

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

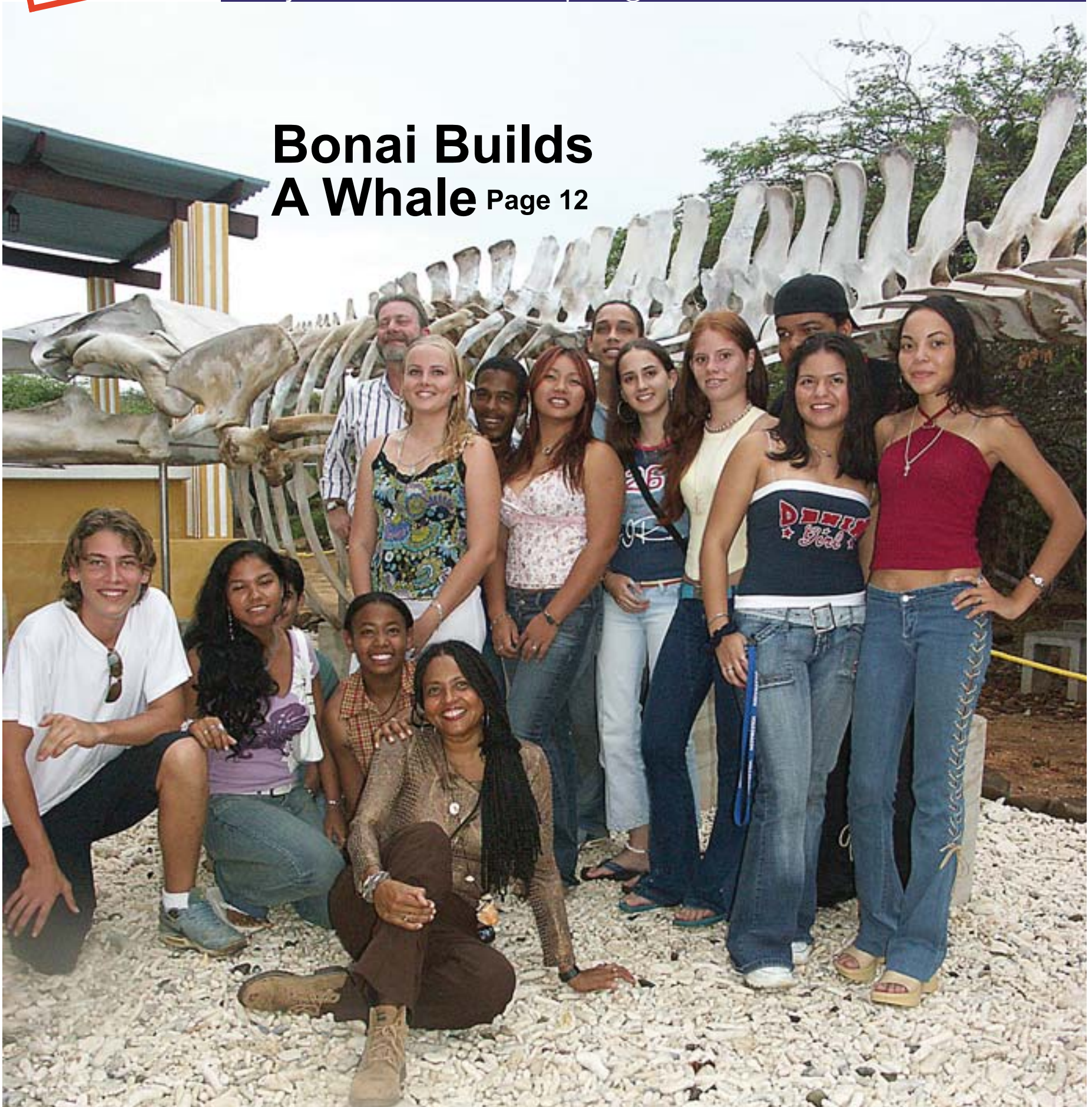
June 10 to June 17, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 22

The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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

SINCE 1994

Bonai Builds A Whale Page 12



**NGO Platform Funds
Parke Publico
Bonaireano
Page 6**

**Finding A Balance
for Bonaire
PART 6
AIRLIFT MYTHS
Page 10**

**Ocean "Mustang
Corral" Page 15**

**Rincon News
Page 8**

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Acting Manager of SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management company, Rudsel Lieto is making things happen. **He is starting the first large scale recycling project on Bonaire** under the auspices of the newly formed Bonaire Recycling Foundation. Beginning in September all of Bonaire's hotels, snacks, and restaurants have to deposit their waste glass in special color-coded containers. Private households will be included next year. A public information campaign will begin in July.

A pilot project has begun at downtown City Café where five containers are located. Manager Lieto said, "Ten loads from City Café have already been taken to the crusher to be ground and converted into aggregate. If this test is successful, the Gunlis Crusher, SELIBON, and Bonaire Recycling Foundation will sign a contract. After that, we would like to begin as soon as possible to collect empty glass containers."

SELIBON has ordered about 100 containers. It estimates that between the private households, restaurants and street litter 830, 100 and 5 tons, respectively, of waste glass is produced annually.

► **BonairExpress is attempting to improve its operation.** It's hired a new Chief Pilot and is running advertisements for more flight and engineering crew. Passengers report that flights are running closer to schedule.

► **Air Jamaica added to its long list of awards and accolades by achieving the number one ranking among Caribbean and Latin American carriers for in-flight food and beverage service** as voted on by visitors to www.airlinemeals.net, the world's first and leading site which deals with nothing but airline food. Air Jamaica's cuisine earned a 7.85 average rating, outpacing LanChile (7.18), Varig (6.71), Mexicana (6.63) and TACA (5.30) among regional carriers receiving a minimum of 10 customer critiques. **Too bad they will soon leave Bonaire skies.** (AP report)



► **The Surinamese airline, SLM, will start flying between Curaçao and St. Maarten** three times a week, effective June 24, announced Antillean Transport and Communication Minister Omayra Leeftang. The airline will use an MD-80 aircraft for the flights. Cur-



ABVO photo

Bonaire officials on hand for the Morotin cleanup. Rudsel Lieto in the center of the group.

► Rincon is a long way from the landfill on Lagoen Road. As a consequence the people of the village have long been using the Morotin area as a dump for bulky trash. But that was illegal and unsanitary. However, recognizing the necessity for a dump site north of the village, SELIBON and the Platforma Rincon **will work together to find a site where they can place some large containers to receive bulk garbage.** The containers will be periodically transported to the landfill by SELIBON.

According to SELIBON Acting Manager, Rudsel Lieto, the first talks with representatives of the Platforma will start soon. SELIBON cleaned up the Morotin site last month and is looking for a way to finance the new waste operation.

rently, only BonairExpress flies the route. It has been subject to numerous complaints. Some of them are because the ATR turbo props are too small to handle the volume of travelers. Passengers and luggage are often left behind. Floris van Pallandt, the new head of BonairExpress (part of Dutch Caribbean Express), took part in negotiations with SLM.

► **Bonaire's Customs department will soon have a new drug sniffing dog.** The islands recently received six new dogs to replace those who had died or retired. Four will stay in Curaçao and the last will go to Sint Maarten.

► **Two men were charged Sunday in connection with the disappearance last week of an Alabama teenager, 18-year-old Na-**



talee Holloway, who was visiting Aruba with classmates to celebrate their high school graduation. Authorities requested a special diving team from the

Continued on page 4.

FBI because of rough currents in a planned search area, said Attorney General Caren Janssen who announced the arrests.

The arrests came nearly a week after the honor student disappeared during a five-day trip to Aruba with more than 100 other classmates from Mountain Brook High School, near Birmingham, Ala.

The men, ages 28 and 30, were working as security guards near the Holiday Inn where the teen was staying.

Janssen declined to provide specific charges, saying the case will go before a judge by Wednesday to determine whether they can be legally held. She said the suspects were "uncooperative."

Hundreds of Arubans and American residents joined the hunt. About

(Continued on page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE

Opinion (Finding Nemo)	3
Rincon News (On the Porch, First Computer Center, Growing our own)	8
World Tour for Taty	9
Windsurf Kids get awards	9
Finding a Balance for Bonaire Pt. 6, Air Lift Myths	10
Bonai Builds a Whale	12
Ocean "Mustang Corral"	15
Bruce Bowker gets 30 year Padi Award	17
Lighthouse walk (Nazario)	17
Gardner (hedges)	22

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
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AMFO/NGO Platform

-Parke Publiko	6
-Teens train as tour guides	7
- Contact Info.	7
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Classifieds	14
Reporter Masthead	18
What's Happening	19
Pet of the Week ("Hector")	19
Wombania Cartoon	19
Shopping & Dining Guides (Almost) Born on Bonaire (Jackie Bernabela)	21
Picture Yourself (Baltimore, USA)	22
Bonaire Sky Park (Stars Move)	23
The Stars Have It	23

**"FINDING NEMO"
WHILE LOSING THE OCEANS**

Often I stare into the sea from my perch above Bachelor's Beach and contemplate how it is possible that humans could be draining the oceans of life. Meanwhile, movies with underwater themes like *Finding Nemo* and *Shark Tale* have become the most popular animated features in history. In *Finding Nemo*, the ocean ecosystem is represented as a vibrant world full of diversity and teeming with life. In reality, beneath the surface of most of our water planet is a growing emptiness and sickness caused by over fishing, pollution, overdevelopment, and simple ignorance and greed. So, while our children are feeling compassion for Marlin and Nemo the clownfish, Dory the blue tang, Crush the sea turtle, and the other colorful sea creatures in the movies, many adults are standing by idly, allowing the oceans to die and betraying our children's trust. Soon, otters, turtles, sharks, rays, seals, whales, dolphins, and all the other marvelous life of the oceans will only be seen live in aquariums and sea worlds or as caricatures in movies and books and on cups and sheets.

I wonder how many families, after viewing *Finding Nemo* or *Shark Tale* together, decided to eat seafood for dinner—perhaps some shrimp—not knowing, or not caring, that wild shrimp caught in trawl nets have the highest by-catch of any commercial fishery with three to 15 pounds of unwanted animals



caught per one pound of shrimp, including endangered sea turtles. One moment a family is cheering the animated antics of the sea turtles riding the currents in *Finding Nemo*, and the next they are supporting the cruel drowning deaths of sea turtles in trawl nets for a shrimp dinner. Maybe they decided to stop after the movie at their local restaurant bar for a beer-battered cod sandwich, not knowing, or not caring, that Atlantic and Icelandic cod have been so severely overfished by factory trawlers that it will take decades for the cod to recover. Perhaps they dined at a more formal restaurant where swordfish, tuna or red snapper was the "catch of the day," not knowing, or not caring, that the long lines used to catch swordfish, the purse seines used to catch tuna, and bottom trawling used to

catch snapper also snag sharks, ocean sunfish, sea turtles and many other endangered fishes and marine mammals, which are then dumped dead back into the sea, plummeting their numbers even further.

The power to alter this course is in our hands as seafood consumers, for equipped with knowledge and a little gumption, we can make the right choices for healthy oceans. Instead of just ordering whatever seafood is on the menu, we can question the chefs and the owners about how and where the shrimp, tuna, or cod was procured. We can educate our friends and relatives about which seafood choices should be avoided (i.e. monkfish, swordfish, Chilean sea bass, shark, etc.) and which are best for the viability of the oceans (i.e. sardines,

farmed catfish, Pacific halibut, farmed Rainbow trout, and troll or pole-caught tuna).

Recently while visiting the renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium in California, I chowed down on calamari as the waiter described why squid was an eco-friendly and sustainable fishery. With my check, he handed me a wallet-sized *Seafood Watch* card so I could become a knowledgeable seafood consumer. (See www.montereybayaquarium.org to print out a copy). And, yes, this card now means that I can no longer just order snow crab legs or purchase canned tuna out of ignorance in order to satisfy my tastes. I need to remember the 1,000 sea lions and 10 otters I saw in Monterey Bay because the oceans belong to them too. I need to remember every one of the 78 hawksbill turtles I saw hatch on Klein Bonaire in January because the ocean is their home too. I can no longer pretend that my choices as a consumer do not affect their continued existence.

So many of us suffer from the same malady as the quirky blue tang in the movie—short-term memory loss—which prevents us from finding long-term solutions that will reverse all the damage humans have wrought upon the oceans. Perhaps the producers of *Finding Nemo* and *Shark Tale* should pass out a *Seafood Watch* card to every adult who attends the movie in order to preserve the vital, magical underwater world that has enthralled so many children. □ *Pauline E. Kayes*

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)
1,000,000 Americans visited Aruba last year. □ © Associated Press

► We reported last week that effective January 1st, 2006, all American citizens need a valid passport to return to the US. Between 85% and 93% of the Americans who visit Bonaire and Curaçao already have a passport, according to government estimates.

The Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) last week released a pessimistic report compiled by World Travel and Tourism (WTTC) that stated **the measure may cost the region \$2.6 billion in earnings.** Hardest hit would be Aruba and the former British islands. According to the report, the jobs of 188,000 persons would be lost. The results were presented during a meeting of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) in New York. Details of the inquiry can be found on www.caribbeanhotels.org/CaribPassports.ppt.

Most Caribbean cruise ship passengers do not travel with a passport. How the measure will affect cruise tourism hasn't even been addressed. The passport requirement rule should be a boon to domestic US tourism.

► **From Australia to Zimbabwe,** millions of people marked **World Environment Day on Sunday** by planting trees, picking up litter and staging rallies aimed at making cities cleaner and greener. Activists around the world mark June 5, the date of the first environmental summit in Stockholm in 1972, as the UN's World Environment

Day. **But surprisingly, in Bonaire, which touts itself as the leader of environmental conservation in the Caribbean, we couldn't find any activities celebrating the event.**

► This past Monday **Prime Minister Etienne Ys visited Dutch Foreign Office Minister B.R. Bot.** It was reported by the Dutch Government press office that in the interest of harmonious relations between the Antilles and Venezuela, the islands' nearest neighbor, Ys may visit Venezuela. There is also a possibility of a Ys visit to Washington. It seems the statements made by ousted Economics Minister Errol Cova need clarification.

► In previous weeks we have reported on a **measure passed in Holland to cut crime caused by Antillean youngsters resident in The Netherlands.** Elected officials in the Antilles have almost without exception challenged the law as undemocratic and discriminatory.

Prime Minister of the Antilles Etienne Ys sent the Dutch parliament a 26-page memorandum last week about his government's view on the measures it passed to limit young Antilleans visiting Holland. **"Human rights are not negotiable. This is not a 'fight against makambas** (an Antillean term for European Dutch people). The measures need to be thrown out. It never occurred to me that I would march against inequality," said the Prime Minister before leading a demonstration in The Hague.



A most productive technique to learn more about Sea turtles is to attach tags to their flippers so their individual behavior can be studied.

► Be sure to **tune in to the BVN channel (Channel 26 on Flamingo Cable) this Friday, June 10, at 7 am.** When you watch the show *"Dier en Natuur"* you'll see Bonaire's sea turtle researcher Gilmon "Funchi" Egbreghts (center in the photo montage above) who works for Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) on a half-hour tour of Klein Bonaire with movie star Angela Schijf.

TRIATHLON

A JONG BONAIRE EVENT

June 12 th 2005
Race starts at 7:00 AM

Sign-up 11 June 2005 17:30 at City Café followed by a Pasta Party for participants

For individuals or teams of three as a relay

► **The "Second Chance" Jong Bonaire Mini Fun Triathlon is set for Sunday, the 12th of June.** The start will be at 7 am from City Café. The triathlon involves three different sports: swimming - 850m., biking - 10 km, and running- 5 km. Individuals or teams can enter. The event will raise money for Jong Bonaire's Activities. Costs are NAf15 for individuals and NAf35 for 3-person teams. All ticket sales are to benefit Jong Bonaire Programs.

Sign up on Saturday the 11th of June beginning at 5:30 pm at City Café. Participants will get an information package and a t-shirt. After signing up participants can enjoy an energy-rich pasta meal from the main sponsor, City Café. Be fresh, fit, fast...and have fun! All are welcome to join.

In Curaçao the MAN party sent a letter to Nelson Mandela complaining about the Dutch admission measures. Mandela is considered the recognized leader in successful fights against Apartheid. MAN enclosed a copy of the inside of the Dutch passport, which all Antilleans are entitled to, that states that "... on behalf of Her Majesty, the

Queen of the Netherlands, the Minister of Foreign Affairs requests the governments of all friendly countries to grant the holder of this passport free and unhindered admittance, including all necessary support." Mandela's support in the fight against the Dutch measures is solicited.

(Continued on page 5)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)



► According to analysts, **reports of the European Union's death following referenda in France and The Netherlands are greatly exaggerated.** But after a punishing week that saw French and Dutch voters reject the union's Constitution, the EU has lost much of its luster. "Europe no longer inspires people to dream," said Luxembourg Prime Minister and current EU president Jean-Claude Juncker after Dutch voters rejected the charter by a margin of 62% to 38%. The majority of the few Dutch citizens in the Antilles who decided to vote approved the Constitution.

The charter's next steps won't be decided until an EU summit June 16-17. And some observers say no substantial action will occur until 2007, when Germany and France are expected to have new governments. But proponents of greater European unity say that the EU's work will go on.

Despite reaching an eight-month low against the US dollar this week, the euro will persist as Europe's common currency. Greater military cooperation,

negotiation as a single bloc at the World Trade Organization, and efforts to create a common immigration policy will also continue. *Reuters*

► Bonaire's ruling party leader, Ramonsito Booi, said in a radio broadcast that **a new location for a container port is being studied.** He said the current location in Kralendijk lacks sufficient space and is an eyesore to cruise ship visitors. His preference is for a new location on the west coast south of the BOPEC oil terminal. He believes that it would give an "economic boost" to Rincon. A controversial independent report, however, said that sea and wind conditions would make it untenable for half the year. A study was initiated to recommend a location.

► **Dr. Robert van Dam**, the former Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire project director returned to Bonaire on June 3 to kick off the **2005 Satellite Tracking Program.** Plans call for two loggerhead turtles to be fitted with transmitters during Robert's brief stay. Satellite Tracking Updates will commence as soon as the turtles depart for their home foraging areas. A search for a candidate turtle began on Monday but as of press time none was found.

► **Forecasters say up to 15 Atlantic tropical storms will form this year,** including three to five major hurricanes. The season began last Wednesday and ends November 30. We got an early scare in late May when a rare Pacific hurricane hit Central America and moved into the Caribbean before fiz-



► **The Bonaire Culinary Team, due to leave for the "Taste of the Caribbean" culinary Olympics July 26, had its last competition meal for the public** last Saturday night at Chez Nous at the high school. Thanks to the very generous donations by Warehouse and The Island Supplier (TIS) of all the ingredients for the meals, the team was able to make a full 100% profit on the sale of the tickets. Of course, the chefs' labor is all volunteered. Thanks too to the wait staff from Rum Runners who helped out. The funds will pay for getting the team to Miami.



► Meanwhile, in Ft. Lauderdale, **Bonaire's SGB team of hotel school students who won the Bonaire International Culinary Competition last January** are enjoying their extra special prize – a week studying with Klaus Friedenreich at his Ft. Lauderdale Culinary Art Institute. Shown are the winning student chefs – Andres Cicilia, Wendy Heredia, Bram Schmit and Samantha Statie. □*L.D.*

zling into a tropical depression which blocked the normal flow of trade winds around Bonaire.

Four major hurricanes -- Ivan, Jeanne, Francis and Charley -- plowed through the region last year, causing an estimated \$7 billion in damage. Ivan's hurricane force winds missed Bonaire by only 50 miles. More than 2,000 people died in the Caribbean, 1,900 of them in Haiti.

► *The Reporter's* series of articles on the donor organizations, **AMFO and The Bonaire Platform**, continue in this issue. The aim of the series is to inform people on Bonaire **that help for worthwhile social projects is readily available and how they can apply for it** as individuals or organizations. Our arti-

cles will focus on success stories of grants already made, advice on how to obtain grants and profiles of individuals involved in the activities. To permit wider discussion and information the content of the articles are presented in a web log or "blog" available on the internet at <http://amfo-reporter.blogspot.com/>. Readers can make their comments directly to the blog.

► On June 13, 15 and 17 archeologist **Dr. Jay Havisier** will appear on TV-Channel 11 at 7 pm to explain about the **Decentralization of the Government.** The program will be in Papiamentu. (Jay's Papiamentu is very easy to understand, so give it a try)

► Did you know that **STCB offers**
(Continued on page 14)

A Force for Good



AMFO and the NGO Platform

As part of the continuing series about AMFO and the NGO Platform in The Bonaire Reporter, this week's article is about a successful project that's being partially funded by AMFO – from its beginnings up until right now.



President and founder of the 'We Dare to Care Foundation,' Vicky Bissessar

Parke Publiko Boneriano

President and founder of the 'We Dare to Care Foundation,' Vicky Bissessar explains, "When I came to the island in 1999, the first thing I did was look for activities for my four children. Back home in British Guyana there was lots to do, but here I found a lack of activities for kids from one to 13. My kids were that age and there was nothing much for them to do after school that was free, and I was really surprised to find out there wasn't even a playground! For me it was an injustice, and I wondered, what can be done? Who dares to care? We Dare To Care! It all started with those four words. I made a plan: a centrally located public park with a playground, free for everyone, aged 0 to 110!

Finding People to Help

I knew who I wanted to join me on the board to make this thing happen: young and motivated key professionals who have the time and energy to help me; influential government people; bankers; accountants; people who could use their professional skills to establish the project. I started to sell the project to several people, and most of them were very enthusiastic and some of them immediately joined me. We started to meet, with the objective to start the park. I grew up with a jogging park and it was always a social meeting place for the community: people would run, mothers would push their babies in the strollers along the course, the elder children played in the playground, the fathers would exercise and jog and the elderly would sit and chat with the mothers who were keeping an eye on their children. So we started looking for a central place, and we wanted it in Playa so everyone who didn't have transport could get there by themselves. That was very important.

Finding a Location

We went to the government and they were very helpful in showing us what pieces of land were available. Eventu-

ally they found this piece of land located between Kaya Soeur Bartola and Kaya Maria Hellmund Boom. We applied for it and we got the option with the understanding that once we got the funds we would get the deed. Then I, James Finies, Stanley Janga and Rudy Sint Jago launched the foundation, 'We Dare to Care' in 2002. It was on purpose that we did so after we got the option on the land, as we wanted to be sure before we started. The fee we had to pay to apply for the land we paid out of our private pockets as the foundation didn't have any money yet. Then we started fundraising, and within three months we raised NAf25.000. We put together a plan and we went to three funds: JENA, *Katholieke Nooden* and *Reda Sosial*, all from Holland with offices here. So, we had the plan, an option on the land and NAf25.000.

Project Planning

First we did the project: Summary, Background, Defining the project, Assumptions and risks, Execution, Durability, Monitoring and Evaluation and Conclusion and afterwards. Then we summarized the project into a power point presentation and started to market it to different social groups, the government and social and service clubs. So we were making ourselves and the project known.

Our concerns were: **Funding** (mostly by overseas funding organizations), **Maintenance, Safety and Security** (revenues earned from the use of the activity building in the park), **Utility Services** (from governmental organizations), **Local Fundraisings** (committed contributions from local businesses), **Voluntary Staff**.

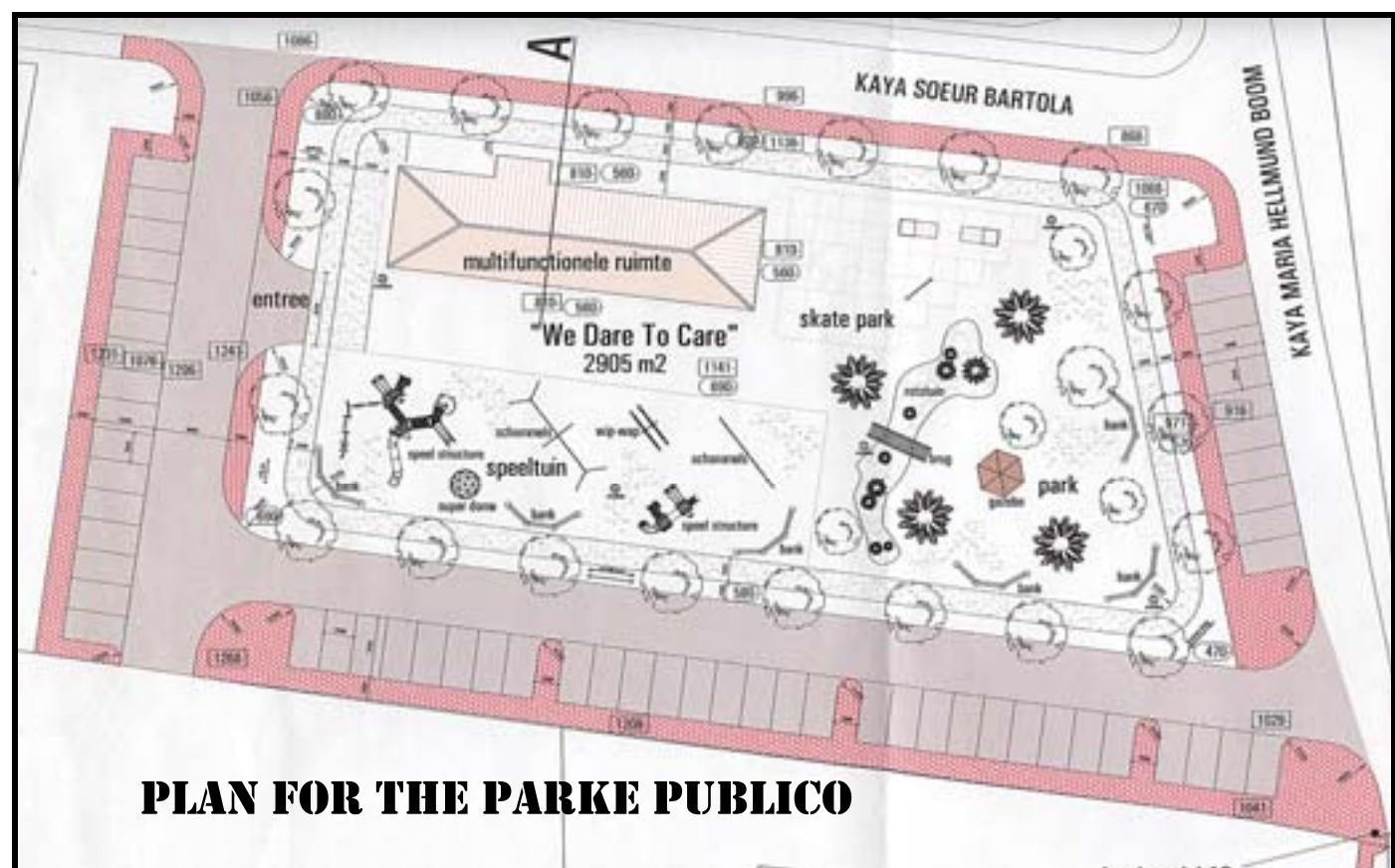
Designing the Park

In the park an activity building would be situated with a small cantina to sell snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. It would have washrooms, including a handicapped facility washroom, and a small office for the foundation and a

caretaker who will receive a salary. The empty space roofed area of the activity building will overlook the whole park as the building will be constructed at a height, and it will be used as a multi-functional space that can host bands, theatre performances, shows, anything. A rock formation garden with a wooden bridge, picnic benches and a fountain are planned. There will be a skateboard ramp and a separate playground consisting of a superdome, seesaws, swings and two play units for children of different ages. Around the whole 3.480-square-meter property there will be a jogging course. The park will be fenced all around, and the government will take care of the parking lot. There will be security provided by private security companies, and the *Wowo di Bario* will use it as a headquarters training ground. This is the plan that we were marketing to companies; we were doing fundraisings; and at the same time we had the building option for a year.

From the very beginning, when the NGO Platform was just getting started

Continued on page 7



PLAN FOR THE PARKE PUBLICO

Parke Publico ... (Continued from page 6)
on Bonaire, we became a member. These non-governmental organizations are united under the island's platform, and every Antillean island has its own platform. As soon as they were settled we took our project to them to ask for funding. They are the ones who recommended the project to AMFO, a foundation that co-finances projects of non-governmental organizations in the Antilles. We were one of the biggest projects and also one of the first to apply. We asked for less money than we got. They gave us NAf419.399. We were speechless!

How We Get the Money

We're getting the money in phases, so for every step we get money. The first step was the transfer of the land at the Notary. Then we ordered the play equipment and for that phase they paid up front. We had to show AMFO proof of payment and then we had to make a report. After that we could proceed with the next phase and so on.

Our foundation had to be a member of the NGO platform to get funds. We had to have a detailed financial, maintenance and management plan; we had to have in our account a percentage of the funds we were asking for to show that the foundation was serious and working on trying to get the funds. We had to really put in a very good case for why we needed this project.

If someone wants AMFO financing for their project **they must understand that they have to have very good reasons and explanations why there is a**

need for their project. The NGO platform is there to help people put their plan and application for the money together. We did everything ourselves and it was hard, hard work. I sweated blood to get this done. But all of us were professionals in our own field, and besides the board we had an outstanding outside network of professional advisers and I want to thank all of them. Of all these people, who helped us in so many different ways, there are two people I want to mention, one of them is Paul Wichers – he was the architect of the plan - and Bòl Antoin - who was the key factor in the media presentation.

So, whatever you want, whatever plan you have and you want it to come true: Put it on paper, get people to help you, make a good presentation and take it to the NGO Platform, and AMFO is there to show people that where there's a will there's a way!

As for us, neither one of us had any experience in any foundations when we started, but we did show that anybody can do it! Our foundation believes that absolutely anyone from any background, age or status, who CARES, can make a difference to their environment! The opening of Parke Publiko is planned for later this year, in September-October, but it might be a little bit after that as there are always things you can't foresee. One thing, however, is for sure: We will receive Sinterklaas in our activity building this year in December!" □

Photo and story by Greta Kooistra

Teens Train as Tour Guides



Dè Sint Jago shows clothing from the past. Three tour guides in back.

Retired school teacher and founder of Rincon's "Soldachi Tours," Maria Koeks, saw a need and is filling it. "I want the young people on Bonaire to realize that tourism is important to the island, that it's a way to make a living and to teach people about our culture. And this is a way to help them gain confidence in themselves." So, with financial help from AMFO (NAf1.333,50) she started a pilot project to create tour guides among the teens. The funding helped to pay for seven instructors who give cultural information, especially about Rincon, to the future guides and seven groups from the Reina Beatrix school during the months of May and June. It wasn't just AMFO funds that helped: for each of the sessions, Marugia of Rincon provided the snacks, Kas Krioyo donated the juice, and Soldachi Tours provided the bus for the students. □L.D.

Need Help?

Got an idea that needs funding?

These two organizations will help you turn the idea into a project.

Some members and employees of AMFO and the NGO Platform with island officials



CONTACT INFORMATION



AMFO: Kaya Gob. N. Debrot #31, Bonaire. Tel. 717-7776, Fax 717-7779, website: www.samfo.org, email: info-bon@samfo.org



NGO Platforma Bonaire: Kaya Korona 5-C. Tel. 717-2366, Fax 7172367, website: www.ngobonaire.org, email: Platform@ngobonaire.org

NGO PLATFORM BOARD

The **Daily Board** is led by President James Finies with Elsmarie Beukenboom, Secretary, and Alan Gross, Treasurer.

Board of Directors are: Julita Winklaar (Culture), Tanneke Bartels (Environment), Gilbert van Arneman (Youth and Family), Godfried "Boi" Clarendo (Care and Welfare), Anthony Cecilia (Social and Economic Development), Ruthmila St. Jago (Education and Training) Eithel Bernabella (Sports and Leisure), Jona Chrino (Community Development – beginning August 2005).

Rincon News



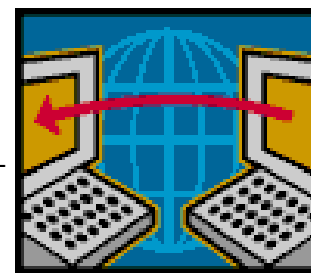
Minister of Education Maritza Silberie and Minister of Health Joan Theodora Brewster get a gift of Boka Dushi (sweets) from members of the Rincon Marshé Commission, Edna Sint Jago and “Baby” Finies

Bou di Ramada (On the Porch)

Every first Saturday of the month at the big Rincon Marshé a “town meeting” is held *Bou di Ramada* (On the Porch) where persons from government, culture, schools and other sectors come together to share their expertise. Last Saturday Minister of Health Joan Theodora Brewster and Minister of Education Maritza Silberie were the speakers.

Rincon’s First Computer Center

Rayvah computer center, with headquarters in Playa, just off Kaya Grandi, will open soon in Rincon near the Marshé plaza and the gas station. It will be an Educational Center with everyone in the community invited, according to director Malva Thielman. The Center will be open every day with 18 computers, connection to the Internet, computer workshops and motivational courses. The Center’s Motto is: **“Get out of the kitchen; get up out of that chair and come to the Internet!”** Kids pay NAf2 per hour, adult residents pay NAf3,50 per hour. Others pay \$1 for 15 minutes; \$2 for 30 minutes, \$3 for 1 hour. There’s even a small garden in the back for snacks and drinks that will be sold at nominal cost.



Grow our Own!

Popo Morales, an avid advocate of growing our own herbs, vegetables and fruits on Bonaire, is now back on the island after a hiatus of several years in Holland where he pursued more agricultural education. His *Hôfi Ambiental* (garden atmosphere) farm and restaurant was always a fine example of what diverse crops could be grown here. Popo is back in business and is selling his fresh herbs to local markets and restaurants. For more information call him at 786-0651. □ L.D.



Popo Morales with Sidney Manuel at the Rincon Marshé

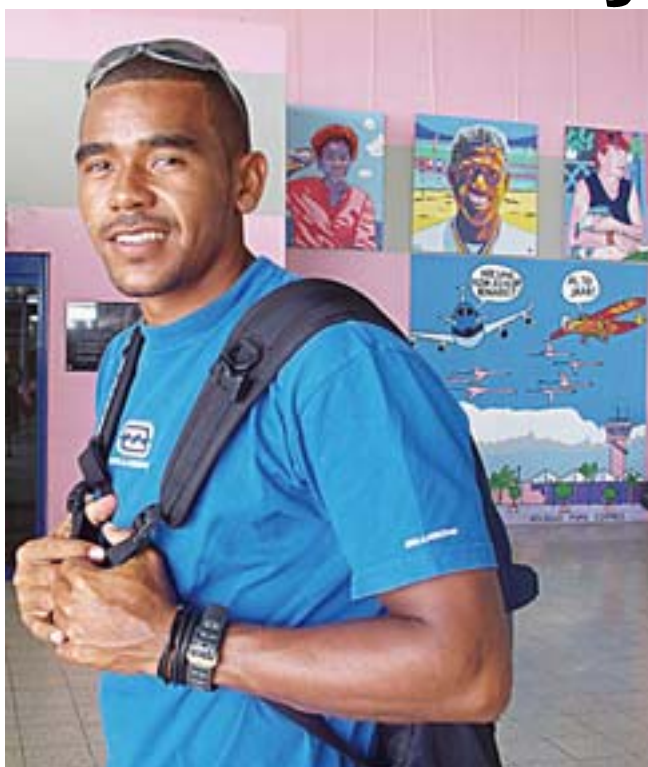
World Tour for Tonky

Tonky Frans, Bonaire's top rated freestyle professional windsurfer, is on a European and World tour. He left Bonaire at the end of May for Europe where he will continue his career in both the Professional Windsurfing Association (PWA) events and in the European Freestyle Professional Tour (EFPT). This is a very strategic move since Tonky is now working on his professional windsurfing career on two different levels.

In his first event, in Rhodes, Greece, he came out on top and absolutely astounded the crowds watching.

In the words of the EFPT report: "The Final heat put Tonky up against Kevin Mevissen. Mevissen seemed relaxed, fully powered and he was! The boys were fighting like maniacs; the judges needed some new pens after this heat because each one of them racked up a huge amount of points. The water was already kind of choppy, but after this heat every little chop was ripped up. Again close. Both guys were moving upwind in the 8 min. transition like there was no competition at all, kidding and laughing all the way. As the green (start) flag dropped, the beach became completely quiet, everyone's eyes were on the last two guys in the area.

And they did it again, they were showing unbelievable stuff, extremely stylish, and all moves were made with an amazing speed fully on plane. Tonky did the longest 'willy skipper' on plane in the history of Rhodes and showed punch right in front of the judges which made all other riders go crazy. Kevin's 'shove it into spock' was equally crazy. But after the heat the decision was even clearer as the one before. Tonky Frans of Bonaire took the victory in the 'Prasonisi Freestyle Battle' with his amazing, sort of



Tonky is off to Europe



'I don't care at all' style."

Special thanks to MCB-Bank Bonaire who is sponsoring the cost of Tonky's air tickets. The Reporter will follow Tonky, Bonaire's "Goodwill Ambassador," on his 2005 tour to let Bonaire know about his achievements. □ S.C.

Windsurf Kids get Awards at Rincon Marshé



The Windsurf kids from Sorobon received awards and special recognition from the Rincon Marshé Commission at the Rincon Marshé last Saturday. It was the Pro Kids, ages 4 to 17, who were the only ones who could compete in the King of the Caribbean due to the lack of wind during the week. □ L.D.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
6-10	2:42	1.9FT. 12:50	0.7FT. 72
6-11	3:16	1.8FT. 13:20	0.7FT. 65
6-12	3:42	1.7FT. 13:40	0.8FT. 57
6-13	4:05	1.6FT. 13:50	0.9FT. 49
6-14	13:47	1.0FT. 23:09	1.5FT. 42
6-15	13:24	1.0FT. 21:38	1.6FT. 37
6-16	12:53	1.0FT. 21:31	1.7FT. 37
6-17	7:15	1.1FT. 8:29	1.1FT. 12:30 1.0FT. 21:45 1.8FT. 43

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Antee	Discovery	Moonrise	Sylvia K
Angie	Ducbesse		
Another World		Natural Selection	Ti Amo, USA
Augustine	Endangered Species	Nord	Tish
	Felicity	Peregrine	Triumphant Lady
Blacky	Flying Cloud, USA	Pyewacket	
Bright Sea	Galadriel USA		Ulu Ulu, USA
Bounty	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Rusty Bucket	Ulysses
	Infinity	Seafari	Unicorn, Norway
Carylur		Samba	
Camissa, Chan Is.	Jan Gerardus	Santa Maria	Varedhuni, Ger.
Cape Kathryn	Jedi	Sandpiper, USA	
Casi	Kismet	Scintella	Ya-T, BVI
Clemencia	Lava	Sirius	Yanti Paratzi
Coconut	L'Quila, BVI	Sorrento	Zahi, Malta
Cocori	Luna C. USA	Sola 2	Zeelander
	Madam	Speedbird	
Dauntless	Maggi	Spice Island Lady	

Air Lift Myths

Last week's installment of this series showed how Bonaire seems to be losing its 'sustainable tourism' direction as the government looks toward massive, mega hotels to boost the tourist economy. In another earlier segment we covered the problem of low occupancy in the hotels to show that Bonaire is nowhere near 'saturation' as claimed by some island leaders.

In this article we will look at another reason the leaders may be losing their way - specifically certain Air Lift Myths. And then we will ask if it's the island's belief in some of these 'myths' that is causing the loss of direction. Or is it the island's failure to accept responsibility for Bonaire's weak tourism numbers and thus not approaching the problem from the right direction.

Recently, the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) released the 2004 tourist arrival statistics for the entire Caribbean, showing a 7% overall increase for the region. Some locations increased as much as 18% to 25% in 2004.

Interestingly, there were only two locations that grew by 1% or less: Bonaire at 1% and Curacao at 0.9%. Immediately, everyone on Bonaire began blaming its bad numbers on lack of airlift, even though the island had regular Air Jamaica and American Eagle flights from the US and twice daily KLM flights from Europe.

No More Excuses

A closer look at the regional numbers shows that blaming airlift is a self-deceiving excuse. Other islands in the Caribbean, some with more difficult and more expensive air connections than Bonaire, had growth numbers in the double digits in 2004. Anguilla, Antigua, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Grenada, Guyana, Dominica, even little Saba and St. Eustatius, had sizable growth last year.

Most of these islands rely on the same American Eagle connections through San Juan that Bonaire does. In the accompanying chart we have compared Bonaire to several of the islands with similar air connections to **show that airlift did not seem to stop tourism increases for these other destinations.**

Grenada, for instance had almost 90,000 tourists with 1,928 hotel rooms and no direct air service from the US. This island also suffered tremendous hurricane damage in 2004, but it still enjoyed a 9.2% tourism growth. St. Vincent had 75,000 visitors for its 1,550 hotel rooms and a 10.9% growth -- also without direct airlift from the US. For comparison, Bonaire has approximately the same number of hotel rooms but 15,000 fewer tourists.

Supply vs. Demand

So just maybe the problem isn't one of too few hotel rooms and not enough flights, but something much deeper -- like empty airline seats. **This is not a saturated market but a case of leveling off of demand.**

Would Air Jamaica be curtailing its flights to Bonaire if the planes were arriving full each time? Not likely. Would American Eagle have cut back on its flights earlier in the year if all planes had been full? Not likely. And

why is American Eagle adding back flights now? Could it be fuller planes caused by Air Jamaica's pull back? Airlines only make money with mostly full flights.

It has been estimated that perhaps 15,000 to 16,000 of Bonaire's 2004 visitors arrived on Bonaire via Air Jamaica. That number is enough to almost fill two flights a week. But we had four flights a week so the planes were arriving half full most of the time.

In economic and marketing terms the issue is called supply and demand. Before Air Jamaica cut flights, Bonaire probably had an over-supply of airline seats because of low demand rather than the other way around. **Had Bonaire worked harder at creating demand and filled the seats we had, we might not be facing this Air Jamaica loss now.**

So in 2004 Bonaire was not at 'saturation' as has been claimed. The empty seats and empty beds are evidence. And the problem is not lack of direct flights. Certainly direct flights are more convenient, but a one- or even two-stop flight does not stop travelers from going where they really want to go; where they 'demand' to go. **Island hopping flights certainly did not stop travelers from growing the tourist arrival numbers of all the other small Caribbean islands.** They obviously created demand for their product.

Low Demand

Some in the tourist industry believe it is a 'supply' problem—that you can't improve tourism without direct flights. But this is simply not true as shown by other islands also without direct flights. **Tourism is a 'demand' market; supply is not the issue.** Did we have tourists crying on the Internet that they couldn't find flights to Bonaire last year? No. Were they saying they couldn't find hotel beds? No. We had partly full flights and we had partly full hotels. What we did not have enough of was 'demand.'

Bonaire's low occupancy rate of 55% and current room rates are not what the hotels need to be profitable long term. These are two more symptoms, along with the half-full flights, of low demand. There are simply not enough travelers demanding to visit Bonaire to fill the existing capacity.

There is a tremendous supply of vacation locations in the Caribbean and a

Finding Balance for Bonaire Part 6



How many of Bonaire's 2004 flights arrived empty and how many were filled with young divers?

growing supply of dive destinations. In fact, **there are 28 islands in the region that are promoting themselves as dive destinations.** Tourists will go to the locations that create the demand.

Improving Demand

So before new hotel beds are added and before too many airlines are promised incentives, **the island must fix its 'demand' problem. There must be a strong, constant consumer demand.** All existing flights and all existing beds must be full most of the time. As a matter of fact, adding too many flights will just make the problem worse. The island will end up paying for empty seats because it has not improved the demand.

But how can the island improve demand for Bonaire with the type of tourist that will be profitable over time? Again, it's back to marketing basics. We will cover one suggestion in this article and then go into greater detail next week.

Meet Customer Needs

Creating demand means the product must meet customer needs and the customer must hear about the product frequently enough to remember it when making the purchase decision. This means you must communicate with your customer frequently but you must first understand exactly what the customers want. How long has it been since Bonaire did valid customer needs research? 1997?

If the island had done such research in the past three years they would have learned that **one of the most important issues for travelers around the world is 'security.'** That is one reason the Caribbean recovered so quickly from 911. The Caribbean is perceived as 'safe.'

But not Bonaire. Instead the island has allowed such headlines and news stories as the following to persist:

"Great diving but crime is pretty bad and after two trips to Bonaire and getting ripped off both times at the hotel... not sure I can afford a third trip!"

"First trip to Bonaire for 31 of us. Great diving and operators. Security - theft is an issue."

Quotes from two separate groups - April 2005, <http://www.ScubaDiving.com>

First Fix What's Broken

While research around the world shows that the number one consumer traveler need today is security, our government works instead on trying to bring mega hotels. Attention must first be given to improving the existing product and meeting customer safety needs so that we don't lose the customers who do come to the island. How many of the 31 in the quote above will return?

Historically the island was able to depend on return visits from satisfied customers. But when the cost of a vacation on Bonaire goes up by several thousand

Continued on page 11

dollars because a camera or computer is stolen, the value of the visit goes down and the customer does not return. **We are creating the opposite of demand; we are sending tourists, who were or could have been frequent visitors, to other destinations.**

Perception is Half the Problem

Ironically, crime on Bonaire, compared to other locations, is relatively low and is very rarely violent. There are no beggars, or peddlers, or bums on the streets and beaches. **We do have theft but we have no idea if it is getting better or worse. There are no reliable statistics on a regular basis** and often the numbers that are provided are not believed because the process of reporting problems is so troublesome.

Fixing this 'broken' part of our tourism product means reducing the number of theft incidents as well as improving the tourist-police interface when it does happen. It means not only patrolling the beaches but also improving hotel security. It means teaching young people about the value of tourists so they don't destroy the industry that employs their families. And the reporting system must be improved.

It is a complex issue and demands the primary attention of the government and the entire tourism industry. **Fixing the security problem will do far more for Bonaire than building a 570-room**

(Continued on page 11)

(Air Lift Myths. Continued from page 10)

high-rise hotel and must be done before any more hotel rooms are added.

Bonaire must give up its 'if you build it they will come' mentality. Tourism doesn't work that way. Only if you create demand will they come. And only if you deliver what the customer wants and needs will they come back again. Then, as airlines find themselves overbooking existing flights, they will believe in the need for more flights. In the marketplace, if there is demand, it will be met -- by someone.

What Else is Broken?

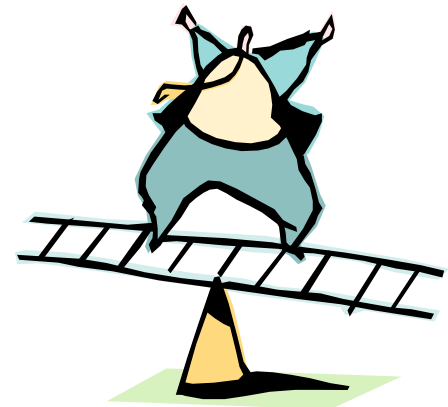
Fixing the crime situation will eliminate an excuse for not coming to Bonaire and it will help get return visits from current tourists. But it will not bring new people to our hotels. For that there must be specific 'demand' oriented marketing. □ *The authors of this article are market research professionals.*

In the next article in this series we will deal with such issues as the lack of a consumer-focused Destination advertising campaign, the lack of a focused image, the erosion of Bonaire's tourist loyalty, the aging of our customer base, the loss of early leadership in eco based tourism and Bonaire's pitiful presence on the search engines that more and more are driving the tourism market.

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



Island	Population	2004 Visitors	% Increase Over 2003	Min. # Stops	Time from Miami	Cost from Miami
Anguilla	12,000	47,938	16.5	1	5 hr 50 min	\$793
Antigua	68,000	221,533	10.3	1	4 hr 58 min	\$514
BONAIRE	12,000	57,269	1.0	1	5 hr 36 min	\$471
Dominica	69,000	30,988	5.7	1	4 hr 48 min	\$659
Grenada	89,350	89,854	9.2	1	5 hr 17 min	\$747
Guyana	765,000	107,627	23.4	1*	5 hr 20 min	\$689
Montserrat	9,500	7,055	18.3	Unavailable on Expedia & Travelocity		
Saba	1,200	4,920	11.1	2	17 hr 52 min	\$689
St. Eustasius	3,000	6,810	7.5	1 or 2	10 hr 55 min	\$859
St. Vincent	112,000	75,087	10.9	1 or 2	6 hours 10 min	\$773
<p><i>*Guyana has a non-stop from JFK, probably to support the large Guyana population living in the New York area.</i></p> <p>Diffusing the Airlift Myth--Statistics From CTO statistics and Internet searches on Expedia and Travelocity for dates in November 2005</p>						



Bonai Builds a Whale

It wasn't until the cruise ship *Nieuw Amsterdam* docked in Bonaire's port of Kralendijk that the cause of a drop in speed of three knots was discovered. Port Captain Oswin Statie told the ship's captain, "The bow of your vessel has impaled a whale."

On Wednesday, May 18, 2004, the whale was immortalized by a group of Bonaire archeological students. Under the guidance of Dr. Jay Haviser and Ms. Jackie Bernabela, the Directors of BONAI, the Bonaire Archeological Institute, the whale's skeleton was reassembled by 20 high school students as part of a youth and science stimulation program. The 40 ft. (12 m.) restoration is the largest in the Caribbean, exceeding by 6½ ft (3 m.) a 33 ft (10 m.) Sperm whale skeleton reconstruction on the island of Dominica.

A series of auspicious circumstances led to the completion of the project. On January 11, 2000, after an enormous effort to lift the 11 ton whale by crane failed, Bonaire Marine Park rangers floated it to a ramp where it was lifted onto a truck and carried to the Cargill Solar Salt Works. In November 2004, the BONAI Youth Group requested Cargill to allow them to reclaim the whale skeleton. Cargill not only allowed the group to do this but even provided a shipping container to store



A flatbed truck hauled the carcass to a remote spot on Cargill Salt property



The whale arrived in the harbor on the bow of the Nieuw Amsterdam

the bones.

The work took months and was unpleasant at times because the students had not only to clean away rotted flesh, but it was also complex because all the bones and fragments had to be identified, labeled and sometimes repaired. The reconstructed whale shows quite some damage by both the impact of the cruise ship and by the subsequent decay on land.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Bonaire, Prins Bernhard Culture Fund and the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Platform, money was made available to do the work and prepare an exhibit.

Dr. Haviser, who spearheaded the project said, "This exhibition is an excellent demonstration of the dynamic talents of Bonaire's youth, and also it is a symbol of the cooperation within the Bonaire community to present the importance of the sea and nature in Bonaire culture."

The BONAI whale is a Bryde's Whale (also known as a Tropical Whale - *Balaenoptera edeni*). This whale is in the group of Rorqual whales, which have baleen rather than teeth for eating primarily krill and plankton, but they do also some-

(Continued on page 13)

Bonai Builds a Whale (Continued from page 12)

times eat schooling fish such as anchovies, herring and mackerel. Adults of this species can reach a length of 42-50 ft. (13-15 m.) for females (which tend to be larger than males) and weight up to 11-13 tons. The BONAI whale is a juvenile of probably about nine to 12 years old and may have been sexually mature. Bryde's whales tend to travel in small groups of about five to six; however, larger groups of up to 30 have been recorded. They forage primarily in tropical and sub-tropical waters and do not migrate long distances. Bryde's Whales can stay underwater for up to eight minutes before returning to the surface for air.

Biologist Kalli DeMeyer, the Bonaire Marine Park Manager at the time the whale was brought in, said, "The million dollar question, of course, is why the whale did not move out of the way of the ship. We will never know the answer for sure, but according to the *Nieuw Amster-*



Bonai students spent hours cleaning the jawbone and many other whale parts.



Figuring out which bone goes where

dam's Captain van Zaane, it is very unusual for a cruise ship to strike a whale. Some observers said that since the smell was so bad the whale may have been dead for days before being hit."

As part of the recognition of International Museum Day, May 18, 2005, the BONAI whale skeleton was unveiled for the public at the entrance to Bonaire's Washington-Slagbaai National Park, in front of the Park Museum. □

G.D. This story also appeared on the Associated Press international newswire on May 21, 2005



Curaçao has a whale skeleton too, but it's smaller than Bonaire's

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George at 717-8988 or 786-6125.

Put your ads here.

**Non-business
ads are free.**

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 5)

**an informative and entertaining slide
presentation twice a month?** "Sea
Turtles of Bonaire" is given every sec-
ond and fourth Wednesday of the
month at 7 pm at Bruce Bowker's
Carib Inn. Come and learn more about
these amazing animals and while
you're there purchase aSTCB T-shirt.
It's an easy and educational way for
you to show your support for STCB
and get an attractive T-shirt to boot.

► **The Special Olympics Swim
Team**, comprised of 10 swimmers and
their coach, have been practicing very
hard every week at the Meralny Sports
Complex. This is good, but they pay
\$60 (about NAf100) a month to be able
to use the wonderful facility, **so they're
looking for a Good Samaritan spon-
sor to pay the monthly fee.** If you can
help, please call Special Olympics
Head Coach Elizabeth Wigny at 785-
0581. Your donation will make sure
that the team will be able to continue to
practice.

► In the Benetton ad this week on
page 22 are Jong Bonaire teens **Farley
Mercera and Nakka Frans.**

► **Correction:** The apartment com-
plex in Hato (\$275,000) listed in the
Harbourtown Realty ad last week
should have been marked as **SOLD.**
We apologize for any inconvenience this
mistake might have caused. □ *GLD*

G./L.D.

OCEAN "MUSTANG CORRAL"



Nature always has surprises for the enthusiastic naturalist. The natural answers to the question - How do I survive on Planet Earth? - seem unlimited. What we see as human observers are the successful results of millions of evolutionary experiments. Perhaps the Creator is observing us, the most recent inhabitants, and the civilization we have shaped to see how we answer that same question of survival. Will Homo sapiens pass the same tests that the so called "natural world" has done so well? We can learn all the basics from these "lesser beings."

The Sea Holds the Secrets

The sea, the birthing realm of many creatures, holds many of the secrets of survival. Earth, the Water Planet, stands alone as the model for life, as we know it, in our known universe. With our present level of diving technology we have the unique opportunity to enter this wondrous, comforting, liquid environment to discover meaningful tools to use for our own continued existence. The revelations come from large and small creatures.

"Mustang" Hunt

Today, my partner and I are diving in a very busy place. It is mid-afternoon and the surrounding local street scene is a very different environment for our dive activities. We usually seek out secluded locations or shoreline features that look promising for unusual encounters with cruising marine life. We are hunting for wild horses, much like the riders on the Great Plains and prairies of the American mid-west. They hunt the open range for wild horses they wish to round up for service on the cattle ranches. We only seek to locate, observe and photograph our "mustangs."

We find it rather odd to be changing into our diving gear on a city street. Several passing cars and trucks slow down, and the drivers greet us. This

common friendly behavior is one of the endearing reminders of why we chose to relocate and finish our lives on this "unhurried" island.

We enter the water and are greeted to a view of flat, featureless white sand, littered with discarded auto parts, pipes, household items, cables, bottles and gigantic concrete mooring blocks. Are we really in the right neighborhood? Have we picked out the most likely terrain and correct area to begin our search? We drop over the edge of the shallow shoreline shelf to the gently sloping reef and now see algae covered boulders, overturned hard coral formations and a variety of sponges.

At a depth of 33 feet (10 meters), as we approach a formation of long entwined rope sponges, something catches my eye. The sunlight is diffused by a thin cloud formation so I turn on my underwater lamp to investigate. It is bright and immediately reveals the brilliant red hues of the sponges. I feel like the investigator of a crime scene from one of the popular forensic TV shows that have recently achieved success on the American television networks. As I move the beam of my light over the many arms of the sponge, it picks out the unmistakable profile of the shy and elusive subject of our quest. It's a male seahorse, swaying in the gentle current, holding its position on a lower section of the formation with its tail curled around one of the smaller sponges. It is perfectly matched to the color of its host and has silver bands across its body. Nearby, the female of the pair is perched on a higher sponge and is also in camouflage colors to match the sponge formation.

Male and Female Pairing

Seahorses are tiny fish that may have been the first successful model of paired existence and shared parenting on Earth. They have equally successful counterparts in the terrestrial world as



Seahorses come in many shades

well. Survival of a species is largely dependent on repetitive reproduction. Parental care may be one of the refinements of evolutionary experimentation. Within the seahorse community we see a distinct male-female relationship with shared responsibilities.

The biological structure and job of the male and female seahorse is a variant on what we know as the typical role of the sexes in our human environment.

A Custom Body Design

The male seahorse is equipped with a brood pouch for the incubating eggs. It is, perhaps, the most sophisticated apparatus for the developing eggs. The fish pouch provides nourishment to the eggs with placental linings, and, after hatching occurs, is a safe haven for further growth. The seahorse shares this convergent evolutionary feature with kangaroos, wombats and opossums.

Aside from its horse-like long snout and slender head at right angles to the main body axis, the seahorse has a well developed prehensile tail. This biological element plays a major role in fulfilling the daily need for food capture and protection from predators. The seahorse

has no teeth and simply inhales small shrimp and other crustaceans that are floating in the surrounding water column. The strong muscular tail keeps the seahorse firmly in place inside its "corral" of rope sponges and the protected hollows of entwined dead coral branches. Knowledge of this behavior will help in your hunt to locate and observe these wild oceanic "mustangs."

The seahorse swims in an upright vertical position and moves with the aid of a nearly transparent dorsal fin. It does not move fast and relies on adaptive color patterns, fleshy appendages, bumpy skin and fluid movement, tuned to its surroundings, to camouflage its location. They are not easy to find. Mated pairs are a delight for the patient, observant diver. They make good photographic subjects and display an enormous range of color combinations when seen under strobe light or your underwater lamp.

The males, with a gracefully curved torso and stomach that tapers into the tail structure, are easy to identify. You may even say that they have a shape

(Continued on page 18)

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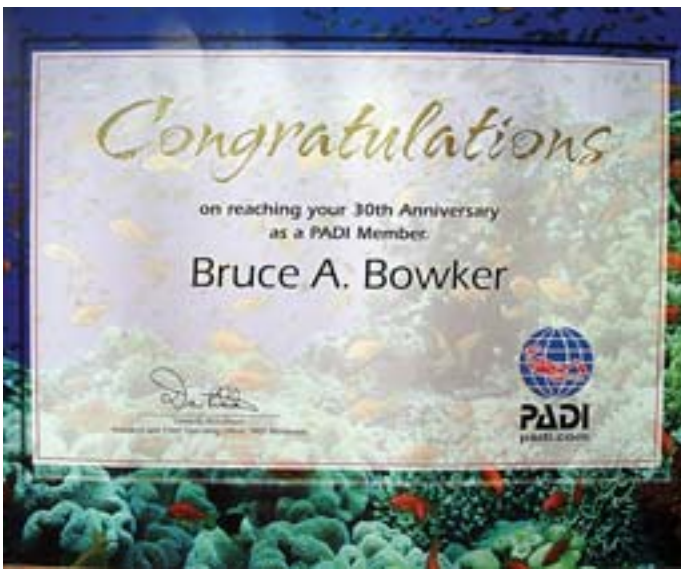
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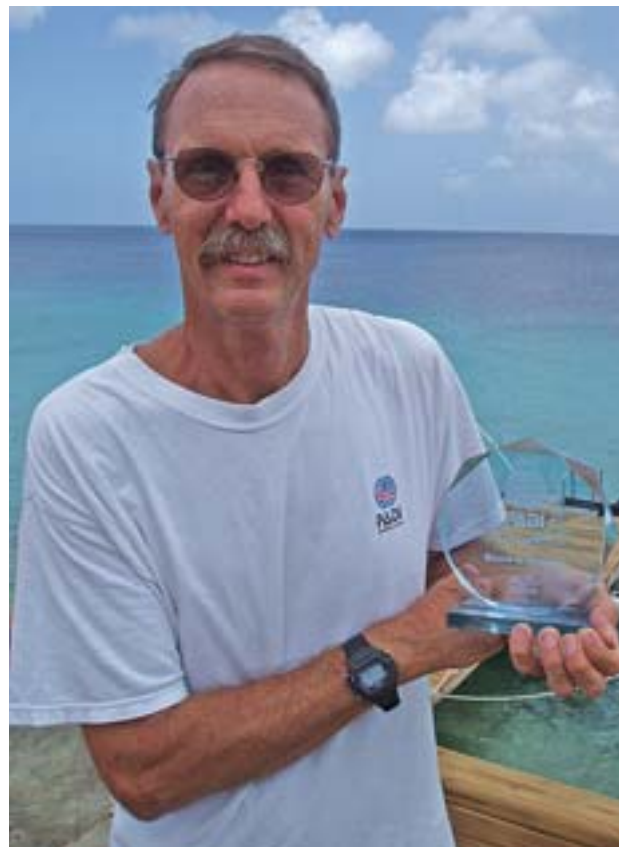
Bruce Bowker Gets 30-year PADI Award

Carib Inn owner and operator Bruce Bowker has been honored for his 30 years as a PADI Dive Instructor. Today Bruce is the most senior active instructor on Bonaire! "I actually became a dive instructor in April of 1973 at the YMCA in Princeton, New Jersey," Bowker relates. "That's where I met Capt. Don who invited me to come down to the island to work for three weeks at Don's Aquaventure at the old Hotel Bonaire. I got here in June 1973." The idea was for him, as a YMCA dive instructor, to stay just three weeks, then other instructors would follow on a rotational basis. But Bruce liked the island so much that he asked Don if he could stay on. Don agreed, and so Bruce's three weeks turned into 32 years!

Two years later, in 1975, Bowker got his PADI certification. Then in 1980 he opened the very popular and successful



Bruce's Award



Bruce Bowker – 30 years with Padi

Carib Inn. What's the secret of its success and what's his advice for the island? "Stay small," replies Bowker, who continues to fight to keep diving a thriving business on the island. Bruce was instrumental as President of the Foundation to Preserve Klein Bonaire in getting Klein back for the people of Bonaire in 2000. He is currently President of CURO (council of underwater dive operators on Bonaire). Congratulations, *Pabien*, to one of Bonaire's Living Treasures. □*L.D.*



Nazario at Washington Park

The Lighthouse Walk

Two issues ago we reported that Bonaire's leading long-distance walker, Nazario Alberto, would attempt to "stroll" to all of Bonaire's lighthouses. He succeeded. Leaving the Malmok lighthouse at 3 pm on Friday, May 20, it took him 12 hours, 45 minutes to walk the 71.5 Km (44.4miles) route, finishing Saturday at 3:45 am at Fort Oranje in Kralendijk. He deliberately kept his pace down and was joined by Filipe Melaan and Liffet Martis. Congratulations to all. □ *G.D. Photo and facts supplied by Bert Poyck.*



*(Ocean Mustang Corral.
Continued from page 13)*

that resembles a “pot belly.” The female shape starts out in the same curve just under the base of the head, but it abruptly ends above the tail with a flat right angle profile. The females also seem to be less shy and more mobile within their chosen habitat. This behavior may be linked to the added parenting responsibility of the male. He may be more reclusive when incubating a clutch of embryos. We have yet to witness the release of the live offspring and have no personal knowledge of the length of incubation and aftercare by the male parent.

Rapture of the Deep?

I have been lost in the wondrous realm of the sea. For me, it feels like this is the place of my own birth. Is that possible? When I am engrossed in a new personal discovery or a simple observation of life previously unknown to me, I have no sense of passing time or other outside influences. My partner

awakens me to reality with a sharp metallic signal that our visit is over. Reluctantly, I return the message with a quick OK. Have I been a victim of the “rapture of the deep” at only 10 meters? Perhaps I have been “hypnotized” by the swaying motion of the seahorse or the gentle rocking of the surge. Whatever the cause of my euphoria, I do not want it to end. I have a conscious desire to remain here in the warm, comforting embrace of my mother, the sea. We hope you join us in our pursuit of knowledge and the quest for the answers to survival on Earth. □

Story & photos by © Albert Bianculli

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

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

Kung Fu Hustle
(Stephen Chow)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

King's Ransom
(Anthony Anderson)

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

Friday, June 10 - Klein Bonaire & STCB on TV Chan. 26, BVN, 7 am
Monday, June 13 - SELIBON's Big Cleanup starts in Antriol, Den Stashi.
Until June 11 - Jay Havisier Art Exhibit at ARTEBON (on the waterfront promenade about 500 m. north of Karel's bar) from 6:30-9 pm, every evening. Free admission

Sunday, June 12 - Jong Bonaire Triathlon - Win prizes 200m. Swim, 10K bike, 3K run. Call 717-4303, Jong Bonaire.

Sunday, June 12 - Father's Day! Sun

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.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, June 13, 15, 17 - Jay Havisier speaks on TV Channel 11 on the Decentralization of the Government, 8 pm. In Papiamentu

COMING

Friday, June 24 - St. John's Day
Wednesday, June 29 - St. Peter's Day
Saturday, July 2 - Rincon Marshé
Sunday, July 3 - 13th Annual Bonaire Arts Day (Dia di Art), Wilhelmina Plaza 10 am-10 pm, arts, crafts, music, dancing, food, drink
Monday, July 4 - US holiday. Fireworks at some resorts
The International Bonaire Sailing Regatta October 9 - 15, 2005.

17-24th July - Diva's Women Windsurf Week- Learn to windsurf clinic Contact Ann Phelan 786-3134 or email ann@bonairewindsurfing.com www.bonairecaribbean.com

3 local scholarships still available for teen or local women. To apply contact Ann Phelan.

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

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 Topsy 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, 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

Pet of the Week

What an alert expression on "Hector's face!" This black and tan smooth haired pup is about eight months old and is in the "larger dog" category. But more than that he's sweet, enthusiastic and smart. He's got the kind of character that will make him easy to train. Hector is in robust good health, has had his shots and is sterilized. You may see him at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

Is your dog getting bored with the same old commands of sit, stay and come? Is he always looking for snacks? Then make him work for them and spice up his repertoire with a new trick, "Flip and Catch." Balance a small treat on his nose. Say, "Okay," as you glide the treat from his nose to his mouth. Do this several times. Then offer praise only when he tries to flip the treat into his mouth. Finally, balance the treat and say, "Stay." Take a few steps back, pause, then say, "Okay," for the flip and catch. With each successful catch give lots of praise. □L.D.



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.

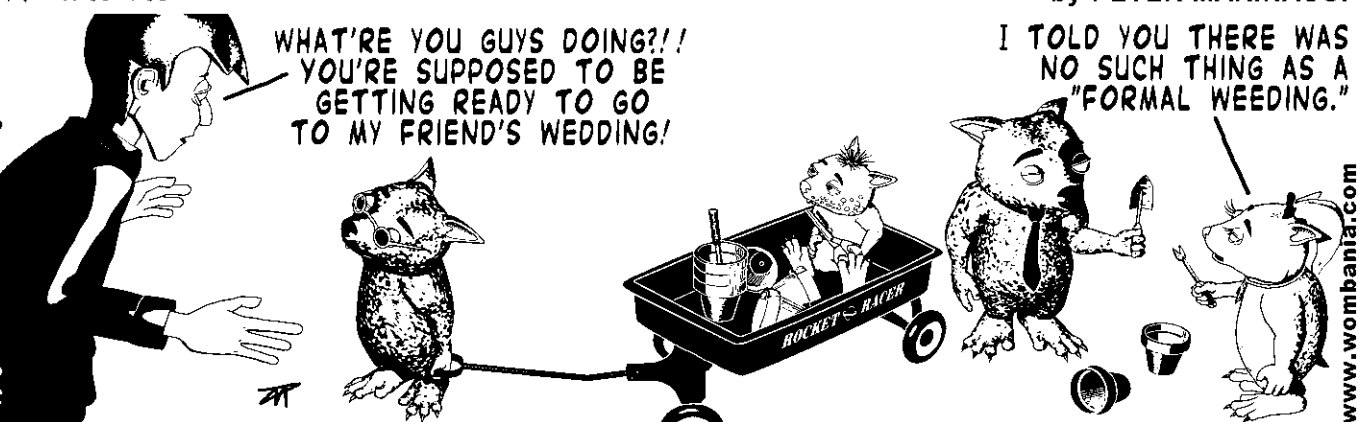
Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

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

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by PETER MARINACCI

I TOLD YOU THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A "FORMAL WEEDING."

www.wombania.com

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 airco 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.
Den Laman On the water, just off the traffic circle 717-4106	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch Dinner Open 7 days	Creative cuisine on the seaside. Top chefs from Amsterdam cook in an open modern kitchen featuring induction cooking. Seafood a specialty.
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.

ART GALLERY

Cinnamon Art Gallery non-profit gallery for local artists has continuous shows. Each month a new artist is featured. Stop by. Free entry.

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 a 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.

(Almost) Born on Bonaire....

Jackie Bernabela

“When there was no work for the men on Bonaire, my father left for Aruba and started working for Lago Refinery. My mom joined him, and ‘not so long ago’ I was born by accident on Aruba! Shortly after, my dad got six months leave and we came back to Bonaire. We grew up on Aruba and Bonaire. People, after working for two or three years at the refinery, would get six months leave, so we traveled back and forth all the time. They’d put a tag, ‘Bonaire,’ on us and we were sent off by ‘air mail.’ On Bonaire one of the 11 brothers or sisters of my mom or my grandmother would be there to collect us.

I was the first child of my parents, Teresita Cecilia and Thomas Bernabela, and after me two boys were born. I was overprotected, my God! No wonder I started studying drama and became a little bit wild later on! When I finished high school I wanted to go and study in Holland like everybody else, but my dad said, ‘No way! No daughter of mine is going to live in Amsterdam at the age of 19!’ As I needed their signature I couldn’t go.

However, one year later, I became a stewardess for ALM and KLM. They gave me a nice light blue uniform with a coquettish little hat. *Hopi* great! Still overprotective, my parents took me to the airport. I walked next to them in my uniform with my cute little carry on; then I saw that enormous plane. When I applied for the job, one of the questions was, ‘Why do you want to become a stewardess?’ My answer was, ‘I see a plane as a symbol; it will connect me to other worlds, different points of view, and it will broaden my mind.’ So, the moment I see this Boeing 747, I feel the adrenaline rushing through my body. I waved goodbye to my poor parents. One year ago they wouldn’t let me go to Amsterdam, now I’m taking off on a KLM flight to Rio de Janeiro! That’s worse than Amsterdam! Well, working for KLM, I learned a lot about life and the absence of moral values! I also saw women discriminated against. There were about 80 stewardesses and five male pursers, but those five men had the absolute power! However, five years later, when I left KLM/ALM, we’d somehow managed to change the world a little bit, because ALM was completely taken over by women!”

Jackie Bernabela is an exotic, extravagant woman. She lives in one of the most beautiful old Bonairean houses, the little house of Shon Pa Bernabela, her grandfather. Jackie is a born entertainer, a passionate professional and a

free spirit. “All my life I loved having an audience; I loved theatre and I loved to act. When I was a stewardess the passengers were my audience. I’d make a complete show out of the safety demonstration! Everybody had to watch me! I’m not some sort of an idiot doing all that for nothing, for a bunch of people chewing gum and looking bored! No! I wanted attention! And I got it! They loved it!

After five years as a stewardess I went to Holland to study theatre at the *Hogeschool voor de Kunsten*, the University for Arts in Utrecht. I was 25, still young enough to get a scholarship. Through my KLM connections I found a marvelous house in the center of Amsterdam, in the Jordan. If you want to make it in life you have to live in a metropolis like Amsterdam that’s loaded with culture and with a tremendously diverse population. If you never experienced that and lived ‘behind God’s back,’ as we say, you will always stay narrow minded and nothing will ever change. Many people in Holland think that we Antilleans live some sort of a retarded life in a hut in the tropics. But I think that we have seen more, have traveled more and have mixed more with other cultures than many people in Holland.

“Many people in Holland think that we Antilleans live some sort of a retarded life in a hut in the tropics. But I think that we have seen more, have traveled more and have mixed more with other cultures than many people in Holland.”

I was the second dark person at the University. Everybody wanted to touch my hair. Now they’ve had enough of us! Now we have a problem with Rita Verdonk (Dutch Integration and Immigration Minister) Who is Antillean? You are who you feel you are. It’s just by coincidence that you’re born in a certain country; only later on in life do you begin to realize where you belong. If you want to know where someone is from, ask them! And accept their answer! I’m Bonairean; I’m not Aruban! My name is Bernabela! I talk like a Bonairean! This is my home! You see that *kalbas* tree? See how big it is? We grew up together!

Well, let’s go on with the story: I was very lucky in my studies. After the first year I went on a tour with this very fa-

mous actor couple: Kitty Janssen and Andre v.d. Heuvel. My name was in neon on the theatres: Jackie Bernabela! We performed in every theatre throughout the country and I learned so many things, professionally and personally. The second year of my studies I did something very important for my black background: I joined ‘DNA,’ the first black actors theatre in Amsterdam, together with Rufus Collins and Henk Tjon. It made me aware of who I am. Rufus taught me how to direct a play and to go for perfection; he was an authority. We joined protest marches and that’s something you learn as a student in Amsterdam too: to protest against society and authority! That’s a real good thing, you know! After I finished school I made a documentary for the Netherlands Antilles about Antilleans who went to live in Holland. That was 25 years ago, but the topic is still the same.

For seven years I taught at the Foundation for Artistic and Cultural Formation in Amsterdam. We introduced every art discipline at elementary schools and high schools. There was a lot of interaction between colleagues and the cooperation was just wonderful. That’s something I miss here. When you do something together you’re stronger and the results are more beautiful. Look at what happened with Jay Havisser and me. He’s an archeologist and anthropologist, I’m a museum expert with an artistic background, and together we founded BONAI, the Bonaire Archeology Institute, three years ago. To do something like that you have to be strong and be able to share.

I had a lot of friends in Holland and one of them was Richard Hooi who became the head of SEK (cultural and educational department) on Bonaire. He told me, ‘Jackie forget what you’re doing in Holland, we need you here!’ It took two years before it was arranged: *mañana, mañana* ... I’d forgotten how it was! I came as the deputy head for the Cultural Department. Then Richard founded the Bonairean Pedagogic Academy and asked me to become the drama professor. I organized a poetry contest for the elementary schools and the children with the winning poems were photographed in a typical Bonairean setting. Those pictures were printed one meter high. It was a great success and it showed what a wonderful outcome you



Jackie Bernabela

can get when you connect different disciplines of art. Later, several Bonairean musicians turned the poems into songs and we put them on a CD. It was a big project, but in those days the government had a budget.

In between I went to Holland for two years to study museum management; the government sent me with a scholarship from UNESCO. Besides BONAI I’m involved in all sorts of different projects, one of them is my youth theatre group *JePeBon*. We educate older children at schools society-wise, socially, philosophically and artistically.

I’ve always been a pioneer; I start to change something and then others take over and I’m ready for something new. It’s not that I plan it; it just happens. I’ve met very passionate professionals like Rufus and Jay and we inspire each other. I am a passionate, romantic and nostalgic person, and I’m a fanatic when it comes to my work. I want to take all the art disciplines to the schools; I want children to enrich themselves and find their self esteem and their self-confidence through their creativity. When I ask a child, ‘Hey, did you do that? That is really great!’ and I see the child’s face light up and begin to shine... then I know why I’m doing this, then I know what inspires me and why I am fanatic. Art is my passion, in every aspect. It’s my life and it’s what keeps me going!” □
Story and photo by Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

Hedges

It's been a few weeks since my last column, so I hope you remember that I was writing about planting hedges. This will be the last article in that series.

But maybe first an update about the seasons on Bonaire. I hope the whole island had some rain in the last weeks, maybe some areas got too much, others not enough. These rains will hopefully end a certain dormant period for a lot of plants. Semi-local trees like the **Cedar**, **Karawara**, **Erhythrina** and **Flamboyant** lost a lot of their leaves, but they will fill in quickly during this period. Maybe you have seen the first Flamboyant trees already blooming with their most beautiful colors.

This brings me back to the hedges. Some varieties may not have looked so good in the recent past, but with the last rain things will get better right away.

As I wrote, if you plant a hedge, always make up your mind what you want. Plants suitable for hedges come in every shape, color and height that you can imagine. So if you want it to be really thick or fast growing, with or without flowers, spiny, or a combination of all of these, nearly anything is possible.

If you are building a new house it might be wise to start planting your hedges during the early stage. By the time your house is finished you can have some instant privacy! This also saves you a lot of money.

In the old days on Bonaire people with goats or cows made hedges like the famous **Cactus** fence and maybe planted some varieties alongside that the cattle liked to eat like the **Mata di Baka**. They kept pruning it to feed it to the cattle, and by doing this they cre-



The flamboyant blossom is orchid-like in appearance.

ated the most beautiful thick hedges that were green all the time.

When you plant a hedge always keep in mind how big you want it to be. For smaller hedges there are several types available. And make sure you don't plant too close to a wall because a hedge needs space to grow on both sides. For most varieties it's very important that they get light on at least two sides. This is also a good thing to keep in mind when you prune a hedge. People are likely to prune more on the bottom than on the top, simply because they have better access. But it has to be the other way around. Keep the bottom as dense as possible and trim the top narrower than the bottom. When you do this you will always have light on every side and your hedge will stay healthier.

If you expect some shade in the future in the area where you want to plant a hedge, perhaps because you planted some big trees close by, be sure to choose a hedge variety that can handle shade. A hedge is an investment for a long time because it has a purpose, so you don't want to have to change it after a few years because it has become too shady.

I hope this is enough information for you. It's always wise to ask your gardener for his opinion. There are so many possibilities from which to choose that it's sensible to be well informed. □ *Ap van Eldik*

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

Picture Yourself with the Reporter Baltimore USA

Dean Botsford sent us several photos of Heidi Fraley and Caylin Botsford reading *The Reporter* in various locations on their trip to the Baltimore Aquarium. We chose two:

Next to a prehistoric shark jaw (megledon) in the aquarium and beside a statue of a crab (with a Baltimore Oriole) outside the Hard Rock Café by the Harbor are Caylin left, and Heidi, right.

The girls were preparing for their eighth trip to Bonaire and should be on island when the *Bonaire Reporter* hits the streets. □



WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up



Here's a drawing of the summer constellation Scorpius. Can you pick it out from the heaven full of stars (photo on right)?

Why Do the Stars Move Hour After Hour, Season After Season?

Have you ever wondered just why the stars change their position from hour to hour and from season to season? Well, wonder no more. During mid-spring, late April, early May, at 9 pm in the Sky park face north where you will see the **Big Dipper** high above the **North Star**, which, coincidentally, is the end star of the handle of the **Little Dipper**.

Now if our **Earth** were perfectly stationary in the heavens we would see these stars and all the other stars in the same place every single night. But because our Earth is not stationary but rotates from west to east on an imaginary line we call the Earth's axis, the stars appear to slowly drift across the sky all night long in the opposite direction, from east to west. Many call this the greatest optical illusion in nature because even though the stars look like they rise in the east, travel across the sky and set in the west, it is in fact, our Earth doing the moving. And if you look closely you will notice that all the stars appear to change their position and move from east to west except for one star, the North Star. The reason it does not move is because it is directly above our Earth's north pole, directly above our Earth's axis. So in effect it is like the hub of the great endlessly turning wheel of the heavens.

Now astronomers measure visual distances in the sky by degrees. The distance from a clear horizon to directly overhead, the zenith, is divided into 90 sections, 90 degrees. And 15 degrees is the distance all the stars move from east to west across the sky in one hour. So if the Big Dipper is in this position in mid spring at 9 pm, it will be 15 degrees farther west one hour later and 15 more degrees west an hour after that.

See for yourself, using the Big Dipper or any pattern of stars, any hour of the night, any night of the year.

But there is one catch, if our Earth only rotated on its axis and didn't have any other motion we would see the same star patterns in the same places at the same times every night. The Big Dipper would be in the same place at 9 o'clock every night of the year. But such is not the case because in addition to our Earth's rotating on its axis once a day it also makes one journey around the Sun once a year. So as our Earth moves along in its orbit, it changes its position in respect to the stars a little bit each night, with the result that if a given star rises just above the horizon at 9 pm one night, the following night that same star will rise 4 minutes earlier and will be approximately one degree farther along on its journey across the sky at 9 pm. This further means that since every star rises 4 minutes earlier each night and is one degree farther along, after one month all the stars will be 30 degrees farther along their journey at 9 pm. This further means that after 3 months, the length of a season, all the stars will have moved 90 degrees across the sky at 9 pm, and thus we will see different stars at the same hour of the night each season.

Orion is high up in early evening winter so he is called a winter star pattern. **Leo** is always high up in early evening in spring, so we call Leo a spring star pattern. **Scorpius** is high up in summer, **Pegasus the horse**, high up in autumn. It's that simple. The stars move because #1 our Earth rotates on its axis and #2 because our Earth orbits the Sun. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
June 10 to June 17, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Things at home may be somewhat rocky. Try out for a local sports team such as volleyball, tennis, lawn bowling, or whatever interests you. Try not to hurt your partner's feelings. Reevaluate your situation. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Someone you live with will be quite unreasonable this week. You'll only hurt your lover if you don't. Try not to be too harsh with your mate. You can make alterations to your appearance that everyone will admire. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. Don't give your heart too readily. You can't lock your partner up and if you keep restricting their freedom you may be left out in the cold. There could be opposition or temper tantrums on the home front. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't rely on others to do your work. Turn things around, make sure that they do their share. Expect to have more people on your domestic scene. You can learn valuable information if you listen and observe what others are doing and saying. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You have been stagnating for some time now and you need a change of pace. Self-deception regarding your own worth may lead you down the wrong path. Added knowledge will give you the edge when dealing with peers. You need to reevaluate your situation. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Secret love affairs may be enticing; however, you must be prepared for the restraints that will follow. Talk to those in a position of power about your intentions. Take time to visit someone who has been confined due to illness. Love can be yours if you get out and about. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Move forward if you want to turn your life around. Voice your opinions and contribute to the debate. Visitors may relieve the tension. Channel your efforts into achieving your goals. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Jealousy may get in the way of a good relationship. Real estate investments will pay off. Your emotional stability may influence the changes taking place in your personal life. Be diplomatic but stem. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be diplomatic but stem. Don't be too hard on yourself. Travel will be to your advantage; however, it might be expensive. You will not be able to trust someone you work with. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Female members of your family may be difficult to deal with. You can take advantage of opportunities if you are quick to make a move. Your hard work and dedication will pay off, so stick to your guns and do your job well. Your hypnotic eyes will capture the hearts of those who interest you. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Avoid functions that will bring you in contact with those you find difficult to get along with. Opportunities to upgrade your living standards will come through your lover or through joint financial investments. Chances are they are jealous. You can get your point across and make valuable connections. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Let others know what your intentions are and be honest in your approach. You will do well if you mingle with the brass this week. Try to mix business with pleasure while traveling. Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. □