

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

June 17 to June 24, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 23

The ^{BONAIRE!} REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



The organizers of the super-successful Jong Bonaire Triathlon.
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**Improving Demand
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FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Will the Bonaire economy soon benefit from the return of non-stop flights from America? The Bonaire Island Government announced Sunday, June 12, that it has completed an agreement with **Continental Airlines to fly daily from Houston to Bonaire beginning Saturday, December 16.** Booking via the airline reservation systems should be available July 1. Negotiations with **Delta Airlines** for direct Bonaire flights also are being pursued. Meanwhile, efforts to organize **weekly charters from Ft. Lauderdale (FLL)** to Bonaire are proceeding well and a public announcement is expected by the end of this month.

► **The dollar hit a nine-month high against the euro on Monday**, extending recent gains made after upbeat US data and comments from Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan fanned expectations of more US interest rate hikes. The euro had fallen to \$1.2066, its lowest level since early September 2004 before pushing back to \$1.2090.

In contrast, the euro zone's sluggish economy is raising expectations. The European Central Bank's next move may be an interest rate cut. The central bank has kept rates at 2% since June 2003.

► **Prime Minister Etienne Ys' visit to**

Holland failed to convince the Dutch Government to reconsider the planned admittance restrictions for Antillean and Aruban youngsters. Reportedly, work goes on to achieve a behind-the-scenes compromise. Ys, Antillean Parliament President Dudley Lucia and Kingdom Affairs Committee chairman Pedro Atacho met with members of the Dutch Parliament Second Chamber's committees on Antillean/Aruban Affairs and Integration. Sympathy was won, but little else.

► **Moroccan and Yugoslavian young people in Holland are much more criminal than Antilleans**, argued Prime Minister Ys in a meeting with Dutch Premier Balkenende, so why single out Antilleans and Arubans for entry restrictions, especially when they are part of our own kingdom? Ys presented him with figures which show that Moroccans and Yugoslavians from 12 to 17 are in trouble 3.5 times as much as European Dutch kids; Antilleans just twice as much. And in the group between 18 and 24 years, Moroccans commit 4.5 times as many indictable offences as their Dutch contemporaries.

► **Dutch Kingdom Relations Minister Alexander Pechtold will visit the Antilles for three days at the end of June** and will present the Dutch government's position on the process of constitutional change, based on the referenda held in Antillean islands.

► **The Central Government will no longer hire people for permanent positions**, and contracts will have the provision that they can be terminated in two months, announced Minister for Constitutional Affairs Richard Gibson last Wednesday. "The idea behind this is to make certain, in the process of terminat-

ing one level of government, that it doesn't get stuck with contracts that exceed the life of that level of government. The measure is aimed at eventual elimination of the Antilles Central Government.

► **Do you want to invest in the future of our sister island of Curaçao?** There will be two bond issues on behalf of the Island Territory of Curaçao by the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles on Wednesday, June 22. The issues are for a 5.25% loan with a maturity of four years and a 7.25% loan with a maturity of nine years, both with a semi-annual coupon. The general public can subscribe to this bond issue at all commercial banks up until June 17 at 10 am.

► **Someone who has had the experience of renewing her Bonaire driver's license advises: Check the expiration date on your driver's license. Expect it to take at least a month to get it renewed.**

► **The Bonaire Consumer Price Index rose by 0.4% in April.** Compared to April 2004, the increase is 1.8%. This price hike is mainly due to the increase of the electricity linked to higher fuel prices. In the food category, the index increased by 1.1%. Fish and meat rose by 2.9% and potatoes, vegetables and fruit by 2.4%. A decrease of 0.3% was registered for alcoholic beverages and tobacco. The index for clothing and shoes remained the same.

► **The Bonaire Investment Conference will take place this September** under the motto "Bonaire means Business." The purpose of this event is to bring foreign investors into contact with entrepreneurs on the island so they can establish joint ventures and with this, stimulate the economy. The conference will take place in the Sport Complex on Kaya Amsterdam. Further information on this was given during a press conference on June 3rd. The dates of the conference are September 27, 28 and 29.

► **Commissioner Reginald "Jonchi" Dortalina explained last week that the island doesn't collect enough road tax to put the roads in Bonaire back in good shape right away.** To do that, the government needs about NAf50 million. Therefore the repairs will be done in stages, first focusing on the main arteries.

Road repair was neglected in past years, and combined with a bad rainy season, lots of work is now needed. The island government did release some money for the repair of some of the worst side roads like Kaya Soeur Bartola and Kaya Karpitan and some roads in the direct vicinity of Kaya Korona. There are plans to fix roads in the residential areas, one block at a time.

► **Correction to the Parke Publico Bonairiano article that appeared last week:** Vicky D. Bissessar, James Finies, Stanley Janga and Rudy Sint Jago are the board members of the We Dare To Care Foundation, please note that Stanley Janga and Rudy Sint Jago were not members in 2002 when the foundation was launched.

► **The Jong Bonaire model in this week's Benetton ad on page 22 is Farley Mercera.**

► **Be sure to remember your dad this Sunday, June 19. It's Father's Day. Happy Father's Day, dads!** □ G./L.D

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2004 Art Day Awards



Art and Culture Winners: L to R: Rosalba Figaroa, Manuela Winklaar, Carmen Thode, Linda Richter, Jake Richter, Avy Benhamron (front), Thelma DePalm, Diana Winklaar.

On Saturday, June 11, the Foundation for Art & Culture presented the awards for the 2004 *Dia di Arte* (Day of Art). First, second, and third place were given in categories which included painting and handicrafts. The presentation, given in both Papiamentu and English, was presented at the Cinnamon Art Gallery (<http://www.cinnamonartgallery.org>) by Emma Sint Jago and Peter Silberie, both board members of the foundation.

In the painting category, Linda Richter (<http://www.lindarichter.com>), Jake Richter (<http://www.jakerichter.com>) and Avy Benhamron of the Cinnamon Art Gallery got first place, Manuela Winklaar received second, and Rosalba Figaroa received third.

In the handicrafts category, Carmen Thode received first place, Dianer Winklaar received second and Thelma De Palm received third.

To view some of the works of art which won the 2004 awards, visit the www.cinnamonartgallery.org website .

This year, the 13th Annual *Dia di*

Arte will take place on Sunday, July 3, from 10 am until 10 pm in Wilhelmina Park and will feature the youth of Bonaire. Children will have the opportunity to come and paint, make handicrafts, sing, or dance together with Bonaire's unique artists. Reserve July 3 to come and enjoy the festivities with the people and visitors of Bonaire.

For a small island, Bonaire can boast of having an active artist community with many diverse and distinctive styles. Wander among the various booths to see one-of-a-kind handicrafts and paintings which will be available for sale. Enjoy *kuminda krioyo* (local food) and beverages. In the evening, enjoy "Showtime" with winners of the Caribbean Gospel Festival: Tio Roly, Pamela, Raul, and many other artists. This truly will be a day dedicated to Bonaire's art and culture!

To sign up to exhibit at *Dia di Arte*, contact Treasurer Daisy Silberie at 790-2807, Mary Tjin A Sjoe at 791-6285, Eduard Santaris at 786-2678, Edwin Martijn at 786-8400, or the founda-

Satellite Tracking Continues



STCB Photo

Volunteer Isaiah J. Pardo and STCB's Gielmon "Funchi" Egbreghts releasing the adult male hawksbill fitted with a transmitter.

Sea turtles have started to breed on Bonaire again, which means that the big adult turtles are back on

the reefs of Klein Bonaire and along Bonaire's southwest coast. Adult tur-

(Continued on page 14)

Restaurant Review

Den Laman Reborn

For a small island Bonaire has more than its fair share of restaurants, but there's always room for one more if it's as charming and delicious as the new Den Laman. A joint project between Sietse de Jong and Leo de Bakker, this new addition to our burgeoning restaurant population seems to be on its way to having it

all. Set on the land which housed the old restaurant of the same name, this new incarnation is located on the ground floor of the new condo development near the round-about. Opening onto a gorgeous sea view accented with unusual lighting fixtures and the most incredible kitchen on the island you just have to love the place.

Co-owner and longtime chef de Jong has brought with him Otto, the top chef from his former restaurant in Amsterdam, and has paired him with Chef Tico of Bonaire. Working together the three have assembled a tantalizing and creative menu. Two examples: Funchi Croquettes with mozzarella accompanied by a red pesto of sun dried tomatoes for an appetizer, and Pineapple Soup with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream, a dessert 'must try'. But let's not get ahead of ourselves; there are lots of goodies coming.

As you're shown to your table by Leo de Bakker, the ambience of the interior combined with the sheer beauty of the sea view sets the mood for a dining adventure. As the sun goes down you will definitely want to begin your evening with something from the bar. A Piña Colada or Banana Daiquiri sounds just about right and goes perfectly with the complimentary warm, crusty French bread and ripe olive tapenade. As you peruse the menu you realize some hard decisions are going to have to be made. Which appetizer will suit your palate? The tangy Tuscan Tomato Soup made with fresh, ripe tomatoes?



Chefs Tico and Otto in the super modern induction cooking kitchen

The Thai Beef Salad (which is dynamite)? Or perhaps the delicately-herbed Ceviche? And it becomes even more difficult with the main course.

The 'catch of the day' can be prepared in one of four ways, the crusty Parmesan presentation being a personal favorite. The tenderloin steak is superb and is accompanied with a red wine sauce and mushrooms. Lasagna with fresh veggies is a treat for vegetarians as well as carnivores, and the Fettuccini and Salmon creation is a delight. When it's time for the dessert card to be played, diners must be aware that it is legally required to save room for something sweet. The already mentioned Pineapple Soup and the Deep Fried Pancake with ice cream and chocolate sauce are quite special, but so are the Chunky Chocolate Mousse and the Tompouce of Apple Crumbles. Top it off with a Cappuccino or an after-dinner drink and your evening is complete.

The lunch menu contains a sampling of the dinner offerings along with big, juicy burgers, tenderloin steak sandwiches and the always popular Caprese sandwich with mozzarella, tomato and fresh basil. The lunch menu can begin with an appetizer and finish with dessert if you are so inclined and your stomach says 'feed me big-time'. Go for it!

Open daily, lunch is from 12 noon until 3 p.m.; dinner from 5:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. □ *Dabney Lassiter*

LET THE ISLAND STAY UNHURRIED

Dear Editor:

First would I like to say thanks for the very informative "Finding a Balance for Bonaire" stories and for allowing me to express my point of view. I might repeat some items, but these things cannot be mentioned enough.

I would like to write about a very positive development which I have noticed on Bonaire over the last three to four years. It has always existed, but I feel the events of today show the way it should be. I am talking about the increase in all the "private" guest rooms and small hotels.

I would like to explain my impression and hope to inspire even greater progress in this matter. I think this is one very important and possible way to improve the earnings of island people who often have limited opportunities. Instead of class this or class that, can we just say a family who can have a chance to grow economically with a profession, and in not too stressful a way.

The mix of a few big hotels and a large number of smaller guest rooms creates choices for tourists, both in the price they want to pay and in what ambience they chose to have.

Economically I think it's much better to increase the number of small hotels/guest rooms rather than big resorts, especially if we are talking about new construction. Why? Because income from a guest room goes directly to individuals on Bonaire. Local people will use mate-

rials on hand bought from local sources. Big resorts will most likely import tax-free prefab elements assembled in foreign factories. Family-owned businesses will reinvest on Bonaire.

Every new big resort on Bonaire would probably require a staff of 60% or more foreign workers, which would burden the island's social services (school, hospital etc.) With a focus on guest rooms and small hotels, it can grow naturally with fewer people. This would discourage people from leaving and get young people working.

Bonaireans in The Netherlands could actually find it interesting to open a small hotel or guest house here, if there was some support and promotion for it. Many already own houses in the Netherlands and could come up with money more easily to start up a business.

The growth of guest house businesses could be guided and supported by the government and perhaps even by Holland. (It encourages native Bonaireans to move back to their island and start up a business).

Construction loans, not necessarily



Unspoiled Bonaire

subsidized, could be guaranteed, so the interest rates don't kill the business in a year's time. There could be courses in how to run the business and how to fill the tourist needs for luxury and standards.

Most of all should there be a financial guide for every new business to help set things straight if things goes wrong, as is very normal for young businesses. Slow is good! Let the island stay unhurried!

Lennart Davidsson

ALL ABOUT REEF

REEF was created for the active, education-minded individuals who make up the majority of the recreational dive market: those divers seeking to make a personal commitment to our environment that goes beyond the daily task of recycling waste and turning down thermostats. The mission of Reef Environmental Education Foundation, a non-profit corporation chartered in 1991, is to provide the opportunity for a generation of concerned divers to become involved in the systematic monitoring of our underwater wilderness.

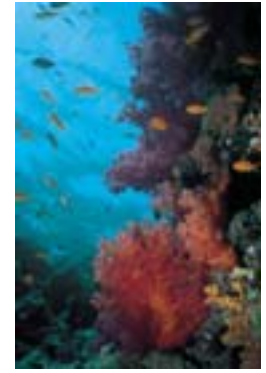
The Foundation was conceived by marine life photographers Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. During their 25 years of underwater photography and research for their comprehensive three-volume identification guides to marine life of Florida, the Caribbean and Bahamas, both divers were surprised at how little is known about marine life. Mammals, birds, rep-

tiles, insects have been studied for hundreds of years. The underwater world had been hidden from view until the advent of SCUBA just 60 years ago. Now the marine environment remains one of the last natural environments to be extensively explored.

For decades North American bird watchers have experienced marked success in accumulating population and diversity statistics of bird life. Their enjoyable pastime has produced an invaluable resource for environmental, scientific and management concerns. Comparable data about reef's inhabitants had never been collected, even in areas visited by thousands of divers. There were not enough marine biologists or projected funding to compile the extensive amount of information necessary. Now through REEF, divers with basic ID skills can gather sufficient data to effectively monitor major reef areas.

REEF volunteers have contributed to a data base for Bonaire of over 10,000 surveys. **If you are interested in joining REEF or attending the Basic Fish ID classes, please contact Yellow Submarine at 717-2929 or one of the local REEF Representatives at 791-4262 or go online to www.Reef.org.**

Linda Ridley



Free Love on Bonaire

Just pay the adoption fee



Josie Estill back home with Bonairean cats Sunshine and Moonbeam

The notice in *The Bonaire Reporter* said that the Animal Shelter needed volunteers to "socialize" their animals: handle them and pet them and get them used to people handling them. As a cat lover, I knew I could do that, and I still had four weeks left of my 2005 trip to my favorite island. So, I took myself off to the Animal Shelter, met the manager there, Jurrie Mellema, and told him I would spend an hour or so there three or four times a week. Little did I know what I was getting into....

On my first visit, I met the cats currently in residence and awaiting (hoping for) adoption: several large cage rooms with about 20 adult cats and a large cage containing three just-brought-in kittens, about six weeks old, I guessed. The kittens were scared and didn't want to be handled, except for one, a little ginger male, who I instinctively named to myself, "Sunshine." I spent some time with him, and from the first moment he eased his way into my heart. I then visited with all the other cats: I held them, talked to them,

played with them and had a great time. When I left, I promised them I'd come back tomorrow, which I did.

It's funny, I really love Bonaire, and I'd seen a lot of it in my previous seven trips since 1999, but I'd never visited the Animal Shelter. What a shame. It's a wonderful operation, well run, with caring staff and volunteers and provides a wonderful service for the people of Bonaire and their animals. It was a joy to be there. This is a great resource for the island, but they struggle constantly for support and funds. Jurrie, the manager, and the volunteers were so excited when a cat or dog was adopted, but so many more people were needed to adopt the great animals they take care of.

It broke my heart to see all the kittens and puppies abandoned because the adult animals hadn't been sterilized. There are so many unwanted animals on Bonaire, and most of them aren't lucky enough to end up at the Animal Shelter and get adopted. Donations to the Shelter's fund sterilization fund would be a great way for visitors to give back to the island -- many of us have said, "there are too many dogs on this island." As someone who loves Bonaire, I'd love to see more vacationers visit the Animal Shelter, help out with their work and support them financially.

Anyway, for me, it was a wonderful time. I visited six days a week for the rest of my trip. Then, it hit me: I couldn't leave little Sunshine behind! He was such a sweetheart and affectionate and playful. We've always had mul-

tiple cats but were down to just 16-year old Rainbow, so surely we could find room for such a small one! First, I determined that, yes, it was possible to take him back with me to Rochester, New York. The airline would allow it (if I gave them money, of course), my husband (who was already home) thought it was a great idea, and all I needed was a health certificate (no problem, said the vet who served the Shelter - he even met me on Easter Sunday to provide it!). So, the plan was made, and I was all set for my return to Rochester the following week.

Then I realized I was also very fond of Sunshine's sister -- who I'd just been calling "Little One." She was very shy, but when I was able to pick her up, very affectionate, just not nearly as trusting and outgoing as her brother. Another call to my husband: "How about I bring home two kitties?" (Actually, I was just being polite there -- I'd already made up my mind.) So, it was decided ... I'd take two of them home. I couldn't have done it without help from Bonaire residents, in particular Ann, Linda, Tish, Benny and Michael (you know who you are -- thanks!)

The arrangements and trip home should probably be the basis for a whole other story. Suffice to say that it wasn't possible for me to take them both together, so I recruited Janet and Gary Gibbs from Rochester to take Sunshine with them. I brought Little One home with me -- a two-day trip due to bad weather in Chicago and an overnight in Indianapolis. Throughout it all, she was a trooper. Alan, my husband,

(Continued on page 17)

Bonaire Windsurfers Take Off



Taty Frans in training

The windsurf summer migration is on as many of the members of the Bonaire Sailing Team head to foreign waters to represent our island in many windsurf competitions. Last week we read about the travels of **Tonky Frans** as he makes his name known in the Greek Isles (<http://www.efpt.net>). His fellow team mate **Ruben Petrisie** didn't do too bad, placing 9th in the event held in Greece. Windsurf Super Hero, **Taty Frans**, heads east to compete in the continuation of the PWA tour, this stop in Lanzarote, Spain. His cousin, Gecko Flaka Star, **Kiri Thode** joins him as they compete in this freestyle event with a prize purse of 100,000 Euros (www.pwaworldtour.com). The event is slated for July 9th. Let's hope the wind returns. The last two PWA events, King of the Caribbean and Costa Brava, never happened due to lack of wind.

Some of the team is staying in the Americas. Shining star, **Clay Finies** is heading north to Michigan to attend a competition and show in the Great Lakes. He is foregoing his annual trip to Cape Cod to make his name in a new surf venue. A new event on Cape Cod unfolds. The "Cape Cod Freestyle Frenzy" (<http://inlandsea.com/windfest.htm>) is slated for June 17-19th. **Jose Fajardo Rivera** is heading to Cape Cod to train and compete in this well known regional event and will represent his sponsors, RRD Italia and Gunsails International. He is also hooking up with his sponsors at Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations (Cape Cod and Bonaire) and Island Sports, which is based in Newport, Rhode Island.

The rest of the team, a contingent of over 40 chaperones and sailors, heads to the 19th Annual Aruba Hi Winds (<http://www.aruba-hiwinds.org/>) June 29- July 3. This popular windsurf and kite event is always well attended by team Bonaire. We wish them a lot of luck and hope a Bonairean is crowned "King of the Huts."

Good luck to Team Bonaire! □ Story & photo by Ann Phelan

Pasa Bon Pizza Sponsors Windsurfer

Thanks to Pasa Bon Pizza's Joe and Lisa, young windsurfer Linomar "Lino" Isebia (sail #NB 29) will get a round trip ticket to the Aruba Hi Winds windsurfing competition which takes place at the end of June for a week. Lino, who's 13 years old, has made a name for himself already, taking first place in the "New Kids" in Aruba last year. This year he's entered in the "Big Kids" division. During the Bonaire Regatta last October he was first in "New Kids."

The affable young man started windsurfing only two years ago. "It's a great sport," he says. "It's fast and I love the freestyle."

We wish all the best to Lino in the Aruba High Winds. And the staff at Pasa Bon Pizza for sure will be cheering him on from Bonaire. □L.D.



Pasa Bon Pizza's Joe and Lisa present Linomar "Lino" Isebia a check for his airfare to Aruba.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
6-17	7:15	1.1FT.	43
6-17	8:29	1.1FT.	43
6-17	12:30	1.0FT.	43
6-17	21:45	1.8FT.	43
6-18	7:54	0.9FT.	54
6-18	10:38	1.0FT.	54
6-18	11:33	1.0FT.	54
6-18	22:09	2.0FT.	54
6-19	8:27	0.8FT.	67
6-19	22:39	2.1FT.	67
6-20	9:09	0.7FT.	79
6-20	23:19	2.2FT.	79
6-22	0:46	2.2FT.	98
6-22	10:32	0.6FT.	98
6-23	1:33	2.2FT.	102
6-23	11:16	0.6FT.	102
6-24	2:24	2.1FT.	101
6-24	11:54	0.7FT.	101
6-25	3:20	2.0FT.	96
6-25	12:25	0.7FT.	96

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

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

Improving Demand Finding Balance for Bonaire

Part 7

In the last article we dealt with the 'airlift myth' that has been used as a scapegoat for Bonaire's weak tourism numbers. Airlift has not held back other islands in the Caribbean, which have equal or worse air access. They all enjoyed solid growth in 2004 while Bonaire's growth remained flat.

Certainly, seat availability, price and convenience are issues in the decision to visit a particular destination. But they are secondary to the basic decision of "where do I really want to go?" (Remember 'demand?') So, if airlift is not the fundamental problem, why did we have a low 55% occupancy rate in hotels and empty airline seats in 2004?



A Matter of Investment

Usually low demand is a result of poor product performance or low promotional investment. For the purpose of this article we will assume that the Bonaire product is a good one and performs well, although we all know there is room for improvement.

The other traditional cause of low demand is low awareness, or too little product promotion. Here we can clearly point a finger. The island has no competitive presence in the market place in which 28 different islands are all trying to lure divers to their part of the Caribbean. In short, we have not answered the most basic questions in the customer's mind: "Where should I go on vacation and why?"

The best estimate is that **the island government currently spends about US\$1 million for promotion, or only about 1/3 of the room tax it collects for this purpose.** To be even somewhat competitive today, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) estimates that **an island the size of Bonaire should spend about 5% of its overall tourist revenue to promote the destination.**

At the suggested WTO level, Bonaire should be spending no less than \$3 million but more likely \$5 million US dollars to create demand for its product since our tourist revenue is estimated as somewhere between \$60 to 105 million. If Bonaire just spent all the \$3 million tourist tax it should have collected in 2004, the 'demand' problem would probably not have occurred. At the 5% level, we could probably justify regular direct flights without paying for seat guarantees.

Destination promotion should not be viewed as a budget expense but is an

investment which returns multiple times its value every year. Effective advertising at the 5% level will return \$20 into the island economy for every \$1 invested.

Evidence of Low 'Voice'

Following are some examples of Bonaire's lack of competitive promotional levels. In marketing terms this is called low 'share of voice.' We



Bonaire has slowed its diving promotion

are not being seen or heard by potential customers because we are not spending at a competitive level compared to other destinations.

Pretend you are a tourist who has decided to take a scuba diving vacation. How do you make the decision about where to go? For many tourists today the first stop will be the Internet where people not only plan but also book their vacations. Search engines are involved in over 80% on-line hotel sales, and on-line sales are almost half of the total bookings. To get an idea of just how low Bonaire's presence is in the search engines today, take the "Google Test" at the right.

Limited Magazine Exposure, Too

Some travelers still consult the dive magazines to make their destination decisions. If Bonaire is lucky, a reader might happen to open an issue with an article about Bonaire, but the chances are better than 10 to 1 that you won't find one this month in this magazine, even though the island has three of the most productive PR agencies in the industry working overtime for the island. Getting a story each month in each magazine is not a reality.

Next, you might look at the magazine advertisements. If you do, you might notice some ads for Bonaire hotels. But there are no ads designed lure you to the island of Bonaire. Most of the current co-op ads simply have the line 'Bonaire - where diving is easy' followed photos and descriptions of four hotels.

While the Bonaire ads might help you select a hotel on the island, they do nothing to convince you to come to Bonaire in the first place. The ads are speaking only to current Bonaire customers. If the reader has not already decided to go to Bonaire, the ad is mostly wasted. For

(Continued on page 9)

Take the Google Test

If you Google the following key words, how high do you think Bonaire will rank on the list of links? Keep in mind that most "googlers" are unlikely to go beyond the first 20 links.

- "scuba vacation"
- "scuba vacation" + Caribbean
- "scuba diving" + vacation
- "scuba diving" + vacation + Caribbean
- "snorkel, vacation, Caribbean"
- "Caribbean vacation"
- "windsurfing, vacation, Caribbean"

Think about this for a second before you read the answers. Our potential visitors are trying to decide which destination to travel to.

Answers (based on Google searches 02 June 2005) The numbers (#) are the ranking in the first 200 links listed by Google.

- #9 Harbour Village, #114 a personal website about a trip to Bonaire, #118 Harbour Village
- #3 a non-exclusive travel agency that offers Bonaire among 30 other destinations, #26 Harbour Village, #54 Sorobon Beach
- #1 a non-exclusive travel agency with Bonaire among many destinations, #60 Bonaire Pros
- #40 Diver's paradise
- #9 WannaDive (several mentions), #24 a very old travel agency page listing Air Aruba and American Airlines as serving Bonaire, #48 a cruise site
- #10 Harbour Village and then again at about #250

With the exception of Harbour Village, none of our major hotels and none of the Bonaire websites appeared in the first 100 hits for any of the first five searches. **The TCB website www.infobonaire.com is found at about 240 or later in most of these searches. Since few travelers will search at the 200 level, it is fair to say that Bonaire has no presence in the first six search categories.**

But what about the final search for "windsurfing, vacation, Caribbean"? Get this:

- #3, #5, #6, #7, #13, #17 with 12 hits in the top 50

Now ask yourself why Bonaire does so poorly in dive and Caribbean vacation searches and so well as a windsurfing destination. The answer to this is visibility, consistency and investment.

Since 2002, Bonaire has invested about half a million dollars to promote itself as one of the top windsurfing destinations in the world. There have been three major international competitions plus innumerable minor events, advertising, Public Relations, inclusion in a syndicated TV show, plus several active and constantly changing websites.

All of these have carried one consistent message that is important to the target audience. Also, there are fewer islands competing in the smaller windsurfing market. The result? Bonaire windsurfing tourism ranks high with the Internet search engines and is up far more than the 1% for the island as a whole. □



As a dive pioneer Bonaire might better promote its diving history and innovations

*(Improving Demand.
Continued from page 8)*

many of the other islands there are full or half-page ads scattered throughout the magazines giving divers a reason to choose that destination instead of another.

Know the Customer

Who are these mythical tourists who are trying to decide where to go? If they are scuba divers, then we know from PADI statistics that they are mostly young (70% of newly certified divers are 18-34), educated and affluent. One third of them are women, and a significant number are diving couples. Seventy-five percent of divers try snorkeling before they decide to get certified, often in a Caribbean location.



Cliff Waas from Utica NY, at 80, dove and biked Bonaire.

These are the new divers - the ones Bonaire needs to attract to turn them into loyal, returning fans of the island. **More than 700,000 US divers went abroad for a diving vacation last year -- but fewer than 3% came to Bonaire.**

Customer loyalty has always been strong for Bonaire although, as noted in the previous article, we need to be careful that we do not alienate our best customers. However, this loyalty has become a two-edged sword. On the one hand, it brings thousands of old friends back to Bonaire on a regular basis. But on the other hand, it has led to the assumption that Bonaire doesn't have to do much to attract tourists.

Bonaire's failure to promote the island has led to the aging of our customer base and the constant deterioration of the numbers. **We have to get back to the basics of Marketing and convince new divers and Bonaire "virgins" to try the island and experience the beauty and tranquility that we offer.**

Furthermore, Bonaire needs to determine how these new divers, whom we know very little about, are making their decisions. What are their needs? Desires? Methods of shopping? These data are available but must be sought out and perhaps purchased. And Bonaire must do its own research on a regular basis. Without this knowledge of the customer and his needs, any message that is developed is a shot in the dark.

Understand the Product

What is the "look of Bonaire?" What is the "feel of Bonaire?" What is the reason a new tourist should come here? What will motivate them to visit? How are we different from other dive destinations? These are basic marketing questions that need to be asked and answered. Is it simply because "diving is easy?" PADI found that it is the "quality of diving" that has the greatest influence on the selection of diving destinations.

We must understand current visitors and also those who do not choose the Bonaire product and find out why they don't visit. Bonaire may have a wealth of data about our current tourists,

although it seems to be locked up in TCB computers and isn't readily available for study. When was the last time a simple count of monthly visitors was shared with the press and businesses? Are we even asking the right questions on the entry form and if so, are the answers being shared in a timely way and used?

Consistency and Frequency

It really should not be a surprise that demand for Bonaire as a diving destination has declined since **focused, targeted advertising giving a reason to come to Bonaire is non-existent.** While the three public relations firms do a tremendous job getting news stories about the island placed, there is no clearly defined demand-creating campaign to bring people here.

In the past, Bonaire was a leader in this field. We had fewer competitors and, thus, could command a strong "share of voice." That no longer is the case. **With 28 "dive destinations" in the Caribbean alone, some of which have large advertising budgets, Bonaire has become an appendage rather than a central player in the market.**

Bonaire was also a leader in use of the Internet many years ago, but has not moved forward in its use to creatively promote the island and to interact with potential customers.

The island needs to get back in the game, not necessarily by trying to outspend other locations but at least by spending competitively so we are seen and heard. And by being smarter than the other destinations! There are communications methods available today that are less expensive than magazine and TV advertising and often more personal and more effective. The resources are available if the island will admit to the problem and take the necessary steps.

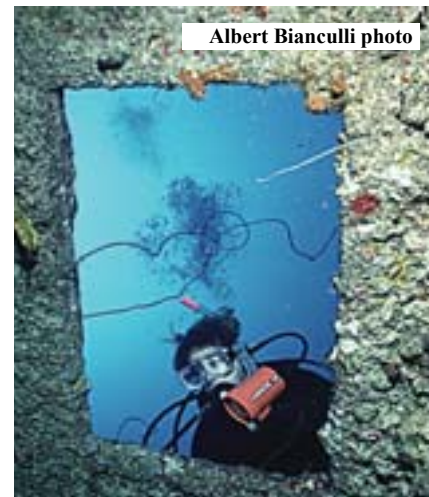
So what needs to be done?

We need to identify the best targets that can be reached affordably with enough frequency to get action. We must identify the single most important benefit that we offer the new visitor -- if it meets an important customer need -- and we must then deliver that message to them in every medium possible over a long period of time.

Unless we project a consistent consumer based message, to the right target, multiple times, we are wasting our money. **Advertising research has shown over and over that a customer needs to see a message at least 13 times before it really sinks in.** This means getting the promotional level at least to \$3 million and eventually to \$5 million if we want to attract direct flights.

Bonaire can improve its tourism numbers if it acts decisively and as one voice. There needs to be a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) that really functions and that has the resources to get the job done. Groups on the island that, until now, have refused to work together must join forces and work to the benefit of the entire island. Or they will continue to dilute their effectiveness.

Marketing professionals need to be involved in the efforts and politics must be excluded. Personal issues must be put aside and the PPP must be given several years and several million dollars just for promotion each year to prove its value. Changing staff and direction before a campaign has had a chance to have an



When the Windjammer site was closed another dive market niche for Bonaire disappeared

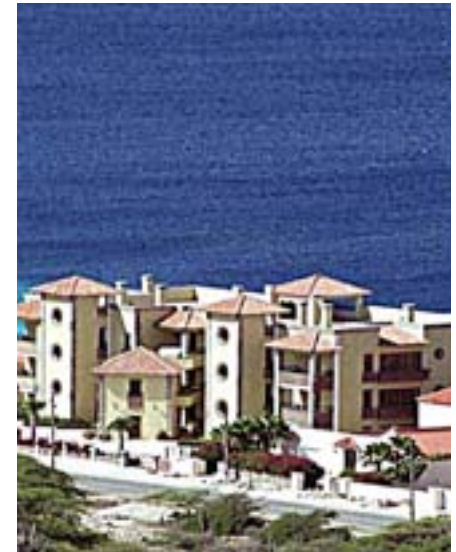
impact on the target audience is a total waste of money and valuable time.

The PPP must have whole-hearted support from the Island Government, BONHATA, BHG, CURO, AKIB, the Bonaire Restaurant Association, the Bonaire Bankers Association, every retail establishment, the press and, most of all, the people of Bonaire.

Creating and executing a strong, smart promotional campaign will fill the empty airline seats and the empty hotel beds and the empty restaurant chairs much faster, more efficiently, more affordably, and much more effectively than adding new hotels. It will create new jobs for Bonaireans and increase business for the entire business sector. The island will bring in more tourist revenue and thus grow the economy in a sustainable way. If we are smart enough and determined to succeed we can grow our tourism market without destroying the island's culture or environment.

Next Week

In the last article in this series we will try to bring all the issues together with a proposal for balanced development which will benefit the island of Bonaire and its inhabitants. *The authors are market research professionals interested in a better Bonaire*



Someone Is Trying

There is one hotel that is doing some serious consumer research. From February through May, Bellafonte Property Management interviewed approximately 1% of exiting tourists (670) to learn more about the island's customers. Results of the survey will be available in two to three weeks. For more information contact Sjoerd Vandebrug, info@bellafontebonaire.com.

A Force for Good



AMFO and the NGO Platform

There are NGOs all over the world dedicated to helping society. This week The Reporter takes a look at a few in the US.

We all have the same hopes for our children. Wherever we live in the world, we want healthy children who appreciate life. We value self respect and self discipline. We want our children to grow into physically, spiritually and emotionally fit adults who will be able to support themselves and their children. Bonaire's families and community organizations encourage this growth. Are we doing all we can? In this article, we will look at some of the non-profit organizations in the US. They were started by people like you who saw a child's need and filled it. Maybe YOU have an idea that will aid Bonaire's youth.



Helping the Children - It All Starts with an Idea



With childhood obesity on the rise, health officials say it is especially important for young people to develop healthy habits. They say girls tend to be less active than boys as they get older. That is bad news because studies also show that girls who are less active are more likely to be depressed or to get involved with drugs and alcohol. Also, according to the Women's Sports Foundation, if girls are not active by age 10 there is only a 10% chance they will be active at age 25. One mom, Molly Barker from North Carolina, US, decided to do something about it. She started "**Girls on the Run**," an intervention program that encourages pre-teen girls to develop self respect and healthy lifestyles through running. It also educates girls about the unrealistic body image portrayed in the media. Each girl is encouraged to run at least one mile — although Barker says she allows them to "run, walk, skip, hop or cartwheel around the track, just so long as they are moving!" Girls on the Run started in 1996 and is now in over 100 cities throughout the US and Canada.

Another program that strives to increase physical activity, as well as improve emotional health, and reduce the display of at-risk behaviors, especially teen pregnancies and substance abuse problems, is "**Cool Girls**." This organization, in a poor area of Georgia, US, is dedicated to breaking the cycle of teen pregnancy and poverty by helping girls achieve academic success and a healthier lifestyle. Members of "Cool Girls" learn decision making and leadership skills, basic financial and economic concepts, money management, and how to set up a small business.



Violence in their homes, on the streets of their neighborhoods, in their relationships with other young adults, in the movies they watch and the music they listen to was the daily reality of the young men that educators Joe Marshall and Joe Jacqua hoped to help when they created the "**Omega Boys Club**" in San Francisco, California, in 1987. Dr. Marshall says, "Our goal is to keep young people alive and free. That's it. That's the bottom line." They also want to keep the boys in school, out of the drug trade, and onto more productive lives. Besides the Club, they run a weekly call-in radio show, "Street Soldiers." According to Joe, "Street Soldiers" are people who want to eliminate violence in their own lives and in the community.

"The radio show gives us an opportunity to help young people who can't come to the Omega Boys Club." Their core value? "The more you know, the more you owe. As you progress in life, you must, therefore, help others do the same."

Jana Napoli, an artist in New Orleans, also envisioned a solution to the problems facing low-income, inner-city teenagers. The teens hung around the businesses outside their school near her studio; something the store merchants did not like. "When I looked at the kids, I saw an enormous amount of creative energy. I thought, 'I bet there are some artists out there. I bet if they had a studio, they could do some great things,'" says Jana. So she opened her studio doors to the local teenagers. That's how she started "**YA/YA (Young Aspirations/Young Artists)**". The students started by painting on what was affordable, not canvases, but old wooden furniture! Now their creations are made for businesses and celebrities. But doing well in school still comes first. They must keep good grades to stay in "YA/YA" and 50% of the sale of their artwork is set aside for their college tuition.

Another art program for children, "Kid Serve Youth Murals," empowers students aged 6-19 to beautify their community. The project integrates school curriculum, social values, creativity and community service. The children research and create a design for a chosen location. Next, they develop and present their proposal, with a detailed budget and timeline, to neighborhood groups to secure permission for their mural. This project has created over 20 public murals in San Francisco.



A different kind of art - the art of dancing - gave Fabian Barnes strength. "If I hadn't had dance, I would have ended up like so many of my peers — on drugs, in jail or dead." Instead, at age 18, he was performing with the famous Dance Theatre of Harlem in New York City. "I have experienced life in a way that would have never happened for me without dance. Now, as a result of that, I have a responsibility to give something back." In 1987 Fabian started the "**Dance Institute of Washington**" giving inner-city children the chance to get off the streets. "We happen to use dance as our vehicle, but the philosophy of what we do here is bigger than just a dance class, it's about the whole child. There's a need for these children to learn fitness, discipline, work ethics, tenacity — all of the things a dance program can give them."

(Continued on page 11)

Helping the Children (Continued from page 10)



"A dance program teaches more than dance, and a bicycle riding program teaches more than bike riding."

B.I.K.E. (Bicycles and Ideas for Kids' Empowerment) also works with inner-city kids and trains the children for races, helps with schoolwork, and more. "In the process of teaching them to be bicycle racers we try to give them standards of hard work, high self-esteem and discipline," says creator John Benenate. "We address the whole child - mind, body and spirit. For example, the children learn yoga because it increases their strength and teaches them how to breathe. They keep journals. When team members share their entries, it helps them interact and learn to care about each other."



The idea for "Cop-N-Kids" came from police officer **Julia Burney** in Wisconsin, US. "A lot of parents in this neighborhood can't afford to buy books for their children. Buying books is a luxury," says Julia. "But I also know that in order for these children to have any chance at life, they have to know how to read. I thought, we can give them out from our squad cars... we can just put them

in a bag and give them out! Usually when children see the police come into the community it's for something bad. Now when they see the police, it's books for them!"

Do you have an idea that would benefit Bonaire's children and families? Talk about it with your friends and neighbors and, if it requires funding, bring your idea to NGO Platform Bonaire, 717-2366. Let's make Bonaire's youth the best ever. It starts with your idea! □ *Barbara Mason Bianculli*

CONTACT INFORMATION



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

Divi Employee and Supervisor of the Year



Divi's winners and management staff

Last week Divi Flamingo Resort awarded the Divi Employee of the Year to waiter **Ostrid Cicilia** and the Supervisor of the Year to **Virginia Pietersz** of Housekeeping.

Both winners were judged along with their colleagues on a number of categories and came out tops: work performance, attitude, attendance, promptness, personal appearance, volunteering for extra hours and duties, and what their colleagues and guests think of them.

Cicilia and Pietersz each won a round trip ticket to Aruba, four nights for two at the Divi Mega All Inclusive resort in Aruba and a cash prize.

Employee of the year first runner up was **Rosalba Boekhoudt** who works in the kitchen. Second runner up was **Enrique Molina** of the dive shop. Supervisor of the Year 1st Runner Up was **Simon Arias Dipre** of the kitchen.

Congratulations to all and a note of thanks to the management of Divi Flamingo for recognizing the accomplishments of these fine employees. □ *L.D.*

Winner of Divi Flamingo's Employee of the Year is waiter Ostrid Cicilia (left) with Divi Manager Jenny Hannenberg



Winner of Divi Flamingo's Supervisor of the Year is Virginia Pietersz of Housekeeping (right)



**COVER
STORY**

Jong Bonaire Mini Fun Triathlon



**Diederik Scheltinga,
the fastest Triathlon Man**

Perfect weather, perfect organization and perfect participants were the central features of this past weekend's Jong Bonaire Mini Triathlon. Competition began shortly after 7 am with a swim of 850 meters. Peter Zweers was first out of the water. The bike race followed with a somewhat extended route of 11.8 km forced by the Sunday closing of Kaya Korona. An exciting 5 km run was the final event with the overall winner, Diederik Scheltinga finishing in just under one hour.

The turnout of the island's athletes



was exemplary with 48 participants, 18 of them teen and pre-teen competitors.

Organizing a successful triathlon requires capable organization and the Jong Bonaire team did a superb job of marking and securing the route, providing the number cards, refreshments and



The third place winning "Group with Youngster" had the competition's widest age range from 12 to 63 years old.



The start of the swim leg

the 100 and one other items necessary to make it run smoothly. And special thanks are due to the following sponsors: City Cafe, Gatorade, Budget Ma-

rine Bonaire and Cactus Accounting, who provided the support needed. □

(Photos continue on page 13)

Mini Fun Triathlon Results:

Youngster Individual

Juliandro Clarenda (1) 1:22:58
Marino Leonicia (2) 1:27:08
Josue Morillo (3) 1:29:10

Individual Adult Male

Diederik Scheltinga (1) 0:58:50
-Best Time
Dirk-Jan Methorst (2) 1:06:15
Marcel Leurs (3) 1:08:00

Individual Adult Female

Simone Sweers (1) 1:12:15

Adult Group

Pieter Zweers- Richard Barens- Fabian (1) 54:15
Simone Sweers - Ben - Roy Montero (2) 1:03:13

Erika Sanders - Henk Sanders - Theo Knevel (3) 1:08:25

Adult Group with Youngster

Hendrick Balentien - Bjorn Saragoza - Patoen Saragoza (1) 1:05:45
Gead Binelli- Antje Gunther - Andrea Magnie (2) 1:08:13
Enrique Vasquez- Hendrik Wyuts- George DeSalvo (3) 1:13:55

Youngster Group

Daniela Simal- Meriann Urdaneta - Aneudys Albertina (1) 1:14:25
Farley Marcera - Charels Janzen (2) 1:28:10
Imka Thomas - Rhoda Celestijn - Daniuska Craane (3) 1:33:17

Most Motivated Family

Imre, Laszlo, Tomas, Yasmin Esser, Aida Jaber (1) 1:28:13



*The motivated Esser Family at the Triathlon
(Are those the Olympic rings that have escaped?)*

***Juliandro
Clarenda,
winner of the
Triathlon
youth category,
was five min-
utes ahead of
his rivals.***



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

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

Wanted

Wanted: Good 4-door car between 1995 and 2000 model year, less than NAf7.000. Call 786-0042

Wanted: The book, "The First Bonaireans," by Jay Havisier. Tel. 786-7531 or email R5659R@dds.nl

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

**Put your ads here.
Non-business
ads are free.**

(Continued from page 4)

They visit Klein Bonaire for only a few months every two to three years, coming from their feeding grounds far away. To adequately protect sea turtles in all their habitats, we must learn more about their migratory patterns, their behavior at sea, and where their marine habitats are located. This is where the technology of satellite telemetry becomes useful and important in protecting sea turtles.

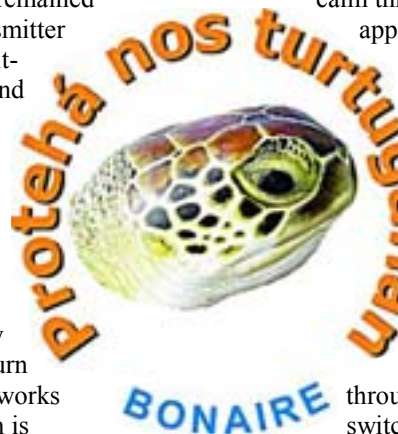
Building on the success of the last two years of tracking turtles from Bonaire, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) plans to place up to four transmitters on turtles in 2005. On June 8, the first of these transmitters was attached on a large adult male hawksbill turtle. This animal was found swimming just off the nesting beach at Klein Bonaire, then caught by STCB staff and lifted on board the research boat *Nancy Too* for transmitter attachment.

This male hawksbill had a shell length of 83 cm and is estimated to weigh about 70 kg. The turtle remained calm throughout the tagging, measurement and transmitter fitting where he was found. After the transmitter was applied, the turtle was released near Klein Bonaire's "No Name" beach.

Tracking of this male hawksbill is made possible by a full sponsorship provided by the cruise ship *Freewinds*. The turtle will be given a name by the sponsor soon. STCB staff expects that this hawksbill will remain near Klein Bonaire to breed for possibly one or two months and then depart to return to his feeding grounds.

Turtle tracking works through signals sent out by the transmitter, which is switched on whenever the turtle comes to the surface to breathe. These transmissions are then collected by Argos system receivers onboard weather satellites that circle the globe, yielding location data for each turtle, which are then e-mailed daily to STCB. Turtle locations are mapped frequently and available on the website www.bonaireturtles.org.

STCB exists to ensure the protection and recovery of Bonaire's sea turtle populations throughout their range. Founded in 1992, the organization is a Bonaire-based, non-governmental and non-profit organization, part of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network. □ Mabel Nava, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, e-mail stcb@bonaireturtles.org



DIVING with DEE Trumpetfish: Unlikely Predators?



A trumpetfish in typical vertical posture.

Quick! Name a sea creature that's long and thin and eats fish.

If there hadn't been a photo of a trumpetfish right here, I'll bet your first thought would have been *moray*. But trumpetfish fit the description too. They're just so low key and so non-threatening, it doesn't cross our minds that they may also be predators.

But they're predators, all right, and for us fish watchers, they have one huge advantage over morays: **trumpetfish do their hunting where – and when – we can watch.**

On my first Bonaire dives I was flabbergasted to see trumpetfish hanging out in mid-water, 'way away from the reef, within the clouds of plankton-picking chromis. I was pretty sure that trumpetfish weren't plankton-pickers, but it took me a while to believe that a trumpetfish in a cloud of chromis was there in search of a snack – a snack of chromis. I guess we could call this the "**Familiarity breeds contempt**" style of hunting: the trumpetfish boldly hangs out with all those chromis, until the chromis – or at least, one individual chromis – gets so used to the trumpetfish that it becomes careless about positioning.

One reason the chromis are so casual

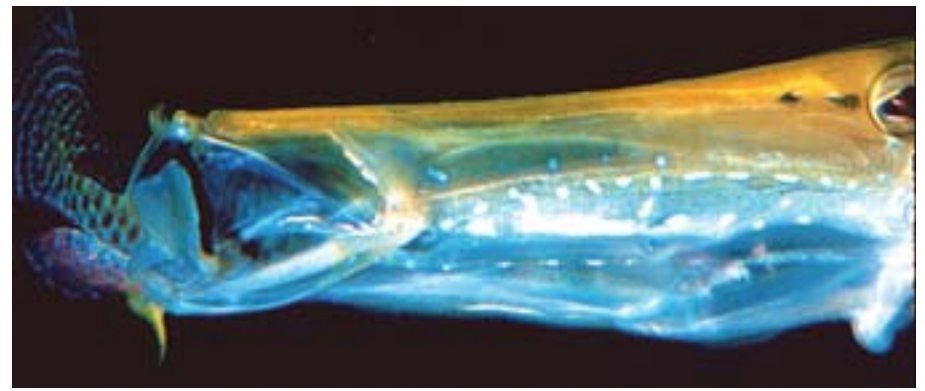
about the presence of the trumpetfish is because they're more aware than we might be about this predator's limitations. A supple creature like a moray can turn its head suddenly to grab a fish right next to it, but a trumpetfish has no such flexibility. The trumpetfish's elongated, tubular jaw makes such maneuvers impossible. Also, the trumpetfish has no grasping teeth -- like the moray does -- to hold and position its prey. The trumpetfish's only option is to suck in its prey headfirst.

Once you're back down watching the reef, you'll notice how **trumpetfish take advantage of the flexibility of flexible eels**: when a moray or snake eel is slithering through crevices inaccessible to most other fish, some of the creatures it surprises escape. Sometimes they escape out onto the reef. Sometimes they get a second surprise on the reef, when they're sucked down by a trumpetfish who was a part of the eel's "hunting party." The hunting party is likely to have, in addition to a trumpetfish or two, a couple of small groupers, a snapper, and a bar jack, all alert for the possibility of snacking on an eel-escapee. The members of the hunting party hope to benefit from a "**Your distraction is my satisfaction**" hunting style.

"Your distraction is my satisfaction"

Trumpetfish take advantage of another reef distraction, too: foraging herbivores. As schools of blue tangs and surgeonfish descend on patches of algae, the damselfish who farm that algae attack the invaders. The damsels fail to repel the surgeonfish because the schools are too large. While damsels chase away one or two grazers, dozens more harvest their crops. Meanwhile, as they uselessly, frantically, try to protect their algae they're not thinking about protecting themselves. Satisfaction for the trumpetfish can be just a slurp away.

What about when a trumpetfish hangs around with a single fish? This behavior is called **shadow stalking**, and it benefits from both the "Familiarity breeds contempt" and the "Distraction is satisfac-



This trumpetfish is in the process of sucking down a wrasse. The wrasse struggles with his tail fin, which pushes him into the trumpetfish. In less than five minutes the wrasse is a bump behind the trumpetfish's eyes.

tion" hunting styles, depending on what type of fish the trumpetfish follows.

When a trumpetfish shadows a parrotfish – who's no predator to any fishes -- the trumpetfish's potential prey only notices the parrotfish and goes on about its business. The trumpetfish hopes to scoot across the parrotfish and suck down the little fish.

When the trumpetfish shadows a grouper or other fish-eater, the potential prey fish see danger and take cover until the grouper passes. Then they emerge, relieved – and possibly just in time to get that "Distraction is satisfaction" surprise.

Trumpetfish hunt more directly, too. Have you ever seen one at an angle, head an inch or two from the bottom and practically underneath a ledge? There's usually a goby or other small fish under that ledge, too, who may succumb to this simplest of hunting styles, the "**I Got You, Babe.**"

Sometimes, even though we don't see the actual hunt, we get a big fat clue that a trumpetfish has been successful because there's a big, fat bulge in its body. So don't worry – that bulging trumpetfish is probably full, not ill.

It can be rewarding – and challenging – to watch trumpetfish. I like to work on my buoyancy control while watching a trumpetfish in a cloud of chromis. **I have certainly learned to appreciate the trumpetfish's perfect buoyancy control** – and I'm hoping one day to see that sudden spurt of speed, the trumpet mouth extended, and the disappearance within of a carelessly-positioned fish. □ *Photos and story by Dee Scarr*



Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her slide show "Touch the Sea" at Capt. Don's Habitat, Mondays, 8:30 pm.

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Ask the Dietitian

Broccoli - King of the Cabbage Clan

It's only 24 calories a cup, raw, and only 46 calories a cup, cooked!

Broccoli is a very popular vegetable, and happily, it's usually available on Bonaire. Broccoli is linked to lower risk of colon cancer, which has been confirmed in many recent studies. And it's rich in carotene and vitamin C.

A cup of fresh cooked broccoli tops the scales with 2 1/2 times the Recommended Dietary Allowance for Vitamin C. It's also a very good source of calcium: a cup provides 140 mg calcium.

When buying broccoli choose heads with small, closed, compact buds and firm stems. Color is a clue also; the stems should be dark, and the entire head should be free of yellowing. A purplish tint on the buds is a sign of freshness in some varieties. Reject broccoli that is limp, has buds that have begun to open, or has any yellowing flowers.

Some kitchen tips:

Wrap broccoli in perforated plastic and refrigerate as soon as possible. It will last about three days. If you want to keep fresh broccoli longer, blanch it until it is bright green. You can then refrigerate it for about five days.

To prepare, separate the head into spears and florets if desired. The spears require more cooking time, so if preparing both, you may prefer to start them before the florets. Peel tough stalks and stab them with a knife so you can cook them along with the leaves and buds.

Broccoli is excellent even when prepared simply. Steam it until tender, about 7 minutes. It also can be:

- added to soups, stews, fried rice and pasta dishes;
- topped with just a sprinkling of a sharp herb such as fresh thyme or freshly cracked pepper for a lower-calorie delight.

Broccoli Soup with Potato and Cheese

1 tablespoon olive oil
3/4 pound broccoli, chopped
1 large potato, chopped
1 leek, chopped
2 shallots, chopped
2 cups chicken stock
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1 tea spoon dried oregano
1/2 teaspoon curry powder
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 cup milk low fat
1/3 cup shredded cheddar or gouda cheese



Heat oil in a large heavy-bottom pot. Add broccoli, potato, leek, and shallots and sauté, stirring frequently, over medium-high heat for about 5 minutes.

Add 1 cup of stock, along with thyme, oregano, and curry, then cover and simmer until vegetables are very tender, about 30 minutes. Stir occasionally.

Let the soup cool, then pour it into a food processor or blender along with mustard and process until it is a smooth purée. **Do not over process or the potato will become gummy.** Pour the puree back into the pot and add remaining stock, cheese and milk and heat slowly, stirring to blend well. When cheese has just about melted, it is ready. Serve hot. □

Angélique Salsbach

Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Write her at dietitian@bonairenews.com □



(Free Love. Continued from page 6)

met Sunshine and the Gibbs at the airport, took Janet and Gary to their home, then took the new kitty home. I arrived three days later. Alan had naming rights on the girl, whom he decided to name "Moonbeam."



It's now two months later, and we are just so delighted with our new family members. They are totally bonded with each other: play and sleep together and give us lots of affection and laughter. Rainbow is starting to accept them, too. This has been such a great adventure for us all, and we appreciate the Bonaire love we have with us all the time now.

So, if you live on Bonaire, visit the Animal Shelter, and see if there's some love there for you. If you're visiting the island, it IS possible to take a live piece of Bonaire home with you. If you can't adopt, you can still make a big difference to the animals by financial support to the Shelter's sterilization fund, and/or the general fund to help them continue in their mission to help the animals on Bonaire. I truly believe each one of us makes a difference, and we can choose to make that a POSITIVE difference!!! □ *Story and photo by Josie Estill*

You may contribute to the Shelter's Sterilization Fund: MCB Account #10616410. General Donation Fund: MCB #102.37800 or RBTT #23.10.139 or via "Support Bonaire, Inc. (www.supportbonaire.org). □

Pet of the Week



"Natasha"

She's elegance personified! This very unusually marked and beautiful mother cat, "Natasha," was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter after she was found wandering around Antriol with her two lion-colored kittens. Her pale markings are just stunning and are offset by her intense blue eyes. And her long tail has darker rings. Upon entering the Shelter she met up with a male all white cat, "Rafaello," who also has very blue eyes and a pale ringed tail. The two have become inseparable ever since. Perhaps it's the similarities in the eye and tail coloring? Both cats are very sociable and sweet and are in perfect health.

So far this year there have been 75 adoptions. Last year a record was set with 150. The primary reason for such successful adoption figures is that all the cats and dogs up for adoption at the Shelter are not only healthy, having been examined by the vet and given their shots, but sociable as well. And sterilization is included in the adoption fee.

The Shelter has become headquarters for lost dogs. Call them first if you've lost your pet or if you've found one.

Right now the Shelter could use **assistance from a handyman** to take care of some small repair jobs. If you have some extra time please give them a call at 717-4989. It would be very much appreciated! The Bonaire Animal Shelter on Lagoen Road is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. □ *L.D.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

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

State of the Union
(Ice Cube)

Early Show (usually 7pm)
Kung Fu Hustle

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400
Tickets - **NA\$10.50** (incl. Tax)
High Schoolers - **NA\$7.75**

NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY
FRIDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM
Because of Winn-Dixie

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, June 22-Symposium: Is teenage pregnancy a problem or something normal? (Embaraso hubenil un problema of algu normal?) Medical, legal and emotional topics presented by experts on the subject. At Scouting Central, near the start of the Nikiboko North road. 8 am-1 pm. Youngsters especially invited. For more information contact: Roxiana Goeloe, tel: 717-2436; Marisela Flemming: tel: 717-8976; Polli Winklaar: tel: 717-8839

Friday, June 24—Opening "Cultural Growth" - SGB art students exhibit, free -ARTEBON, 7 pm, refreshments. Continues Saturday, Sunday, June 25, 26, 9 am to 5 pm. See page 22

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.

Friday, June 24—St. John's Day

COMING

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

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:



KUNG FU HUSTLE by Stephen Chow, starring Stephen Chow. Don't let the title fool you and expect another Hong Kong fight movie. This is a must see! The film is one of the most visually imaginative and unique movies I have seen in a long time. It's so full of original ideas you can hardly keep up with all the jokes, script wise and visually. The film is drenched in special effects, but that doesn't matter because they are used for laughs and effectively so. Some of the effects not only will have you in stitches, but also in shock and awe at the sheer incredibility of some of the scenes. One scene that sticks out is a terrific spoof of the Road Runner. It's not only hilarious but also a visual feast.

My compliments to the programmer of Movieland Cinema for picking this film. Take an evening off, invite all your friends and go and see it!
See you soon! □ Dodo

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 (NA\$12 for residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- Discover Our Diversity Slide Show, pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

Sunday - Bonaire Holiday -Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat.

Monday Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea slide experience. Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30-9:30pm.

Wednesday (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation Slide Show by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

Friday- Week in Review Video Presentation by the Toucan Dive Shop at Plaza's Tippy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

Winning Student Chefs Return

They're back and they're even more accomplished in the kitchen than they were when they left. Bonaire's SGB team of hotel school students who won the Bonaire International Culinary Competition in January and their teacher, Liz Rijna, arrived back on the island last Monday. As a special award, the winning team was invited to spend a week at well known chef Klaus Friedenreich's Culinary Art Institute in Ft. Lauderdale. They observed professional chefs at work, took field trips to the Holiday Food Manufacturing, watched ice carving demonstrations, did "site inspections" at the Harbor Beach Resort and enjoyed a cultural food exchange with the other students. And, according to them, they learned a lot of professional culinary tricks.

To continue their passion for cuisine, Bram and Andres will be going to the Emilia Romagna region in Italy in July for a two-month work-study program. □

L.D.



Wendy and Samantha create pastry flamingo in Florida



Andres Cicilia, Wendy Heredia, Teacher Liz Rijna, Samantha Statie and Bram Schmit at Flamingo Airport Monday night

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

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

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

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

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

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

Visit the Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

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

Sunday at Cai- Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire's popular musicians.
Rincon Marshé- every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Bonaire's historic town.

Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

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

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

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

New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

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

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.bonairealety.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.

ON THE ISLAND SINCE . . .

2002

Hans Voerman

I t's a long and dusty road that leads to the kunuku where he's living, but as always, it's worth it. There's something very beautiful in a place that has no structure, that's not developed. It is as if life has become a matter of sky and earth and just a roof to separate them and to hold on to.

Hans Voerman (39) lives there.

"The quality of life is high here," he smiles. "I don't miss a thing and I wouldn't want it any other way. You need to be a little bit adventurous. I don't have electricity; I don't need it. The light of a kerosene lamp is just beautiful at night and so is the darkness. I don't have TV or a radio, but I hear the sound of the wind in the trees; I hear the dogs, the birds, and when the rain comes I hear the frogs and the cica-das. And there's silence. The light of the kerosene lamp is enough to read by - I couldn't live without books - but I don't have a refrigerator and it doesn't matter to me. This *kunuku* belongs to the DeJong family. When they said I could live here it was like everything fell into place. It must have been for a reason.

The first time I came to Bonaire was in 1990. I was a diver with the military. My sergeant, Rene Faro, came to Bonaire for a vacation. I decided to visit him for a week. It became a month. I arrived at night; I'd been to the tropics a lot and expected to be chased by taxi drivers, but on the contrary - nobody showed up. Great! The customs officer asked where I was going to sleep. I wondered why he'd ask me such a thing. I told him, and it appeared he knew the person. That was impressive! Back in Holland after I got out of the service I arranged everything to move to Bonaire.

The easiest thing was to become a dive instructor and Buddy Dive hired me. At the time the business was small: 10 apartments and a container as an office. I was 25 and having a good time. Before I went into the military I'd been a helmsman on a tramp freighter with *Rederij Spliethoff* in Amsterdam for five years, and now I felt I was getting restless again. Maybe I was too young to settle down. My girlfriend and I planned to travel aboard the Trans-Siberia Express to the Far East and from there to Australia and New Zealand.

Soon after World War II my parents had immigrated to New Zealand where my two brothers and sister were born. They stayed for 15 years, and I was 'made in New Zealand,' but I was the only one born in Holland after they'd returned because my mom was so homesick. The only one who was born

in Holland! Can you believe that! How terrible! I still feel bad when I think about it! I could have had two passports! They have!

My girlfriend and I split up and I went to Australia by myself. I traveled through the northern part in the rainy season - flooded roads and bridges and I had to sleep in a bus or roadhouse. I met a helicopter pilot and some aborigines and we traveled with two trucks through the outback. It was the trip of my life! The aborigines caught a reptile one night and we ate it. I still don't know what it was. The trip ended when we got stuck in a river. I ended up on a cattle station half the size of Holland—no money, no transport, so I did the dirty work. Once they went 'hunting' with the helicopter to find a suitable cow. They shot it, tied it to the helicopter, then flew back and landed the cow next to the barbecue! Unbelievable!

"It's about going out in a dingy in high seas and bad weather to rescue people, ditching helicopters and escapes, fire fighting on ships and oil platforms—just a golden job!"

But my heart was still in Bonaire. Buddy Dive said I could have my job back. Three months later I was back on the island. I thought I'd find some peace of mind this time but I didn't. Still, I didn't want to leave the island. I started working on a two-masted ship, the *Insulinde* from Curaçao for six months. Then I helped friends of mine, Henk and Sylvia Rotteveel, to build an apartment on their *kunuku* 'Dos Iguanas.' At the same time I was the operator of the recompression chamber. However, the rules were different then. I didn't have an official job so I was 'illegal' on the island. I didn't like it and I thought it was absolutely unfair, as Antilleans could go and live in Holland anytime.

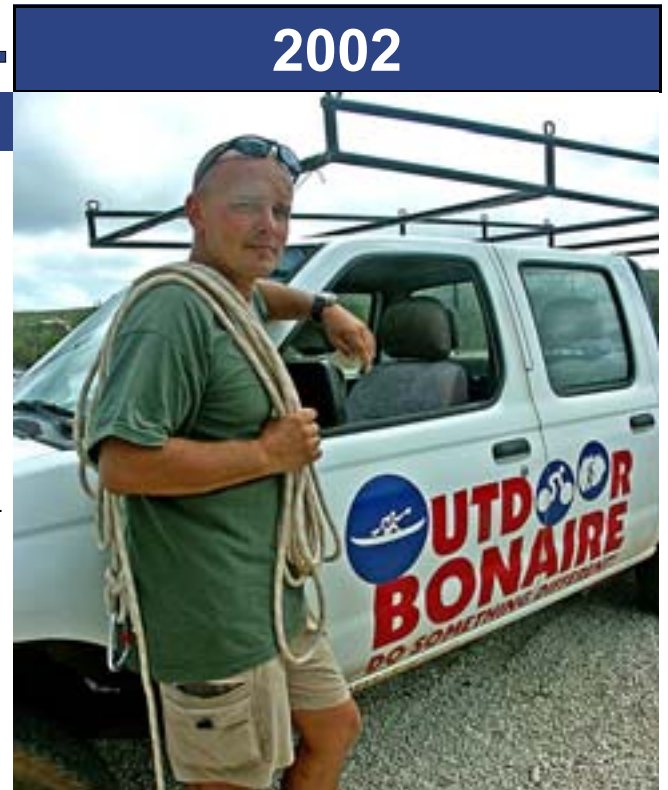
Together with a friend, Marielle Sengers, I left for South America. The first day in Caracas we were robbed in broad daylight and it annoyed me terribly. From there we went to Merida, Colom-

bia, Quito and Peru where Marielle wanted to stay longer. I went on to Chile and to Easter Island. That was impressive, very remote, at the back of beyond, and the Polynesian culture mixed with the South American culture—very special! And—an island! (Ever since I was a little boy of five I wanted to live like Robinson Crusoe.) From Easter Island I went to Tahiti and finally I ended up in New Zealand and...

was arrested immediately at the airport. The drug dogs had gone out of their minds the moment they'd smelled me and I was also the only passenger who looked somewhat shabby. No more kindness. They read me my rights and I was arrested. 'Why?' I asked. 'You've got cocaine somewhere,' the officer said, and he kept on searching my backpack. Then I remembered. I had this Bonairean goatskin that I'd prepared myself three months before. That was it! They let me go with compliments for the preparation. After they'd disinfected the skin I got it back.

I traveled through New Zealand, back to Australia, to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong where I sailed along with a friend on a ship. He told me about this job, 'naval survival instructor,' so I went to Holland to see about it. A naval training center trains everyone who works offshore and on ships and who's obliged to follow this training. It's about going out in a dingy in high seas and bad weather to rescue people, ditching helicopters and escapes, fire fighting on ships and oil-platforms—just a golden job! Every year three to four months off because of the overtime, so I could go traveling. I did it for seven years, then it became more and more about theory and about course members who were not willing to do the course because they were afraid. After seven years, it was enough! I also wanted to leave Holland."

He strokes his blue-eyed Siamese kitty and says: "All my life I've been looking for a place to live. When I was a child I used to say I didn't want to stay in Holland. Then I heard that regulations in Bonaire had softened up for the Dutch, so in 2002 I was back with the idea of becoming a dive guide. The notary told me it wasn't allowed anymore as there were so many already. That



was really disappointing and I didn't know what to do. For a while I worked for Yellow Submarine as a dive instructor. But then I heard they needed someone at the Caribbean Club to do eco tours. This was what I'd done all my life: caving, hiking, biking, climbing, rappelling—the only thing I hadn't done regularly was kayaking in the mangroves. So, for a year I've been doing the eco tours. I founded my own business, 'Outdoor Bonaire—Do Something Different.' It takes times to get a steady clientele, but I'm prepared, I can live very cheap! When for a while absolutely nothing came in, I went into retreat and I fasted for 12 days. Can't be bad! And if I'm really hungry, there's always the roosters!"

He smiles: "I've been very, very lucky in my life with my jobs, but I don't believe in security. I think it's a shame not to do what you want to do because you might lose your pension. I don't think that's the meaning of life. I see it as a very big challenge to live in a way that you have to do everything yourself with nobody taking care of you. I think it builds up character. Many people on Bonaire live like this.

I still want to see Antarctica though. I know how to get there. Bonaire is beautiful but it isn't the most beautiful island I've ever seen, however, I think it's the best place to live. I've been back and forth so many times and I've seen so much of the world, but still, I came back to live here." □

Greta Kooistra

This is a repeat of an article published on August 27, 2004, in The Reporter



Cultural Growth - SGB Art Students Show

Want to get a glimpse at the exciting work that's being done in the art department of the high school? Then don't miss this premier show, "Cultural Growth," which opens at Artebon on Friday, June 24, at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to come and cheer on these creative and talented students.

The students have let their imaginations run free and the exhibits will surprise, entertain and even make you chuckle. It all started with the idea of a re-design project, conceived by biology teacher Mary Ann Koops. The idea was for the students to improve on an existing product or create a whole new one. Under the direction of art teacher Wilna Groenenboom, the students were to look at the product that might already be on the market from a new and different standpoint. Later, after making numerous sketches they were to come up with a new, more innovative product. Finally they were to make a two or three-dimensional version to show to the public.



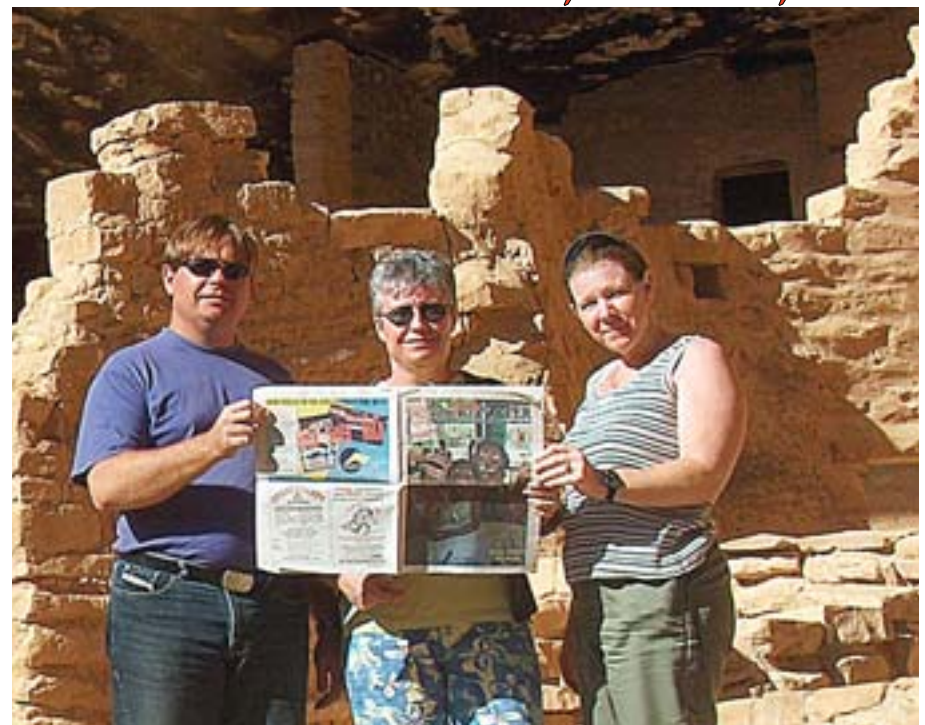
A robot designed by students to meet their administrative needs

The exhibit will be formally opened by Minister of Education and Culture, Maritsa Silberie. There will be refreshments and snacks provided by the SGB hotel school, Chez Nous. Show your care and support these talented students with your presence!

The show will continue on Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, from 9 am to 5 pm, when students will be on hand to guide you through the exhibits..

Thanks to a donation from the NGO Platform and AMFO for making this show possible. □L.D.

Picture Yourself with the Reporter Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, USA



Bonaire residents Eddy and Marion de Wit-Korschilgen and former resident Dara Walter stopped at the 12th century cliff dwellings of the Pueblo Indians in Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, during their trip through Colorado, Utah and Arizona. And lucky for us, they remembered to bring along a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. □

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.) □



You are invited to an exhibition by the students of the SGB High School

Cultural Growth at ARTEBON

Opening on Friday, June 24 at 7 pm by The Minister of Education & Culture Maritsa D. Silberie

Show runs two days: Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26 from 9am to 5pm

ARTEBON Center
Kaya Playa Lechi
(waterfront promenade)

Show by VSBO and HAVO students

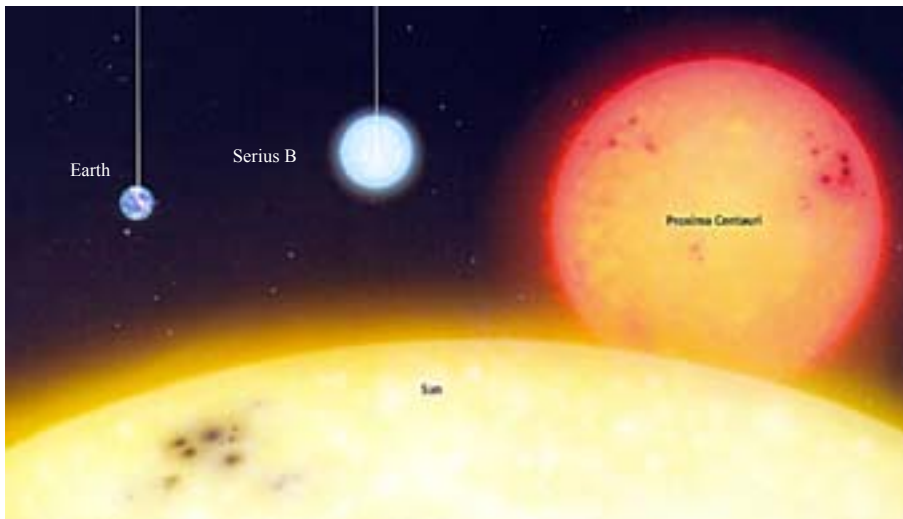
We hope you will come





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up



Just What Are Stars Anyway ... And How Far Away Are They?

Our sun compared with smaller stars. Proxima Centauri is a red dwarf, being also the closest star to Sun (read more below). White dwarf stars such as Sirius B are even smaller. Earth is presented for comparison in the left-side of the figure.

Have you ever wondered just what a star is anyway and how far away they are? Well let me "unwonder" you. If we could go out any clear night and look up at the stars could you point out the closest one? Some people think it's the **North Star**, but nothing could be farther from the truth because you can't see the closest star at night at all. You can see it only in the daytime. It's our **Sun**.

Yes indeed our Sun is a star and it's the closest star to **Earth**. The only reason it doesn't look like the other stars at night is because it is so close. And the reason the other stars don't look like our Sun is because they are so incredibly farther away. Now all the stars make their own light similar to the way our Sun does. You see, our Sun and all the stars are gigantic balls of hot glowing gas. And most of them make their light by thermonuclear processes. Or think of it this way: our Sun produces more energy every single second than several million hydrogen bombs detonating at the same time.

But when it comes to measuring the distance to other stars, astronomers don't like to use the word miles because they'd have to use too many numbers. Instead we measure the distance to the other stars using the fastest known thing in the universe - the speed of light. Light travels an incredible 186,000 miles a second so we never actually see our Sun and the other stars as they actually exist at the moment. We always see them as they existed some time in the past depending on how far away they are. We see our Sun as it existed 8 1/3 minutes ago because it takes light that long to travel from the Sun to reach us. But the other stars are much farther away. So we use a term called the "light year" to measure distances to them. A light year is simply the amount of miles light travels in one year. Multiply all the seconds in one year times 186,000 miles per second and you'll see there are roughly 6 trillion miles in one light year and the closest star to Earth other than our Sun is **Proxima Centauri**, 4.2 light years away. So we see it as it existed 4.2 years ago!

What about our old friend, the North Star, who many people think is the closest? Well it's a whopping 431 light years away, which means we see it as it existed 431 years ago. And although it doesn't look very bright, it is actually 1,600 times brighter and 67 times wider than our Sun! Wow! Star light, star bright, now we know what you are tonight. □

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
June 17 to June 24, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't turn down an invitation or a challenge that could enhance your chances of meeting someone special. Things may not be as harmonious as you would like with colleagues or employers this week. Get down to business and do the work yourself. Be stubborn about making changes around your home. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) There's lots to be done and if you meet your deadline you'll be in your boss's good books. Don't make any unreasonable promises. Romance will develop through work related activities. You will have a little more energy than usual. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

You can make excellent career moves if you are open to the opportunities that exist. Put your energy into behind the scenes activities. Don't let your personal dilemmas interfere with your goals. Don't let others make you feel guilty or insecure. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You may divulge private information without realizing it this week. You will have a great deal of insight when dealing with others. Don't bang your head against a wall. Use your intellectual approach to get the best results. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You are best to stick to basics. Work on getting ahead by picking up added skills. You can make money if you are wise in your choices. Be extra careful with your valuables; loss and theft are evident this week. Your family needs to spend some time with you, too. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You should expect to have changes in your home. Don't hold back; go with the flow and take a bit of a chance. Self-improvement projects will payoff in more ways than one. Romance will be yours if you get out and do things in large groups. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Escapist tendencies will result in a poor reputation and a lack of confidence. You will be overly sensitive this week. Be sure not to burn any bridges. Deep discussions may only lead to friction. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Be sure to think twice before you say something that might hurt your partner's feelings. Based on your excitement, serious-minded individuals will be more than interested in backing your ideas. You can ask for favors but don't take them for granted. Don't try to deal with important issues or make changes that will upset the apple cart. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't play on your partner's emotions. You may not be too pleased with the actions of those you live with. You can expect to have some problems with skin, bones, or teeth if you haven't taken proper care of them. Your efforts won't go unnoticed; however, someone you work with may get jealous. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Someone you live with will be quite unreasonable this week. New love connections can be made through group associations. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally. Helping children may be rewarding and challenging. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Relatives may not be telling you the whole truth about a family situation. Health problems may prevail if you don't take care of them immediately. Accept the inevitable. Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let your work and your personal life interfere with each other. Your mate may be distressed if you refuse to make a commitment. You may want to take a look at the personal papers of elders in your family. You can find out important information if you listen to friends and relatives. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. □