

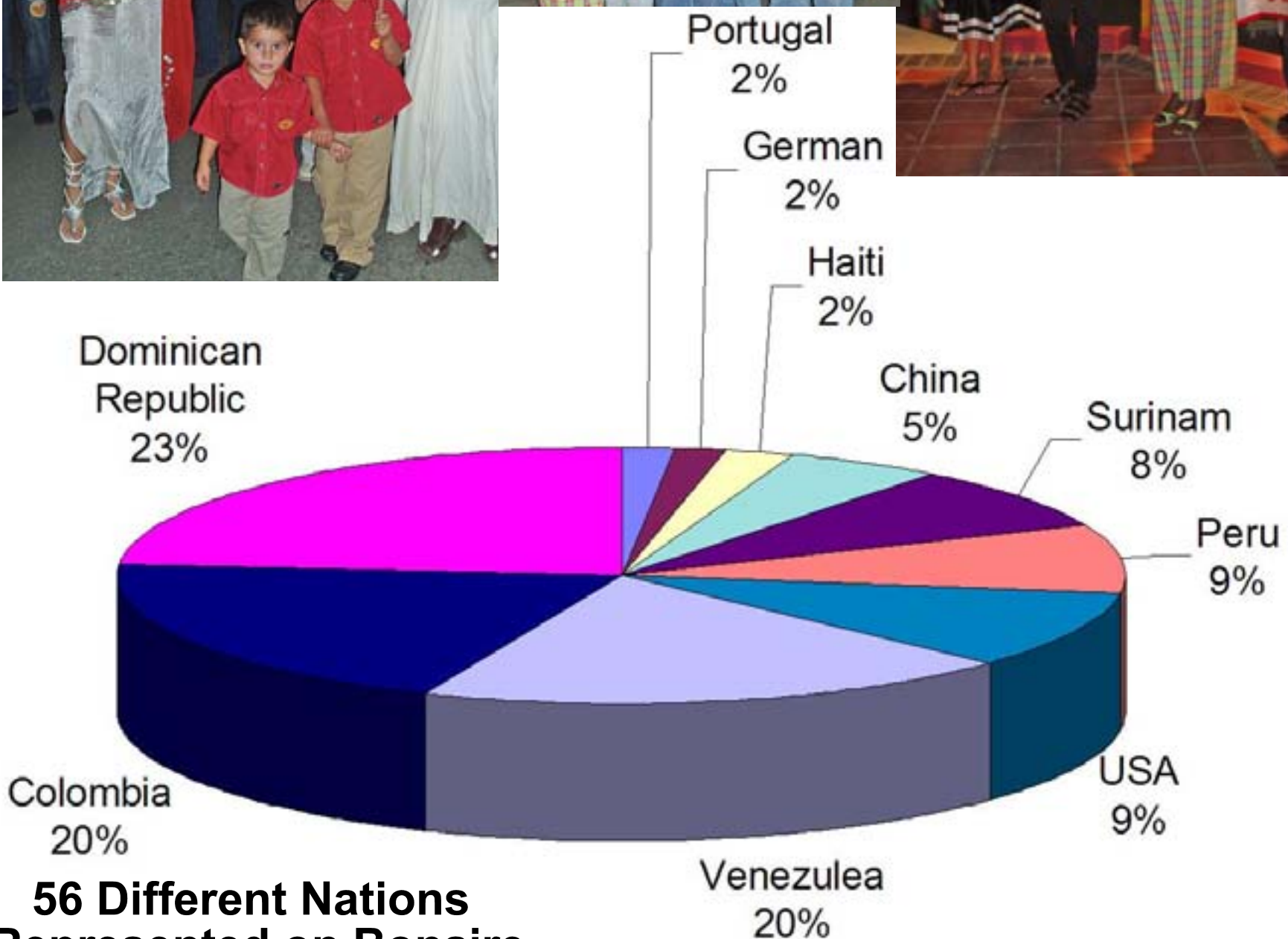
**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

June 24 to July 1, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 24

The ^{BONAIRE!} REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



**56 Different Nations
Represented on Bonaire
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FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Sea Princess

Projections show an increase of cruise tourism of more or less 75%, says Ronella Croes, head of the Tourist Corporation Bonaire (TCB). The TCB considers that a very positive development. For the 2006-2007 cruise ship season many additional ships will call at Bonaire, including the Princess Line's love boats, *Sea Princess* and *Crown Princess*. Other ships making first calls at Bonaire will be the *Arcadia*, *Rijndam* and *Prinsendamships*, the Crystal Line's ships *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity*.

These growth figures are cited as one of the reasons a facelift of Bonaire's waterfront and a new facility for receiving Ro/Ro (from roll-on/roll-off ships like the *Don Andres* and *Dona Luisa*) container cargo is necessary. **The new container pier, if it is built, may be either at WEB or south of BOPEC near Karpata.** The island government has commissioned a feasibility study in the matter.

Proponents of the plan say a more attractive waterfront area, devoid of containers, would enhance tourism, i.e.: attract even more cruise ships. Opponents say that the money for a new cargo pier would be better spent on road repair or other island projects and that the benefits of cruise tourism are questionable.

► Travel agents in America, Canada and Europe told CDNN (Caribbean Diver's News Network) that thousands of tourists and scuba diving travelers are

canceling planned holidays to Aruba. **CNN (Flamingo TV Channel 10) even broadcast a report about a Bonaire dive accident** to infer that disappearances are common in the ABC islands. While Bonaire's Public Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius issued a statement that no crime was involved in that case, the TCB has yet to counter the damaging media frenzy that consumed the American CNN and Fox News networks last week.

The cancellations follow reports that police and government officials in Aruba have deliberately concealed evidence related to the disappearance of 18-year-old Natalee Holloway to protect the island's tourism industry.

► Due to a **typographical error** in *The Bonaire Reporter* edition of June 17-24, Continental's **weekly** flights which begin on Saturday, December 17, were printed as **daily**. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



► Beginning June 16th, **Flamingo Airport will sell departure tax cards at a new booth** located centrally in the ticketing and check-in area. An Internet facility for passenger use will soon be added on the other side of the booth.

► The Papiamentu daily newspaper, *Extra*, reported that the **departure tax to Curaçao will soon be raised from NAf10 to NAf12,50**. Aruba-bound travelers do NOT have to pay the \$20 international tariff, but just NAf10. However, Bonaire-bound passengers **from** Aruba pay NAf36,90 in Aruba.

► In May, **Flamingo Airport (officially Bonaire International Airport-BIA) passed a strict evaluation by the US's Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** with flying colors. BIA is currently seeking to expand its security staff having taken over the job from the SSV. VSBO level graduates and higher are invited to apply.

► **Air Jamaica**, which has slashed service to Bonaire to one flight a week, has also announced they will be **cutting back on food service** on their Florida and Caribbean routes, serving a snack and beverage instead of a full meal, to save on food service costs. However, hard liquor, beer and wine will be sold on all flights, except to first class passengers, the airline said. Air Jamaica is trying to save \$2 million annually but says it needs to cut costs, eventually by \$50 million, to survive. Executive chairman Dr. Vincent Lawrence says the decision was difficult but necessary.

► TCB-NY reported that for the 12th consecutive year **Bonaire has been voted by the readers of Scuba Diving magazine as the best shore diving destination in the world.** According to the July 2005 issue of the magazine which reported the results of *Scuba Diving's* Top 100 Readers' Choice Awards, "Bonaire has topped the shore-diving category in our annual 'Top 100 Readers' Choice Awards' - an unbroken string of No. 1 titles that started in 1994." This year Bonaire received a score of 96.9, topping the runner-up in this category by more than four points. As part of the writeup on Bonaire

the magazine included beautiful photography and cited "abundant grunts" and "dense corals" as just two examples of the marine life that divers will find at any of the island's dive sites.

► **One of Bonaire's most frequented shore diving sites, the *Windjammer*, has been closed for several months.** A small Bonaire dive resort reports that two dive groups of six persons each have **cancelled their planned trips** to Bonaire because they will not be able to dive the *Windjammer*.

Access to the sea is being prevented by guards at the BOPEC oil terminal, which is owned by the Venezuelan national oil company PEDVESA.

Bonaire is unique in the world of diving destinations because it offers convenient access from shore to the majority of its dive sites. Most shore divers book into the smaller resorts, rent vehicles and spend weeks diving economically using the dive resorts' universally offered "unlimited dive packages." Their car gives them access to the islands restaurants, shopping and above-water attractions as well.

► An avid *Windjammer* diver sought a **legal opinion in Holland** to determine if the BOPEC oil depot has the right to ban divers from the *Windjammer* site located offshore their property. This is a summary of the Dutch reply with an English translation:

- *De zee tot aan de stranden is eigendom van het Land, niet van Bonaire en dus naar alle waarschijnlijkheid ook niet van BOPEC.* The sea, including the beaches, is property of the Dutch Antilles (Central) government, NOT of the island Bonaire and also NOT of BOPEC.
- *Als er een verbod tot duiken zou zijn, of om de zee in te gaan, zou dat een regeling moeten zijn die door Bonaire als eilandgebied in het leven is geroepen en niet door*

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GROUPEL CORNER



Blue water diving is thrilling and adventurous. It is not for the inexperienced or faint hearted diver. Attempting this activity requires training, detailed knowledge of the surrounding underwater terrain and familiarity with the ever changing sea conditions. You must also have a definite target to reach after your descent from the surface. Disorientation, caused by the lack of any visual contact with the adjoining reef, can initiate anxiety and bring on panic for those individuals not properly prepared for this phenomenon.

Bonaire, known as "The Home of Diving Freedom," has a reef system that can easily be reached from any point on its shore. The leeward side of this boomerang shaped island has more than 60 marked and described dive sites accessible on a

year-round basis. In addition, Klein Bonaire, the small, circular, uninhabited island one mile off the coast, has at least 25 shoreline dive sites around its protected coastline. Furthermore, the entire coast of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire, down to 200 feet (60 meters), is protected as an underwater marine park. Why would you challenge yourself with a "blue water dive" when you can park your car or tie your small boat to a permanent mooring, anywhere you choose and simply enter the sea? **The answer is easy; there are great rewards for the effort.**

One such place is Grouper Corner. The natural world has many mysteries. As a naturalist, I have many questions. Finding the answers can be a lifelong pursuit.



Sometimes one simple observation reveals a seemingly obvious solution that has previously eluded me. These revelations defy logic and when analyzed lead to other questions. Today, observing the social interactions of the usually solitary species of sea bass we know as Groupers has kindled my desire to find more clues to their behavior patterns. My diving partner has led me to a meeting ground of hundreds of groupers that we normally see as solitary and wary specimens on the reef slope, hiding in caves or sheltering in wrecks. Here each fish is oblivious to our presence and tolerates our close approach. Why are they here? Is this their safe haven? Have they always congregated here? Is this a seasonal behavior? What are they doing?

We are entering a secret world out of sight of the surrounding reef structure. We descend through the "blue water" to an underwater garden that is seldom, if ever, visited by human invaders. Perhaps our presence on this rare occasion is as much a surprise to the fish as their behavior is to us. I feel as if I have entered an exclusive social society or "after hours club" where individuals, as strangers, gather to meet each other, interact for a few hours, and then go back to their respective homes and mates.

Groupers are well built with strong, heavy bodies. They all have large mouths and big fleshy lips with jutting lower jaws. Sharp teeth line the inside of their mouth

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(Continued from page 2)

BOPEC; Whenever there is a restriction to dive or enter the sea, then the government of the Island of Bonaire should have made that rule. NOT BOPEC.

- *Er is een bijna theoretische kans dat het Land grond aan BOPEC in erfpacht heeft uitgegeven en dat BOPEC in de hoedanigheid van erfpachter eisen stelt aan te water gaan. Geadviseerd wordt dan ook contact over deze kwestie op te nemen met het havenkantoor in Kralendijk te Bonaire (havenmeesters Sint Jago en Statie) om hierover zekerheid te verkrijgen.* In the event that BOPEC owns/rents the ground it therefore can make demands about how to or enter the sea (over its land). It is advised to go to the Harbor office (Harbormasters Statie and St. Jago) in Kralendijk to be certain.

► According to a report in the Curaçao Papiamentu daily, *La Prensa*, former **Minister Klaas de Vries, and other Dutch Parliamentarians, said they are against creating Kingdom Islands** during a Parliamentary contact plan meeting in The Hague. This is in direct conflict with the outcome of the Referenda held in Bonaire and Saba. Bonaire's **Ramonsito Booi** and Ray Hassell of Saba voiced their objections.

The Dutch MPs said they had a problem with the different government forms voted by the various Antillean islands: Curaçao and St. Maarten chose for autonomy within the Kingdom, much like Aruba, while St. Eustatius wants to stay in the Netherlands Antilles.



Amigoe photo

Judge Bob Wit

► **Judge Bob Wit, who has served in the Antillean court system for many years, is most critical of the pending Antillean Exclusion law.** He thinks it is illegal and will not stand a court test. "Dutch xenophobia is the cause of the discriminatory rules," he says. Ironically, it is an exclusion that is easily circumvented. He adds, "If the regulation is nevertheless introduced, then it is clear that Antillean Dutch will enter Europe (and on to Holland) by means of the back door. European countries must allow them in (as Dutch/EU passport holders). However, a Curaçaoan can go to Spain (for example) which must let him enter. (He can then leisurely proceed to The Netherlands as there are no border controls among EU countries.) It is an impossible regulation for a problem (drug smuggling) which is already on the mend."

According to Wit, it is easier for a country of 16 million to handle 5,000 Antillean problem youngsters than for an island of 130,000 people. "They say that the measure is to help these poor youngsters. But I can't see how they can say that they are helping these youngsters by threatening to send them back when there

► **The Fundashon for Art and Culture will hold its 13th Annual Art Day on Sunday, July 3.** Plan to spend time at Wilhelmina Park to enjoy the art exhibits, music, performing arts, food and drinks.

JanArt will sponsor the children's art contest as in the past. All children are invited to go by the JanArt tent and draw a picture for the art contest to be held that day. Supplies are provided at no cost. Prizes will go to children in different age categories. Anyone interested in exhibiting at the event can contact volunteers at 717-6420 cell 786-6420, or email artandculture65@hotmail.com.



Jan Art photo

Participants in last year's Art Day. Janice Huckaby of Jan Art in the background.

is no future for them here in the Antilles."

People who are opposed to the Antillean Exclusion Regulations can protest at the website: <http://www.sabana-amsterdam.nl/protesteertegenverdonksbeleid.html>

► Welcome to new advertisers **Bill Clinton Computers**, an authorized Dell reseller and **DHL**, now operating as a part of Bonaire Air Services.

► This Saturday, **Bonaire's Culinary Team will leave for the "Taste of the Caribbean" culinary Olympics**, being held in Miami. Our team of four chefs and a bartender will compete with the finest chefs in the Caribbean during the

five-day event. *The Bonaire Reporter's* editor in chief will accompany the team for on-the-site reporting.

► The model in **this week's Benetton ad** page 12 is Mikeely Obersi. □G./L.D

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION?

Dear Editor:

Graffiti comes in many forms: Spray painting a wall or flat surface, carving into a tree or even a table. Almost everyone dislikes it, and in many countries there are laws against it. It is ugly. When one takes a drive along Bonaire's east coast, graffiti has shown up even there. Not spray painting, but ugly sculptures of litter and garbage that someone has left as a monument to their ego.



These same people would probably be appalled if someone did the same thing in front of their house. Bonaire is everyone's house and should be viewed as such. Most likely the people doing this are non-Bonairean and show a disrespect for the nature of Bonaire. What is so ironic is that they spend a lot of time collecting this garbage to pile up when they could be putting in a truck or bags to help in some way to clean up Bonaire instead of making eyesores along one of Bonaire's natural coasts.

When these piles of garbage are torn down, the landscape instantly looks natural again as opposed to graffiti all along the shore line. If you really need to make "sculptures" from garbage do it in your own front yard, not Bonaire's. Spend the time cleaning up, not making an ugly mess.

B.B.

SELIBON SERVICE



Dear Editor:

A few weeks ago one of the plastic rims of the wheel of my garbage container cracked and the solid rubber tire came off. I managed to get it onto the street (It was pick-up day). In my mind I was already searching for a solution to this small but nasty problem. I wondered if I could buy the wheels somewhere or if I had to call SELIBON and see what they could do. My daily work made me forget about it. At the end of the day I went to get my empty container. What a pleasant surprise! There were two brand new wheels under my container! This must have been done by the truck attendants because I did not yet phone or contact anybody about this. I mean: if you want to talk about service, this is GREAT SERVICE! I thank SELIBON for helping me out so quickly and thank you guys a lot. I'd like to say, "KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!" □ Rogier van den Brink

WEB INCREASE



Dear Editor:

Are you finding yourself with less money at the end of the month?

Well, take a good look at your electric bill and you'll discover that the percentage of SURCHARGE on your usage is WAY BEYOND what was originally predicted, and appears to be going up MORE every month.

For example: (from my personal bills)

Billing Date	Usage	Surcharge	Percent
March 2005	NAf55,72	NAf13,56	24.33 %
April 2005	69,76	33,31	47.74 %
May 2005	71,42	48,49	67.89 %

Where will it end?

Is it really true that these increases are NOT being passed on to residents in Curaçao?

If so, why is only little Dushi Bonaire being made to cover the costs of Curoil? Is our government or WEB doing anything to find a cheaper alternative for fuel? Can we import from Venezuela? What can WE do as individuals to lighten or alleviate this burden? Obviously, conservation is not enough as the surcharge will eat up any potential savings on usage.

Will we ever be free from Curaçao's heavy hand?

A 'Sweaty' Local

Reader comments limited to 500 words will be considered for inclusion in the "Letters" department. All letters must be signed. However, we will withhold names on request.

Complaining Stops Here

Up until now this series has highlighted a number of problems in the Bonaire tourism and development program and has tried to throw light on several areas. In this last installment of the *Finding Balance for Bonaire* series, we will briefly summarize the issues uncovered in our investigations and will then move away from the complaining stage toward some concrete suggestions.

After a review of the key observations, we would like to propose a structural approach to sustainable development for Bonaire so its inhabitants can prosper long-term. Long-term is defined as 'our children, their children and all the children who follow them.'

Key Observations

One of the most obvious points from the investigation is that many people and many groups are running in many directions toward development without the benefit of a coherent, coordinated vision or plan. Efforts today seem to be on an 'ad hoc' basis. At one time the island seemed to be following the 1997-2007 sustainable development plan that was created by Tourism Corporation Bonaire, but that plan, and others like the Pourier Report which were written for sustainable development, seem to have been abandoned.

1. Need for Vision

The only 'vision' that can be detected today emerges from recent speeches by government leaders who want to increase tourism 'drastically' and bring in large mega-hotels. It is interesting to note that this desire for 500+ bed hotels flies in the face of current tourism trends around the world.

Today, many hotels and most destinations like Cozumel are trying to move away from mega-hotels and reduce the 'density' of tourists in a single location. Why? Because today's 'upscale,' ideal tourist wants a more intimate experience and they want a socially and environmentally responsible experience. Many destinations have also learned that smaller, intimate, responsible resorts do less damage to the environment and infrastructure. Just what Bonaire currently has to offer.

A sustainable vision is **also based on the culture and the desires of the entire community.** Just how far can tourism grow before the influx of immigrants needed to fill the jobs dilutes the local culture to unacceptable levels? Studies must be done to track the needs and desires of the community and changes in these attitudes must be monitored over time.

But a "vision statement," like the 1997 TCB document that was a subject of an earlier article, means nothing without a Plan that has support from all sectors on the island -- Public and Private, Commercial and Non-profit. And a Plan must have the force of law behind it to make it function.

2. Need for a Plan

To make recently proposed 'drastic changes' to the island's tourism without a clear and approved plan is dangerous. 'Ad hoc' changes like doubling the number of hotel beds without increasing advertising to create demand and without major improvements in infrastructure will only destroy the fragile market that exists today.

3. Misunderstood Numbers

The current leaders of Bonaire's tourism and development seem to be ignoring the fact that Bonaire's **existing hotels are not operating at acceptable occupancy or room revenue rates to be truly profitable.** Some are barely hanging on, and few have the resources to train their staffs or upgrade their facilities. These numbers mean that more beds are possibly the worst solution to the problem.

Also being ignored is the fact that in 2004 many of Bonaire's flights from the US arrived half full so that American Eagle reduced its service and when it was time for Air Jamaica to cut destinations just to stay in business, Bonaire was one of the first go.

4. Missing Numbers

Another key observation is that there seems to be a **serious lack of consumer information**, including why and how tourists are making their destination decision and what their satisfaction level is with the Bonaire product. Some data are collected on entry cards, but it is processed so slowly that it is of little value. And one hotel operator, Belafonte Property Management, has taken a leadership role to start the process and learn more about Bonaire's customers. Other sources are the Caribbean and World Tourism Associations which have huge databanks of tourist information available at reasonable prices. These sources would give some insight into our relative position in the market and the strengths and weaknesses of our competition.

What's in a Vision?

A solid vision is one that **defines the short and long-term limits** of what is sustainable for this particular island, including the maximum level of tourists, maximum number of divers, maximum number of cruise ships. It is not just words and hopes for the future but is based on studies of the environment and infrastructure and the pressures that tourism puts on them. It is called **'carrying capacity'** and it defines the **LIMITS** to the islands' ability to withstand use or activities. As protection improves or worsens, the limits must be revised.

What kind of Plan?

Elements of a solid, long-term island plan would include **scaled improvements over time** in infrastructure, transport, environmental protection and monitoring, marketing and promotion and sustained community integration. Also included in the plan must be a determination of how much the island must invest to reach its goals—at each step—and where the island will find the necessary funding.

Finding Balance for Bonaire

Conclusion



5. No Responsibility

By ignoring the numbers, failing to thoroughly understand market dynamics and blaming the problems on the lack of airlift and too few hotel rooms, Bonaire's leaders have failed to take responsibility for the situation.

6. Lost Direction

In the process of moving toward mega hotels it appears that the government wants to move toward 'mass tourism.' In a recent speech the island was promised 'drastic changes in the level of Bonaire's tourism.'

This direction is opposite the one stated in the 2003 Bonaire Investment Guide published by DEZA (Economics Dept.). There it states: "Development is predicated upon the philosophy that Bonaire's economic growth must be controlled, sustainable and quality balanced, with significant benefits for the Bonairean population, and respecting Bonaire's nature, culture and identity." **A move toward mega-hotels and mass tourism is a move into a totally new direction for which the island is ill prepared.**

Proposal for Finding Balance

The situation has reached a critical point: **air service has been lost, hotels are operating below reasonable expectations, planning has become ad hoc to fill gaps but does not come from a strong, agreed upon basis.**

Action is needed and needed quickly. The following suggestion would provide a mechanism to mobilize and motivate all the stakeholders and should result in a Five-Year Development Plan that will allow the island to move forward in a manner that is controllable and sustainable.

In a previous article we suggested a **Public-Private Partnership** to address the island's needs. This group should be created by the Island Government but would be non-political in nature. This may not be easy on Bonaire where almost everything has a political component, but **statesmanship is called for here** and must be shown by all parties. The need is so great and the potential effects so profound that all segments of the community must feel that their voice has been heard.

Members of the Partnership would serve voluntarily or as a part of their regular jobs. The process itself should take no more than six months so that the Development Plan can be published and adopted by all stakeholders. The Island Government will need to resolve that the Plan is the official government policy and include enforcement provisions so that the members know that the ultimate program will be executed.

The World Tourism Organization actually recommends PPPs and this group even publishes an evaluation of 208 successful PPPs from 205 countries.

Public-Private Partnership

The proposed PPP is outlined below. Certainly other members of the community will have ideas to improve this structure, but it is a starting place.

At the head of the PPP would be a Director, appointed by the Board of TCB. This Director would have the responsibility to coordinate all the activities of the PPP and to create a unified Five-year Development Plan as a result of its activities. The Director would be provided with an Advisory Board of three or four people with expertise in Economics, Marketing, Tourism and Planning.

Eight workgroups would be created to address the specific areas of their expertise quickly and efficiently. With the exception of group number four (infrastructure) each group would consist of a maximum of five members so that meeting schedules and discussions can be streamlined.

Each of the eight workgroups would be charged with providing the Director and the other groups with goals and plans for the next five years.

1. Transport The goals of this group would be to monitor capacity and load factors and recommend any changes that would be needed. The group would also be expected to maintain contact and build relationships with airlines (passenger and freight) and cruise lines. Possible members would be from BIA, Airline and Cruise Agents, Shipping Companies.

2. Environment Clearly, the island must protect the very reason that tourists come to Bonaire in the first place: our unique environment below and above the sea. This group would advise on the impact of various levels of development, review the impact of all potential projects and would be challenged to recommend positive methods to allow for sane, non-destructive growth. Possible members: STINAPA, *Aliansa di Naturalesa*, DROB, Fishermen, other NGOs with an interest in the environment, resident experts.

3. Economy The tourism sector represents approximately 70% of the island's economy. Therefore it is essential that all plans be looked at with a professional eye toward the immediate and long-term impact on the island's economy and the financing of the plan. Suggested members: DEZA, Bonaire Bankers Association, AKIB, resident economists.

4. Infrastructure Growth in tourism will bring with it new and constantly changing

(Continued on page 7)

(Finding A Balance. Continued from page 6)

pressures on the island infrastructure (roads, schools, electricity and water, health, etc.) These pressures must be identified and quantified so that the island can keep pace with its growth. Infrastructure is expensive but cannot be overlooked. Once the island has a definite plan with a sound basis for expectations of success, funding for infrastructure may be much easier to obtain. Suggestions for this large group would be: DROB, WEB, SELIBON, TELBO, the schools, Public Health, the hospital and healthcare professionals, Police and Social Services. Given the wide range of these concerns it would probably be necessary to split this group into Physical Infrastructure and Social Infrastructure sub groups



Marian Walthie photo

5. Community Involvement This group would contact island stakeholders not directly represented in other groups to first determine the desired direction of the population. Later the group would work to see what opportunities exist to gain wider community participation in the tourist product. For instance Regatta and the windsurf events could be included in all promotional media, community participation in websites and other promotions (e.g. restaurant and retail outlets) could help share costs and provide more reasons to visit the island. Marshé di Rincon, Jong Bonaire visiting teen program and various other NGO-based activities could be used as attractions providing a constantly updated menu of events and opportunities on the island. Representatives could be from BRA, AKIB, CURO, KvK, FESBO etc)

6. Customer Promotion. This group would identify information sources and obtain necessary data, analyze the data and prepare a description of customer groups and their needs (e.g. current Bonaire tourists versus new potential tourists, divers, snorkelers, windsurfers, families etc). Other responsibilities include identifying possible promotional activities and agencies to strengthen the current public relations efforts, developing a Five-year Promotional Plan and, eventually, guiding the development of that plan. Potential members: TCB, travel agents, hotels and professional marketers and Internet experts living on the island.

7. Packaging and Co-op efforts. This group would work with airline Marketing Departments, Cruise Ship companies, Tour Packagers, equipment manufacturers, credit card companies and other partners to be sure that Bonaire takes advantage of all opportunities for others to share in the cost and returns from our efforts. Potential members: travel agent, hotels, CURO, airlines, marketing professionals. By starting with experts in the field and keeping the groups small and efficient, a plan could be developed within a very short period of time. Regular communication between the workgroups would be necessary so that all can evaluate the impact of other groups on their areas of competence and, in the end, arrive at an acceptable long-term solution. The issue is important enough and urgent enough to encourage cooperation and quick action.



Marian Walthie photo

Another Bonaire Dawn

Summary

In this series we have tried to analyze Bonaire's development and its tourism product from a number of different angles in order to try to gain perspective on the current situation and find a balance for future growth. It is our hope that **a balance between progress and protection can be found so that development does not harm the island or the island's population.**

In addition to preventing harm, balance is needed to improve the economic position of current residents and businesses. No one wants to stifle growth that will reduce air-lift to the island, but we also don't want to see unplanned, uncontrolled growth that will destroy the existing businesses, create the need for too many foreign workers as happened in Aruba; or that will stress the islands' infrastructure or ruin the environmental resources that bring the tourists in the first place.

We are optimistic about the chances for success if the entire community works together to establish the goals and then set the direction with a clear, long-term Development Plan and planning process.

Next we will present some comments from our readers about this series of articles

To help get the process started, please take the time to answer the questions in the *Bonaire Reporter* Survey. We want to hear from both tourists and residents on these important issues. Thanks for your help.

The authors of this article are market research professionals living in Bonaire.

The Bonaire Reporter Survey. What do YOU think about Bonaire?

As a reader of *The Bonaire Reporter* you must care about the island. Maybe you could help us with some of the consumer 'needs' research mentioned in this series. It doesn't matter if you are a tourist or a resident. Please fill out this questionnaire and mail it to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. De-brot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN) or go on-line to <http://www.bonairenews.com/survey.htm> and e-mail your form to survey@bonairereporter.com

1. Your nationality: Antillean US Netherlands Other:
2. Your age: Under 25 26-40 41-60 Over 60
3. Your sex: M F
4. Marital status Single Married Widowed/Divorced In relationship
5. Years Scuba Diving 1 year or less 2-5 years 5-10 years More than 10 years
6. Years windsurfing 1 year or less 2-5 years 5-10 years More than 10 years
7. Are you a Tourist Part time resident Full time resident Native Bonairean
8. How much time do you spend on Bonaire in an average year?
 1-2 weeks 3 to 4 weeks 1 to 2 months 2 to 6 months
 6 to 12 months
9. Number of people in your household or group when you are on Bonaire:

10. What year did you first come to Bonaire: _____
11. Why did you first come to Bonaire? born here parents moved here
 found a job here scuba diving tourist windsurfing tourist Other

12. What do you like MOST about Bonaire?

13. What do you like LEAST about Bonaire?

14. How satisfied are you with the following? Rate your degree of satisfactions from 1 to 4, where 4 is extremely satisfied and 1 is not at all satisfied. Circle the appropriate number for each item.

S a t i s f a c t i o n
Low High

a. friendliness of the people	1	2	3	4
b. number of hotels	1	2	3	4
c. quality of hotels	1	2	3	4
d. number of restaurants	1	2	3	4
e. quality of restaurants	1	2	3	4
f. number of cultural activities	1	2	3	4
g. quality of cultural activities	1	2	3	4
h. activities for children	1	2	3	4
i. condition of the reefs	1	2	3	4
j. quality of the diving	1	2	3	4
k. quality of the environment	1	2	3	4
l. cleanliness of the island	1	2	3	4
m. quality of the roads	1	2	3	4
n. Internet service	1	2	3	4
o. telephone service	1	2	3	4
p. water and electric service	1	2	3	4
q. number of tourists	1	2	3	4
r. service attitude at businesses	1	2	3	4
s. personal safety	1	2	3	4
t. number of activities available	1	2	3	4
u. quality of activities available	1	2	3	4
v. number of diving locations	1	2	3	4
w. airline service to the island	1	2	3	4
x. quality of your Bonaire experience	1	2	3	4
y. Other _____	1	2	3	4
z. Other _____	1	2	3	4

15. What 'needs' do you have that are not currently being met by Bonaire? Or, said another way, what could Bonaire do to get you to spend more time on the island or for you to enjoy your time on Bonaire more?

16. What could Bonaire do to improve its tourism product so more people would want to come to Bonaire?

**COVER
STORY**

56 Different Nations!

The census department of Bonaire (Bevolking) has released current figures for the number of foreigners living on the island and their respective countries (including Holland). As of June 2005, there were **56 different countries** (including Holland) represented. Of the 14,163 total population listed, there are **2,718 foreigners living on Bonaire**. Of the remainder, 11,445 are considered *Nederlandse*, or those holding Dutch passports.

In 2003 Bevolking figures show: total population – 13,380 and foreign born – 2,335 – an increase this year of 383 foreign residents.

It's important to keep in mind that foreign-born persons now having Dutch nationality are lumped together in the 11,445 figure. That includes European Dutch, Antillean Dutch and all those from other countries who have become naturalized Dutch citizens. Many of the foreign residents on the island have opted to have Dutch passports, and once someone from another country receives a Dutch passport they are listed as *Nederlandse* and no longer are registered in their country category, according to *Bevolking*.

This year there are 56 countries represented; in 2003 there were 47. The new countries now represented are: Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Pakistan, Paraguay, Poland, Russia, Sudan and Tunisia.

The Top Ten <small>*No figures available for 2004.</small>			
COUNTRIES	JUNE 2005	*2003	DIFFERENCE
1. Holland	11,445	11,045	plus 400↑
2. Dominican Republic	557	441	plus 116↑
3. Colombia	477	411	plus 66↑
4. Venezuela	463	540	minus 77↓
5. US	224	191	plus 32↑
6. Peru	210	164	plus 46↑
7. Surinam	187	106	plus 81↑
8. China	119	89	plus 30↑
9. Haiti	53	36	plus 17↑
10. Germany	40	34	plus 6↑

The next 10 countries in ranking order

*No figures available for 2004.

COUNTRY	JUNE 2005	2003*	CHANGE
11. Portugal	39	59	minus 20↓
12. Lebanon	31	20	plus 11↑
13. Guyana	28	18	plus 10↑
14. UK	26	19	plus 7↑
15. Italy	22	20	plus 2↑
15. Canada	22	26	minus 4↓
16. India	21	20	plus 1↑
17. France	16	12	plus 4↑
17. Switzerland	15	17	minus 2↓
18. Ecuador	14	10	plus 4↑
19. Cuba	14	11	plus 3↑
20. Trinidad & Tobago	13	15	minus 2↓

Although their figures and rankings have fluctuated slightly, the top 10 countries this year are the same as those in 2003, except for Portugal which has gone from #9 to #11.

But in the next 10 (#11 through #20), Switzerland, which was not in the top 20 in 2003 is now on the list as #17, and Belgium, which was #19, is now #21 and off that list.

The populations of the rest of the nations represented are (except for Belgium) single digit numbers:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech, Denmark, Dominica, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Jamaica, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Salvador, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Tunis, Uruguay, South Africa and Sweden.

Many thanks to *Bevolking* for giving us these figures. □L.D.

LOOKING FOR TROUBLE

Local newspapers carried a story last week that said Bonaire's lighthouses had been made obsolete by modern navigation equipment and that it was **unimportant that our lighthouses be kept in repair**. Several have been put out of service by the theft of their solar panels used to charge the batteries that power the light. One of the lights currently out of service is on Klein Bonaire.

The use of radar by ships in fog was supposed to end collisions at sea, but the *Andrea Doria-Stockholm* disaster is just one of many where modern gear has proven to be no substitute



Willemstoren Lighthouse

for vision.

It's inconceivable to imagine the damage to Bonaire should a tanker run aground on Bonaire or Klein Bonaire and spill its contents. The ULCC ships (Supertankers) that call at BOPEC dwarf most of the ships that have been responsible for major oil spills. Perhaps the most famous oil spill of the 20th century is the *Torrey Canyon* disaster off Britain in 1967. The *Torrey Canyon* had only 1/10 the capacity of many of the ships passing close to Bonaire.

Consider what happened last week in broad daylight:

The bulk cargo carrier ship *Terry Uno* sank eight miles south of Curaçao's Willemstad Harbour after it collided with cargo ship *Caribbean Star* of Curaçao, but its 10 Philippine crew members were rescued. The *Caribbean Star* reported the collision with the other ship. Both ships are registered in Panama. Once on land the crew was received by the Seafarers Centre and housed at the Trupial Inn. Fritzroy Doran of Maritime Affairs says a Coast Guard video tape shows that *Caribbean Star* failed to give right of way to *Terry Uno*, after having just off-loaded a cargo of cement at Fuik Bay, and rammed the vessel.

There was apparently nobody on the bridge of *Caribbean Star* at the time. The *Terry Uno* did not appear to maneuver to avoid the collision. The *Terry Uno* sank and the *Caribbean Star*, which suffered considerable damage, is now in the Curaçao dry dock for repairs. The oil and other waste from the wreck was sufficiently off shore that none has yet come ashore.

Clothes and other personal items needed were purchased for *Terry Uno's* shipwrecked crew with local businesses giving a special discount. A church service and barbecue was also organized for them at the US Forward Operation Location (FOL) base. □ G.D.

We follow our hometown windsurfing superstar, Tonky Frans, on his European professional windsurfing tour.

Tonky, about winning the Rhodes event:

"I had a great time in Rhodes. Luckily I was one of the windsurfers who was scheduled late for the first heat. I could thus sit and watch the abilities of the other sailors. With this information in my mind I decided which moves I definitely had to show to score high. And so I did! I got through the single elimination safely in second position.

On the last day I had my final heat for the top position. I had to compete against Kevin Mevissen, a good friend of mine with whom I am travelling together this season, and also a very good windsurfer! In spite of the fact that it was a tough heat and that Kevin has a lot of windsurfing experience in Rhodes, I won this event and got first prize! I am very happy with this achievement because it is a good start which gives me more self confidence in the European tour!

During the intermission, my board sponsor, F2, put on a demonstration of the F2 boards. I have seen the latest models for freestyle boards of 2006 and the design ideas for 2007! The distributors were especially happy to see me since I am one of the few F2 riders who does not live in Europe and who selects the events that he will partici-



Tonky smiles after his win in Paros,

pate at in Europe! In addition to this demonstration there was also a try-out-boards-opportunity where I gave a show for the folks on the beach. The wind cooperated so I showed them the craziest of moves and I could hear them clapping their hands and jamming after each of my moves."

After his victory in Rhodes, Tonky continued his tour in Paros.

"We took the ferry at midnight from Rhodes and arrived very early in the morning in Paros. It was not the greatest of all trips, but it was the logical choice (with all the windsurfing gear), and when you are in a group, you talk and laugh, and you have no time to think about the ferry beating against the waves and no time to sleep either. On my first day in Paros I slept the whole day. The event would start the next day. But there was not enough

(Continued on page 17)

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
6-24	2:24	2.1FT. 11:54	0.7FT. 101
6-25	3:20	2.0FT. 12:25	0.7FT. 96
6-26	4:13	1.8FT. 12:56	0.8FT. 88
6-27	5:21	1.6FT. 13:21	0.9FT. 21:23 1.4FT. 77
6-28	2:33	1.3FT. 6:23	1.5FT. 13:33 1.0FT. 20:37 1.5FT. 65
6-29	4:13	1.2FT. 7:49	1.3FT. 13:29 1.0FT. 20:51 1.7FT. 56
6-30	5:37	1.0FT. 9:29	1.1FT. 12:50 1.1FT. 21:20 1.8FT. 51
6-29	4:13	1.2FT. 7:49	1.3FT. 13:29 1.0FT. 20:51 1.7FT. 5
6-30	5:37	1.0FT. 9:29	1.1FT. 12:50 1.1FT. 21:20 1.8FT. 5
7-01	6:36	0.9FT. 21:51	2.0FT. 5

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Antee	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Sirius
Angie		Sola 2
Another World	Jan Gerardus	Sylvia K
Angel B	L'Quila, BVI	Sylvester
Augustine	Luna C. USA	
	Madam	Ti Amo, USA
Bright Sea	Maggi	T'zadde
Bounty	Mainly	Triumphant Lady
	Moonrise	
Carylur	Mystic Jade	Ulu Ulu, USA
Camissa, Chan Is.		Ulysses
Cape Kathryn	Natural Selection	Unicorn, Norway
	Pyewacket	
Endangered Species	Rusty Bucket	Varedhuni, Ger.
		Windancer
Endorphin	Santa Maria	Ya-T, BVI
Felicity	Sandpiper, USA	Yanti Paratzi
Flying Cloud, USA	Scintella	Zahi, Malta
Freestyle	Sea Witch	Zeelander

A Force for Good



AMFO and the NGO Platform

Would you like to help your community? Do you see a problem that needs a solution? Do you have an idea for a specific project? Does your project provide a social benefit to others? Are you motivated to organize and inspire others to join you? Then you can make a difference on Bonaire! It all starts with an idea. Here are some successful, innovative programs that started with an idea from a motivated person like you.

It All Starts with an Idea -Part II



Feed and Train

Many people get the idea for a community project from where they work or volunteer. Robert Egger helped at a soup kitchen for the poor before he decided that just giving out donated food wasn't the solution. "If you want to help a kid, get their parent a decent job," says Robert. So he began **DC Central Kitchen** which offers food as well as food training to the homeless and poor. The food meets their immediate needs, but then they learn cooking and food handling skills to help them get jobs in the restaurant and catering industry. When he first received some funding for the project in 1989, he bought a refrigerated truck and collected leftovers from the inaugural balls that had celebrated the beginning of George H.W. Bush's presidency! A spin-off training program came next. "I noticed that school cafeterias were closed for most of the day and that restaurants and catering business threw out as much as 30% of their food," Mr. Egger explains. **Campus Kitchens Project** was created to use kitchens in public schools, colleges, and universities to train students how to prepare donated food, which is then delivered to hungry people in each local area.



Connect to the Land

One prison counselor, Catharine Sneed, believed that the prisoners would benefit from working outdoors in a garden where they might learn to nurture instead of destroy. So she encouraged the jail to convert old farmland into **The Garden Project**. She says proudly, "Seventy-five percent of Garden Project participants do not return to jail. . . When people have a connection to land, they have hope in their lives." More gardens were made, and then the **Tree Corps** was created, which has planted more than 10,000 street trees—mostly in poor neighborhoods.

Combat Domestic Violence

"I think to myself, if I can just help one person leave a bad situation . . .," says an ex-battered wife who now volunteers at **Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services** in Washington State, the non-profit agency that helped save her. She had returned to her abusive husband seven times before she was able to leave him for good. This agency is one of many that help victims of rape and domestic violence by providing shelter, counseling and legal support. Another group sponsors **The Voices and Faces Project** to get out the message, "There is nothing that you could ever do to make it OK for someone to rape you." **R.A.I.N.N.** is a national free hotline for rape and incest victims that helps bring rapists to justice.



What happens to the children of violent, abusive or negligent families? That's the concern of a California program, **Forget Me Not Farm**, where abused and neglected children can learn caring, compassion, and gentleness through their work with plants and animals. To nurture a seedling to full growth or to bottle feed and cuddle with a young, orphaned calf may be all it takes to break the cycle of abuse that is too often the legacy of these children.

Free Schooling

Helping women become better educated and employed is a popular focus of volunteer groups. **The New Opportunity School for Women** in Kentucky provides free courses in writing, math, computer and job skills for women, especially low-income, middle-aged women who want to get off welfare and get a job. In Pennsylvania, **TOP/WIN** (Tradeswomen of Purpose/Women In Non-Traditional Work) trains women to qualify for construction and skilled trade jobs so they can support

Continued on page 11

(It starts with an Idea. Continued from page 10)

their families and break free of poverty. They learn the skills needed to become plumbers, heavy machine operators, electricians, machinists, carpenters and construction workers. A TOP/WIN graduate says, "I'm a better mother now than in the past... I've doubled my income. My daughter looks at me and she's very proud — and I am too — of the person I've become." **Women Venture** also teaches women how to get rewarding, higher paying jobs, how to find careers that interest them and how to start and grow their own businesses.



Can you help?

Non-profit organizations serve people in a variety of ways. For instance, the people being helped might be "receivers," that is, they receive food, shelter, clothing, medicine, etc. to provide for their immediate needs. An example of this type is the relief sent to tsunami victims. In another kind of program, the people might be "learners" in specially designed training or education classes, perhaps on how to keep a family budget, how to be a better father, or how to control a gambling addiction. These organizations try to find out why a problem exists and then intervene with a development program. Finally, the people might be "builders" in self-help projects where they provide the labor, tools or materials to create a garden for their community.

**Gandhi once said,
"The best way to find
yourself is to lose yourself
in the service of others."**

What kind of service can YOU provide?

Anything is possible on Bonaire. Funds are available to start short or long-term projects that respond to local needs and provide social benefits to the community.

What are the planning steps necessary for a successful program and project?

First, contact the target group that you would like to help. Build their trust and find out what they need.

What are their real problems? Make sure your idea isn't already being done by another group. Discuss your hopes with any other groups that may have joint interests or benefit from your project. Consider all these ideas and plan your project.

Who will help you?

Who has the needed expertise and skills? Brainstorm solutions with the community and target group.

Who do you want to serve and why? Decide just what you hope to do and how you will do it. List your activities.

How much will they cost?

Do some research on prices and develop a budget. Be realistic about your program and budget—only promise what can realistically be delivered. Write guidelines for record keeping, as well as for monitoring and evaluating your project so your group is sure to be efficient and productive.

How will responsibilities be distributed? How will you ensure financial accountability? Explore fund-raising options. Have a long-term strategy and plans for self-sufficiency. **Make an appointment with the NGO Platform Bonaire (717-2366) to present your plan and ask for their assistance in getting available funding from AMFO, the Antillean Co-Financing Organization. The Platform can also help you prepare your proposal and become a registered foundation.**

□ *Barbara Mason Bianculli*

Voluntary action has the power to change society through a community of caring citizens.

**As Martin Luther King, Jr. preached,
"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."**

It all starts with an idea. And your good idea will lead to a better Bonaire.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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



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

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

The Very Special Neem Tree

This article will be about just one tree, but a very special one, the Neem tree. There is a lot to say about this tree, and there are only two ways of looking at it. Either you love it or you hate it. I belong to the first category. Why? Because it grows very fast, doesn't get any known diseases, doesn't need a lot of water, grows well in the strong wind, and, the most important thing, it grows into a very nice big shade tree. But more and more people on Bonaire see it as a weed that spreads its seedlings everywhere, breaks your walls and makes a big mess by its falling leaves. This can also be true, but there are a lot of ways that you can avoid those problems. I'll write about that next time, but first I want to tell you some more things about this very special tree.



Its botanical name is *Azadiradita indic*. That tells us that it is originally from India. In that country the Neem is a sacred tree and has been known for thousands of years for its healing properties. Ghandi was known to hold prayers meetings under a giant Neem, and in his daily diet was a Neem chutney. In India they call the tree "The Village Pharmacy!"

The British spread the tree around the world, and in a lot of countries nowadays there are big plantations with only Neem trees. They are used in reforesta-

tion projects for its hard wood, but most of all for its bark, leaves, flowers, seed pods and even the roots.

A wide variety of healing products are made from them. Products from the Neem are used in medicines for heart problems, eczema, psoriasis, herpes, hair loss and in pest controls against more than 200 different insects, especially for big crops. In India people still brush their teeth with the Neem leaves, and the Neem oil made from the seeds is used for hundreds of reasons.

The fragrant flower is a base for a very nice perfume (not for sale at our shop!). Not bad for a tree that is seen as a weed!

This brings us also to the discussion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to new baby Angie who was born on Saturday, June 11, in Bonaire. Her parents are City Shop's Hamoudy Dabousi and his wife Ruba. She joins her sisters, Nadia and Talin. Congratulations and best wishes to all! □



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



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

as to whether a Neem is good protection against mosquitoes and the mealy bugs on Bonaire. I personally have never seen proof of it, but I certainly believe it helps when you have a big Neem in your garden. I think the mosquitoes are driven away by this tree, but not killed or destroyed. I will try to follow the fast growing use of this beautiful tree, and hopefully it will give us a good solution against the hardy mealy bugs or Pies-Pies!

For people who are interested, here are some nice Websites to learn more about this fascinating tree: www.maxpages.com/neemtree or www.neemtree.info.

Next time I'll write more about the use of the Neem. □ *Ap van Eldik*

INVITATION



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

Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26 9am to 5pm

ARTEBON Center Kaya Playa Lechi (waterfront promenade)

Show by VSBO and HAVO students

We hope you will come



Picture Yourself with the Reporter

San Diego, California, U.S.A.

Here is a picture of Becky Stark-weather taking a break at Mile Marker 14 to read *The Bonaire Reporter* at the San Diego Rock 'n Roll Marathon on June 5. Becky and another Bonaire regular, Warren



Wagner, ran and finished the marathon. Becky designated Support Bonaire, Inc. as one of the four charities she was running for. Warren finished in 5 hours, and Becky finished in 6:02. In all, 17,100 out of 20,400 finished the race. Becky credits Warren and Delno Tromp for encouraging her to run her first marathon at age 44. □

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.) □

WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

Airport:

Car Rental Agencies,
Airport Arrivals Area

Banks:

MCB (Playa & Hato),
RBTT

Restaurants:

Bistro de Paris
Brasserie Bonaire
Capriccio
Chez Lucille
City Cafe
Croccantino
Den Laman
Garden Café
Hilltop at Caribbean Club
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Lost Penguin
Lover's Ice Cream
Pasa Bon Pizza
Subway
Wil's Tropical Grill

Shops:

Bonaire Gift Shop
City Shop
DeFreewieler
INPO
Paradise Photo
Photo Tours, Playa
Exito Bakery
Bonaire Super Store

Hotels:

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

Supermarkets:

Cultimara
Consales
More for Less
Progresso
Sand Dollar Grocery
Tropical Flamingo
Warehouse

Others:

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

Yellow Submarine

Bookstores:

Bonaire Boekhandel,
Flamingo Bookstore

Realty Offices:

Harbourtown
Re/Max

Sunbelt

RINCON:

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

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by advertising in THE BONAIRE REPORTER

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Commercial Ads only NAf0.70 per word, per week.

Free adds run for 2 weeks.

Call or fax 717-8988 or email ads@bonairereporter.com

JANART GALLERY

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

BONAIRENET

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>

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). Phone: 786-0956 or 787-0956

Bonaire Images

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

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Compaq wide screen Laptop Computer, 512MB,DVD/CDRW, Wireless LAN, 2.5yr WARRANTY, FREE CARRYING CASE US\$1,500 tel:791-4606 after 5pm

Property, Sales & Rentals

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 Havisser. 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Exploring Lac

Lac Bay is full of hidden places. On Sunday, July 3rd the group, "Amigunan di Naturalesa" ("Friends of the Environment"), is arranging a boat trip that will let you discover them. The meeting point is *Boca di Coco* (across from the Mangrove/ Kayak Center on the dirt road to Cai). The highlight will be a stop at the place called *Den Puitu*. Plan for a minimum of one hour for the trip which will end at Cai. Transportation back to Boca di Coco via land will be provided.



Participants can choose what time they want to go, beginning at 7 am through the afternoon. The boats can handle six persons and there will be two boats.

The price is NAf25 for adults and NAf15 for children. This includes the boat trip, land transportation, juice, water and a choice of two kinds of soups. Also the first groups, from 7 to 10 in the morning, will have coffee or tea with real Bonairean pancakes.

The proceeds will go to benefit the Bonaire participants in *Vierdaagse Nijmegen* (Four Day Walk at Nijmegen, Holland). To sign up pass by the Extra newspaper office. (tel. 717-8482). □ *Bòì Antoin*



Nice teeth and a characteristic underbite on this grouper

(Grouper Corner Continued from page 3)

and palate and securely hold any prey that is captured. Like most fish carnivores they swallow their victim whole, after ambushing them, and inhale the prey with a swift powerful suction created by the rapid gaping cavity of their large hinged jaws and extended lips. Body shape varies, but most of the grouper family have long, well proportioned profiles for their size. The smaller specimens, like the Coney, grow to a maximum of 16-18 inches (45 cm), and the rare gigantic "Jewfish" can occasionally be seen in the Caribbean up to 8 feet (2.5 meters) in length and weigh over 600-800 pounds (360 kilos). The Nassau grouper has a higher back which is even more pronounced in the Marbled grouper. All possess a long dorsal fin with sharp spines in the front portion that can be held erect when excited; the rear section is soft and flexible.

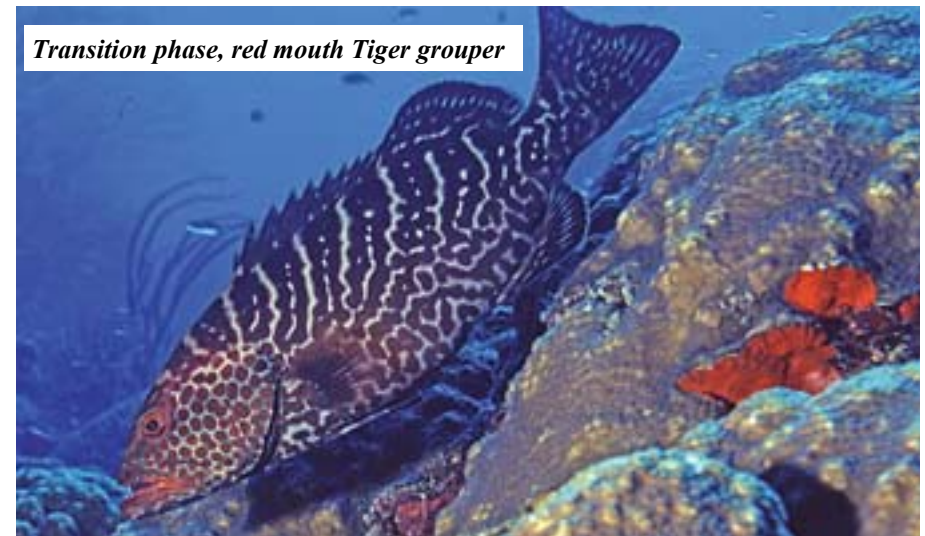
Today we are not observing these eating machines feeding. Instead, they are socializing and displaying a dazzling mix of "outfits," often changing colors and flashing different body markings in a matter of seconds. The atmosphere is very relaxed, and body grooming is a high priority. With well developed swim bladders groupers are capable of hovering at a specific location above a coral formation for long periods of time if left unmolested. You can observe the gentle giants in this stationary, trancelike position being attended by a group of small fish and shrimp at a "cleaning station." Each of the cleaners concentrates on removing an assortment of external parasites, dead skin and mucus from their "clients," including around their eyes and nostrils.

Here, just off the shore of Klein Bonaire, there are innumerable "cleaning shops" open for business. This cleaning symbiosis emphasizes the role of cooperation in nature as opposed to the "eat or be eaten" daily struggle for existence. The client fish will even open its mouth, extend

its jaws and flare its gills to allow the cleaners easy access to all internal areas where pests like creepy little bloodsuckers burrow into the soft flesh. This tactile stimulation and the pleasure of touch, a rare sensation in the wild kingdom of the sea, could be a primary incentive for clients to attend cleaning stations. In comparison, for humans, the soothing touch of the massage therapist provides therapeutic value as well as psychological and emotional comfort. For the grouper, the changing body patterns and color intensity may be a sign of mood shifts during the cleaning process. Having the parasites removed may also improve the health and ultimately the reproductive success for the fish. When satisfied, the client gives a gentle twitch to signal the attendants to stop and then departs from the cleaning station. The vacancy is immediately filled by another individual waiting for the next appointment. Here you will observe many other fish customers patiently circling the area awaiting their turn.

Sex and sexual games are also a part of this gathering. This afternoon, we are lucky to see two of these previously described interactions on our short one-hour dive. The sexual orientation of members of the grouper species is a bit different from our human nature and may be difficult to comprehend, but let's try. Most groupers start life as females. This sexual development strategy, known as protogynous hermaphrodites, allows individuals to reproduce first as females and later, at a larger size, change into males when certain unidentified social or environmental factors are met. Juvenile growth rates, feeding habits and habitat shifts are not fully documented, but after groupers reach a length of six inches (15 cm) they migrate to the more complex reef structures from the nursery locations, leaving behind an all-female population in the shallows.

This form of sex switching is considered by many experts to be a superior reproduc-



Transition phase, red mouth Tiger grouper

tive tactic, enabling populations to adapt easily to short-term environmental fluctuations. Most of the larger members of the species make a complete and non-reversible sex change, while the smaller members function actively in both the male and female roles. Groupers enjoy relatively long lives, and the larger specimens have been documented to live as long as 37 years. Mature groupers show a strong homing tendency and often return to a specific reef or favorite wreck site.

Now we come to the juicy parts of our encounter. **Extended courtship behaviors are repeated from late morning to the middle of the afternoon prior to spawning.** On this visit, in our voyeur role, we witness two of the more common pre-coital foreplay described in several studies. When the males approach the females, their heads and gill flaps turn pale, in sharp contrast with the remainder of their darker bodies. Females, clearly swollen with eggs, huddle close to the protection of the bottom reef structures. "Vent nuzzling" occurs when a male moves slowly alongside a female from the rear and inspects or nudges her vent area at the posterior of her abdomen. The female responds by rolling her body and angling her vent region away from the suitor. The persistent male swims underneath and attempts the same strategy from the opposite side. At this point, the female generally eases away.

In another courtship behavior, "turn and rise," the male approaches the side of a female, who is hovering off the bottom or slowly rising. As he gets close, he positions himself parallel to the female and the couple slowly rotates together as much as half a turn before she swims off. The male then moves to another female and repeats the maneuver. These courtship behaviors continue and color patterns intensify as the afternoon progresses.

Spawning usually takes place at or just before sunset and varies within members of the species. For example,

female Nassau groupers form discreet groups serviced by a single male. Male Tiger and Yellowfin groupers, however, defend small territories where they are approached by females ready to spawn. Many of the larger groupers travel long distances during one or more months each year to mate in huge spawning aggregations at breeding grounds used for centuries by their ancestors. The migrations are usually synchronized by the onset of the full moon during the cooler months. These traditional rendezvous sites are generally located near coral promontories or along outer reef shelves at depths over 100 feet (30 m), like this location.

We plan to revisit Grouper Corner, at the appropriate times, to complete our quest for more answers and witness other intimate moments in the lives of these exciting creatures. We welcome you to join us and read about them in future articles. □
Photos and Story by © Albert Bianculli 2005

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(Tonky in Greece Continued from page 9)
wind for competition, and many sailors thought of this as an extra day to get over the tiredness of the ferry trip.

Day 2 followed and there was no wind again. We spent the day on the beach, waiting for a change in weather conditions, but it was useless. After a windless Day 3, the organizers approached us to ask if we were willing to stay in Paros if the event would be extended to two more days on June 13 and 14. They told us that these two days would be very windy according to the weather forecast. We talked about it. And since it would not interfere with the next stop in Mykonos (June 17), we agreed to stay. Thank God we stayed because there really was WIND."

The European Professional Freestyle Tour report for the event said:

"Finally this morning the riders got a warm welcome of 16 knots of wind. The first start was at noon with Tonky Frans (F2/Gaastra) against Fillipo Burratti (RRD/Simmer). In this heat already you could see that Tonky was hot to go for his second win on the Greek tour. On his way through the ladder neither Andreas Olanderson (JP/NP) nor the very *sympatico* Dutch guy Kevin

Mevissen (JP/NP) could stop him.

At the semi final the dancing style of Tonky combined with lots of the hottest freestyle moves like the Chachoo, Grubby-Diablo and Flaka put him in the finals to meet the current tour leader, Andre Paskowski (F2/North Sails). Coming to the final, Tonky started the heat like it was never seen before on the European Tour. Within the first two minutes he showed everything possible in these difficult conditions as the wind started to become very gusty. But in the second half of the heat, Tonky appeared nervous despite having the title almost in his hands. Andre showed a couple of winning moves, like a switch puneta. But Tonky saved the best for the end of the heat, and one more time his incredible loose and relaxed style in combination with the hottest technical freestyle moves in windsurfing freestyle brought him the second title on the European Freestyle Pro Tour."

Tonky happy with his win:

"I am very happy with my second title. It feels great because I worked so hard for it. It is also a funny thing that my opponent in the final heat was Andre Paskowski. We were scheduled to compete against each other in Bonaire

(King of the Caribbean 2005) where we unfortunately did not get the chance because of lack of wind. Now I finally got the chance to show him what I had in store for him a month ago in Bonaire!"

Tonky continued his tour in Mykonos

"On Wednesday June 15, we took the ferry from Paros to Mykonos, heading to the next event. From the moment I arrived I did not like the wind that much, but I knew I had to do my best because I would definitely go for the top position. As opposed to the Paros event where we arrived just one day prior to the competition, we got there in

time at Mykonos to train a little bit before the event. This is a good thing to do because then one gets acquainted with the water and also the wind.

I had a very good heat in the first elimination. People on the beach told me that they did not expect anything else of me since they have read stories about my prior achievements on the other Greek islands. At that moment I realized that the expectations people had of me were very high and that peo-

ple had their eyes on me. I had to go against Kevin Mevissen again in the semi-finals where I won again. My next opponent during the final of the single elimination was my F2 team rider, Andre Paskowski (again!). I won the single elimination and tomorrow there will be the double elimination where the winner of Mykonos will be announced."

The European Professional Freestyle Tour report for the event read:

"The crowd was screaming when Kevin Mevissen and Tonky Frans started their heat, coming to the shore and doing almost a synchronic perform-

Continued on page 22

ance of spock one handed, grubby and spock 540° on their first leg in. On their way out huge forwards one handed and planning flakas as well as flaka Diablo made the crowd on the beach almost go crazy. As Kevin took the victory in the first final, the guys had to go one more time against each other, and Kevin was hot. At the end the decision was close but it was Kevin who deserved to win

(Continued on page 22)

Pets of the Week



im-

Volunteer Deborah with "Enrico" and "Frances"

What would the Bonaire Animal Shelter be without its devoted volunteers? On a recent Saturday, due to vacations, sickness, schedules and other things, the only volunteer who could come to help was Deborah. Although only a youngster herself (she's 12) she does a considerable job – cleaning, feeding and playing with the cats and dogs so they can remain social with people. Not only is she doing a fine service but she's learning responsibility and helping others with no financial remuneration (pay). Thank you, Deborah! You're doing great!

Here's Deborah in the puppy cage with "Enrico" and "Frances," his good friend. Enrico, along with his brother, "Jose," "Roberto," and "Pedro," were born on April 16 in someone's yard. Their mom had decided to find a place where people were to have her puppies. The kind people, knowing they couldn't keep the dogs themselves, brought them into the Shelter where they knew they could have a good chance at life. The pups are all healthy and full of fun and enthusiasm. They've had their vet exam, gotten their shots and are all roly poly funny guys. You may see them at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

Do you love animals and want to make a difference? Come visit the Shelter and see why volunteers are so

portant to keeping the pets happy and social. Volunteers may pick their own hours too. They may be some of the best times you'll have on Bonaire! Call Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema at 717-4989. □L.D.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)
Kingdom of Heaven
(Orlando Bloom)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
State of the Union

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400
Tickets - **NA\$10,50** (incl. Tax)
High Schoolers - **NA\$7,75**

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
CLOSED MONDAY TUESDAY
AND WEDNESDAY

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 Fleming: tel: 717-8976; Polli Winklaar: tel: 717-8839

Friday, June 24—Opening "Cultural Growth" - SGB art students exhibit, free -ARTEBON, 7 pm, refreshments & snacks. Continues Saturday, Sunday, June 25, 26, 9 am to 5 pm. See page 12

Saturday, June 25—Combat Poverty Conference, at ABVO conference room, 9 to 5. Call 717-4666, email fesbo@telbonet.an by June 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

Wednesday, June 29—St. Peter's Day

Friday, July 1—Captain Dons 80th Birthday Party

COMING

Saturday, July 2—Rincon Marshé

Sunday, July 3—Lac Bay discovery boat trip. Meet at Boka di Coco (across from Mangrove/Kayak Center on dirt road to Cai) 7 am to mid-afternoon. Sponsored by "Amigunan di Naturalesa" ("Friends of the Environment) to benefit Bonaire participants in *Vierdaagse Nijmegen* (Four Day Walk at Nijmegen, Holland). Sign up at Extra newspaper office. (tel. 717-8482). Adults, NA\$25; Children NA\$15. See page 22.

Sunday, July 3—The Fundashon for Art and Culture will hold its 13th An-

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:



XXX (Triple X); STATE OF THE UNION by Lee Tamahori, starring Ice Cube, Samuel L. Jackson and William Dafoe. An endless sequence of explosions and chases with a deafening soundtrack and yet I managed to sleep halfway through the film only to wake up and find that I hadn't missed anything. It has clichéd dialogues, unbelievable fight sequences and a sloppy storyline that threatens to nullify all the positive aspects of the movie if there are any. Sorry to say but this was probably one of the worst movies I've ever seen. If you're yearning for a good nap go and see it, otherwise don't waste your precious time. □ *Dodo*

nual Art Day with art exhibits, music, performing arts, food and drinks. Anyone interested in exhibiting at the event can contact volunteers at 717-6420 cell 786-6420, or email artandculture65@hotmail.com.

Monday, July 4—US holiday. Fireworks at some resorts

July 17-24 - 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.

The International Bonaire Sailing Regatta October 9 – 15, 2005

EVERY WEEK

Saturday Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

Sunday -Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar**. Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live **Fla-Bingo**-great prizes, 7 pm, Divi Flamingo

Monday -Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20- Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesday -Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225 /717-7500, ext. 14.

Wednesday -Meditation at Donkey Beach from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Open to all. Call S.H.Y. 790-9450

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

Thursday from June 16 to July 28, Basic Fish ID Yellow Submarine Dive Shop at 6:30 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Dinner Open 11 am -2:30 pm 5:30-9 pm Closed Saturday and Sunday	Lots of parking in big mall lot Kitchen Open non-stop 11am-6 pm Breezy terrace with airco inside
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.
Hilltop at 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, BBQ on Tuesdays Gourmet chef creates unique daily specials
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.bonairealealty.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.**

SUPERMARKETS

Tropical Flamingo is convenient, clean, modern, efficient and has the lowest prices on Bonaire. Located behind NAPA.

Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

VILLAS

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

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

YOGA

Yoga For You. Join certified instructors Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too. Closed during June.

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

ON THE ISLAND SINCE . . . September 10th 1992

Hans Rietveld and Ans Klein Heerenbrink

“Two days after I arrived I went to the Dive Inn to look for a buddy to dive with, I met a Dutch woman who was here for a vacation with a girlfriend. A year and a half later they came back to Bonaire and stayed at my house. Two years later the girlfriend came back with another girlfriend this time... and that was Ans Klein Heerenbrink!” *He laughs:* “It sounds like a soap opera, but as we say, ‘By coincidence the best marriages are born,’ and it proved to be right because we’ve been together for eight years now.”

“The moment I saw Hans,” *Ans fills in,* “there was this sparkle! It was February ’95 and after that vacation we kept in touch frequently. In September that year I came a second time, and it became very clear what we felt for each other. That year I spent Christmas and New Years with Hans on Bonaire, and in ’96 I came for three months to see whether I could find a job here. Hans came to Holland twice to meet my family, so it was a lot of traveling back and forth until I finally came here March 29th 1997, ‘Nos Dia,’ as we call it!

I started working full time at the hospital and I still think it’s a great job. I have wonderful colleagues and we have a good, close contact with the patients. In Holland I was a nurse specializing in cardio care. Here I’ve become all-around. We have 30 beds; I’ve seen everything. I also do the air ambulance. You become inventive, and everyone always looks for the best solution. There’s very good cooperation between nurses and doctors. My colleagues are from Aruba, Surinam, Holland and Colombia. It’s a colorful mix, but it works really well! I love my job! Even when we’re not working we’re always together, doing fun things like brunch on the beach, walking all over the island, fixing old furniture, gardening, painting, cooking together, and we love to shop together! But being lazy and not doing anything is also wonderful!”

Hans Rietveld and Ans Klein Heerenbrink match. There’s no other way to say it when you see people that bring out the best of each other; who are just nice and gentle together, each other’s equal, down to earth, but still, there is magic; they make each other more beautiful.

“Before Bonaire,” *Hans says,* “I’d been living in Curaçao from ’85 to ’92. I worked for DOW (what now is DROB- public works) and for the Curaçao Road Construction Company. I don’t like sitting in the same chair for 30 years so when I saw this ad asking

for a head for DOW on Bonaire I sent my CV and was immediately accepted. Two months later I moved to Bonaire- incredibly fast! I’m a civil engineer. In Holland I worked for several municipalities. By the end of the 70s and the beginning of the 80s, I traveled to India, Nepal, Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Egypt and Mexico. After seeing all those places I wanted to live somewhere else. I saw an ad for DOW on Curaçao and responded, but it took 20 months to happen. Originally it was for a three-year contract, but I got so addicted to the Caribbean way of life that

“In those days the island was booming, and the economy grew 10% annually! Many people thought it was going too fast and they were afraid Bonaire would change into a second St. Martin.”

now it’s been 20 years in the Antilles!

It was a challenging job being the head of DOW on Bonaire. In those days the island was booming, and the economy grew 10% annually! Many people thought it was going too fast and they were afraid Bonaire would change into a second St. Martin. Then the Poirier Committee started working on this process, ‘Economic growth, but considering the preservation of culture and nature.’ The report was accepted by the *Eilandsraad* (Island Council) in the beginning of ’93, but then it had to be translated into official laws concerning education, economics, finance, judicial and technical matters, etc. - all the departments the government manages. The writing of the laws was done by us, the top officials, as well as our regular jobs, without the help of consultants. I was also indirectly involved in the reorganization of the government, which was done by a consultant. My days were full. The government reorganization was an incredibly time-consuming operation. Alas, I wasn’t there when they finished it. My contract was fup, people were transferred, our group was neutralized because another political party took over. Nevertheless, as it often happens in the Antilles, the plan was carried through in many ways, but never officially.

So I left, but I had a tremendous reputation and started my own company as a civil and technical consultant and it went very well. I prepared, conducted,

did the management and supervision of projects like the construction of the Bank of the Dutch Antilles, the building of Consales’ cool and freezer house and the construction of the *Kaminda Djabou* road. At the beginning of the century it became very slow. All of Bonaire was struggling, and I got my share of it too. However, two years ago I joined a group of consultants, Multifunction Management. We use each other’s knowledge and experience, so we can offer a broad spectrum of services. I feel that economically we’re going in the right direction, *poco poco*, but not bad at all!

I’m also involved in monument care. My love for the old historic houses began in Curaçao where Jay Havisser, Michael Newton, Maup Lanjouw, Bart de Boer, I and others founded a group to clear away the overgrowth from the old ruins, then measure and register the houses. On Bonaire in 1996 I met Christie Dovale who was also interested in doing something with the old monuments. Christie and Laurie Dovale, Patrick Strauss and I set up a foundation and started frantically registering those places to which we could give the status of ‘protected monument.’ But, alas, the initiative was smothered by the politicians’ lack of interest. We became so unmotivated that the group fell apart... until the middle of 2003 when Jay Havisser and I had a conversation. He formed, within DROB, an informal committee with himself, Hubert Vis and Alca St. Jago, with the aim of setting up a historic site preservation group, and he asked for my help. So I thought why don’t we reactivate the ‘Foundation Monument Care Bonaire’ and go from there. Through the notary, however, we found out that there was another monument care foundation, founded by the previous notary, Mr. Knuf.

The present notary, Mr. Maartense, advised us to reactivate this foundation because it had the oldest rights. Board members are Peter Paulussen, Evert Piar and I. Members are Linda Anthony and Anthony Nicolaas. We needed a protective law, like an island decree, but immediately we were told by the government that they didn’t have the time to compose one, so we did it ourselves. The concept for a monument



management plan together with the concept decree was presented to Deputy Dortalina. Now we’re almost there, and the definite versions of the management plan and the decree can be presented to the Executive Council. After that we can become active and start to raise funds.

Why am I doing this? I want to contribute to the Bonairean community by conserving the cultural inheritance, and I’m extra motivated because I love the subject! We’re talking mostly about all those little original houses against the background of the *kunuku* and the ones in the *barios*, but also of course big buildings like the *Pasangrahan*, *Bes-tuurscollege* and the Protestant Church. After the renovation of the old houses we’re planning to find tenants for them through *Fundashon Cas Bonairiano* so that people can live in them again. A building needs occupation and maintenance to bring out its beauty. Lately it has become a big issue; the demolishing of Hausmann’s Folly has opened people’s eyes! Luckily I also have another source that allows me to ‘fight’ for these subjects; I’m writing for the *Amigoe*, and often Bòi Antoin and I join forces, with good results!

I’m very happy here. You never know about the future, but we would like to stay here. Bonaire has space and it’s the people, the island itself. To be in the middle of nowhere and you don’t see a soul! I get a kick when I drive on Kaya Grandi on a Sunday afternoon and I don’t see anybody! In Holland there are 500 people for every square kilometer, here not even 50! That’s a big difference! Here the people are warm and caring and they take time to greet you. I don’t think we should have Holland make the rules for this island. That will go too far! This is the land where life is good!’ □ *Greta Kooistra*



Greta Kooistra

The Realtor's Corner

Get Rid of Clutter

Before you put your house on the market, start removing clutter. The kitchen is a good place to begin. First, take everything off the counters. Put the toaster in a cabinet and take it out only when you use it. Store everything in cabinets and drawers. If you don't have enough cabinet space to put everything, put those dishes, pots and pans that rarely get used into a box and put that box in storage.

You see, homebuyers may open all your cabinets and drawers, especially in the kitchen. They want to be sure there is enough room for their "stuff." If your kitchen cabinets, pantries, and drawers look jammed full, it sends a negative message to the buyer that there's not enough storage space. So have as much "empty space" as possible.

If you have a "junk drawer," get rid of the junk. If you have a rarely used crock pot, put it in storage. Do this with every cabinet and drawer. Create open space. If there is a large amount of foodstuffs crammed into the shelves or pantry, begin using them, especially

canned goods. Canned goods are heavy and you don't want to be lugging them to a new house, anyway – or have to pay a mover to do so. Let what you have on the shelves determine your menus and use up as much as you can.

Beneath the sink is very critical, too. Make sure it's as empty as possible, removing all extra cleaning supplies. Scrub the area down as well and see whether there are any tell-tale signs of



water leaks that may cause a homebuyer to hesitate in buying your home.

Closets are great for accumulating clutter. We are talking about extra clothes and shoes – things you rarely wear but cannot bear to be without. Sometimes there are shoeboxes full of

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items. They can make your closets look "crammed full." Do without these items for a couple of months by putting them in a box in storage.

Many people have too much furniture in some rooms. To give the illusion of space, keep furnishings to a minimum by stor-

ing any excess furniture.

Garages, lofts and sheds accumulate not only clutter, but junk. Clear out these areas, making them as empty as possible so that buyers can imagine what they would do with the space.

Remove anything that is not essential and take it to the storage area. □ *Anna Kleimer*



Anna Kleimer is with RE/MAX Paradise Homes. She and her husband, Art, owned and operated their real estate company in Vail, Colorado for 12 years. Working with buyers, she has an intuitive understanding of properties right for them - location, price range and amenities. Call her at 717-7362 or 786-8607.

(Tonky in Greece Continued from page 17) on this day.”

Tonky talks about his second place in Mykonos:

“I was satisfied with my second position, and I am happy for Kevin. He deserved this win after the competitions that took place today. In windsurfing



Tonky performs a chaco in Mykonos

one can never be too sure about one's position. Your achievements do not depend only on professionalism and consistency (though they will get you a long way!) but it also depends on factors that you have no control over - like the wind and the water. The challenge is now even greater for me on the EFPT tour. I will definitely go for the top position in the next event!”

Tonky's next event will be in Pozo (Grand Canaria). This is an event of the Professional Windsurfing Association (PWA). There Tonky will meet the other professional Bonairean windsurfers and Ricardo Campello, Kauli Seadi, Kevin Mevissen and Andre Paszkowski. If the wind cooperates, things will get really hot there. Stay tuned for



Kevin Mevissen and Tonky-



Tonky heads out!

the Tonky reports from Spain. □ *story and photos by S.C.*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up



An Absolutely Spectacular Super Close Meeting of Three Planets Occurs This Week and Next

As I alerted you earlier this month one of the most spectacular, super close meetings of the planets you'll ever see will occur this week and next. And in fact this Sunday and Monday the two planets closest to the Sun won't be this close again until the year 2070.

Think about Sky Park skies earlier this month. Back then on Sunday June 12, if you faced west northwest, 30 to 45 minutes after sunset while there was still twilight out, you would have seen the brightest planet of them all, planet #2 from the Sun, **Venus**, and planet #1 from the Sun, **Mercury**, peeking just above the horizon. And on a straight line with Mercury and Venus up to their left, planet #6, ringed **Saturn**. And if you watched night after night you would have seen all three of them steadily move closer and closer to each other, Saturn descending and Mercury ascending to meet brilliant Venus.

But this week the changes are really dramatic because starting Friday, the 24th and lasting for three nights, Mercury, Venus and Saturn will be only two degrees apart from each other. On Saturday the three are at their absolute closest to each other and could fit in a circle only one and a half degrees wide, so close you could cover all three with your pinky finger held out at arm's length.

But the best is yet to come because on Sunday the 26th Mercury and Venus

will be less than one half of one degree apart. And to top that, on Monday the 27th they'll be only one tenth of one degree apart, at their closest until 2070! So close that the Old Farmer's Almanac claims they may even appear to merge into one star.

Once again, this Friday, Saturday and

...starting Friday, the 24th and lasting for three nights Mercury, Venus and Saturn will be only two degrees apart from each other."

Sunday, Mercury, Venus and Saturn will form a super close trio, and on Monday you won't see Mercury and Venus this close for another 65 years! Of course we must remind you that this is all an optical illusion and that they

only appear close from our vantage point here on Earth. In reality on Monday when Mercury and Venus appear to almost merge, Mercury will be 95 million miles away while Venus will be 142 million miles away and Saturn will be a whopping almost one billion miles away.

Don't miss this super spectacular planetary gathering. Start watching this week but make sure that you don't miss this Friday, Saturday, Sunday and finally, Monday. And if you've got a small telescope or binoculars, get them out now because the change from night to night will absolutely stun you. But don't fret if you miss this weekend because Mercury and Venus will still be really close all next week too! If you've never engaged in planet watching before this weekend now is the time to start. I mean who wants to wait until 2070? □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
June 24 to July 1, 2005
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Try not to overreact to the loss. You can come into money; however, perhaps not under the best circumstances. Take a close look at documents before signing on the dotted line. Don't be too quick to judge those you live with. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Female members of your family may be difficult to deal with. You can make excellent career moves if you are open to the opportunities that exist. You will find that social activities will lead you into passionate meetings. Uncertainties regarding your love life will surface if you have neglected your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. Go out with friends. Eliminate situations that are no longer to your advantage. Travel will initiate new friendships or love connections. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Strength will come from your ability to overtake just about anyone. Put your thoughts into some trendy new ideas. You need a change and you need to earn more cash. Time is money and you must be ready to take action in order to reach your highest potential. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You are best not to confront situations that deal with in-laws or relatives. Correspondence may not clear up issues. You will have to face each issue separately and in person. Minor health problems may lower your vitality. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Entertain in your home and make aesthetic enhancements that will please those who reside with you. Trips will be exciting. You will be a bit of a spendthrift this week. However, you should be concerned about what they want in return. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can pick up valuable information if you listen to those with more experience. Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time; don't push them, instead just continue working on development. You can't make things better if you don't know what to fix. Don't ignore any emotional issues that could be causing problems. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your ability to charm others will put you in the limelight at social functions. You may want to get involved in some kind of creative group. You will find yourself tied to the phone. Spend time with friends or family. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your efforts will be rewarded handsomely. Unexpected bills will leave you a little short. You may attract attention if you get out socially. Entertainment could be pleasing if it is of an energetic nature. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22- Jan. 20) Rely on yourself and you will look good to superiors. Family trips or projects should be on your mind. Relatives will not agree with the way you are dealing with your personal problems. Unexpected bills may set you back. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Catch up on correspondence. Don't forget that your budget is limited right now. Don't be critical or overly opinionated with dislikes; it could cause disapproval and unwanted opposition. Daydreaming will be your downfall. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will need to take a look at the renovations that are necessary and try to find the cheapest way to get things done. Problems with ear, nose, or the throat are likely. You will find that money could slip through your fingers. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □