

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

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The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



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FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Continental Airlines to fly non-stop Houston-Bonaire

It's finally happened: a US airline flying jets directly to Bonaire from the USA. Continental Airlines will start flying non-stop Houston-Bonaire on Friday, December 16, this year. If you check the Continental website you will see the schedule and fare of \$491.65 has already been posted. Reservations are being accepted on-line and via travel agents. If you have money to spare, fly First Class the fare is \$2,456.65.

It's been a long time in the coming, but when everyone sat down at the table in Houston to talk, it took less

than a month – nearly the speed of light in airline deals – to wrap things up.

The flights from Houston's new Bush Airport will leave Fridays at 11:15 pm and arrive in Bonaire the following morning, Saturday, at 6:15 am. The "red-eye" scheduling enables travelers to get in an extra half day of diving or whatever! The return flight leaves at 8 am on Saturday, arriving at Houston at 10:50 am. These arrival and departure times allow passengers to connect easily with other flights. They'll be using a Boeing 737 with 112 economy and 12 first class seats. Continental is the world's sixth largest airline, with 41,000 employees, and already serves 25 destinations in the Caribbean. It has hubs in New York, Houston, Cleveland and Guam.

At the press conference last Thursday were officials and representatives from TCB New York and Holland, TCB Bonaire, Bonaire International Airport Board, Bonaire Holding, the Island Council-including the Opposition- and the press.

Following the cancellation of Air Jamaica service, Bonaire officials began to explore getting more airlift from the USA. A month ago to the day of the announcement Ramonsito Booi, Burney el Hage and Larry Gerharts traveled to Houston to explore the possibility of Continental flights to Bonaire. It was rumored that KLM put in a good word for Bonaire to help the negotiations. As Continental's Manager of International Route Planning, Brian Znotins, told *The Bonaire Reporter*, "It was a business decision. We already fly to another top dive spot, Roatan, so why not to the Caribbean's number one dive destination, Bonaire."

Bonaire will not stop its negotiations with Delta Airlines. "Considering the current interest for Bonaire-flights, I continue to hope that Continental will expand their flights to Bonaire in 2006. We still have to be on the safe side and continue to extend our horizons," said Larry Gerharts of Bonaire Air Services. □ G./L.D.



A Boeing 737 This type of aircraft will be used on the Bonaire route



Brian A. Znotins, Manager, International Route Planning for Continental Airlines signs up to fly weekly to Bonaire beginning in December. Commissioner Burney el Hage, Senator Ramonsito Booi to his left, TCB head Ronella Croes to right.

► Our source at the Caribbean Hotel Association tells us that **Air Jamaica WILL continue it's Saturday Bonaire flight and NOT stop it at the end of next month as planned.** This is already reflected on its website. It is part of a re-evaluation of its cutbacks and also might include resumption of some flights to the Eastern Caribbean and Miami. Air Jamaica lost US\$61 million for the first five months of this year, as the government, struggles to move it into viability.

Last week Air Jamaica's executive chairman, Dr. Vin Lawrence, said unforeseen disruption of services, caused primarily by an increase in the frequency of major airframe maintenance from 18 months to 15 months, and route restructuring, had added another US\$25 million in expenses. Air Jamaica cut Bonaire service to one flight at the end of June.

► Dutch Antilles Express (DAE), (**BonaireExpress and CuraçaoExpress**) won't use Suriname Airways jets for flights on the **Bonaire-Curaçao-St. Maarten** route, said DAE's Chief Executive Officer Floris van Palland Friday. Explained Van Palland, "The load factors on the route don't justify putting in a larger aircraft such as the MD-82."

St. Maarten flights have a load factor of 75 per cent (using the smaller turbo-props) on the average. The MD-82 has 140 seats, while the ATR-42 that DAE uses has 46 seats. DAE flies Curaçao-St. Maarten-Curaçao twice a day, filling slightly fewer than 100 seats. By using the MD-82, the seat capacity would instantly increase by 40 per cent. "An increase of 40 per cent on a load factor of

75 percent doesn't have a positive effect on the profitability of that route," van Palland told *The St Maarten Daily Herald*.

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

Following public demonstrations of outrage because of unavailable flights, Minister of Transport and Communication, Omayra Leeftang, had announced a few weeks ago that Suriname Airways would fly the Curaçao-St. Maarten route as of Friday, June 24, but it didn't happen.

► DAE's Chief Executive Officer Floris van Palland a former CEO of several of Royal Dutch Airline KLM's spin-offs, when asked about the '... Express Airlines' **on-time performance, one of the major complaints of passengers, said improving this was "a number one priority."** "We have already done a lot, although people wouldn't have noticed it right away. It is a process," he said, explaining that several ATRs had been swapped for new ones from Europe that have just completed their big check-up. In addition, the company has been increasing its spare parts reserve. "The chance that you don't have that specific part is much smaller," he said, adding that the program is almost completed. DAE's major shareholder is Bonaire resident, Niek Sandmann, (reports by Suzanne Koelega- SMH)

► **Princess Maxima, the wife of Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, gave birth Sunday to a healthy baby daughter.**

The new princess was named Alexia Juliana Marcela Laurentien, and becomes third in line to the Dutch throne after her father and her sister, Princess Catharina-Amalia, who was born on Dec. 7, 2003. The newborn, weighed 3.4 kilograms (7.69 pounds).

The prince denied she was named after the illegitimate French daughter of his grandfather, the late Queen Juliana's deceased husband, Prince Bernhard. Prince Bernhard's offspring's existence was only recognized in an interview published last year. "She is named after me," said Prince Willem-Alexander.

► Central Bank President Emsley Tromp reported that the Antilles national debt is NAf2.4 billion. Add Curaçao's NAf1.5 billion debt and you get a figure that is more than the entire

country's gross domestic product of NAf3.7 billion.

Bonaire's share of the national debt is NAf243.8 million - it has no ability to borrow money on its own as do Curaçao and St. Maarten..

If the islands were to split up under the current circumstances they would start their new status with those debts. Since that would be an unworkable scenario for most islands,

On the total Antillean debt of NAf4.8 billion, NAf273 million was paid in interest alone last year, 23 cents out of every guilder collected in taxes and 16 per cent of all government expenditures. Another NAf378 million guilders was borrowed in 2004.

The Central Bank itself made a profit of NAf 50 million in 2004, which goes to the Central Government. A considerable part of that comes from the 1 per cent license fee people pay when conducting financial transactions in US dollars.



Hello tourist preparation

► As is customary this time of year, **6th grade students from the island's elementary schools will take part in the "Hello Tourist" program.** Hello Tourist is a TCB initiative to acquaint Bonaire's children with the tourist business that powers the local economy. The children will learn what being a tourist means by visiting typical attractions, shops and the various resorts

Participating in the program are Flamingo Airport, Taxis, Goddard Catering, Captain Don's Habitat, Plaza Resort, Sand Dollar, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort, Bel Mar and the SGB. Sponsors of the event are Maduro & Curiels Bank, TELBO N.V., Consales Cash & Carry and Panaderia Seruva.

► You can even smell it in Bonaire when the wind comes from the west;

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A VICIOUS ATTACK

Dear Editor:

At 3 a.m. Monday morning, June 20th, I was awakened by my dog's loud barking at something that I assumed was in our yard. I looked out toward our side yard and could see our dog running back and forth barking into our neighbor's yard next door. Our neighbor is a kind elderly man who raises black-bellied sheep and I could tell that there was something in his yard chasing the sheep. I went out and found a large Pit Bull terrorizing the sheep and had already taken one down to the ground. I began to throw rocks to try to get this vicious animal to leave. That was not going to work so I ran for my garden hose and began to squirt the dog to keep it away from the poor defenseless animal. The rest of the sheep were huddled together in a corner. A friend who was staying with me heard the noise and came outside, too and she began shouting at the dog. With the noise and water continually pelting him, he left, escaping through the hole in the fence he'd entered. I then went over into the yard to check on the downed sheep. I saw that its neck was ripped open, blood was flowing out as it struggled to breathe. Its right eye had been gouged out as well and I knew it had little chance of survival. I also found a newborn lamb, that had been born the day before, dead of a broken neck. I then tried to pile some



larger rocks and wood into the hole to keep the beast out.

I went back into the house about 4 a.m. and prayed that the animals would be unharmed but that would not be the case. About an hour later, I could hear a ruckus again but did not venture out. I was trying to keep my dogs from barking and waking my sleeping husband and house guest. I sorely regret that now for at daybreak when I looked out the window I could see two sheep lying on the ground with others obviously hurt. A young man, who lives adjacent to the elderly neighbor, was now in the yard yelling and swinging a stick at two dogs that were in the yard - one was the Pit Bull and the other his dog that had come through the hole in the fence. By now, the Pit Bull had completed the ferocious attack and the other dog was just there to loudly bark. The young man, who knew this awful dog, picked him up and threw him over the fence along with his own dog. He then went to check the wounded sheep. I went out and looked over the fence to see 4 sheep down, obviously dead and 3 others near death, 2 of them had their necks snapped, blood everywhere.

It was now about 6 am and my neighbor had now come outside because he had heard the young man's cursing and loud voice. He too saw the awful site and returned inside to call the police. They arrived in about 10 minutes and began to question those who were there and to count the sheep that were at-

(Continued on page 5)

(Pit Bull Letter. Continued from page 4)
 tacked. Photographs were taken and the vet was called to come and put the animals that were barely alive out of their misery. Three sheep that lived through the attack were treated for many wounds to the face and neck; one sustained a broken nose as well. They are now slowly healing. Miraculously, I found another newborn lamb that didn't have a scratch on it baa-ing near a hurt sheep. It was looking for its mother who lay dead about three feet away. It is doing well and being bottle-fed. That's the good news!

The bad news is that the Pit Bull is still alive, chained in the owner's yard! The owner said that there was a new lock on the gate to keep their "pet" and watchdog in. It was not chained up the morning of the attack and it got out! My fear is that if this vicious dog could kill seven defenseless sheep, what will keep it from killing again? Why wasn't this animal killed and taken out of our neighborhood? A friend who is an emergency room doctor told me that this type of dog will kill again once it has tasted blood and that it kills things that are about its eye level! So, if you live in Hato, keep an eye on your pets and kids! I hope we don't read in *The Reporter* that a child is seriously injured or killed by this beast before it is destroyed. Oh, and perhaps the owners

of this horrible Pit Bull should keep their young daughter inside, far away from their 'pet' dog!
Maggie Fuller



LEAKY PIPES

Dear Editor,

Attached to this mail are pictures which I made on June 21st 2005.

The first time I noticed there was a leak in the pipeline from the WEB, I called the so called "*Departamentu di Storing*" and told the guy on duty there was a leak at Lima in Belnem. They told me that they would send someone to fix the leak. That phone call was Thursday, June 9th!!!

I called again on Saturday the 11th early evening. They apparently also do not work on weekends, because the trees started to get green.

And to my big surprise when I walked by several times last week, still no leak fix. And the trees got greener by the day. Today, June 21st I walked by again, and noticed they still haven't done anything!!

That is how serious they take a phone call from someone who notices while walking the dogs.

So that is why I send you this mail with the photos, maybe you are willing to place them in the reporter and let the people of Bonaire know what happens with the increase of the water- and electricity bill! It for the trees on the side of the road.

My girlfriend and I are wondering who is going to pay all this loss of water. In the end the people of Bonaire are paying the bill. I am sure the management team from the WEB doesn't!!

Where is all this? At Lima in Belnem. Lima is the last sideway left on the long road to Sorobon, in Belnem. The road doesn't end but goes in a circle around a house and goes back to the road to Sorobon. In the curve, about 6 meters away from the road, there lies a pipeline which goes all the way in to the "knoek" and feeds construction sides and houses close to the airport.

Why do I send this to *The Reporter*. Because in the first place, I think it is a waste of good water. The procedure of making fresh water out of seawater like the WEB does, is very expensive. And because we live with just a few here, we have to pay a lot.

In the second place, if you ask me, people who are working at the WEB, doing their "storing" shift, have not learned anything from the big fire last Carnaval. If there is something wrong, no matter what, fix it!!

That way you show the people of Bonaire that the WEB is serious and worth

every penny! We are a long way from that!
Silvan Henneman

The daily press last week reported that WEB was actively working on the pipe problems in Belnem. Ed.

BEAUTY IN SUSHI

"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." BB (from 6/24/ 05 Edition of B.R.)

Dear Editor:

I really fail to see the ugliness in the "monuments" erected on the south end of our island. In the 20 plus years I have lived here, I have always marveled at the creativity of the mysterious sculptor whose work has brought many smiles and even a few laughs to our visitors. They have even appeared in articles and newspapers around the world.

Obviously, BB (whoever you are) is a newcomer and is offended and it is certainly their right. I might then suggest since the recycled material is already conveniently piled up, they can easily find an old feed bag and remove it to the landfill. My Bonairean friends have told me they know who the artist is and they are not offended a bit. (I also have a feeling I know who it is as well...) Another great place to see the creative use of "sushi" is at FKPD (Pasa Dia) in Rincon. They sell great souvenirs that are worth the short drive north.

Michael Gaynor

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.

Reporter readers have provided their views on our eight part series Balance for Bonaire. They will be presented in this issue and next.

If you haven't had a chance to complete the Reporter Survey (page 7) asking YOUR views on the proper choices for Bonaire's future this is your last opportunity. Send by post, e-mail or drop at our office.



GOOGLE GAFFE? PART 1.

To the Editors:

Your "Finding Balance for Bonaire" series is interesting, but at times I believe the authors manipulate their "facts" and "results" to push their points and agendas across, and damn the facts.

In one issue they showed Caribbean island tourism growth rates for only a single sample, for example, to demonstrate how slow tourism growth was on Bonaire. They conveniently forgot to include that after 9/11, Bonaire apparently did not suffer nearly as significant a loss in tourism as just about every other Caribbean island did, which could explain the greater growth in last year's numbers for other islands as a rebound from much lower post-9/11 levels. Never mind that a number of the islands listed were not real diver-oriented destinations.

Further massaging of results occurs in another issue under the subject "Take the Google Test." Some of your readers may be aware that among the many hats I wear, I also run NetTech N.V. along with my partner Susan Davis. NetTech N.V. operates and maintains Bonaire's official web site, InfoBonaire, as well as web sites for dozens of other Bonaire businesses.

I am also, however, a professional researcher, as part of the consulting work I perform for clients around the world in the field of patent litigation. And a significant part of my research involves using search engines such as Google to locate specific information – using both the methodologies that a non-professional searcher would use, and those known to people who have lots of experience using search tools.

The basic issues I have with the Take the Google Test are:

- 1) There is no commentary on how other competing dive destinations fared;
- 2) the use of quotation marks around search terms;
- 3) interpreting search results; and
- 4) the lack of apparent understanding of how automated search engines sort and filter their data.

Let's take a quick look at these items.

First, when I ran the same search terms as used in the article, the *only* official dive destination site I found in the first 100 results for "scuba vacation" was an official diving-oriented site for the Cayman Islands which also offered the ability to book travel to the Caymans (and thus was selling vacations directly). All other 99 results were understandably for tour operators and travel agents, as well as news sites, a few scattered dive shops in places ranging from Thailand to Florida, a bunch of unrelated sites, and one resort at a dive destination (Harbour Village – turned up twice – I'll explain why later). The next hundred results turned up nothing better. Adding +Caribbean (which requires the word "Caribbean" to be in the search results) resulted in the aforementioned www.DiveCayman.ky site moving up to 31st place. Otherwise, the results were rather similar to the previous search.

The other search terms produced similarly unspectacular results, when there were any. The term "snorkel, vacation, Caribbean" produced no results whatsoever, in contrast to what was reported. In no case did I find an official tourism site in the top 20 results. Beyond 20 the results are probably meaningless for very broad searches, although potentially very relevant for targeted searches. As far as I see, all the searches in the Google Test were very broad ones, and thus the results were very broad.

That leads to the next issue. Quotations marks around search terms in Google and other search engines mean that one should search for the phrase in the quotes. Perhaps the authors of the Google Test were using quotes for emphasis instead of literally, but that would obviously be wrong if the authors knew anything about search engines.

For example, if I search for the quoted phrase "official bonaire website", I get only 24 relevant results out of a possible 62 (and yes, it's www.InfoBonaire.com at the top). If I use the same terms, *official bonaire website* without the quotes I get 54,600 results (and yes, www.InfoBonaire.com still comes up first).

Quotation marks are critical tools that experienced searchers use to narrow down their results. Similarly, putting a "plus sign" in front of a particular term requires that term to be in the search results (otherwise it's optional, meaning you get very unfocused results the further down the result list you go).

Jake Richter

Next week- What does a regular, non-experienced searcher do and how to handle the search results



Responses to Balance for Bonaire



AIRLIFT MYTHS REACTION

Dear Editor:

I have been following your weekly articles regarding tourism and the "Balance for Bonaire". The June 10th article was very disturbing as it was very ambiguous and raised a few glaring questions. The CTO 2004 tourist arrival statistics were a bit perplexing. Can it really be true that 90,000 visitors to Granada arrived by airplane????? That is how the report comes across. Anyone sitting on the beach in Granada on any given day will see 4-5 cruise ships lined up waiting to tender the thousands into town. So this is not a fair evaluation or comparison when discussing airlift.

There is a second "problem" that seems to be ignored. I don't know if others have had this problem, or if it is just that we travel to Bonaire frequently that I notice a pattern. I feel part of the reason for the half empty planes to Bonaire is not lack of demand, but rather no available seats on the first leg, whether it be to SJ or MoBay. Every flight we have ever taken from the east coast to Mo Bay has been full. In the past, I have worked directly with the AJ office here 6 months or more in advance and more times than not, I can't get to Bonaire because the first leg is sold out.

I believe that one way to determine if the problem is airlift, is to have a direct flight from the states. Only then can it be determined where the problem lies. The answer to the low hotel occupancy rate would be to get all the hotels on Travelocity or Orbitz. With computer access, it would be much easier if all the hotels were located together. Bonaire is not exactly tourist friendly when trying to find accommodations.

Bonaire should be fixing the small problems now, and not wait for the "big fix".

Nadine Rubin

ARUBA, A MODEL FOR BONAIRE? REACTION PART 1.

After a recent visit to Aruba, where I lived for 18 years, I was happy to come back to our island. The publicity around the recent disappearance of the American girl, Natalee Holloway, has focused on Aruba and its tourist industry.

Just before I left Aruba, I listened to an interview on the local TV-station with the Director of the Chamber of Commerce about the sustainability of the further hotel development on Aruba. I was surprised to hear that no decision has been taken yet and that various studies are still being conducted. The current uninhibited construction of new gigantic hotel and time share buildings clearly shows that the government of Aruba is firmly decided to sacrifice also the few remaining sections of pristine beaches for this disastrous development. During the interview, the mentioned director complained that while Aruba was still studying what to do, the people of Bonaire had already taken a firm decision not to permit any construction of large hotels and to concentrate on improvement of existing tourist facilities, particularly for the diving industry, in order to preserve the beautiful nature of the island.

To my horror, after reading the excellent articles Finding Balance for Bonaire in recent issues of *Bonaire Reporter*, I found that although the people of this island really did take the mentioned decision, there are politicians having another opinion. They probably see, like it has happened on Aruba, a personal profit in the mass tourist development. They do not mind that the decision of the people is firmly supported by the official Bonaire government tourist development guidelines. How is that possible?

(Continued on page 7)

Reaction to Balance for Bonaire articles (Continued from page 6)

In "Finding Balance for Bonaire," Part 4, a closer look was taken at the Aruba Model, presenting conclusions of a Tobago research and of an article of Robertico Croes and Manuel Vanegas. Mr. "Tico" Croes served as the Finance Minister in the last government, led by Henny Eman, and was recently interrogated about his possible involvement in a financial scandal concerning the never realized speedway race track. A judge in Miami decided in this matter that the government of Aruba had to pay \$20 million to a US investor. It is hard to understand that during the trial the former transportation minister in the Eman's cabinet, Glenbert Croes, main promoter of the failed project, testified against his own government(!!!).

Reading the conclusions of the Tobago report and of the mentioned article, one could believe that the Aruba growth has been the result of strict pursuance of a deliberate strategy and a clear development plan and that, with the exception of some miscalculation, the tourist development has been a big success, and that Aruba can serve as a model for Bonaire when planning the future tourist development.

The fact is, however, that although Aruba does have a development plan, elaborated more than 20 years ago, all tourist development during the last 20 years has not been a result of a deliberate strategy and a development plan but rather of bitter fighting between the two leading political parties, the Christian democratic AVP and the socialist MEP. Since 1985, there have been three cabinets Eman (prime minister of all governments led by AVP) and three cabinets Oduber (prime minister of all MEP-governments). The Oduber III cabinet is currently at the power and new elections will come this year. It is a normal practice on Aruba that when the rival party wins the election, the new government declares that the policy of the preceding administration was completely wrong, that due to irresponsible decisions of the previous government (mostly in connection with the new hotel construction) the new administration has to pay millions of dollars to foreign banks and that a completely new policy has to be followed.

A good example of this practice are the both hotel moratoria (in 1986 and 1996), mentioned in Finding Balance for Bonaire, Part 4. They were declared by the Eman governments as reaction to, in their eyes, wrong tourism development under the Oduber administrations. In 1996, the Eman administration went so far that it decided to demolish three uncompleted large hotels at the Palm beach. The two towers of a new Ramada hotel were sold to the Divi group under the condition that the larger tower, almost fully completed, would be demolished. It really happened (!) and the smaller remaining tower operates now under the name Phoenix resort. It is a paradox that the neighboring Wyndham hotel (former Concorde and later Hilton) is currently negotiating with the government to get permission to build an annex to its existing high rise building, practically at the site of the demolished Ramada tower (!). The two remaining hotels were ultimately saved and taken over by the Marriott group which under the current Oduber III administration, completely ignoring the moratorium taken by the previous Eman government, not only completed the construction but started, next to these hotels, to realize the gigantic four stages time share project Ocean Club and Surf Club. The high buildings of the first two stages now tower over the neighboring Holiday Inn resort.

Jiri Lausman

Next week the financial scandals that are costing Arubans millions

MAKE ALL DEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABLE

Dear Editor:

Sustainable development is not something new. History is full of examples of cultures that developed in a sustainable way; that means, they progressed social and economically, with out abusing the natural resources. However, increased interest in "development" shown by governments, some world organizations and certain sectors of the society results in the actual state of deterioration of the planet and the danger it represent for mankind.

But, what is sustainable development? It's the development that satisfies the needs of those of us that inhabit the planet today, with out compromising the capacity of future generations of satisfy theirs. It's an alternative to face the crisis that this actual type of development that seeks economical progress at all cost, has generated. This means that, the model of sustainable development seeks the same economic progress, but controlling the use of the natural resources.

The sustainable development model, as it was defined in 1992 in the Summit of the Earth in Rio de Janeiro, stands in three very strong components. Sustainable development is, of course, interested in a more balanced use of the natural resources; but is also interested in a better distribution of the benefits generated and more participation of the people in the making of decisions that affect them. This makes sustainable development the way to a more fair and balanced society, with less difference between rich and poor.

The actual model has us on the edge of the depletion of important resources, like water, fossil fuel, fisheries stock, coral reefs, etc. and if we continue to seek pro-

(Continued on page 17)

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

**Last Chance to
submit form!**

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. Dozens have already been received but we'd like some more.

- Your nationality: Antillean US Netherlands Other:
- Your age: Under 25 26-40 41-60 Over 60
- Your sex: M F
- Marital status Single Married Widowed/Divorced In relationship
- Years Scuba Diving 1 year or less 2-5 years 5-10 years More than 10 years
- Years windsurfing 1 year or less 2-5 years 5-10 years More than 10 years
- Are you a Tourist Part time resident Full time resident Native Bonairean
- 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
- Number of people in your household or group when you are on Bonaire:
- What year did you first come to Bonaire: _____
- 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.

Satisfaction

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?



Diver and Turtle at Kai

Albert Bianculli photo

flotsam and jetsam
(Continued from page 3)

Curaçao's Venezuelan-owned Isla oil refinery. Why? It's because the discharge of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) by the refinery is enormous.

According to figures the Foundation for a Clean Environment in Curaçao (SMOC) released last week, the refinery discharged almost 78 million kilo of sulfur dioxide in 2001. The discharge for the entire country of the Netherlands was 75 million kilos in that same year. One refinery, Shell Pernis, that processes twice as much crude oil as the Isla, discharged only 16 million kilos.

The enormous discharges mean that the refinery's equipment is in need of repair or replacement, since nothing has been upgraded to reduce those emissions since the last century. SO₂ has a detrimental effect on the health of people living close to the refinery. SMOC is demanding that the Curaçao government take action to remedy the problem.



► A Dutch lawyer and translator made an English translation of **Book I of the Netherlands Antilles Civil Code, "Family Law and the Law of Persons."** He sent the Public Prosecutor a copy who thinks this is very interesting for all English speaking persons living on Bonaire. If you are interested, please contact him.

► The Antillean Parliament approved a bill **requiring social education duty for young jobless school dropouts** amid much debate on whether it was doing so under pressure of the Dutch Government's plan to introduce an admittance regulation for Antillean youngsters traveling to Holland. Antillean youths have a higher incidence of arrests in Holland than do European Dutch youngsters. Supposedly, if a person from 16-24 has passed the "social education program" he/she can be admitted into Holland without restriction. The compulsory program has been in the works for a while and there is a pilot project underway but not getting much enrollment.

► **A serious effort to speed up immigration permits was announced by Minister of Justice David Dick early last week.** The welcome announcement followed lengthy talks with the Lt. Governors of the respective Island Territories. Dick says the entire Immigration System needs streamlining. It's a conclusion arrived at years ago by business, bona fide immigrants, visiting yachtsmen and people who have decided to reside here. Bonaire's Immigration officials had already extended the two-week reporting requirement to four weeks.

Minister Dick, who comes from the private sector, believes the current system is ridiculously bureaucratic and, as a consequence, frustrates economic growth and often creates situations bordering on violation of human rights. One of our island's business leaders hopes the "reforms" will go beyond the improvement in issuing permits. Streamlining the Immigration System has to change basic thinking about "immigration." He said that currently a negative approach dominates. It appears aimed more at making immigration difficult rather than at serving the economy. On Bonaire the argument that the local labor market needs protection is often stretching a point and overprotection reduces productivity.

► Last Sunday, 19th of June, an anonymous caller contacted STINAPA that people were **spear fishing at Bachelor's Beach.**



According to the Marine Ordinance, it is forbidden to fish in the Bonaire Marine Park with a spear gun or handheld spear. It is also forbidden to transport a spear gun or handheld spear on public ground (or water), to have in one's possession, or to buy or sell spear gunned fish.

The rangers arrived at the beach by boat and picked-up and caught two spear fishermen in the act. They came out of the water wearing dive equipment and carrying a dive bag full of fish, but left the spear gun behind. The rangers seized the bag with fish and also surfaced the spear gun. Both hunters were taken to the Police Station with the spear gun, dive gear and fish. The case will be handled by the court of justice.

STINAPA wants to thank the anonymous caller. Without his help, they said they would not have been able to stop this illegal activity.

Whenever you see someone spear fishing or other illegal activities going on in the Marine Park, contact STINAPA at: 717-8444 or 786-9603.

► **Now all NGOs ("Non-Profit" Non Government Organizations) can have their own Web page and e-mail connection free** thanks to an initiative by Bonaire's NGO Platform via the Platform's new website, www.NGOBonaire.org. Each NGO will have a single private e-mail address, even the Platform will

"We'd like every Bonaire NGO to have a web site and e-mail address," said James Finies President of the Plat-

form. "If the NGO doesn't have a computer they can use the one installed for their use at Platform headquarters."

"For people of our island it is becoming very important to communicate rapidly and precisely," said Elsmarie Beukenboom, Platform Secretary. "The Platform wants each NGO to have a chance to use this important media."



► On Sunday night between 2 and 8 pm the police **zero tolerance team conducted an enforcement action directed at scooters and motorcycles.** They confiscated 10 scooters and a motorcycle and gave out 19 summonses (prosès verbal) for various infractions, mostly related to not having a license to operate a two-wheeled vehicle. There was also an arrest for drug possession and another for failing to comply with the order of a policeman. The majority of drivers stopped did not have the proper license to operate their scooters and as a result scooter rental operators will be encouraged to ensure that their renters have a license that qualifies them to operate the vehicles they rent.

A diner at a street-side restaurant wondered if they had impounded the extremely loud motorcycle that had passed him earlier in the day.



Sharon Bol runs the Bonaire DCNA office

► **The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) opened their headquarters in Kaya Grandi # 20 this past week.** Former Bonaire National Marine Park Manager Kalli De Meyer's initiatives and hard work to found an organization, dedicated to the long term preservation and conservation of nature within the Netherlands Antilles have finally paid off. (See story on page 17 for information.)

After almost two years of preparation the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance officially started April 1st of 2005 with Kalli as its Executive Director. She was recently joined by Sharon Bol, who will be the Office Manager for DCNA's headquarters on Bonaire.

► **REMINDER—take the fantastic Lac Bay discovery boat trip on Sunday. Then attend Art Day.** See page 19 – What's Happening-for details. □ G./L.D

Natalee Holloway Disappearance and Antilles/Aruba Law

Natalee Holloway, an 18 year-old Alabama girl, disappeared May 30 hours before she was to return home from a trip to Aruba with other students celebrating graduation. The case has drawn international attention and has even tainted Bonaire. At press time four men are in custody, but not charged with a crime. According to published reports, Joran van der Sloot (17) admitted "making out" with the girl in the back seat of the car at a beach where the three took her.

The Dutch teen and his two friends are still in jail. Three other men arrested and held have been released. Investigators from Aruba and the USA continue to look for evidence behind the disappearance



Reportedly these three young men were the last persons to see Natalee Holloway alive. They are in custody.

The Legal Process

The arrest and detention procedures may be confusing to some as they are based on principles different from American or English traditions and legal codes. The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are overseas Dutch territories with judicial systems modeled after the Dutch structure, in which people can be arrested on suspicion of a crime, but not formally charged until later.

International law expert Theodore Simon explained about the differences between US and Dutch law in connection with the Natalee Holloway disappearance but it may prove informative to our readers as the same principles apply in Bonaire.

In the Antilles and Aruba people can be held without any formal charges filed. All authorities need is some indication that the person may have been involved, and then they can be arrested and held for a substantial period of time. In the US, a person cannot be arrested unless there's probable cause. And probable cause has been defined as facts and circumstances based on reasonably trustworthy information that would warrant a prudent person into believing a crime was committed and the person to be arrested committed it.

Initially a person can be held by the police for two days. They're not required to bring them before a magistrate until 72 hours have passed. And the initial two can be extended for eight days and then two more periods of eight days if the magistrate concurs. So that's about 26 days; and then another four months. So a person can be held up to 146 days without being charged with a crime.

Once charged with a crime the accused appears in front of a single judge and is tried. If convicted, they have the right to a trial *de novo*, which, in effect, means a do over, and have a trial in front of a three-judge panel. However, that may seem helpful to the defense. On the other hand, if they are acquitted at the single judge trial, the government can appeal -- something that could not happen in the US. There is no jury trial in the Dutch/Antillean/Aruban system.

While the person charged will appear in front of a single judge, they retain the same standard of being proven beyond a reasonable doubt. But a single judge will render judgment of guilt or non-guilt. The verdict can get appealed before at three-judge tribunal, and finally either party could appeal to The Hague in the Netherlands for questions of law.

Both in the US and the Dutch system there's the right to be free from self incrimination. The accused cannot be required to testify against him or herself. And if they don't testify, no adverse inference can be drawn. □

Bonaire's Newport Connection

Sometimes dreams do come true. The dream of many Bonairean windsurfers is to follow in the footsteps of island pros Tonky and Taty Frans and secure an international sponsor. Lucky sailor Jose Fajardo Rivera found not one, not two, not three, but four sponsors to help make his windsurfing dream a reality. Jose, a 20-something sailor, began seriously windsurfing in 2001 and advanced quickly by putting in long hours of training.

Sponsor scout Ann Phelan saw that he had what was needed to be a winning competitor. What he needed was decent gear to train and compete. A few connections were made and Jose secured a limited sponsorship with Gun Sails USA and Island Sports for discount sails. He also secured a sponsorship with Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations which allotted two tickets each year for Jose to attend competition. Coach Elvis Martinus used his influence and connections to help Jose secure a full board sponsorship from RRD in Italy.

The plan was for Jose to attend King of the Caribbean and then the Cape Cod Freestyle Frenzy. Unfortunately, lack of wind prevented any meaningful competition at both events but that didn't stop Jose

from working it and having some fun while in Cape Cod. He hooked up with Platt Johnson, owner of Island Sports in Newport Rhode Island and the US distributor for Gun Sails. Jose attended Windfest, a surf show held during the Frenzy. Jose worked with Platt selling gear and doing demos. Platt was so impressed with Jose's get-up-and-go attitude he contacted Gun Sails International and eventually was able to secure a full gear sponsorship for this aspiring talent.

Later in the week, Platt invited Jose to his home turf to see his mega shop and to tour Newport. When Jose arrived in historic Newport, Rhode Island, he was treated to a whirlwind day complete with a tour of the beaches, an interview with the Newport Daily News and an extravagant luncheon at the elegant and renowned New York Yacht Club hosted by Platt's lovely wife Nancy and sons Will and Chris. The setting was majestic with pristine views of Newport Harbour. It was a day Jose will never forget.

An older rider by current windsurf standards, Jose does not have expectations on attending the PWA Tour. His dream is to finish technical school in Curaçao, secure a great job in Bonaire and windsurf in as many competitions as possible. Part of his dream is to travel more, and this may become a reality as Platt and Nancy have invited Jose to spend the summer of 2006 in Newport as their guest, volunteering in the shop and learning more about the retail end of windsurfing. Not bad for an old windsurf kid. □ *Ann Phelan* www.bonairecaribbean.com



Jose Fajardo Rivera



Jose Fajardo Rivera and Platt Johnson

Bonaire Barracuda Swim News

Samson Evertsz, age 9, is the first swimmer to represent Bonaire in the Curaçao "A" Swimming Championships. This annual competition is organized by the Curaçao Swimming Association and is open only to local swimmers who have achieved "A" level times during the current swimming season. "A" is the fastest time category recognized in the Netherlands Antilles. The "A" Championship meet took place June 9 - 12 at the *Sentro Deportivo Korsow* complex in Curaçao.

Samson represented the Bonaire Barracudas Swim Team in the presentation of teams during the "A" Championship opening ceremony held on Saturday, 11 June. A special welcome was extended to Bonaire and its lone swimmer by the President of the Curaçao Swimming Association during this ceremony. Bonaire swimmers participate in Curaçao events as exhibition swimmers to receive official times but are ineligible for awards.

Samson achieved his qualifying times in backstroke, butterfly and freestyle during the 6th Annual Dutch Caribbean Invitational Swim meet in April. During the "A" Championships he improved his times in each of his three events demonstrating continued progress in the sport. Asked for his thoughts on this opportunity Samson said, "I had a great time and learned a lot about setting goals. I can't wait to go back!" The Netherlands Antilles swimming season runs from September through June.

Desiree Baaleman, age 10, of the Bonaire Barracudas was the only other Bonaire swimmer to qualify for this meet. Desiree achieved an "A" time in 50 meter breaststroke at the Dutch Caribbean Invitational but was unable to attend the "A" Championship meet. □ *photo and story by Valarie Stimpson*



Samson Evertsz (yellow swim cap -inset) at the start of the Boys 10 and Under 50 meter butterfly race.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
7-01	6:36	0.9FT. 21:51	2.0FT. 5
7-02	7:39	0.8FT. 22:21	2.0FT. 5
7-03	8:27	0.7FT. 22:53	2.1FT. 6
7-04	9:14	0.7FT. 23:29	2.1FT. 7
7-05	9:59	0.7FT.	7
7-06	0:34	2.1FT. 10:33	0.7FT. 7
7-07	1:05	2.0FT. 11:09	0.7FT. 7
7-08	1:35	1.9FT. 11:43	0.7FT. 7

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

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

SGB Students Excel at ARTEBON

"I can't believe this show was put on by young people," a tourist exclaimed last Friday night at the opening of the SGB high school's "Cultural Growth" art show. "I've been to so many art openings, but this is just fantastic! I'm so glad I was able to be on the island right now."



A whimsical puppet

The lady tourist echoed the feelings of so many who attended the first ever SGB high school art opening at ARTEBON. Speaking for her colleagues, general science teacher Mary Ann Kooops, said, "We're so very proud of the students. Sometimes they have a low self esteem and they just throw their designs

in the trash. They think they are nothing. But we wanted them to be able to show their works to their parents and the public. We've been very privileged to work with these kids."

Minister of Education Maritza Silberie, who opened the show, said, "It's very important to show something positive coming from the SGB. These are our children and we're very proud of what they can do."

Challenged by general science teacher Kooops and art and industrial design teacher Wilna Groenenboom, the students had to either come up with a new product or enhance or embellish one that's already in use. They had to make a plan, work two dimensionally with sketches before creating the final product in three dimensions. A third subject, Papiamentu, was brought into play as each project manual had to be written in that language.

Student Ashwant Gonesh explained that he wanted to design a "guitar of the future." He had to study an existing one and decide how to change it and make it really look like something familiar but with a whole new design. He had to think a lot and let his imagination soar. "I know it may be a little hard to play with all these points," he says, pointing to the zigzag design, but he accomplished his goal.

Attending the opening and showing their support were parents, other students as well as teachers, staff and



Ashwant Gonesh and Syphard Willem, the Future Guitar Boys

those associated with the SGB: Nolly Oleana, Artie DeVries, Ann Leong, Herman Groenenboom, Rob van Lear, Helen Hoen, Ms. Martijn, Papiamentu teacher Melina Rameriz, Edy Carolina, Hilly Gravenhorst and others.



Bonaire's most famous bird



Minister of Education, Maritza Silberie, cuts the ribbon to open the show

The exhibition continued through the weekend with the students acting as docents, showing the public through the show. □L.D.



It was through a generous grant from AMFO and the NGO Platform Bonaire that this "Cultural Growth at ARTEBON" was made possible. Stressing the importance of this exhibit and what it would do the self image of each student, the teachers asked for help. Responding, the Platform guided them in the proper method to apply for funds. Working together they accomplished a monumental feat – one that may have changed the path of a student who thinks maybe he or she was not worthy. Thank you to all - teachers and the NGO Platform personnel – who made this come true.

A Force for Good



Activities sponsored by

AMFO and the NGO Platform

Part of the continuing series on the

Community Issues in the Care and Welfare Sector

A Reporter interview with Mr. Godfried 'Boy' Clarenda, the dynamic NGO representative for the Care and Welfare Sector of Bonaire's NGO Platform.

Reporter: *The sector Care and Welfare contains more than just projects for the senior citizens. The part of the youth and problem prevention is not as well publicized. Is that accurate?*

Boy Clarenda: That's true! There were indeed many more projects for the elderly. Let me explain the concepts of the Care and Welfare sector: People have certain needs. The part of 'Care' reflects what people require on daily basis to survive. The part of 'Welfare' is how citizens feel: safe, comfortable, without fear or anxiety in their daily lives. So you can imagine how large the area is because everyone has these needs.

A large part of achieving these two concepts, care and welfare, is based on education which should start at a very young age, otherwise we will keep encountering what we're dealing with nowadays: troublesome youngsters; or the fact that we're trying to extinguish those fires that have started.

Reporter: *The organization 'CoCaRi' (Comishon Cuido pa An-sianonan di Rincon) a daily activity center for the elderly in Rincon, in which you are also the president, urgently needs a bus. Sharing a bus with other organizations as the NGO Platform proposed is not an option due to the special characteristics of Rincon (e.g. the distance, the needy target group which is vulnerable etc.). Can you explain?*

Clarenda: CoCaRi needs a bus, indeed. The current bus is old. We're trying to

help groups to reach their goals as much as possible. Scarcity means we must act as efficiently as possible. It would be the ideal situation to have every group in the community get what they ask for. But if we find that a group can't share resources we will help them as best we can.

Reporter: *As representative of the sector you will do your utmost to introduce projects for youth and prevention (e.g. AIDS/STD prevention, diabetes among the youth etc). Right?*

Clarenda: Yes. Youngsters have the most exposure. We should consider how to fight against the risks that they run. The plans are to start first with the SGB kids who don't get enough attention. These programs should focus on minimizing the risks they encounter. Education and prevention go hand in hand.

In the area of 'care', the mental development of the youngsters should be addressed (the situation at home, problems with the parents, teen pregnancy etc). Our youngsters are very vulnerable.

I mostly combine my work in healthcare with the activities for the NGO Platform. (Mr. Clarenda's job is Manager of Quality at Fundashon Mariadal which includes San Francisco Hospital). Don't forget that Mariadal is the largest NGO on the island. One of my departments deals with juvenile/youth health issues. This includes all the schools as well. For instance we just hired a social worker who, as of June 15, will focus on youngsters' mental health as her daily task, sharing this duty with a doctor. They will visit all



Godfried 'Boy' Clarenda

the schools on Bonaire to investigate the mental development of the children, to detect the risks and finally to battle them.

Reporter: *What will the effect be of assigning a new project leader to the project of the elderly (for all the three centers for the elderly on Bonaire (CoCaRI, Villa Antonia, Kai Mimina)?*

Clarenda: We indeed have named a coordinator. Initially we expect short term results- for instance putting together the annual report, project information etc. The people in these organizations, who initially had trouble doing this kind of work, now have the coordinator to take it over. But if we continue this way with this project it will remain a short-term project. That's why we need to come up with a structured program that will lead us to results in the long run.

Reporter: *Can you tell us about some financed and completed projects both for the youth as well as for the senior citizens that are continuing?*

Clarenda: For the elderly we now have an activity leader. Our senior citizens are now receiving more varied activity and recreation. This leader is working together with others to exchange knowledge

and experience. So we can consider this a long-term effect because at some point these people will take over.

Regarding youngsters, we already discussed them. I admit that they can use attention. But I'm positive that the social worker, I mentioned previously, put in charge of the mental health program for the youth will have positive results over the long term.

Reporter: *I've heard that the planned Health Center in Rincon may be at the southern part of Rincon which the government named an official "health area." Does this mean that the Health Center should not be placed in the school-convent area, in the center of Rincon?*

Clarenda: There should be a Health Center in Rincon! Keep in mind that space in Rincon is scarce. I don't want to get into a discussion where it should be located! It must be properly equipped and staffed. For me it's more important that it be well located, have good personnel, available 24 hours a day etc. Wherever it is it should be somewhere where the people of Rincon can reach it easily.

Reporter: *Different subsidizers like AMFO have shown interest in helping to renovate the convent in Rincon and make it a historic site (monument). This way it can also serve as a mobilization center for the Rincon's elderly. Will you work to make this happen?*

Clarenda: Absolutely! What the senior citizens require is a building where they can have recreation. But at the same time this place should be safe and presentable. Anyone who would like to consider helping to achieve this is more than welcome!

Reporter: *I want you to thank you for this opportunity.*

Clarenda: You're welcome, till a next time. □ *Natalie A.C. Wanga*



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Bonaire Team Heads for the Culinary Olympics

Bonaire's dream team of top chefs and a bartender headed out last Sunday to compete in the "Taste of the Caribbean" culinary competition in Miami. This is the third time that Bonaire has sent a team to the event.

They'll compete against 12 other teams made up of the best profes-

sional chefs from 12 other Caribbean islands: Anguilla, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Island, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands.

It takes a lot of work and dedication on the part of these professionals who already put in long hours in their restaurants. The team has had a lot of island support - the people and businesses of Bonaire who've enabled them to put on numerous fund-raising lunches and dinners to hone their culinary skills.

Representing Bonaire are: Rolando "Ricky" Janzen (Divi Flamingo Resort), Pastry Chef Isidoor van Riemsdijk and Floris van Loo (Rum Runners Restaurant) and Tico Marsera (Den Laman). Coach is "Taste" veteran, Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn. Bartender is Brad Conner (Rum Runners). Accompanying the team will be Coordinator Sara Matera of the Culinar Foundation and Reporter Editor Laura DeSalvo for on-site reporting.

Find out how the team did in next week's edition. □L.D.



Taking off from Flamingo airport last Sunday: Brad Conner, Floris van Loo, Rolando "Ricky" Janzen, Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn, Isidoor van Riemsdijk, Tico Marsera, Laura DeSalvo.

I am the William Express

You might say I have a very interesting and active life. It began in an oil soaked, rodent infested, smelly and slimy port. As a cargo freighter, I visited and explored hundreds of similar ports during my life. The men who built my 235 foot long (72 meter) hull and installed the components to control my movement were rough, dirty and very loud. I was made to roam the oceans of the world and have carried valuable cargo and personal possessions to people around the globe. As time passed my travels became more limited and, for the next several years, I had the luxury of staying closer to my home port visiting old friends on all the islands in the Caribbean.

I am not proud of my last sailing adventure. My new owner modified my cargo hold to carry a new, smaller and lighter cargo. The captain and crew are also new and are not familiar with all the controls and special handling required to manage a lady of my maturity and experience. Our final destination was unknown to me, but, judging by the amount of fuel in my tanks, it may have been a local port or southern America, perhaps Miami. I was quickly loaded in the dark hours, only a 12 ton cargo, and went to sea again heading east. Curiously, a new name was painted over my old. For this voyage, I am now called the "Hilma Hooker," San Andres (Colombia).

The fresh April breeze and the steady waves, beating against the bow, feel soothing and are in rhythm with the sound of my engine. Suddenly, there is a loud noise below with frantic shouting between the captain and the engineer. We alter course and make for a small nearby island in the Netherlands Antilles called Bonaire. In the shelter of Klein Bonaire, a mile off the main coast and near Kralendijk harbor, we anchor to make the necessary repairs. A group of customs officials come aboard and the captain sets us adrift. The officials take us in tow and I am placed at the pier for further inspection.

After several days of some very embarrassing encounters within my empty holds, the teams of expert investigators depart. Now, with the aid of SCUBA gear, another pair of specialists is under my bottom, banging and poking around in some very private areas. This team has important news for the Island officials that uncover the secret compartment containing my small cargo. The contraband is seized, I am confined to port and the captain, who has damaged a portion of my hull admitting a continuous flow of seawater, is arrested. I am very distressed and wonder if I will be

(Continued on page 13)





"Tank"

©Albert Bianculli

(I Am the William Express. Cont. from pg. 12)

disemboweled and cut to pieces in an early visit to the scrap yard!

At last, after months of pumping and endless debate, I have been liberated from the confines of the port and, after hasty repairs, I am floating at anchor off a beautiful beach swaying in the gentle waves and cooled by friendly breezes. It is now September 12, 1984 and today I am boarded by a small group of strangers determined to help me accomplish my final mission. They reposition my anchor near shore and start to flood my holds. I gently roll over on my starboard side and, cradled in the warm embrace of the sea, slowly drift down to the soft white sand between two beautiful coral reefs at 100 feet (30 m). Now, I am safe and secure in the pristine sea that once was the highway that I roamed. My destiny has been fulfilled and, unlike other ships my age, I will have a long, comfortable retirement.

This is a happy ending to a tortured life and the beginning of wonderful encounters with a new purpose: let me share them with you.

Here I rest, in the sea, after being washed clean and prepared to

receive new occupants from the underwater marine environment and occasional visitors from shore. They will be equipped with the same SCUBA gear that my liberators used to expose the criminal plot of my previous owner. As the "Hotel Hilma Hooker" my accommodations are spacious and comfortable. They provide shelter and privacy for intimate encounters when desired by my guests. Over the past twenty years a few notable residents have made my passage ways and the island's surrounding coral gardens their retreat from the stress of the open sea.

"Fang", is a traveling executive, with a sleek, silver, muscular barracuda body with bold black markings to accent his distinguished character. He has repeatedly occupied the Bridge Suite for months at a time to use as his base of operations. He has spent endless hours observing the unusual activities of our



"Fang"

©Albert Bianculli

short term day-visitors from shore. He delights in silently hovering above and behind these unsuspecting couples while being tickled by the clouds rising bubbles from their excited exhale.

"Angel," one of our long-term guests, joined us after retiring from a very successful career as an actress on the European stage. She is always elegant in her black and yellow designer patterned attire and provides companionship for all our guests. Her experience, before many appreciative audiences, has made her an excellent model for all the photographers that visit our quarters and gardens. She is always willing to pose before the camera lens and be bathed in the bright light and glitter of their strobes.

"Napoleon" and "Godiver", a grouper couple, inhabit the private Stern Cabin under a long term arrangement. They enjoy a carefree life of pleasure protected by our "off-shore" location. Secretive by nature, interaction among the masses of visitors is limited to special occasions. They do enjoy dancing together and can be observed nuzzling and embracing in the early evening hours.

We also have a pair of Tarpon couples that have taken their places in the two Forward Master Suites. The brothers, "Chromium" and "Tequila," are paired with "Quicksilver" and "Tinsel", respectively. Unlike the groupers, they are always available to our public guests, and, despite their large size, are very gentle and easy to approach. They are very attentive and often display a playful side to their nature by blowing bubbles before the waiting cameras. If you watch carefully you can catch them breaking the surface of the water to gulp air for this demonstration.

My last revelation is to remain a secret between us. To protect their true identity I will give you their nick-names from our desk registry. They are a father and son in semi-permanent residence.

"Gargantuan" and "Tank" have been known to ambush unsuspecting prey, and from their names you can guess that they are of considerable size and girth. As typical behavior for Jewfish, they do not seek notoriety nor do they like to be approached by strangers. You may see them sitting in the gardens, well camouflaged and grumbling to themselves. Their massive bodies are a testament to the success rate of their many kills. Do not disturb them is my only advice to



©Albert Bianculli

"Angel"

you.

I hope this short visit has been revealing and fun for you. I welcome you to join me at any time, day or night for adventure and the pleasure of your company at Bonaire's most famous underwater resort, The Hilma Hooker Hotel. □
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Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes.
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day 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for
appt.

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The leading consumer and business
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low pages directory information go to
http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com

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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

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Photography by Shelly Craig
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MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Interior or exterior design advice, clear-
ings, blessings, energy, healing, China-
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Call Donna at 785-9332.

LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call
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**Salt Treasures Bonaire 100%
natural body salts "Scrub Me"**

100% natural Bath Salts available at
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mation.

For Sale

For Sale- 4 Extra Large Suitcases
with wheels. Several used one time
only. Paid \$100.00 each; will sell for
NAf100,00 each. Call 786-3134

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

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



**BIG PORCH SALE July 2-3 from 8
am-2 pm Hilltop** (next to the Bonaire
Caribbean Club)- Take the tourist road
north. Sale is across from STINAPA
office. If you think you need something,
we probably have it: Furniture for living
room, lots of kitchenware and gadgets
(European), semi-automatic clothes
washer, CDs, tools, DVD Karaoke ma-
chine, exercise equipment and much
more. □

Put your ads here.

Non-business

Ads free

**Picture Yourself
with the Reporter
Game Reserve, South Africa**



Marjon Minderhout, who lives in Switzerland, came to Bonaire for the first
time in 1976 and has holidayed here many more times. Recently she was
in a private game reserve in South Africa and remembered to have her photo taken
with *The Bonaire Reporter*. After the photo shoot she and her family traveled
through the park and saw a few animals you never see on Bonaire like giraffes,
white rhino, antelope, ostrich and lots of beautiful birds. □ G.D.

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.) □

NEW BONAIRE AMBASSADORS



Buddy Dive's Lisa Muehlemann and new Ambassadors Sherry and Les Fulton

The two new ambassadors of Bonaire, Sherry and Les Fulton from Illinois, love Bonaire because it is not overdeveloped. They started coming to the island in 1995 with their dive shop, then later on came by themselves. When they first read about the ambassador program in *The Bonaire Reporter* they decided that they wanted to be ambassadors too. They still had about four years to go. Last Friday they reached their goal.

Lisa Muehlemann, Operations Manager of Buddy Dive, had the honor of officially making them ambassadors. Sherry and Les plan on returning to Buddy Dive and Bonaire for many years to come. □ *L.M.*

GOAL! HOME RUN! and MUCH MORE!



Bonairean Sports Federation and AMFO 'team up' to study the Bonairean sports world

*F*ederashon di Deporte Boneriano (BSF, Bonairiaanse Sport Federatie/Bonairean Sports Federation) recently invested lots of effort and energy in reorganizing and restructuring itself. Their aim is to improve the quality of sports on Bonaire and make them accessible to all. They've completed registration with the government through the Notary, produced a policy plan covering multiple years, and most recently completed a study of the sport world on Bonaire.



Handing over the report

Natalie Wanga conducted this study which included an inventory of all the sports, boards and annual programs that were active on Bonaire and incorporates an extensive computer database with all vital information.

This report, *Federashon di Deporte Boneriano, Resumen i Programa Anual di Bondnan Deportivo Boneriano (Bonairean Sport Federation, Report and Annual Program of the Bonairean Sport Confederations)* was personally delivered on June 16th by Ms. Wanga to Mr. Hugo Semper, Chairman of the *Federashon di Deporte Boneriano*. The Federation wishes to thank all the people, authorities and organizations that contributed to the effort. Special recognition goes to the sport organizations, NGO Platform and AMFO. □ *Natalie A.C. Wanga*

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(Responses to Balance. Continued from page 7)
gress at the expense of those resources, more sooner than later we will encounter serious difficulties to find food, drinkable water, breathable air or just a nice landscape to enjoy. In other words, those of us that are alive now, are abusing nature and if we continue with this model of development, our children and grandchildren will pay the price and live in worse conditions than the one we are in now.

Bonaire doesn't escape to the world development tendencies but we can consider our selves in a position of privilege. People and Government have always been very proactive when it comes to environment issues. As early as 1961, Bonaire was enacting legislation to protect sea turtle eggs and nests. In 1971, the Island Government of Bonaire banned destructive fishing practices like spear fishing and in 1975 made it illegal to break coral, take it from the water or sell it. Since 1979 Bonaire has also a proactive Marine Park that was declared demonstration site for the United Nations Educational Program in 2001.

Coral reefs are in great danger worldwide, more than 10 % of the coral reefs in the world are degraded beyond recovery and another 30 % are seriously threatened to disappear in the near future if we don't take radical actions. Bonaire is in a better position than other islands in the Caribbean and this fact cannot be considered a coincidence. Conservationist legislation and many years of active management of the Marine Park are the causes of the good

condition of our reefs with out doubt.

The Government launched a strategic plan for the future of Bonaire. This plan implies extensive development in a very sensitive area that can affect our most valued economical resource, the coral reef.

Unplanned development can exacerbate problems that we already have on Bonaire. Sedimentation, storm water runoff, excessive amount of nutrients, inadequate solid garbage management, bad construction practices, deforestation, over fishing are just examples of what can happen, and the consequences to the reef are irreversible. What we kill today is gone forever and is not coming back in our lifetime.

Economical development and nature preservation is possible and these two components can go along together. But for that, ALL the stakeholders need to sit together, discuss, decide and state very clearly what kind of development we want and who will be benefited. We need to have clear not only "WHAT" to do but also "HOW" we want to do it. Where coastal development is implemented and how it is managed influence the degree of impact to coral reef, and everybody knows what coral reefs mean for Bonaire's people and economy.

At the end of the day, we are all Managers of the Marine Park. As Cousteau said, "managing the parks is not about managing the coral reef, it is about managing ourselves".

Ramon DeLeon, Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park

DCNA Board Meeting on St. Eustatius

The board of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance met on St. Eustatius last week for its third meeting this year. Founded February 2005, DCNA is an umbrella organization for the Marine and Terrestrial Protected Areas (Parks) in St. Eustatius, Saba, St. Maarten, Bonaire and Curaçao. Aruba is contemplating to join forces with DCNA soon and sent Egbert Boerstra from Parke Nacional Arikok to the meeting as an observer.

DCNA's main goal is to acquire funding for sustainable Park Management in order to ensure that the rich biodiversity of species in the Dutch Caribbean will be protected for the many years to come. At the same time, by having all park organizations represented on the board of DCNA a broad and knowledgeable platform is created which in turn will provide a healthy climate for working together, learning from each other's organizations and ultimately finding the synergy that will have a huge payoff for Nature Conservation and Preservation in the Caribbean.

Funding

DCNA is currently involved in negotiations with the Dutch Ministry of *Binnenlandse Zaken* and *Koninkrijksrelaties* to get them involved in financing nature conservation in the Caribbean as follow-up to a motion to this effect adopted by Dutch Parliament last year. The Dutch Postcode Loterij (PCL) is presently DCNA's major contributor. With a 1.9 million Euro grant over three years from the PCL, the organization will be able to sponsor important nature projects in the Caribbean, like the sea turtle outreach project on Bonaire and the Windward islands, which was funded through DCNA last year by the *Truus en Gerrit van Riemsdijk* Foundation, a private organization

With Nature being one of the Caribbean's most important natural resources, DCNA is not only an asset to Nature itself but also to the economic well being of all islands who thrive by the commercial exploitation of Nature. □ *Press release*



DCNA Board in Statia

Youth Tennis Tourney

Four weekends of youth tennis, all sponsored by RBTT, was on the agenda of lots of Bonaire kids. Monthly competition started in September of last year, and almost 80 kids from 4-17 years-old participated. On May 29th the top 4 in each category was decided. The finals were held on the next two weekends. The winners of the 10, 12, 14 and 18 year old age groups are promised places in the RBTT Caribbean Tournament in October in Aruba. Nearly 70 kids participated, and for four days the Harbour Village Tennis Center boomed with children and proud parents.



Lots of Tennis for Bonaire Kids In June

The final results:

Winners

Mini: Chananja Zijlstra –
 Mini: Ties van den Ouweelen-
 Tm 8 : Kaile Finies-
 Tm 8: Jevon May –
 Tm 10: Amanda Thielman –
 Tm 10: Denzel el Hage -
 Tm 12: Mary-Jo Lendering-
 Tm 12: Win Chung Xuan-
 Tm 14: Thammy Albertsz –
 Tm 14: Daniel Carillo –
 Tm 18: Daniella Bissessar
 Tm 18: David Conquet –

Runners up

Mavelly Velandia 4-1
 Constantijn Bottrop 4-2
 Zaira Groenendal 4-1
 Jose Alfredo Miranda 4-0
 Kaile Finies 4-0
 Arnd Chirino 4-1;4-2
 Chelsey Domacasse 4-1;4-1
 Kevin Abdul 4-3;4-1
 Nikita van Ooijen 4-0;4-0
 Lothar May 4-1;4-2

 Quinsy Olij 4-2;4-2

A/B: 1/2^e place: Daniel Carillo beat Francisco Valerio 8-4

A/B: 3^e/4^e place: Paulo Allee beat Kevin Abdul 8-4

C: 1^e/2^e place: Nikita van Ooijen beat Denzel el Hage 6-4

C: 3^e/4^e place: Damian Frans beat Max van Ooijen :6-4

D: 1^e/2^e place: Nadia Dabboussi beat Kaile Finies 4-0

D: 3^e/4^e place: Zaira Groenendal beat Keval Bissessar 4-2

E: 1^e/2^e place: SarahAn Maartense beat Josephine Marshall 10-9

E: 3^e/4^e place: Ties vd Ouweelen beat Canric Wout 10-9

This competition starts again in September; Elisabeth Vos organizes it at the Harbour Village Tennis Center. For information you can reach her at tel 717-6907 or 565-5225 or e-mail at elisabeth@flamingotv.net. The competition is open for all Bonaire children starting from mini-tennis until tournament players (max, 17 years old). □ Elisabeth Vos

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Pets of the Week

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
(Martin Freeman)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
Kingdom of Heaven

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400
Tickets - NAf10,50 (incl. Tax)
High Schoolers - NAf7,75

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
CLOSED MONDAY TUESDAY
AND WEDNESDAY
SATURDAY 4 PM
Because of Winn-Dixie

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:



Kingdom of Heaven by Ridley Scott starring Orlando Bloom and Liam Neeson. This is a rich, sometimes overwhelming and excellent film. Compared with *Gladiator*, another great film by Ridley Scott, it has the same huge scenes, incredible special effects and fantastic directing so you leave the cinema wondering what hit you. It lacks, however, the emotional attachment you experienced with the main character Maximus, played by Russel Crowe. Orlando Bloom as Balian does a fine job in *Kingdom of Heaven* but he never manages to get under your skin. I was pleased that this film treats religions equally. There is good and evil, fanaticism and forgiveness on both sides. I definitely recommend this film, and I will see it more than once. □ *Dodo*

EVERY WEEK

THIS WEEK

Friday, July 1—Captain Dons 80th Birthday Party Celebration
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 Naturalasa" ("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, NAf25; Children NAf15. See page 22.

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

COMING

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

Saturday Rincon Marshé open 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 ambience at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar.** Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live **Fla-Bingo**-great prizes, 7 pm, Divi Flamingo **Monday -Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire,** 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

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

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

Friday -Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort, 5:30-6:30 pm

Friday- Open House with Happy Hour at the **JanArt Gallery** at Kaya Gloria #7, from 5-7 pm.

Daily- The **Divi Flamingo Casino** is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm– 4 am; Sunday 7 pm– 3 am.

Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

Sunday - Bonaire Holiday -Multi-media

We mentioned "Rafaello," this beautiful white male kitty, a couple of weeks ago when we featured "Natasha." It's because the two of them are such good pals and so easy going. Supremely relaxed Rafaello has sky blue eyes which go so well with his snowy white coat. Some say that blue-eyed white cats are deaf, but this is certainly not true for Rafaello. He's alert, can hear everything and is very much aware of his surroundings. This handsome fellow was found in Antriol and brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter where he passed all his health and "sociability" tests! He's had all his shots and is ready to go.

As we've said so many times, all the animals who are up for adoption at the Shelter are in good health, have good attitudes regarding people and are, or



"Rafaello"

will be, sterilized. You can't beat a pet from the Shelter! As of June 24 there have been 82 adoptions since the first of the year. Thanks to the staff and the volunteers for consistently doing such a fine job with the resident pets! □ *L.D.*

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.

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

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

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

JCI. First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire or formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO 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.

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 11am-2:30 pm, Dinner 5:30-9 pm Breezy terrace with airco inside—Also serving big sandwiches at dinner
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.bonairerealty.com or office in town

Re/Max Paradise Homes: International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community.

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

REPAIRS

Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345

RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

SECURITY

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

SHIPPING

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

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

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Hernan Longat

He arrives with his wife, parmesan cheese, ham, a bottle of Merlot and a pizza; "That's what my father always told me: 'Never come empty-handed, bring a flower or some wine!'" He sits at the table, opens the bottle and fills up the glasses, toasts 'salud' and starts telling his story: "I was having severe health problems in Venezuela and when the company sent me to Bonaire it was for a year, to see how it went. I stayed the year and have been here ever since!"

I came with my wife, Luisa, and our son Hernan Arturo, who was seven years old. Luisa was okay the first year, because she saw herself as a 'tourist,' but afterwards it was very difficult for her to adapt." "We came first for a weekend with little Arturo and we stayed at the Sunset Beach Hotel," Luisa says, "I thought the countryside was beautiful, but I was very worried about the quietness; I became anxious and wondered: 'where are the people?'" She laughs: "Now I've gotten used to it, maybe because I myself got quieter over the years!"

"It's remarkable", Hernan says, "many times I'm working on Sundays, sitting at my office at Seguros Orinoco's and through the window I see the street where the post office is; it's not an exception when I see one car passing by in a whole hour! Well, when we came, little Hernan Arturo went to St. Bernardus School and he did very well. He spoke English as in Caracas he had been going to Jefferson, a very well recommended American School. Hernan Arturo already had two languages in his head, so the third and the fourth were easy. We lived in Sabana, in a house that first belonged to the company, but which I bought later on. I liked it here very much.

I was born in 1948 in an oil camp in Quiriquire in the state of Monagas, Venezuela. I was the eldest, after me two brothers and two sisters were born. My father worked for the Creole Petroleum Company. For 30 years he was a welder, underwater in the sea, but also on land. The company camp was like a village; thousands of people were living there, they had the most fantastic hospital, there was a social club and they organized everything for the children, like bowling, baseball and football. There was only one thing that was wrong: The children of the people that belonged to the staff got English classes and the children of the blue collar workers didn't. It was a shame and it was discrimination. That's why I found it so important for my son to learn languages. I myself have had many problems in my

work and in my travels as I only speak Spanish. I didn't want that for my son, I wanted him to be prepared.

When we got the opportunity I bought the house in Quiriquire; we made it much bigger and my mother still lives there several months of the year. I stayed until 1965, and then I went to Caracas to study physics and mathematics at the University. In 1969 the University was closed and June 8th 1970, I began to work for Seguros Orinoco, an insurance company. Two weeks ago, 35 years to the day that I joined the company, I phoned the man who had hired me, Hernan Rebolledo, who is now 80 years old and still working as the president of another insurance company. He was delighted to hear from me, and he told me I was the only one in all those years who'd ever done a thing like that. But my motto is: give – receive – return. That's what I go by and if 50% of the world was like that, life on earth would be something else.

"My motto is: give – receive – return. That's what I go by and if 50% of the world was like that, life on earth would be something else."

Another very important person in my life was the late Dr. Julio Sosa, one of the three founders of Seguros Orinoco and the man who brought me here. I never met anyone like him; I admired him very much and I will always be grateful to him. There have been other people who have been very important to me and I owe them so much, but I can't turn this story into a list of names."

Hernan Longat is an extremely energetic hard-working man, but also a man who enjoys all the good things in life. If you know him, you're lucky, because he's a person you can always rely on; by experience I know that's he's someone who will go out of his way to help people. "When I was hired I started doing administration work, but by the time I arrived on Bonaire I was the director of the branch on Bonaire and Curaçao and also director of Seguros Guyana, a sister company in Venezuela. I hired Luisa as my secretary when I was 35. She was 22 and she fell in love with me, and I loved and still love everything about her! Fatal attraction! Within a year we were married! A year

before I'd bought my apartment in Caracas, now my mother, who is 88 years old, lives there most of the year, together with my sister. That's what I miss here; not the music or the food, you have everything on Bonaire, but I do miss my mother, my family and my friends!"

"Hernan has a lot of personality," Luisa says, "he wanted to better himself and he struggled, doing his utmost to achieve; that's a big attraction for me - somebody with drive... who gets places. He remembers everything from years ago, I don't and I got lazy because I have him!"

"You have to exercise your memory," Hernan says, "especially because I earn my living using my mind. I like everything about my job; it has all kinds of things: administration, especially the, buying and selling, P.R., dealing with the public and the traveling. I'm always working. If they don't find me for anything at the office, they come to my house; I know half the island, the other half knows me! However, the most important things in my life are number 1, my family, number 2, my family and number 3, my family; but I also have a special place in my heart for my friends. I'm working for my family, I am also a workaholic, but if I'm producing, they will do better!"

Hernan Arturo is now 21 years old, for three years he's been working and studying in Curaçao. He lives on his own and it was good that he went, but we've been always near. It was very easy to raise my son. He's a fine example with no vices; he doesn't smoke or drink, no youth problems, and he's very serious. He can fend for himself wherever he goes, and now that he's going to Florida to study to become a pilot, we are very, very proud of him and we expect a lot from him. I'm seeing him very often and I give Luisa space; she can go whenever she wants.

"I like to be at my house", Luisa says,



"Hernan is always working, so I'm spending a lot of time alone since Arturo left. I have some friends here, but not many, as I am very choosy and I don't like to see somebody every day. I divide my time between family in Caracas, my son in Curaçao and my husband in Bonaire. Hernan and I are completely different; what I like he doesn't care for! I like the opera, the movies and all kinds of music. Before I met Hernan I was a soprano in the chorale of the *Orquesta Filarmonica de Venezuela* and I studied classical harp. He likes his TV and his computer and he knows all about European politics! But he's a great cook, that's his passion and I love to eat what he cooks!"

"I'm looking for a piano for Luisa," Hernan says, "so if anyone who reads this knows about a piano, pass by the office or give me a call!"

I cannot imagine retirement as I cannot imagine my life without work; I'm used to producing. It always depends how things are going in Venezuela, the States and Europe, but seeing the situation as it is now: Here we have tranquility; the islands are good for the oldies... people are healthy here... I will always stay on Bonaire." □

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

FEMALE LOGGERHEAD 'HAPPY' IS THE SECOND TURTLE TO BE TRACKED IN 2005 NESTING SEASON



Mabel Nava photo

Volunteers Isaiah J. Pardo, Jose Bernabela, Andy Uhr and STCB staff Gielmon "Funchi" Egbreghs releasing the adult female loggerhead fitted with a transmitter sponsored by the Rotterdam Zoo.

After receiving a report from Buddy Dive yesterday afternoon that they had seen a large loggerhead turtle at the Monk's Haven dive site off Klein Bonaire, staff of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and volunteers found the large female later that evening and successfully affixed a satellite transmitter to her carapace.

The female loggerhead has a shell length of 99 cm and is estimated to weigh about 130 kg. The turtle was found near the Southwest Corner dive site at approximately 6:20 pm and released back into the water after the tagging, measurement and transmitter application procedures.

Adult loggerhead turtles come to Bonaire to breed from May through July. 'Happy' is expected to remain in the area and lay one or more nests before departing to her home feeding grounds.



Tracking of this turtle is being made possible by a full sponsorship provided by the Rotterdam Zoo. The Zoo has decided to call her 'Happy'. 'Happy' is the second turtle fitted with a satellite transmitter this year. On 8 June, the first of these transmitters was attached on a large adult male hawksbill turtle. The yet to be named turtle is still in the area around Klein Bonaire. Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire works to ensure the

protection and recovery of Bonaire's sea turtle populations throughout their range. Founded in 1992, the STCB is a Bonaire-based, non-governmental (NGO) and non-profit organization, part of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network.

Contact: Mabel Nava, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, telephone 599 717 2225 and 790 0433, e-mail stcb@bonaireturtles.org for more information. □ *press release*

Piedra So - Golfing in the Wilds of Bonaire

It all started as a hobby – one man's hobby. I used to play golf in Holland before coming to Bonaire. Then, when I was planning a trip back to Holland after nine years I wanted to play golf with my friends. But since it had been so long since I'd played, I wanted to be prepared. So I thought, "I'll find a spot where nobody can see me practice – somewhere far away." I ended up



on the east coast at Punto Blanco where the chicken farm is. There, in the middle of nowhere, I saw an old stone wall and on the other side of the wall there was a green field! It was perfect! "Piedra So" ("Just Stones"), the Bonairean Golf Club was born.

Before I knew it, the word was out and other people got involved. They started working hard on making the course professional and building a clubhouse. Now it's an 18-hole golf link by the seaside. It takes about three to four hours to walk the whole course. There's a driving range with driving range balls available. On the first tee are concrete tee boxes. The fourth hole has two bunkers on each side. The fifth hole has a water hazard, and there are lots of bushes and cacti to lose your ball in.

While you play, a group of donkeys or goats may be observing your progress. It's a unique spot. The environment is beautiful. It's like playing on the moon. It can't be compared to anywhere else in the world.

There are about 40 members. Once a month a golf pro from Curaçao, Louis Cannegieter, comes to teach for two days. He gives clinics for beginners too. Since the start of the year three instructors have been teaching 10 teens from Jong Bonaire. The members would like to see more people play golf – youngsters, older people, and tourists of all nationalities. Golf sets are available for rent and transport can be arranged to

and from the course.

Piedra So is not trying to compete with other places. This is not Miami or Aruba. This is not a smooth terrain, and it's not a fancy club. But it is a whole new experience. It's sand and sea grass, the sound of the sea, an eternal wind. It's literally out of this world: unusual, extraordinary and adventurous. If you've been playing golf in other parts of the world – if you think you've "seen it all," come to Piedra So and discover what it feels like to play golf on Bonaire. For more information go to our website: www.piedraso.com (in Dutch). Tel. 717-7972. □ *Artie DeVries*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

The First Ten Days of July Are Fantastic for Planet Gazers

Mark the first 10 days of July as fantastic nights for planet gazing because we'll have **Mercury, Venus and Jupiter** in a spectacular



early evening planet show! On Friday, July 1st, about an hour after sunset during evening twilight, face west where you'll still be able to see the best planet duo of the year. Planet #1 out from the sun, the tiny 3,000 mile wide pink planet Mercury, will be huddled right next to the brightest planet of them all, planet #2, 8,000 mile wide Venus. And they will be only one degree apart, which means you could well cover both of them with your pinky finger stretched at arm's length.

In fact, they were less than one degree apart all throughout the last days of June and will continue to be extremely close through the first week of July. Although they are absolutely fabulous to see with the naked eye, if you have a pair of binoculars, use them this weekend and all next week because rarely do we have a chance to see any two planets so close together.

On Saturday they'll be only one and one-tenth of a degree apart, and on Sunday they'll be only one and a quarter degree apart. On the night of the 4th, before the fire works start, make sure you see them because they'll still be only one and a third degrees apart. On Tuesday, the 5th, they're still only one and a half degrees from each other, and on Wednesday still extremely close. Then on Thursday, the 7th, something new is added to the scene because they are joined by an exquisitely thin crescent **Moon** complete with earthshine which will look like a black full Moon nestled within the crescent.

Then on Friday, the 8th, you'll observe the most spectacular planetary sight of July. An even more exquisite crescent Moon will be parked right above Venus and Mercury. They will knock your socks off with just the naked eye, but if you look at them through a pair of binoculars you won't believe it! By Saturday, the 9th, the Moon will have moved past Venus and Mercury and will be parked very close to **Regulus** the brightest star of **Leo the Lion**, and by Sunday, the 10th, will have moved just beyond it.

So start your Mercury, Venus watch this weekend and look for them before the fireworks on the 4th of July. Then continue watching each night. Remember that Friday, the 8th is the best night of them all! On Saturday, the 9th, the Moon is parked to the right of Regulus and on Sunday, the 10th, up to its left. But please, please don't miss Friday the 8th which I consider the best night for planet gazing for all of July. And of course we don't want to leave out the planet king Jupiter who will be well up and to the left of Regulus although not quite as bright as Venus but will still dazzle you with his brilliance. If you want to appear really smart on July 4th, casually show your friends planet #1, planet #2 and planet #5. What a way to begin the month of July. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
July 1 to July 8, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions. Don't hesitate to look for alternatives that will enable you to raise the kind of donations you need to do the job right. Relatives may be less than easy to deal with. Don't make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Now is a good time to ask for favors. Investments are best left alone this week. You will gain valuable insight and knowledge through the experiences you have along the way. Enjoy the company of relatives this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Be careful not to misplace your wallet or belongings. You must try to lay your cards on the table. Talk to your mate and tell them how you feel. Secret affairs may only cause complications in your life. Your energetic nature and ability to initiate projects will add to your popularity. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't let your partner start any arguments. Passion should be redirected positively. Arguments with children or friends may leave you steaming. You may find that your emotional partner will not be too eager to accommodate you. You may cause a fuss if you come on too strongly in public. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones. You will be highly sensitive to comments made by your lover. Make decisions about your professional objectives. Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Emotional situations could bring out your stubborn nature. Be honest with yourself before getting involved with someone who is likely to lead you on. Organize all the responsibilities that have to be attended to and make sure everyone knows what to do. This is not the time to lend or borrow money or possessions. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Compromise may be necessary. Don't hesitate to look for alternatives that will enable you to raise the kind of donations you need to do the job right. You are best to move quickly and to get in good with the boss. Don't reveal information that is personal or confidential. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your talent will be recognized. Problems with appliances or electrical gad gets will drive you crazy. Refrain from overspending on entertainment or luxury items. Be careful how you handle friends and relatives, they may take things the wrong way. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Get involved in activities that will bring you knowledge about foreign lands, philosophies, or cultures. Relatives may be less than easy to deal with. Females may put demands or added responsibilities on you. Do not get involved with individuals who are already committed to others. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Deception in your home is evident. Don't beat around the bush. Get involved in volunteer work that will bring you satisfaction, not an empty wallet. It will do you some good. You will be in the doghouse if you are being selfish. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Watch your weight gain due to water retention. Visitors may be likely to drop by. You have to let go of your past if you wish to get out of any sentimental mood that might be hanging over your head. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let relatives make demands of you. Your health may have suffered due to neglect or abuse. Try to be as mellow as possible. Be prepared to make changes to your personal documents. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. □