. One day on the road he saw Melfina Emers from Bonaire, tooted his horn, whereupon she waved back, he gave her a lift and the rest is history. After coming to Bonaire a few times on holiday the couple returned for good. Jan worked as a mechanic, but when Melfina decided to run the Criollo restaurant, Rose Inn, Jan joined her and together they made the place a landmark.



Jan had children of his own, but he was a devoted stepfather and step-grandfather to Melfina's family as well. Jan's desire was to be buried on Bonaire. Our deepest condolences to Melfina and the family. □L.D.

(AMFO, Truth or Dare. Continued from page 7)

huge misunderstanding in the community. We have funds: so apply!

Now for our last 'dare:' *Let every NGO sector representative consult and investigate thoroughly the needs of their sector.*

Finies: It's just the new policy we're striving for! Our NGO sector representatives have to be more pro-active and more involved in their sector. As I said before, the first year we aimed at letting people feel comfortable and gaining trust in the NGO Platform/AMFO process and procedures. What also helped to gain that trust is the fact that Bonaire allocated all its funds. Now our sector representatives have to structure, program and solve problems in their respective areas. In fact it happened last year when then-President Edsel Winklaar introduced new programs in the neighborhoods via radio programs, etc. Then Boy Clarinda of the Care and Welfare sector managed to focus on senior citizens. They even acquired a general coordinator. The Sports Sector too introduced new requests. I believe our representatives have done their utmost.

So James, this brings us to our final 'truth:' *The third aim of the NGO Platform is: 'Improve the social economic position of the Bonaire population. One way is to move local people to higher positions.'* *I can't see any related projects on your list of projects completed.*

Finies: Bonaireans should come to us with projects reflecting one of the five categories. My simple conclusion is that there were just no projects handed in that related to those issues. But if we once again address the issue of strengthening skills and knowledge that would be a way to achieve a higher position in the long term.

I enjoyed the 'game'! I hope you feel the same.

Finies: Yes, I did. Can I just say something to wrap up?

Of course, go ahead.

Finies: Until now people have been very responsive to our program, but we need more. We want both the NGO and AMFO information and documents to be accessible to everyone. The communication plan was initiated and promises to be successful. Please don't hesitate to visit us for questions or information at our office or websites: **AMFO:** www.samfo.org and **NGO -Platform:** www.ngobonaire.org

Thanks James. Good luck with all the projects and work! □ *Natalie A.C. Wanga*





YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS PAGES

RESULT: 3rd Maduro and Curiel's Bank Bonaire PWA King of the Caribbean

The last of the professional windsurfers were loading their boards onto BonairExpress when the trade winds returned to Bonaire. While only the Pro Kids had enough wind to compete, beach culture flourished, SCUBA diving diverted to the east coast, and there were parties galore. Here's Ann Phelan's report:

Sometimes things don't go as planned. When a group meets for a year, plans their 3rd international pro windsurfing event, naturally they anticipate good wind and competition for all. A week before the 3rd Maduro and Curiel's Bank Bonaire PWA King of the Caribbean, organizers peeked at a bleak wind forecast on www.windguru.cz. This well known weather site and sponsor for the event usually has good predictions for wind in Bonaire and worldwide. Computer models predicted not light wind but practically NO WIND. Optimism remained high with hopes that the then constant trades would prevail.

Before the event Elvis Martinus, Byron Tromp and a contingent of dedicated volunteers prepared the race site in record time. Social planners, Ann Johnson and Kazandra Rodriguez, had last-minute meetings with party sponsors to ensure the nights were as memorable as the days. Thirty seven men and 16 women registered in the Pro Events, representing countries as far away as New Zealand, Sweden, New Caledonia and beyond. It was a league of nations coming to sail in what is touted as the best freestyle venue in the world.

Days before the event, the wind blew. Training was hard, and the pros had their sights set on the coveted title of King and Queen of the Caribbean. All hopes were dashed when the wind died early on Monday after a few short competitive heats and never returned with enough force for competition. The remains of a rare eastward-moving Pacific tropical storm sucked the wind out of the Caribbean. It was the event organizers' worst fear.

Each day the competitors waited for wind. The flags hung low and the air was



Some of the windsurfers transported their boards to Curaçao aboard Irwin Muller's fishing boat.

still and heated. The Island Supplier (TIS) pumped out bottles of icy cold water and Red Bull, trying to keep the pros comfortable. Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn and his team of cooks endured the heat, grilling ribs and chicken to serve the masses. Most racers sat quietly reading books or surfing the wireless Internet provided by UTS TELBO. Others took to the water, diving and snorkeling in the refreshing blue. There was a sensational fashion show featuring clothes from Chez Claudette and Venus Swimwear. Senior citizens from Kai Minima and Rincon came to watch the show. Since the wind didn't blow they played dominos and made the best of the no-wind event.

Days turned into night... and that is when the action got hotter than the thermometer. The kickoff event, "The Taste of Bonaire" food festival, was a success with many local restaurants offering sensational entrees and delectable desserts for NAf5.

City Café, Coco's, Bongos and Bonaire Windsurf Place were places for pulsating music, delicious meals and all-night entertainment. Few got to bed before 3 each morning. It was an incredible night scene in Kralendijk. The windsurfing event coincided with the Harbortown Jazz Festival

so the town was on fire. On Saturday the pros headed north to Rincon for Culture Night. The night was steamy, but that didn't stop the crowd from joining the Simandan dance. It was non-stop partying.

The Pro Kids World Championships, sponsored by Starboard, provided the only competition. Pro Kids have no "wind minimum" in their windsurf vocabulary. They demonstrated the best in light/no wind freestyle. Youngsters from ages 4-17 and amateurs 18+ did a wide range of tricks including duck tacks and jibes and heli-tacks. In the end everyone was a winner, but the top three in each age group won prizes ranging from locally made trophies to Dakine windsurf goodies, T-shirts and hats from sponsors, Dagger Optic lenses, boards from Starboard and an assortment of treats. It was Christmas in May. Bajan "Irieman" Brian Talma was guest MC, hosting a highly entertaining conch blowing contest.

According to the Professional Windsurfing Association (PWA) contract with Bonaire Sailing Foundation, since there was no pro event, 70% of the prize money was divided amongst the competitors so everyone went home with something.

Sometimes things don't go as planned,



The limp flags tell the story of no wind

but in the end it can be just as special. That is exactly what happened at the 2005 King of the Caribbean. The wind never came up, but the people who participated made it great. Bonaire is a magical place even when the wind doesn't blow. □ Ann Phelan

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
6-03	7:25	0.9FT. 22:40	1.9FT. 66
6-04	8:28	0.8FT. 23:13	2.0FT. 74
6-05	9:32	0.7FT. 23:52	2.1FT. 80
6-06	0:22	2.1FT. 10:21	0.7FT. 84
6-07	0:58	2.1FT. 11:06	0.6FT. 84
6-08	1:33	2.0FT. 11:48	0.6FT. 82
6-09	2:07	2.0FT. 12:20	0.6FT. 78
6-10	2:42	1.9FT. 12:50	0.7FT. 72

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Andiamo	Coconut	L'Quila, BVI	Sylvia K
Andromeda	Cocori	Luna C. USA	Ti Amo, USA
Antigone	Dauntless	PisPyewacket	Tish
Adventure Quest	Discovery	Rusty Bucket	Tomorrow
Angelos	Dragonfly	Sabbatical	Ulu Ulu, USA
Angie	Endangered Species	Seafari	Ulysses
Batje	Felicity	Samba	Unicorn, Norway
Beauty and the Beast	Flying Cloud, USA	Santa Maria	Varedhuni, Germany
Bright Sea	Galadriel USA	Sandpiper, USA	Ya-T, BVI
Brown Lady	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Scintella	Yanti Paratzi
Carylur	Infinity	Sirius	Zahi, Malta
Camissa, Chan Is.	Jan Gerardus	Sorrento	Zeelander
Cape Kathryn	Kalaloo	Spice Island Lady	
Clemencia	Kismet	Starlight Dancer	
	Lava	Stenella	



Which view of Bonaire beaches do you prefer? ↑ or ⇌

The official Bonaire government tourist development guidelines -- the ones that are supposed to guide current practice -- have been spelled out in three KEY reports: the **Pourier Report** (www.mina.vomil.an; Bonaire; Environmental Legislation); the **Bonaire Tourist Strategic Plan, Final Report, 1997**, developed by **Tourist Corporation Bonaire (TCB)**; and the **DEZA (Economics Department) Bonaire Investment Guide 2003**.

These reports were approved and adopted by the Island Council, i.e. the representatives of the people of Bonaire, and are therefore official government policy. They advocate government policy that will carefully develop the island while preserving and strengthening Bonaire's unique attributes, these being its friendly people, its tranquility and peacefulness, coupled with a beautiful natural environment, under water as well as above.

According to the DEZA Bonaire Investment Guide 2003: "Development is predicated upon the philosophy that Bonaire's economic growth must be controlled, sustainable and quality balanced, with significant benefits for the Bonairean population, and respecting Bonaire's nature, culture and identity."

However, present government development policies clearly do NOT follow these guidelines. Instead of limited development in order to be able to sustain the unique attributes, our politicians appear to be taking a route towards mass-tourism, as expressed lately by their desire for 2,000 new hotel rooms, including a 570-room hotel at the old Sunset Beach site which will no doubt be a high rise of at least 10 to 12 stories.

Certainly mass-tourism will have its advocates and some people will profit short term, even if it leads to the unavoidable decline of Bonaire's uniqueness and its natural resources. Some will say that mass tourism will benefit the less well to do, without realizing that short-term policies do not benefit any section of our community in the long run. We should note that the direction of mass tourism is NOT the currently approved direction as outlined in the three official government reports listed above. **The mass tourism decision has not been discussed, planned or approved, but has simply been presented as the new direction for Bonaire in recent press conferences**

(see *The Bonaire Reporter* April 22-29 and *EXTRA*, April 18, 2005).

In an attempt to examine the contradiction between the strategic policies in the three reports and the current government belief in "more is better" (more visitors and more hotels), paragraphs will be quoted from the TCB's Bonaire Tourist Strategic Plan, page 25, headlined: "A Vision of Sustainable Tourism in Bonaire in the year 2007." The quotes represent the status the government wants Bonaire and its tourist industry to achieve by the year 2007 by following the strategic plan outlined in the report. The reality is what is seen from this writer's perspective.

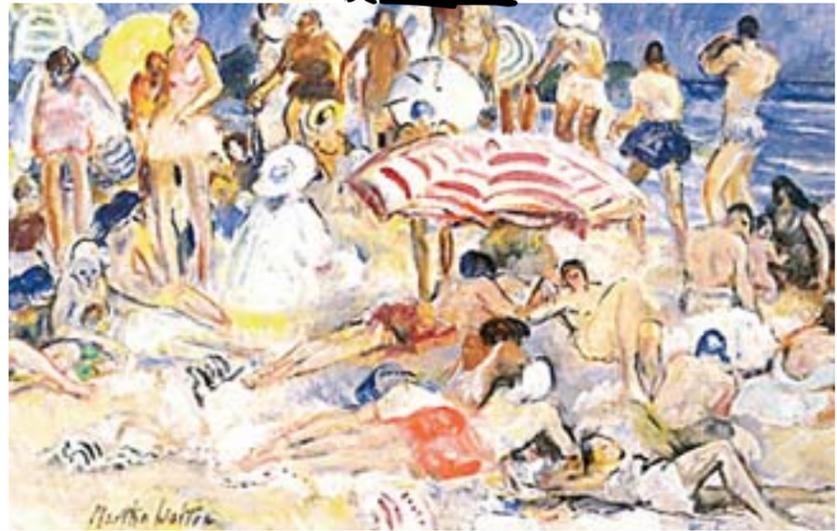
Quote 1: "The island in 2007 has some of the best managed natural assets in the Caribbean, some say the best. The Marine Park is self-financing, well respected and indeed well loved, while land zoning introduced in 1997 has succeeded in containing urban sprawl and protecting the natural state of the island."

Reality: The 1997 Zoning Plan has not been enforced, as buildings grow higher than the suggested limit of 12 meters. The condition of the reefs has steadily declined so that at this time there are fewer reefs than there were 20 years ago. Thanks to storm swells and warming sea water Staghorn and Elkhorn coral have just about disappeared. The fish population is down. Large groupers, which up to a few years ago were plentiful, are now rare. Seawater quality measurements and restricted fishing areas have not happened. Considering this and the near total removal of all sand and stone from the east and north coasts, Bonaire can hardly be called the "the island that has the best managed natural assets in the Caribbean."

Quote 2: "The growth in tourist accommodation has been restrained, but there has been some expansion in smaller hotels, often locally owned and managed, plus a continuous program of upgrade and occasional extensions to existing hotel properties. The island has been concentrating now for nearly 10 years on maintaining the quality of its existing accommodation offer and further expansion is not planned, even though there is a great deal of investor interest."

Reality: Up until recently, this was

Finding Balance for Bonaire Part 5



basically true. Growth was restrained but real, and the economy is growing. Numbers of beds have increased and tourist visits are up, even though occupancy rates are not ideal. However, with the most recent developments advocating mass-tourism, buildings have gone to four stories instead of the recommended maximum of three. And now, in the last few months, our politicians tell us that 2,000 new rooms are planned—almost tripling the current 1,200 rooms. And instead of being 'locally owned and managed' as outlined in the 1997 Strategic Report, **the owners of these additional hotel rooms are nearly all foreigners and foreign corporations so that very little potential profits will remain on the island.**

Quote 3: "...the crime and drug situation is now fully under control..."

Reality: Any comments here would be superfluous.

Quote 4: "All in all, Bonaire remains in the year 2007 a great place to live in. It has a strong economy, the island is well planned, its nature is fully protected, it got its act together in time and has managed to avoid many of the problems experienced elsewhere."

Reality: This was mostly true up until 2005, but it is obvious that we are turning in the opposite direction from where the Strategic Plan said we would be in 2007. If mass-tourism is achieved as outlined in recent press briefings, the island will no longer be a great place to live in. How will putting over 1,000 people in a 12-story hotel at Sunset Beach protect Bonaire's uniqueness, so advocated in the reports? Just the water run-off alone from irrigation would be enough to ruin snorkeling at the site. Instead of 'getting our act together and avoiding the mistakes experienced elsewhere,' our present policies will much more likely repeat those mistakes, especially since **we have no plan and no money to expand the island's infra-**

structure at the same rate hotels and rooms are to be added.

Quote 5: "Tourists love Bonaire's clean, tranquil and peaceful atmosphere. Diving is still big business, but just as many come to loaf on a beach or to go cycling or hiking and to explore its natural and cultural attractions and museums."

Reality: With rapid tourist accommodation growth, more and more high rise buildings, possibly even including a 500-room hotel and a huge increase in the number of foreign workers to build and staff these facilities, Bonaire will no longer be tranquil and peaceful. Even if diving is still the mainstay of our tourism, STINAPA's plan for a maximum of 250,000 annual dives has not been enforced, nor has the plan for creating no-fishing zones.

CONCLUSION

Growth in tourist accommodations on Bonaire, instead of being 'restrained' as exhorted in the 1997 Strategic Plan and other documents, is today being turned into a Mass Tourism Growth Plan and is being highly promoted. Major hi-rise chains are being courted. This is a major change in strategic direction for the island.

The four-story construction in many places along the coast threatens to spoil the cozy, picturesque and harmonious atmosphere of the low key, mostly one or two-story construction history. **We wonder why the government allows, and in fact encourages, this higher rise construction which is in direct conflict with the government's own rules of a 12 meter maximum height as published in the Bonaire Investment Guide 2003.**

We wonder if those pushing Bonaire toward mass tourism realize the effects of doubling or tripling the number of hotel rooms in a short period of time. **Do they not realize that our infrastructure, roads, schools and medical**

(Continued on page 11)



(Finding a Balance for Bonaire. Continued from page 10)

facilities cannot support either the tourists or the additional foreign workers that would be required to staff these accommodations? Have they provided the budget to at least double or triple the island's infrastructure?

Assuming a ratio of one worker per room, we would need some additional 2,000 foreign workers to staff the new rooms. If we include the families, this could mean some **6,000 to 8,000 additional people on a population of only 13,000**. Do they not realize what effect the influx of the children of these additional foreign workers, nearly all of whom do not speak Papiamentu or Dutch, will have just on our schools? Have the school budgets been adjusted for this?

Continuing present government policy of unrestricted, mass tourism growth in tourist accommodation will certainly not improve the unemployment situation, as claimed. Our unemployment problem is relatively small and it is obviously structural since **building contractors and restaurant establishments cannot find sufficient local employees today and must look abroad to fill vacancies**. Training programs for citizens to improve their skills so they can enter the existing tourism industry and then move up to higher positions would be more effective in solving this structural unemployment problem. New rooms will not solve this problem and could even make it worse.

This new "more is better" and "big hotel" strategy is not in keeping with the existing strategic plan for Bonaire.

This strategic plan and road map towards a quality tourism industry instead of mass-tourism is conveyed extremely well in the Pourier Report. Quoting from this report, page 8: **"Choosing for a tourism in which the environment has a central position means in the first place the renouncing of mass tourism and the limiting of the number of hotel rooms and dives."** If this accepted strategy is to be changed, it must be changed carefully and with the involvement and approval of the public. It is not acceptable that official strategic policy as adopted by the Island Council is in total contradiction to actual government actions. Bonaireans have every right to choose for mass-tourism, but if so, we should do so by design, not by default. "By design" means that **the consequences of mass tourism on Bonaire's infrastructure, its schools, its water and electricity generating capacity and its medical facilities should be made known and understood by the public**. These issues must be planned for strategically, just as the number of hotel rooms must be planned according to the capacity of the island.

It is clear that Bonaire is losing its strategic direction. The island's uniqueness – its tranquility, peacefulness and the environment - which is what brings the tourist in the first place – is at risk of being lost forever and with it Bonaire is at risk of losing its soul. □ *The author of this segment was born in the Antilles and has lived on Bonaire for 30 years.*

Copies of this article and the prior articles are available FREE on The Bonaire Reporter Website: WWW.bonairereporter.com/Bonaire_balance.htm

Wilna Groenenboom Art Exhibit Opens at Cinnamon



Wilna art

An exciting show opened last Saturday night at the Cinnamon Art Gallery.

Wilna Groenenboom, an industrial design artist and an art teacher at the SGB high school, discovered her passion during a Tene Bonaire Limpi Cleanup five years ago when she found so many things on the beach and in the mondi – things that dared her to create. She uses materials she finds – wood, plastic, metal, bones and skulls of donkeys and goats – and tries to keep each of the items intact.

Although this is her first show in Bonaire she has been the guiding light for her students' many exhibits: mirror art at Kooyman's, paper bag masks at Warehouse Bonaire, window decorations in stores for Regatta and Karnaval, futuristic models for ING Fatum Insurance's 100th anniversary.

In her own show, Wilna has tables, benches, lamps, frames with her own and her husband's photography and hilarious pieces like the sculptures depicting "The Hips of Bonaire" or the "Bonaire Mad Max." You'll find sur-



Artist Wilna Groenenboom

prise elements like lights in "The Watchful Eye," or an unusual shape of something familiar.

The exhibit continues until June 28. The Cinnamon Art Gallery is at Kaya A.P. L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind Banco di Caribe. Open weekdays 9 am to noon, 2 to 5 pm. Call 717-7103 or 786-9563 for more information. Admission free. □ L.D.

Jay Haviser's Art Debuts



Jay dedicated the exhibition to his two children: Samantha, shown, and Bryan, who is studying in Holland.

Jay Haviser, Bonaire's resident archeologist and master teacher, surprised us all with his artistic side. Last Saturday night he opened an extensive exhibition of 29 paintings at the ARTEBON Gallery. In company with his daughter Samantha, he opened his art show by explaining that he painted for his own personal pleasure, expressing his inner sentiments. He never thought of offering them for sale until now.

Jay's style may perhaps be expressed as abstract art but with a Caribbean flair both in color and subject. Although altered by the artist his subjects seem completely familiar and logical. Most are fun to look at.

Go see them for yourself and enjoy or perhaps buy a few for your wall. Prices range from NAf300 to NAf10.000. The show runs until June 11 at ARTEBON, on the waterfront promenade about 500 m. north of Karel's bar, every evening from 6:30-9 pm. Free admission. □ G.D.



One of Jay's early works (1999)
The Gecko's Window (150x140 cm.)

More Protection for Turtle Nests

Now that the nesting season for sea turtles on Bonaire is about to go into high gear, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), STINAPA, Cargill Salt Bonaire and Selibon began to block access to a number of beach and sand areas in the southwest corner of the island. Large rocks were placed under the guidance of STCB's Gielmon 'Funchi' Eg-breghts and Marine Park Manager Ramon DeLeon to prevent driving on the beach at the Atlantis and Margate Bay dive sites, the area between Kabaie and Pelike.

Notice of this action, which is to prevent compaction of the sand in sea turtle nesting areas, has been given to all dive shops. Flyers and posters have been placed in key locations on the island. This means divers, kites and beachcombers will have to walk a few extra feet after parking their cars.

According to Mabel Nava, the project coordinator of STCB, it is the first time her organization has taken steps to prevent driving on the beach. Special thanks go out to Selibon and Cargill Salt Bonaire for assistance in the project. □
Press Release



Tire tracks show where vehicles have driven on the beach.

STCB Photo

ANNOUNCEMENTS



One of the year's loveliest weddings was held on Saturday, May 21st at Our Lady of Coromoto Church in Antriol when Donna DeSalvo married Hendrik Wuyts. The couple first met about 10 years ago on Bonaire. Donna does consulting for her company, Feng Shui Dimensions, and Hendrik is the founder and operator of ScubaVision. A gala reception was held after the wedding at The Lion's Den Beach. □ G.D.

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

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

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For Sale

1998 Mazda B1600 Pick-Up. 2.2m lined load area. Good Condition, very solid, recently serviced. NAf7.500- Tel 786-8648

The following items FOR SALE: For more information on any of these items, please call 717-2848.

Revolving CD-Stand, wood, holds about 300 CDs, FL 75.00

Personal Fax Machine, Model #275 by Brother, comes with user guide, FL 35.00

Rocking Chair, hardwood in the Colonial style. Does have some scratches, but otherwise in excellent condition. FL 85.00.

Bird cage, very good condition, origi-

nally FL 400.00, now FL 75.00

Kodak Ektagraphic Slide Projector, Excellent Condition with very little use. Originally FL 800.00, now FL 100.00. Comes with carrying case, originally FL 180.00, now FL 40.00 if desired. **Ceiling Lighting Fixture**, good for bedroom or kitchen; Leaded Glass Pattern, Originally FL 350.00, now FL 75.00

The following items FOR SALE: e-mail alexander137@flamingotv.net or Call 717-7977 or 528-3014

- Almost new **stroller** NAf 100 (was 175 Naf)
- Prof. photo **camera** Pentax K2DMD with many extra's NAf 700 (was 7000 Naf !!)
- Mitsubishi Colt '94 car**. Low mileage, great condition NAf5000
- Dell Laptop** C-610 (year 2004), 256MB Ram, 20 GB, CD/DVD-combo, case, XP Prof, Office 2003 Pro, wireless G card, Adobe Photoshop, Streets, NAf1400 (Bargain!)
- Desktop** (year 2003) Intel Celeron 1.2 GHz, 512 Mb Ram, 40 GB, CD, DVD, 17" monitor, X.P. home (SP2), office 2003 pro, printer, scanner, ink, paper NAf1.300
- Sony MHC-GN800 Prof. Hi-Fi component system** almost new with warranty: surround with 5 speakerboxes, MP3, mic, c.d. (3), double tape deck etc... NAf700 (was 1.100Naf)
- Toshiba HD projection t.v-61A62**, almost new (**biggest on Bonaire!**) (1,3mx1,5mx0,65m) (4ftx5ftx2ft) with warranty: 2.700Naf (was 3.200Naf)

Property, Sales & Rentals

For rent: Kaya Den Haag (Hato) 2 **Bedroom apartment**, completely furnished Available for immediate occupation Nafl. 1.100,- per month (including cable TV) Contact: Amanda at Harbourtown Real Estate 717-5539

For rent: Downtown 2 bedroom furnished/swimming pool services NAf1200 excl. utilities/short term possibilities For info e-mail alexander137@flamingotv.net or call 717-7977 or 528-3014

CARIBBEAN COURT APARTMENT FOR RENT- Large 118m² 1-bedroom apartment. Penthouse, fully furnished, large bedroom, loft style dining/living room area, fully equipped, 2 balconies, Air conditioning throughout, very breezy. NAf1.100 per month, cable TV (with TV set) included, utilities

extra.. Contact Anja at Sunbelt 717-6560 or Catherine at 791-6777. Available June 1.

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. 717-4111

For Rent: Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-privacy & security. Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293; (US) (570) 586 0098. **May 20 until Jan. 8th.** info@pelicanreefbonaire.com or www.pelicanreefbonaire.com -

Found

Along the coast, **keys connected to a swimming belt**. Info. 561-1101

Help Wanted

Wait person. Morning shift 8am-3pm, Evening shift 3 pm -10 pm. Must be fluent in English and Spanish. Great Escape, 717-7488

Actor Wanted

Scuba Vision is preparing for a new film production and is looking for adult male actors able to perform in front of a camera with a good voice to express emotions. It will be a short film, subject still a secret, the acting will be very easy and the best performance will be used. Call 786-2844 or email info@subavision.info.

Volunteers needed to index back issues of *The Bonaire Reporter* (English) and *Extra* (Papiamentu). Call George at 717-8988 or 786-6125.

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Swim Team Successes



Barracuda Samson Evertsz gives two thumbs up. Samson had first place finishing times (Boys 9 - 10 years) in 50 meter backstroke, 50 meter breaststroke, 50 meter butterfly, and 4 x 50 meter freestyle relay.

Just three weeks after participating in the 6th Annual Dutch Caribbean Invitational Swim Meet, the Bonaire Barracudas Swim Team returned to Curaçao for the Curaçao Swimming Federation's annual "Rookie Meet."

The competition was held on Saturday, May 21 at the *Sentro Deportivo Korsow*'s 50 meter swimming pool with morning and evening sessions. This contest is usually for Curaçao swimmers who have never participated in a swim meet or who have either a "C" qualifying time or no official time for a particular event. The Barracudas, member of the Bonaire Swimming Federation, were invited to swim in this meet with exhibition status after their successful swimming debut at the Dutch Caribbean meet. Although not eligible to win medals as an exhibition team, the Barracudas were able to gain more competitive experience, log new times in their events and see how they compare to novice competitive swimmers on our sister island.

The 16-member Barracuda team dominated the 29 individual and three relay events in which they swam.

- Barracuda first place finishing times: 13 individual and 2 relays
- Barracuda second place finishing times: 12 individual and 1 relay
- Barracuda third place finishing times: 5 individual
- Club members set 11 new Bonaire Long Course records for individual events and three new Bonaire Long Course relay records.

The Barracudas were accompanied to Curaçao by their coach Simone Sweers and a delegation of nine enthusiastic parents. The club is grateful to its many friends and supporters in the Curaçao swimming community without whose help this trip would not have been possible. □ Story & Photo by *Valarie Stimpson*

Picture Yourself with the Reporter Curaçao



Members of the Bonaire Barracudas Swim Team and Coach Simone Sweers take time out from the Curaçao C Championship at *Sentro Deportivo Korsow* to read *The BONAIRE REPORTER*. The photograph was taken by William Lont, coach of the Curaçao Bulado Swim Club. □

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Jellastone (Pet) Park Opens

The old saying, "Build it and they will come," is a good way to introduce Bonaire's newest entrepreneurial adventure. Jella van Berkum saw a need and met it by creating **JEL- LASTONE**, a pet park boarding hotel for dogs and cats. Located off of Lagoen Road, just past Capt. Don's nursery, you will find a large, clean, tranquil compound that features, among other perks, soft, relaxing music that plays all day for your pets' enjoyment.

Jella has always had a great affection for animals and decided to create a safe, fun place for dogs and cats to visit while their owners go off-island. The seven kennels are spacious and secure and are adjacent to a 400-square-meter 'play area.' Because the kennels are right next to her house, Jella is on the premises day and night. She personally interacts with her 'guests' and gives them lots of time to play under her supervision.

In order to ensure the health and safety of her boarders she follows a sensible health code. All boarders must be up to date on their shots, provide the date of the last heartworm pill (only required for dogs) and must arrive wearing a tick/flea collar. If your pet needs pills or other types of medication she will administer them and will also take your pet to your designated vet if it becomes necessary.

Doting pet owners no longer have to worry about what to do with Rover and Kitty-Kat when they go away. Their little darlings can vacation in luxury at **JEL- LASTONE**. Call Jella at 786-4651 for reservations or simply stop by for a visit.

□ *Dabney Lassiter*



You pronounce it "Yellastone."

She's Back!

Lucille Martijn is a veteran restaurateur who has offered fine food and good service to Bonaire for almost 25 years. Back in the early 80s when there were only a few restaurants on the island Lucille had the popular Bistro Des Amis. Looking for other challenges she went on to create Mi Poron, a charming location serving local specialties; Le Wok; and then Chez Lucille, both of which featured Thai cuisine. Now she has put her many years of expertise together and created "Lucille's," a cozy, welcoming atmosphere offering an excellent Thai and French menu. The ambience is informal and



Lucille Martijn at the opening of her new restaurant, "Lucille's"

friendly. Guests may have drinks and appetizers at the bar and call it a night or dine in the colorful Caribbean atmosphere of the terrace or the inside areas and enjoy a spicy stir-fry or a variety of curry offerings. For lunch you may choose smaller portions of her nighttime specialties, a refreshing salad or simply a tangy bowl of Thai soup. From time to time local Creole-style dishes such as stewed conch, goat stew, or chicken Bonaire-style will be featured. There is an impressive wine list featuring some excellent selections from France and California, South Africa and Australia. And her dessert menu is to die for (crepes, flan, crème Brulee) so be sure to save room!

Open from 11 am until 11 pm (except Sundays), with lunch served until 3 pm and dinner from 6 pm until 11 pm. Lucille's is on Kaya Abraham #12 (former Casa Blanca location, just south of the Post Office). A private meeting room which can accommodate 20 or more is available too. Call 717-7884 for reservations. □

Dabney Lassiter

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Visit the Hidden Islands of Lac Bay

Reserve June 5th to take a Bonaire trip of discovery to the mysterious islands of Lac Bay. That's when Nolly Oleana and Bòi Antoin along with other experts are planning an excursion to three islands, Isla di Yuana, Isla di Pedro and Isla di Rancho, hidden in Lac Bay, the largest bay in the Netherlands Antilles. During the trips you'll learn a lot about the environment, flora and fauna of the bay and the islands.

A minimum of 30-40 people have to sign up to make the trip possible because of the logistics of getting the guides and equipment needed. **SIGN UP AS SOON AS YOU READ THIS** by calling the *Extra* newspaper at 717-8482 or pass by their office.



It can get a little wet, but it's worth it!

THIS TRIP IS TOTALLY UNIQUE AND A MUST FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND FOR VISITORS WHO WANT A TRUE BONAIRE EXPERIENCE AT A FRACTION OF THE COST OF THE TYPICAL "TOURIST TOUR."

The cost is only NAf25 per person, NAf15 for children, which includes a delicious meal, including soup and juice. Details on where to meet and times will be provided when you sign up, but plan for a half day to do it all.

The first 20 persons to sign up will

receive a 70-page book, in Dutch, containing a study by P. Wagenaar Hummelinck and P.J. Roos from 1969. It contains lots of useful information, photos and maps. ALL the participants will get two books of studies about the flamingos in Bonaire. One written by J.H. Westermann in Dutch and one in English by Jan Rooth. □ *G.L.D./Bòi Antoin*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

King's Ransom
(Anthony Anderson)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

Fever Pitch
(Drew Barrymore)

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
Son of the Mask

THIS WEEK

Saturday June 4, Bonaire Champion Chefs Team fundraiser dinner at SGB Chez Nous, 7 pm. Donation NAF 50/pp to send team to Taste of the Caribbean Competition in Miami at the end of the month. Only 30 seats available. All previous dinners have been sellouts. Call for tickets to Laura 717-8988 or Diana 717-5134.

Saturday, June 4—Big Rincon Marshé—from 6 am to 4 pm—Open air market with stands selling local food, drinks, gifts, plants, herbs. Friendliest place on the island. Also Soldachi Walking and Bus Tours of Bonaire's oldest town (start at 10 am). Call Maria to reserve 771-6435. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

Sunday, June 5 -Guided trip to the islands of Lac Bay. (See page 18) Sign up at *Extra* newspaper. NAF25 per person, NAF15 for children, which includes a delicious meal with soup and juice. 717-8482

Until June 11 -Jay Haviser Art Exhibit at ARTEBON (on the waterfront promenade about 500 m. north of Karel's bar) from 6:30-9pm, every evening. Free admission

Until June 28 -Wilna Groenenboom Art Exhibit, The Cinnamon Art Gallery is at Kaya A.P. L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind Banco di Caribe. Open weekdays 9 am to noon, 2 to 5 pm. Call 717-7103 or 786-9563.

COMING

Saturday, June 12 - Jong Bonaire Triathlon—Win prizes 200m. Swim, 10K bike, 3K run. Call 717-4303, Jong Bonaire The International Bonaire Sailing Regatta October 9 – 15, 2005.

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**-great prizes, 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

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:



FEVER PITCH by Bobby and Peter Farrelly, starring Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon. Based on a really funny book by Nick Hornby (go and read it!).

This is a fairly predictable romantic comedy but worthy of a couple of laughs. The plot contains the obligatory guy meets girl's friends, girl meets guy's friends, and guy meets girl's parents scenes. There is even a guy meets girl's pet dog scene. Jimmy Fallon and Drew Barrymore, both of whom have great potential to annoy, which they do quite convincingly in the first few scenes, actually grow into their roles and eventually do a fine job for this kind of film.

On the whole, I'm afraid, the film really doesn't live up to the book nor the original film made in 1997 in the UK starring Colin Farrel. However, if you are a Red Sox fan, then this is a nice twist on how events went down and a good way to relive what was probably your greatest year in baseball. □ *Dodo*

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 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. 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.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

Al-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,

Pet of the Week

Recently Colton Reed of Cobb, California, visited Bonaire for his Aunt Donna's wedding. One of the best times he had was when he visited the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Here he is, holding little "Edward," a grey and white pup who was found by Kaminda Lagoen. The two were instant friends. Nearly three months old, Edward is enthusiastic, smart and alert. He should grow up to be a fairly small pup, perfect as a lap dog. It was a very sad sight to see when Colton had to leave and the two were parted.

You may meet Edward and the other adoptees at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

The most "in" tee shirts you can buy on Bonaire – both for yourself and as a gift – are those from the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Show your care and know you're donating to a most worthy cause – helping to keep the Shelter open for homeless cats and dogs. **You can find the tee shirts at the Shelter, Carib Inn, Dive Inn, Coco Palm Gardens or at the Manager's Parties at Capt. Don's Habitat on Monday, 6 to 7 pm, or Buddy Dive Friday, 5:30 to 7 pm.** □ *L.D.*



"Edward" with Colton

across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NAF5 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

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

WOMBANIA™

TOAD FOOD?! I DON'T WANT ANY TOAD FOOD!

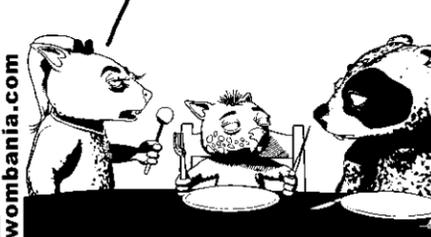


DO I LOOK LIKE A TOAD?



ACTUALLY, YOU KINDA DO.

I SAID TOFU!!



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www.wombania.com

JK

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Want your restaurant listed here?	It's easy and not expensive	Call <i>The Reporter</i> at 717-8988 or 791-7252 for info
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; Monday: Caribbean 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 Royal Palm Galleries Kaya Grandi 26, Next to Re/Max, 717-4321	Low-Moderate Lunch and Early Dinner Open 11 am -6 pm - Closed Sunday	Lots of parking in big mall lot Kitchen Open non-stop 11am-6 pm Breezy terrace with a/c inside
Caribbean Club Bonaire On the Tourist Road, 2 mi. north of Town 717-7901	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Quiet country setting, lovely landscaping, friendly staff Happy Hour from 5-7 pm Gourmet chef creates unique daily specials
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.
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.

Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

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, DVD rentals, 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, slides, 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.

Mike Boom & Associates - Broad assortment of homes and properties. View on their website www.bonairerealty.com or office in town

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. 717-2345

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.**

LIST YOUR BUSINESS HERE. Call 717-8988 or 791-7252 for more information. It's easy and not expensive.

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. Closed during June.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN:
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

Art and Anna Kleimer

“The first time we came was in 1988 on a Christmas vacation. There were 18 of us: Art, his three children and me, his folks, his sister, her triplets and her husband and some aunts. We all stayed at Sand Dollar. We’d chosen Bonaire because the children were between the ages of 12 and 18 and we wanted no big crowds, warm water and we wanted to dive. Art immediately fell in love with the island and said, ‘What would you think if I bought one of these apartments?’ I answered, ‘All right, as long as I can get home for Christmas to visit my parents!’ He came back half an hour later and said, ‘I bought the apartment we’re in!’”

Art was retired and we were getting married in a couple of months. After the wedding we came here for three weeks. When we returned to the States, Art’s stockbroker told us we’d lost all our money. We had to go back to work instead of retiring on Bonaire. But we had each other and the kids were great.”

Art continues, “We went to work as realtors in Vail, Colorado, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. In winter, the busy season, we never had a day off; we worked three months in a row without having one single day to ourselves. We were successful, but we worked hard for it. Anna would make a calendar, so we counted the days before we could go to Bonaire because our hearts were always here. . . ever since we first came to the island.”

We started commuting back and forth. We’d be here for months and months every year, and by the end of the 90s we could live here for nine months of the year. The other months we were still working, but we had our own company and it went well. Five years ago we bought a bigger apartment because in the meantime there were grandchildren, and in 2000 we came to live here fulltime.”

“I started taking art lessons and was reading books and helping Elisabeth Wigny with the Special Olympics swimmers. Boy, she’s the stronghold,” Anna says. “But by the end of November 2004, I wanted to do something more and meet more people. I went to Bob Bartikowski to ask him if he wanted to have somebody to work exclusively with buyers. Our office in the States had a team approach: everybody was a specialist helping buyers and sellers, and that’s the way Re/Max here operates. Basically people are looking for their dream of owning a home. Even though they’re different personalities, everybody wants the same thing. For

me it’s to accommodate the buyer and the seller and to help them come together. We were in a resort community in Colorado and this is a resort community. Second home owners approach it as an investment and try to keep their heart out of it, but in the end it’s a combination of heart and head.”

There are lots of locals who want to buy or sell too. In all communities it’s always about making a solid home for your family, and for me and Re/Max our goal is to help the people who are the infrastructure on the island, and that’s everybody, not just the people who want the big mansions! I always get what I want and that’s what I want for my buyers too! So, it was a real good thing. Bob wanted me and it worked out!”

“He would be crazy not to!” Art says. “For years Anna has spoken at conventions and seminars all over the States about real estate related topics. She’s absolutely one of the best in the business! I’m proud of you, very proud!” “He’s my biggest fan club,” Anna laughs’

“I was an army brat in Virginia,” Anna says, “and one of the things I learned when I was very young is: ‘Bloom where you’re planted.’”

Art (63) and Anna (51) Kleimer are a loving, dedicated couple; they have great belief in themselves and each other and they are extremely positive people. Their Sand Dollar apartment is nice and big and its balcony with the gorgeous view is absolutely fabulous as it has nothing of a ‘holiday home’ but everything that makes a house a home: plants, books, maps, self-made paintings and simple comfy furniture.

“For the last three years,” Art says, “I’ve been writing a book, called ‘Magnificent Living,’ living your life with liberty and happiness. It’s a self-help motivational book so that people can help themselves to have a beautiful life, to be able to choose and do what truly makes them happy. Absolutely it’s possible! Look at us! I was born in New Jersey; I have three children and two grandsons, Jake and Nate. I’m a lawyer by profession and training, then a businessman, then a developer, then a realtor and a public servant, serving on a lot of charities and working with groups to make the world a better place.”



Art and Anna Kleimer

“I was an army brat in Virginia,” Anna says, “and one of the things I learned when I was very young is: ‘Bloom where you’re planted.’ My mom and dad met during the war in Germany. My mom is German. My dad took her to the States and they’re still married!”

I went into accounting, always working for small companies; it was a means to an end. I had to go to work to support myself. Look where we are now! It’s about dreaming and then acting to make your dreams come true! Art’s also a personal and business coach. He coaches people here and in the States by telephone. He never stops, always dreams and always gets what he wants and works hard for it too.”

It’s my passion; you should live your passions,” Art says. “I believe God wouldn’t put us on earth unless She wanted us to live a magnificent life! Yes, you heard it right: I said ‘She.’ To me the God of the Old Testament was a judgmental God, but in the New Testament, there is love and kindness, and as I see it, more femininity. For me, the God who talks about love and kindness is easier to live with than one who speaks about judgment and right and wrong. I don’t think it was intended to fear God, but that’s a whole different discussion,” he smiles. “We’re blessed; we are lucky to wake up every morning and have the choice of how to make our day. Here we have the luxury of time. We like to paint and dive and kayak and be with friends.”

“I don’t believe friendships come easy,” Anna fills in. “They don’t come lightly; you have to truly work on them. So, we only want to invest our time in making friendships, in quality relationships. Art and I are still on our honey-

moon, absolutely! We’ve known each other just in this life 16 years, but we are sure there were previous ones together.”

“Every Thursday we have a date,” Art says: “A sunset dinner, a lunch, something to surprise her, to have special times together. Not talking about business, but counting our blessings. . . that’s what we believe in. That’s how we believe life should be. We choose to count our blessings rather than count our problems. I mean: We’re on Bonaire. . . does it ever get any better? We go to the Rose Inn and sit under the tree; we go to KonTiki and watch the windsurfers. It’s not snowing; it’s not cold and there are no sharks, so. . . now there is no wind. . . no big deal!”

The beauty of Bonaire is its people: all the Bonaireans, all the foreigners, all the nationalities. It’s such a melting pot, and the people are nice and kind and that makes the island a very nice place to be! Oh yes, we’ll always stay here. We’re pretty simple people; we like to live simply. We have each other, more love than when we fell in love, and we have our health. I really am happy. I love what I do and I do what I love; the sky is blue and the water is blue. . . what more do you need? Both of us believe in making the world a better place, bring some kindness, some light into other people’s life and that’s what we do.”

□ Photo & Story by Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

MCB Bonaire Supports UniCollege Bonaire



Orphaline Saleh of MCB Bonaire (second from right) presents a check to Dr. Mireille Aranguren-van Egmond (Treasurer), Roy Chin-On (President of SVVHO) and Jursi Marshall (Secretary)

In August 2005, in time for the 2005-2006 school year, UniCollege Bonaire will begin first-year HAVO/VWO (academic-college prep) high school classes with a class of 15. It plans to add an additional grade each year up to the 5th year of HAVO and the 6th year of VWO. The *Stichting Vooruitstrevend Voortgezet en Hoger Onderwijs-SVVHO* (Advanced Secondary and Higher Education Foundation) is providing the backing for the new school. Foundation members are: Roy Chin-On, Jursi Marshall and Mireille Aranguren-van Egmond. The mission of the foundation is to provide an alternative high school education on Bonaire.

Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. recognized this initiative as a very important step for the social and economic development of the island of Bonaire. UniCollege provides talented youngsters a secondary education based on the Dutch HAVO/VWO standards. Graduates will qualify for a high school diploma, with an innovative method of teaching, already being used in some Dutch schools. It will further enhance the quality of the education facilities on the island.

By donating NAf10,000, MCB Bonaire indicated its support for the school and hopes to encourage other organizations to participate as well.

The Foundation hopes to count on the financial support and generosity of private and other institutional sponsors. Grants and donations will be gratefully acknowledged and may be made to account #112.649.00 at Maduro & Curiel's Bank

(Bonaire), c/o *Stichting Vooruitstrevend Voortgezet en Hoger Onderwijs*.

Inquiries can be e-mailed to info@UniCollege.org. The school's website is www.unicollege.org.

□ Press Release/G.D.



MCB
MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK (BONAIRE) N.V.

Harbourtown Bonaire Jazz Festival Most Successful



Delbert Bernabela from Aruba and his group at Rum Runners Jazz Brunch

Bonaire may have surprised itself once again by its competence in organizing major events. By any measure its first international Jazz Festival was a huge success. The performers were superb and enjoyed their visit; the audiences were large and enthusiastic; the host resorts enjoyed banner business; and the Jazz Foundation made enough money to donate NAf3,500 to bolster Bonaire musical education. While all sponsors, performers, volunteers and even the jazz crazed audiences deserve credit, special recognition must be given to Guus Gerritsen and his wife, Nita, who brought the germ of an idea to reality. □ G.D.

Here is a report on the fund raising events: The receipts of a fundraising concert on the *M.V. Free-winds* (NAf700), the estimated profits from the sale of food and beverages at the May 19th Welcome Concert in Wilhelmina Park (NAf700) and approxi-

mately 25 % of the profits of the Festival (NAf2,000) all added up to a gift of NAf3,500 to be donated to a Music Fund governed by Rob van Lier (SGB) and Jane Emers (Coordinator-Centro di Barios). They plan to use the money to engage a project leader to prepare talented youngsters for a musical performance at the 2006 Jazz Festival.

The Harbourtown Bonaire Jazz Festival 2005 attracted 1,500 people during the three main concerts. In addition, during the Festival, 15 concerts were given at 10 locations; nine different bands were involved, of which three were local groups playing Latin and Caribbean Jazz. Forty-five musicians performed in all.

There will be another Jazz Festival next year. Depending on coordination with the King of the Caribbean/Professional Windsurfing Association and the TCB, it is tentatively set for the third weekend of May 2006. □ Guus Gerritsen Press Release

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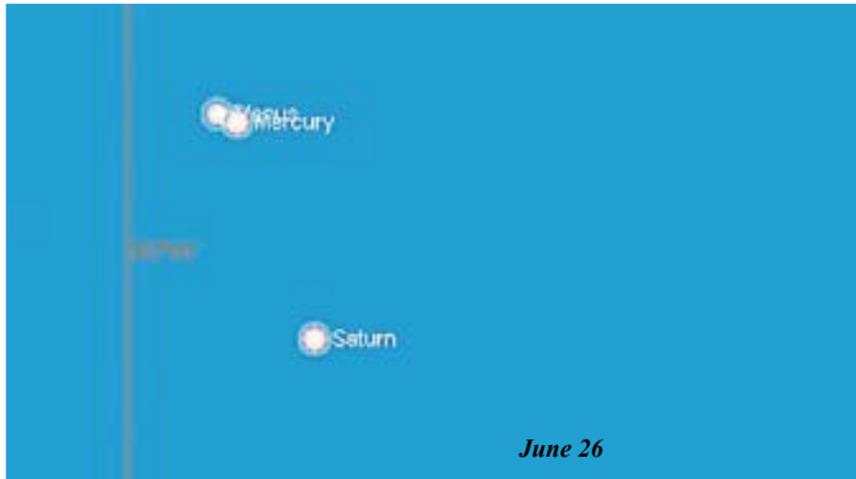
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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up



Spectacular Planet Viewing On the Way

Believe me when I say that this June 2005 will be an absolutely spectacular month in the Sky Park for three planets: the brightest of them all, **Venus**; the most beautiful of all, ringed **Saturn**; and the most elusive of them all, tiny, closest-to-the-Sun, **Mercury**.

Next week, on Tuesday, June 7th, face west northwest, 30 to 45 minutes after sunset while there is still some twilight out. And if you have a fairly clear unobstructed horizon, you'll see the planet which is often mistaken for a UFO, Earth's so-called twin because it is the same size, 8,000-mile-wide brilliant Venus. And if you have a really clear unobstructed horizon, just below Venus to its right you'll see a slender sliver of a very young crescent **Moon**. Plus if you have a clear flat water horizon without clouds you may even see tiny Mercury peeking just above the horizon. But if you can't see it, don't fret because it will be much higher a couple weeks later.

Next look up to Venus' left and you'll see the planet we've been visiting with our **Cassini spacecraft**, incredible ringed Saturn, which still looks spectacular through a small telescope. Now on Wednesday June 8th, the crescent Moon will be easier to find because it will have moved up above Venus and will be slightly larger and breathtakingly beautiful. Then the next night, Thursday June 9th, it will be parked right alongside Saturn.

So don't miss next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights to get familiar with Saturn, Venus and Mercury because these are the three planets which are going to absolutely blow you away towards the end of the month. In fact mark the last week of June as the one week of the year you'll have to go out every night just after sunset to watch an incredible dance and meeting of these three planets.

On Friday night, June 24th, Saturn will have moved way down in the heavens, and Mercury will have moved way up and will join with Venus in a spectacular compact trio. And according to astronomer Fred Schaaf, they'll be so close you'll be able to hide them with your little finger tip at arm's length.

Then for the next seven nights Venus and Mercury will be less than one degree apart from each other, and you can watch Mercury and Venus as they come closer to each other and Saturn as it slowly drifts away from them. On Saturday, June 25th, Mercury and Venus are closer still, and on Sunday and Monday, June 26th and 27th, they'll be so close, only one tenth of one degree apart, that the Old Farmer's Almanac claims they may even appear to merge into one star. In fact they won't be this close again until 2070. If you have a pair of binoculars use them please because this is a sight you'll see only twice in a lifetime. And to top it off on the 27th, 28th and 29th they'll still be breathtakingly close. So start your Venus, Saturn and Mercury watch next week on the 7th, 8th and 9th and reserve the last of June. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
June 3 to June 10, 2005

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Self-deception is likely. Observations will be far more productive. Don't get involved in idle chatter that will hurt your position. You are best to stick to yourself this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Be sure to sidestep those who are eccentric or unpredictable. Travel for business or pleasure will be enlightening. Try to be reasonable. Don't allow colleagues to put unreasonable pressure on you. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) They will not have the patience to wait for you to complete things that they've asked you to do. Tempers could boil if someone you work with has not been pulling their weight. Overindulgence will mean poor health. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. Accomplishment is yours if you direct yourself accordingly. Arguments with relatives may lead to a split in the family. You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your boss won't be too thrilled if you leave things unfinished. Don't overspend on items for your home. Hassles with female colleagues may lead to problems with your boss. Take part in stimulating debates that will allow you to show off your intelligence. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your concern with older family members and those less fortunate than yourself will only add to your attractiveness. Make career changes that may increase your income. Adventure will result in added knowledge. Keep your eyes and ears alert for any evasive or deceptive statements. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can get phenomenal returns if you present your ideas to those who can back your interests. Take time to deal with the concerns of children. You may want to take a trip; however, before you do, make sure that your car is serviced properly. Try out for a local sports team such as volleyball, tennis, lawn bowling, or whatever interests you. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Get involved in groups that can offer intellectual stimulation. Set a limit on the amount you're willing to spend, and be sure to stick to it. Make plans that will take you to exotic destinations. For best results get out of the office and do your job en route. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be discreet about any information you uncover. Question your mate if you must. You may want to take extra special care of your luggage if you are traveling this week. You may find that your family responsibilities are piling up. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Losses are likely if you aren't careful where you leave your valuables. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. Put your efforts into being creative. You can visit clients and make a big impression just by giving them some hands-on help. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Deep discussions may only lead to friction. Time to deal with institutional environments, government agencies, and matters of a private nature this week. You'll be an emotional basket case this week. Don't take any comments too seriously. You're not your usual self this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Helping children may be rewarding and challenging. Your partner will blow situations out of proportion. Your creative ideas must be put to good use. Don't trust a deal that looks too good, or a lover who appears to have it all. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.