

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

July 8 to July 15, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 26

The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



**Captain Don Celebrates 80 years.
page 13**

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

The FOL political party of Curaçao, led by Anthony Godett who is currently free on appeal of his convictions for fraud and related charges, is demanding Finance Minister Ersilia DeLannoy to alleviate their concerns about the planned **Continental Airlines flights between Bonaire and Houston**. It seems they believe that a guarantee of around \$1 million was required to get Continental's commitment. They asked four questions:



Anthony Godett

- What are the details of the accord between the airline and the Bonaire Government?
- Did Bonaire present a budget for 2005 and 2006 that included the deal?
- How will Bonaire pay the million dollar "guarantee?"
- Is the Central Government responsible if Bonaire defaults?

At about the same time the Continental-Bonaire contract was signed, a rumor circulated that the airline's plan to fly between the US and Curaçao (announced in May 2005) was cancelled for lack of commitment on the part of Curaçao.

► **KLM will increase the fuel surcharge on its tickets to the Antilles and Aruba by 14 euros**, which at the moment is about NAf30. A round-trip ticket will go up by NAf60 effective July 19. The hike will be reversed only

when the international oil price stays less than US \$50 per barrel for 30 days in a row.



► **Japan continued to bribe the poorer Caribbean countries at the International Whaling Commission** by exchanging aid for votes. Over the past two decades Japan has been deservedly accused of skirting the ban by killing whales for profit under the guise of "scientific research" – studies that cost the lives of about 650 minke whales last year alone. The Caribbean countries' voting record confirms that some have sold their votes. Although **Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Suriname** can hardly legitimately claim to have a direct stake in the whaling industry, they have all unswervingly **supported Japan's interests 258 times** – on 94 % of the votes taken. Japan granted \$8.18 million in overseas development aid to the area last year (earmarked for "the project for construction of fisheries center") to Antigua and Barbuda alone. Last week St. Kitts Prime Minister Denzil Douglas and Trinidad-based Ambassador of Japan Shigenobu Kato on Monday signed



Bai Bini Airtours photo

photo copyright 2003 by mail@PatrickLutz.com

► **Divi-Divi Airlines**, Bonaire's most reliable connection between our island and Curaçao, has announced it is **raising its fare between the islands**. The new fare is NAf87,50 one way (it was NAf74), including tax, double that for round trip. The child's fare is NAf 52,50. The airline operates two twin-engine aircraft - a 7- and a 9-seater with 7 round trip flights a day. A day of full flights on Divi Divi is approximately the capacity of one BonairExpress ATR turboprop.

an agreement for the construction of a \$5.6 million new fisheries terminal facility.



► At the end of the current term, **Xavier Medical School will depart Bonaire for Aruba**, where the students and faculty will be consolidated with another campus already operating there. Although Xavier has not yet announced its departure officially, it has informed

its students of the move. The school can operate on Aruba because it has been certified by the Aruban Ministry of Education. A medical school's graduates are allowed to take medical licensing examinations only if their school is recognized by the World Health Organization, and WHO recognition requires certification by local authorities. Xavier applied for, but was not granted,

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certification on Bonaire. Before the decision to move, Xavier, which currently

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Taste of the Caribbean Bonaire Team Wins Silver and Bronze

Bartender Brad Conner from Rum Runners garnered the Silver Medal for his drinks in the “Taste of the Caribbean” culinary Olympics last week at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Miami. Choosing from a mystery basket of ingredients Brad competed against 12 other top bartenders from 12 different islands in the Caribbean in the vodka, rum and non-alcoholic drink categories. His win was based on the numbers of points he received while being judged on factors such as appearance, taste, use of local products and creativity. This is Brad’s first time at the “Taste of the Caribbean” competition.

Habitat’s Jack Chalk, after dining at the Bonaire table at the “Taste of the Caribbean,” enthused, “The Bonaire Culinary Team offered a rainbow of flavors from the oceans to the plains and with the flair the Caribbean is known for. The Bonaire Culinary Team has raised the bar to a higher level.”

They practiced hard; the competition was stiff; and they came home with a bronze medal. “We learned a lot. Now we know what we have to do for next year,” said team captain Floris van Loo with determination. “We’re going to assemble two teams of chefs and start practicing



Silver medal winner bartender Brad Conner at the “Taste” competition

ing together once a month until the end of the year. Then we’ll really start with more frequent practices and our fundraiser lunches and dinners.”

This determination to go back to fight



The team getting prepped

again is reminiscent of the Bonaire team which went in 1997 to the “Taste of the Caribbean” in Puerto Rico, coming home with a bronze, having competed against 19 other teams. They too were fired up to compete again the next year and win and they practiced hard. But, due to Hurricane Georges, the 1998 competition was cancelled. But the hard work and determination paid off when in 1999 Bonaire’s team returned with a Silver medal, with a ranking of 5th in the Caribbean, and the Outstanding Spirit Award.

The ambiance at “Taste” seems unusual for what seems like a competitive venue. Teams and individuals help each other. The Bonaire team lost one of their suitcases containing a lot of their culinary tools. The Curaçao team stepped in and offered to share their equipment. In turn, Bonaire had some items Curaçao could use. This was going on among all the teams – a true spirit of sharing. The teams showed camaraderie, spirit, courage and the risk to put their skills on display. There was even an impromptu party by the pool one evening where all the chefs and bartenders got together, bringing their leftover bottles of various drinks to share.

Why is this event so important to Bonaire? Because it honors the profession and raises the consciousness of all our chefs, inspiring them to learn, to experiment, to be creative and competitive. And since even the 1997 competition the level of the island’s cuisine has risen. Everyone wins - the chefs, the diners, the local restaurants, the economy and the island’s reputation.

All this takes a lot of commitment and



Vernon Martijn, Isidoor van Riemsdijk, Tico Marsera, Floris van Loo

dedication from many people. The chefs and bartender have to give a lot of their time on their days off to plan and practice. They must create and test new recipes and learn to work together as a team. The restaurants that employ the members of the team have to give their employee extra time off, often with pay. Restaurants have offered their facilities for the practice dinners. The members of the committee organize all the background support, do publicity, solicit financial donations, arrange for meetings, do the shopping and more. Local businesses support the team through financial donations.

And because of this Bonaire has become an island known for its culinary excellence. □L.D.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) has approximately 50 students and a dozen staff members, planned to build a new medical school near the hospital and had a targeted enrollment of 400 students, which it expected to meet in three years. According to this reporter's estimates, the school would have injected \$10 - \$12 million a year into Bonaire's economy.

► **Congratulations to the young graduates of the Soldachi Tour guides course.** The teens were part of a pilot project, organized by retired school teacher and Soldachi Tours founder, Maria Koeks, to show teens that tourism is important to the island, that it's a way to make a living and to teach people about their culture (*The Bonaire Reporter*, June 10-17, 2005). Financial assistance was provided by AMFO-NGO Platform to help pay for the instructors who gave cultural information to the students, especially about Rincon. As part of the graduation ceremony each of the new guides was interviewed on Bon FM by Bubui Cicilia.

► **A Dutch woman who swears by a daily helping of herring for a healthy life celebrated her 115th birthday on Wednesday as the oldest living person on record.** Hendrikje van Andel-Schipper, a former needlework teacher, was born in 1890. She celebrated her birthday in a nursing home in the northern Dutch town of Hoozeveer. "She



Dutch Kingdom Relations Minister Alexander Pechtold

► In an address to the Dutch Parliament last week **Dutch Kingdom Relations Minister Alexander Pechtold wants a "headline agreement"** on reforms in finance, the economy, law enforcement and proper governance with a new Recovery Plan before he is willing to hold a Round Table Conference on constitutional change and discuss the restructuring of the Antillean debt. He and other top government will be at the Amboina Centro di Bario for a summit conference on Antillean poverty this weekend.

eats a piece of herring every day because it's good for her health," said Johan Beijering, Director of the Westerkim nursing home. "She is still mentally full of vitality." There are an estimated 350 to 400 people age 110 or older

► **"Sonora Rinconero" performed bou di ramada (on the porch) at the Rincon Marshé last Saturday.** This old time group plays predominantly during the San Juan and San Pedro days (June 24 and 28), going from house to house where a Juan or a Juana lives (or on San Pedro Day, where a Pedro or Pieter or a female version of the name lives). According to their spokesperson, Freddy, years ago, the idea started out as a joke, but nowadays it's an important tradition. "Rincon, the seat of our culture," says Freddy, "is where it all began." The musicians play rasps, guitar, drums and other traditional and difficult-to-describe instruments. The songs have been passed down through generations; everyone knows them; the band never practices; and the beat is toe-tapping infectious. The group usually plays for a half hour at each house and in turn is invited to drink rum and have soup. "This can go on for 24 hours sometimes," Freddy says. The group does come together for special events during the year occasionally. □L.D.



Sonora Rinconero at the Rincon Marshé



Extra photo

► One of Bonaire's most prominent entrepreneurs in the 1970s and 80s and early 90s, Hugo Gerharts, held several interviews with Bôî Antoin, Editor of the Papiamentu daily, *Extra*. The interviews will be broadcast on the Herensia TV show.

worldwide says the record keepers at Guinness.

► **A spectacular fire Sunday night at the landfill was a fitting precursor to Fourth of July fireworks.** The blaze in the area containing wrecked cars and tires sent flames 100 feet into the air and a towering column of smoke that could be seen from everywhere on Bonaire. The cause is unknown. Rudsel Lieto, acting head of Selibon, Bonaire's waste management company in charge of the landfill, was on the scene. He speculated the fire began around dark. He hoped this would call the Island Council's attention to the situation at the landfill



which needs expansion and upgrading.

► Bowing to pressure from America, **The Netherlands will send three F-16 fighters rigged with search equipment** to find Natalee Holloway, Aruban authorities said Saturday, nearly five weeks since she disappeared. Aruban Justice Minister Rudy Croes requested more help from the Netherlands.

(Continued on page 7)

WANTS UNBIASED REPORTS

Dear Editor:

I am a resident of the United States and am keenly aware of the biased reports that CNN and other news networks have been airing about Aruba and Bonaire, as reported in the June 24th edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*.



As a retired radio news reporter, it makes me ashamed to state that, in my country, news networks no longer REPORT the news. Rather, they attempt to MAKE the news and influence popular opinion. In my day, the news was reported exactly as events occurred, and we reporters policed our own ranks. If a reporter starting editorializing, he/she was shunned by the rest of us.

Many Americans want to believe that bad things happen only in other parts of the world. The event on Aruba, while very tragic, would be just a "drop in the crime bucket" in my country. At one time, CNN did an excellent job REPORTING the news. However, they have gone the route of most news agencies today through their editorializing. Tying two unrelated events together, the disappearance on Aruba and the dive accident on Bonaire, is neither relevant nor newsworthy. Rather, these reports are prejudicial.

As one who has visited Bonaire on many occasions, who loves the friendly

people of the island and the spectacular diving, I am totally uninfluenced by the faux reporters at CNN. And, I think my opinion is shared by those Americans who have traveled to your beautiful part of the world. Those of us who know Bonaire, its people and its culture will always return again and again, regardless of what CNN or any other news agency reports.

Robert J. Traister

ANOTHER SOLUTION NEEDED

Dear Editor

After reading last week's article, "A Vicious Attack," I had to respond. What happened is absolutely horrible; there is no doubt about that. But there is an issue that isn't correct! The dog that did the attack is **NOT** a pitbull! Pitbulls already have a bad name and don't need more bad **incorrect** publicity. The dog that did the attack was originally used for hunting in Argentina and has no record of being vicious! I sometimes take care of this dog and he is very good with my and other dogs and even my cats! I don't think it's fair towards the owners to tell them to keep their child away from their pet dog, this dog has never hurt a child in his life. I don't think the dog should be put to sleep! That is not the solution!



WM

SHOPPING FOR OIL

Dear Editor,

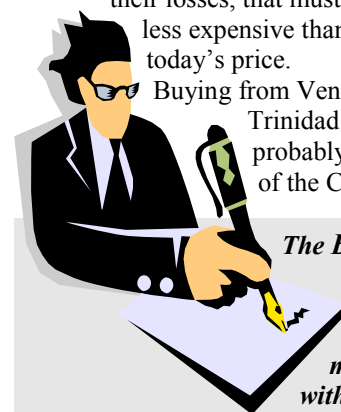
I could not let go with the opinion last week about WEB. It's important to keep the debate going until changes happen.



WEB is probably under the same contract, which requires Bonaire to buy all oil from Curoil, and I would like to make some points about it.

I don't think it's a problem to break a monopoly contract if it's a fact that the one in a monopoly position completely misuses its rights, in this case when Curoil (our brother island government oil company) is selling oil for more than double the price of local market. In case of breaking the contract, losing the court case and paying Curoil for their losses, that must still be less expensive than paying today's price.

Buying from Venezuela or Trinidad would probably be 40% of the Curoil



The Bonaire Reporter welcomes letters from readers.

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.

price.

So let's say that we would have to pay NAf400/m³ from the new distributor, and then pay the penalty for breaking the monopoly contract, let say 25% of the 400m³, then would we pay about 500/m³ until the contract goes out. That would still be 400/m³ less expensive than our own brother Curoil charges.

What made the red party sign the contract in the first place, knowing we already paid over price for the oil?

And what made the green party accept the new prices, even knowing they did not need to. In the end of the game is it the people of Bonaire who have to suffer even more for paying for someone else?

If all governments of Bonaire would work for the future of Bonaire without getting in to the corner, there would be plenty of money left over for roads. If we paid 400/m³ for our fuel, and used the difference saved from our old fuel prices for road maintenance, then could we drive on brick paved roads.

I just think it's time for a government to look further than their nose is long. Think of your children's children; and brothers, stand up for your rights.

Dr. S. F. Beuty

Responses to A Balance for Bonaire



GOOGLE GAFFE? PART 2

To the Editors:

So, what does a regular, non-experienced searcher do and how do they process search results? Well, two typical paths. The first is that they may type in a number of words based on a question they have. For example, *best Caribbean diving*, (which returns as the number one result a reference from About.com about Bonaire, followed by a link to Saba Divers, then a St. Croix dive ship, etc.). Or, the searcher may simply type a word or two, such as *good diving* and see that he's getting results that range from the Red Sea to Seattle in just the first 5 entries, and realize his (or her) search is too broad, and then drill down by adding search terms until the results start meeting some particular expectations. As the searcher looks at various sites – news, travel, dive shops – he will find potential destinations that he will want to explore further, probably by entering those destination names into the search engine, and drilling down to get more details to see if that's where he wants to go. Of course, all this presumes the person doing the search is a hermit who relies on nothing but a search engine to research his next diving vacation location. He doesn't talk to members of his dive club, people at his dive shop, travel agents, associates, etc.

Anyhow, the point here is that a searcher will frequently find that the search terms he or she has used produce completely useless results, and then go and try something different. In contrast, the Google Test you published used search terms that were producing results all over the place, but yet the writer of the test insisted on continuing to use them. And then they failed to disclose that other dive destinations fared no better than Bonaire in their testing. And there are a lot of destinations out there with a lot bigger marketing budget than Bonaire. Also, the focus of the authors on just requiring results featuring web sites for properties listed on Bonaire or the official Bonaire site disregards the whole concept of the world wide web – things being interconnected as if by a large spider's web, each node interconnected to one, dozens, hundreds or thousands of other nodes.

On my sample search for *best Caribbean diving*, the first result referenced Bonaire. Doesn't a result dealing with Bonaire on a review site or a tour operator site which mentions Bonaire as an option count as a path to get to Bonaire? According to the authors of the Google Test, apparently not.

That gets to my last point. If you are going to "analyze" search results intelligently you need to understand how search engines like Google work and how they sort their data. And that is a vastly complicated subject that people charge thousands of dollars to explain and then still don't cover everything.

But in a nutshell, the search terms for which a page comes up in the results for are directly related to those exact terms being used on the page and how important the page is as viewed by other external pages. If the page uses the search terms in the exact sequence as entered, it will likely improve the PageRank of the page. Further, the more external sites there are which link to a page, the better the PageRank of that page in Google.

The reason that Harbour Village had such a good showing in the particular terms your writers selected was because their site has been optimized for those terms. And in fact, I might say potentially over-optimized, because the site has multiple identical (or nearly identical) pages with different names in order to cover many variations of search terms in the file names of the pages. But, some search engines have rules against excessive duplicate pages, and sites found in violation can be banned from the search index if they over do it, so one must tread very carefully.

A web site cannot be all things to all people. You can't have a single site that ranks in the top ten for every possible search term a searcher can conceive of. You need to focus on a handful of things and do those well instead of doing everything poorly. InfoBonaire, and other sites for on-island businesses do *Bonaire* well, as it should be.

Jake Richter



IN ANSWER TO THE ABOVE THE AUTHOR OF THE BALANCE OF BONAIRE "GOGGLE TEST" EXPLAINS:

The 'Take the Google Test' search was done using the Google advanced search option and was done from the point of view of an average diver trying to decide where to go in the Caribbean for a dive vacation, who had not already decided to go to Bonaire. It was a somewhat 'broad' starting point, although narrowed to the Caribbean, instead of all dive locations around the world. Many divers, especially from the US, ask this question each year. For this reason, "official bonaire website" was not a logical search option.

The fact that the Cayman Islands' website came up at #31 in the Google search says that one dive location can do it. And so must Bonaire. The island's marketing goal must be to do the very best job at getting the attention of potential new visitors, not just talking to people who have already decided to consider Bonaire. New visitors must constantly be found to replace the ones who continue to 'retire' from our product.

Most of the world is made up of 'regular, non-experienced searchers' and a website marketing plan must make sure it covers this issue.

B for B author



ARUBA, A MODEL FOR BONAIRE? REACTION PART 2.

In the first part of this reaction, the author showed that tourist development on Aruba had not all been a result of a deliberate strategy and a clear development plan but rather of bitter fighting between the two leading political parties.



However, for the people of Aruba, who in general have never protested uninhibited hotel construction, the cup is now full.

A mass demonstration, organized by the new political party RED, took place recently in order to prevent the groundbreaking for the construction of the new Ritz Carlton Hotel on the last pristine section of Palm Beach, a unique site for leatherback turtles to lay their eggs. Also windsurfers for which this beach section is the same as Lac is to Bonaire, participated in this action. The organizers also directly approached the Ritz Carlton headquarters, demanding the hotel group to give up its plans. According to the petition, in case that despite this urgent request, the group may proceed with the hotel construction, it will be responsible for all negative consequences of this project realized against the will of the overwhelming majority of the people of Aruba.

At this moment, the government of Aruba has, in connection with financial scandals caused by its wrong decisions, a financial burden of more than \$100 million to be paid to banks in Italy and the US. Although each new administration denounces the corruption and wrong decision making of the previous government, the responsible ministers and high government officials have never been brought to justice for the simple reason that both parties have participated in these scandals.

As far as the adjustment of the existing infrastructure of Aruba to the increased demands in connection with the new hotel construction is concerned, the government has been successful only in upgrading the water and electricity supply. The current situation in all other fields is disastrous. The existing roads are not able to accommodate the growing traffic (there are about 50,000 cars and hundreds of buses and heavy trucks on Aruba), and particularly when cruise ships call at the Oranjestad port you pass the downtown faster on foot than by car, lost in a tremendous traffic jam.

The financial situation of the airport, aggravated also by the departure of the KLM flights to Ecuador and Peru, passing now through Bonaire, is catastrophic. The airport tax for international flights had to be increased to \$33.50 and this tax (Af 60.30!) is also applied to the flights to the "sister island" Curacao. Due to friendly relations with Bonaire the airport tax for flights to Bonaire has been increased "only" to Af36.90 (In Bonaire the tax for a flight to Aruba is NAf10).

The influx of predominantly Latin American workers with their families to Aruba in the recent years has been so strong that there is currently no place for new children in Oranjestad schools. There are also big problems with health care. The government general health insurance, AZV, has not enough money to cover the growing costs and is in a permanent fight with physicians, urging them to lower their fees.

Another disaster is the garbage collection on Aruba. There are no garbage containers, and regular emptying times like on Bonaire exist only in theory. The inhabitants place their garbage just in front of their houses, mostly in various plastic bags and paper boxes or old oil drums, exactly as they have for years. If they are lucky, the garbage is collected within two days, but sometimes the garbage truck just does not come and the inhabitants have to wait till the next week.

The postal service is another serious problem. The local business community stopped using it a long time ago because a letter sent from Oranjestad to an address in the same city takes sometimes two weeks (!). A large part of letters from abroad just get lost and you are happy when you receive a letter from the Netherlands within several weeks. Under enormous pressure of the public, the government decided recently to privatize the postal services, establishing a company, Aruba Post NV, in which the majority of the shares will be owned by the government. However, the trade unions, instigated by the main opposition party, AVP, seeing its chance (the elections of the new parliament are over two months!), decided to take hard action against the current socialist MEP government, accusing it of betrayal of the working people. Just before voting about the government proposal recently, a mass of postal workers and trade union activists violently interrupted the parlia-

(Continued on page 7)

(Balance Responses Continued from page 6)

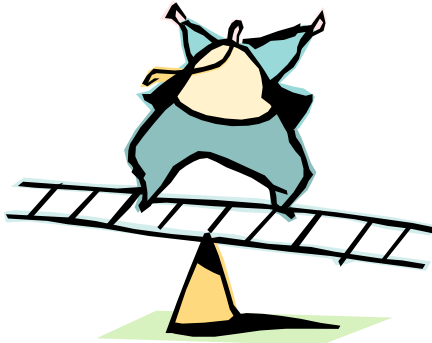
ment session and it took the alarmed police a half an hour to stop the fighting and to evacuate the parliament hall. Also the opposition leader was removed by the police. The 12 MEP members of the parliament, which have currently the majority in the 21-member parliament, approved then the government privatization proposal. It must eventually be approved by the governor of Aruba.

This is the current situation on Aruba, the island still admired by many Bonaireans.

It is evident from the given facts that the development on Aruba cannot serve as a model for Bonaire but more as a deterrent example. In case some politicians want the crime on Bonaire to increase dramatically, that the shop workers will not understand Papiamentu, that traffic jams will be a common thing, that there will be no place for children in local schools and that all other problems of Aruba will come also to our island, then the best and fastest way is to introduce the mass tourism to Bonaire.

Nevertheless, speaking about the tourist development on Aruba, one positive fact has to be mentioned: The government of Aruba has never permitted the operators of the five star hotels on Palm Beach to close the beach in front of the hotels to the general public, like it unfortunately happened in the case of Harbour Village on Bonaire. It is urgent that guaranteeing free public access to the beach in front of the new hotel to be built on site of the demolished Bonaire (later Sunset) hotel will be clearly spelled out and designed into any plans for development of this hotel. □

Jiri Lausman



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)



The cost of this effort was not revealed.

On Monday two of the three men held in custody since June 9th were released. Only Joran van der Sloot, the 17-year-old son of a justice official in Aruba, was ordered held for 60 more days, court officials announced. Holloway disappeared in the early hours of May 30, on the last day of a five-day vacation on Aruba to celebrate her high school graduation with 124 other students from Alabama.

► Last week the "highest point" was reached in the construction of a **new building at the entrance to Washington Park**. The building will be used to house facilities for scientific studies and the men and women who are doing the work. The construction was done with the collaboration of the rangers of the Marine Park, Washington Park and local contractors (photo above). The building will conform to classic Bonaire architecture and the design was okayed



by the Fundashon Cas Bonairiano. Stitching DOEN, who distributes the proceeds of Dutch lotteries, is sponsoring the project.

► **Basic Fish ID Classes are being offered at Yellow Submarine each Thursday** from June 30 thru July 28th at 6:30 pm. If you're interested in REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) or need information please call Linda Ridley at 791-4262. July is also the month for REEF's Great Annual Fish Count. Linda encourages all REEF members to survey as much as possible in July so Bonaire will get credit for your survey.

► There's a pretty spiffy **new Bonaire website** that is a collaboration between the TCB and KLM. Go to www.infobonaire.tv to check out the combination of streaming video and traditional music delivering infor-

Traveling Turtle Update

The first report of the 2005-6 season on Bonaire's breeding sea turtles

"Happy," the second Bonaire sea turtle to be fitted with a radio transmitter so she can be tracked, is continuing to swim in a northerly direction moving at a rate of about 45 km per day. She is approximately 375 km from Klein Bonaire and 355 km north of Bonaire.

Her path thus far is looking very much like those of "Nautila" and "Schillie," the two female hawksbills we tracked in 2003. You might remember that "Nautila" ended up at the Navidad Banks north of the Dominican Republic while "Schillie's" final destination was Mona Island off Puerto Rico.

As to where "Happy" is headed, your guess is as good as mine. We will keep you posted. □ *Andy Uhr*



NEW! at the JanArt Gallery

A new kiln has been delivered and specially wired to fire ceramics and clay sculptures. The kiln is available to the public. You can rent space and time for any art projects needing to be fired.

Clay sculpting classes are now being formed. Please call or go by the gallery for schedule information.

JanArt
Kaya Gloria 7
717-5246



mation about Bonaire.

► The **model in the Benetton** ad this week (on page 22) is Jonathan Cranston. □ *G./L.D*

A Volunteer With A Sense Of Duty



Marina Melis photo

Esther Graaskamp - Donkey Sanctuary Volunteer

When Esther Graaskamp could not find a job in her career field of Biology, she ended up selling bus tickets behind bullet-proof glass at a railway station in Nijmegen in the Netherlands. Longing to leave the Netherlands to explore other countries and cultures, she came across a help-wanted notice in the "Green Volunteers Network" for the Donkey Sanctuary in Bonaire. Because of her long-time love of horses and their equine cousins, the donkeys, she wrote an e-mail of inquiry, and within a week her travel plans to Bonaire were confirmed. Since her arrival on Bonaire in February this year, Esther can be found most days working diligently at the Donkey Sanctuary to help care for the 300 donkeys who call the sanctuary home.

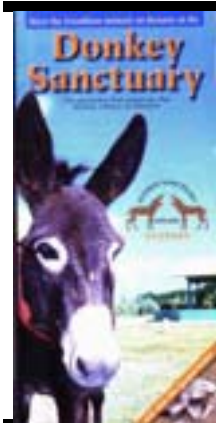
Esther's passion for nature and animals began in her childhood with her experiences on the family farm in Winterswijk, a village in the eastern Netherlands. With a gleam in her eye, she exclaims, "I was put on a horse at the age of two," which explains how she became such an avid equestrian. In addition her family always had pets, especially dogs. Eventually her childhood experiences led her into her study of Biology at the University of Nijmegen where she completed a Masters of Science degree with a specialization in field ecology. Her first project focused on the environmental effects on the life history of plants in nutrient-poor grasslands. Her second project of analyzing the foraging movements and behaviors in goats and giraffes in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, fulfilled a life-long dream to study wild animals: "I always admired the work of Jane Goodall and

Diane Fossey, and I wanted to do what they did. Then I realized I could do it myself and so I did." Her South African project motivated her to look for volunteer opportunities working with other wild animals, especially since she wanted to do more than teach Biology, preferring instead to do research in the field with the animals in their own environment

At the Donkey Sanctuary, Esther is putting in a lot of hours observing and studying the donkeys as she works with them. Every day she assists in feeding the donkeys in the morning and afternoon, cleaning the grounds, bottle-

feeding the orphan foals, and even feeding the babies, that are too weak to bottle-feed, through a tube in the nose to the stomach. Occasionally she helps in rescuing donkeys outside the sanctuary that get in trouble, like the one in Rincon who was recently

"They've been through so much, so many bad experiences with people yet they still trust humans. That's amazing."



found with a pipe wrapped around his leg. And, regularly she must locate the foals born in the expanded sanctuary grounds to make sure mother and child are fine. Finally Esther must also be a "teacher," educating visitors to the sanctuary about why the donkeys need sanctuary. Esther is clearly impressed by the donkeys, describing them as gentle, docile, friendly, even clever. However, what stands out most for Esther is that "they've been through so much, so many bad experiences with people yet they still trust humans. That's amazing!"

As for Bonaire, Esther is impressed by the lack of crowds and all the space and nature, thinking "It would be great if I could stay and work as a biologist in nature on Bonaire." □ *Pauline Kayes*

July 17-25 Diva Women's Windsurf Week in Bonaire

Featuring Windsurfer of the Year, Beth Powell Winkler, and Instructor extraordinaire, Petra Kanz

Join Petra Kanz and Beth Powell Winkler on an exciting windsurfing trip to the sunny island of Bonaire.

The group coordinator, Ann Phelan, is a seasoned windsurfer and travel consultant. Ann is the promoter of "King of the Caribbean." She is the only windsurf vacation travel agent based in Bonaire who also windsurfs! Ann, Petra, and Beth are offering a super fun-filled week of instruction and fun this month. Sail on premium gear at Bonaire Windsurf Place, demo a Diva Carve Board during the clinic. Starboard specifically designed this board with women in mind.

The week includes a three-day clinic for all levels of sailing ability and then on-water instruction and practice time. There are opportunities for yoga classes, sunset power walks, spa massages and treatments and much more. Bonaire Windsurf Place is offering free tickets to their famous Wednesday night BBQ for the first 10 women to sign up for the Diva week. Sharpen your windsurf skills, get pampered and surround yourself with the beauty and serenity of Bonaire. If you have always wanted to windsurf, this is your chance to learn in the best flat water, shallow on-shore location. **Starboard is contributing three scholarships specifically for local teen and adult women who wish to attend the clinic.** Contact Ann at 786-3134 for details. Sponsored by Starboard, Bonaire Windsurf Place and Budget Bonaire. □ *Ann Phelan*



Beth Powell Winkler

Exclusive to *The Bonaire Reporter*

The 19th Annual Aruba Hi-Winds 2005 Windsurfing & Kiteboarding Competition

Bonaire Youngsters Dominate All Events

It looks like the Bonaire's windsurfing team that went to Aruba last week to participate in the 19th Annual Aruba Hi-Winds is causing a furor on our neighbor island. After five days of highly competitive windsurfing contests in Slalom, Freestyle and Long Distance Racing, it's Bonairean windsurfers who are occupying the number one spots in all three disciplines.

Sorobon on Bonaire really must be the ideal training spot, producing such promising talent as those young guns who are currently taking over the Aruban competition. Standing out among them is definitely Bonaire's fast advancing freestyle disciple, **Evertson**



Choko crowned "King of the Huts"



Bonaire Kids hang out

"Choco" Frans (sail number NB-6), younger brother of our world famous free styling duo, Tonky and Taty Frans. Sixteen-year-old Choco is no stranger to Aruba Hi-Winds, having participated in this internationally renowned competition for several years. This year, however, he is the only Frans brother to compete at the 19th Hi-Winds. Both his elder brothers are absent, presently being on the road with the Professional Windsurfer's Association's World Tour in Pozo Izquierdo, Gran Canaria. Without the usual family competition, there were apparently no other obstacles for Choco to deal with. After the first two days of Slalom Racing, he had claimed the number one spot within his class (Junior) already.

Then, the weekend saw the long-awaited Freestyle windsurfing contest, "King/Queen/Prince/Kid of the Huts 2005," which would only continue Bonaire's and especially Choco's story of success. The atmosphere at the Hi-Winds site at scenic Fisherman's Huts was exciting, and the pressure was on for this highly competitive and popular freestyle competition. The many spectators filled the beach at Fisherman's Huts and were impatiently waiting for the crowd's favorite contest to kick off. With wind conditions somewhat less steady than the previous days, tension increased as competitors had to pump fiercely in order to get into

planing to show their dazzling freestyle tricks.

Choco, along with several other young Bonairean sailors, went out there to battle for the crown of the "King of the Huts." Leaving many other competitors behind without much trouble, he moved on to the Final, where he was eventually offered some serious competition by local Aruban favorite **Quincy Offringa** (ARU-91). Both sailors had six minutes to show their stuff and impress the judges. During the first four minutes, it was a close fight, as Choco landed a few smooth spock 540s, while Quincy kept the score level with some nice one-handed flakas. As Choco explained afterwards, at that point he knew he would have to pull off some high end moves in order to take the heat and with that the crown. But with those low wind conditions, he was a little nervous about being prevented from showing all the high standard moves he had in store. So when all of a sudden he saw this gust of wind coming over the water, he decided it was time to get down to business. The Bonairean young gun started pumping hard, and when he got to maximum speed he spotted a little chop and took off for a clean front loop right in front of the spectators – with barely two minutes left to go. If Quincy was impressed, he didn't show it, but instead



Choco and Quincy just before the final

kept adding solid one-handed jump maneuvers to his score sheet. Choco later said he knew he still had to seriously impress the judges in order to take the King's crown from his Aruban rival and to his home island Bonaire: "I knew that if I could just pull out some of my switch stance moves, I'd make it." So when he saw the chance in the last minute of the heat, Choco went big and launched into a final assault with an impressive switch chachoo 540 one-handed, with which, at long last, he deservedly claimed the first place.

As if being the number one in Slalom racing and Freestyling wasn't enough, Choco also came out tops in the weekend's Long Distance Race (Junior), where once again he beat local Quincy Offringa on his home water in good wind conditions. The third place in the Long Distance Race went to another Bonaire junior, **Jeager Sint Jago** (NB-107).

But the Bonaire windsurfing team is extremely successful not only in the Junior, but also the Kids' classes. Bonairean freestyle kid **Bjorn Saragoza** (NB-11) showed what amazing stuff a 13-year-old can have in store, as he laid down an impressive arsenal of spocks, grubbies and flakas, thus making all the right moves to take the crown of the "Kid of the Huts" at

the cost of Quincy's younger sister **Sarah-Quita Offringa** (ARU-91). So the two local Offringa siblings were beaten by two of our hottest young Bonairean talents.

The cheerful evening activities, however, joined by all Hi-Winds participants, showed once again how even the most ambitious competition does not spoil friendship and comradeship between those young "rival" sailors. Thus, Bjorn and Sarah as well as Quincy and Choco remain windsurfing buddies. Both of the latter are some serious newcomers to watch as they will be entering the Men's class in the racing disciplines in next year's 20th anniversary of Aruba Hi-Winds.

By the way, Choco's comment on his winning not only the freestyle crown here on Aruba, but also being in the lead of both racing categories: "I don't like racing so much. I barely ever train for it." Well, this surely leaves all of us wondering: What will happen the day that Choco DOES start training seriously? □ *Story and photos by Quita Sareyka*

Go to www.aruba-hiwinds.org for detailed results.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
7-08	1:35	1.9FT.	77
7-09	2:02	1.8FT.	74
7-10	2:27	1.7FT.	70
7-11	2:34	1.6FT.	65
7-12	12:32	1.0FT.	58
7-13	11:51	1.1FT.	51
7-14	11:11	1.0FT.	45
7-15	6:45	1.0FT.	42

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Andariego	Endangered Species	Moonrise	Sylvester
Angie	Endorphin	Orion	Ti Amo, USA
Another World	Flying Cloud, USA	Pyewacket	Tish
Augustine	Four Winds	Samba	Triumphant Lady
Banjo	Freestyle	Santa Maria	Ulu Ulu, USA
Bright Sea	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Sandpiper, USA	Unicom, Norway
Camissa, Chan Is.	Jan Gerardus	Sea of Time	Varedhuni, Ger.
Cape Kathryn	Key Lara	Sea Witch	Windancer
Cheesecake	Luna C. USA	Sintella	Ya-T, BVI
Cristina	Madam	Sirius	Yanti Paratzi
Delphinus	Maggi	Sola 2	Zahi, Malta
Elena	Mainly	Sylvia K	Zeelander

Dia di Arte

It was the 13th Annual Dia di Arte last Sunday in Wilhelmina Park and it was magnificent. Organized by Emma St. Jago, it was one of the biggest and most energetic and effervescent art days ever seen in Wilhelmina Park. Local artists, resident artists, craftsmen and women, vendors of plants, jewelry and gifts were all there – as were stands selling local food and drinks. On stage, nearly non-stop, entertainers kept up the ambiance and excitement. It was a meeting place where old and new friends socialized. In the crowd too were some ex-Bonairean residents back to Bonaire on holiday.

Here are some scenes from the day.
□L.D.



Charles Lont and his son Emanuel try a little art themselves at JanArt's stand.



Ana Faizul Semeleer-Gonzalez with some of her dream catchers and baubles. Her husband, Alex Semeleer, looks on from the background.



Music teacher Gabby Mercera demonstrates some drums



Thelma dePalm, Bonaire's artist with goat skin, poses beside some of her work. She sells finely made wallets, purses, notebooks.



Erick Nicholson hand carves beautiful baubles from coconuts



Linda and Jake Richter with Avy Benneron of the Cinnamon Art Gallery were also sponsors of Art Day 2005

A Force for Good Activities of AMFO and the NGO Platform



Part of the continuing series on the activities of Bonaire's NGO's working to make a better life for the people of Bonaire.

Dealing with Aggression among Youngsters:

YOU can do something about it!

Being a professional trainer and facilitator did not prevent me from leaving with a WOW feeling after the *Aggression Management* workshop recently.

On Wednesday the 15th and on Friday the 17th of June the Parents' Committee of the SGB High School organized this workshop with Dietitian Ms. Angélique Salsbach, B.Sc, and Professional Health Scientist Specialist Ms. Marugia Janga, M.Sc.

The planned four hours, which the participants first thought to be overly long, actually turned out to be short because of enthusiastic questions, responses and remarks. Going into details regarding the workshop will spoil the fun and learning process if you get the chance for this experience in the near future.

However, I can still give away a few details to keep you warm on this subject.

The workshop dealt with factors that can lead to aggression and lots of valuable tips on how to manage and prevent aggression. Techniques regarding effective communication as well as information about how nutrition can influence aggression were also subjects of this workshop. Instead of the old fashioned cliché way of role playing (boring!), the two trainers provided fresh, new and original tasks and practices for their participants.

Initially meant for parents with children attending the SGB, a lot of the participants who showed up were field workers in the area of education, teachers etc.

Angélique Salsbach, one of the trainers/facilitators comments: "It was a great experience! On the first day we had 38 participants while on the second day 28 attended. The evaluation forms that the participants handed in afterwards indicated that they enjoyed it

very

much. They also shared with us that they learned a lot, especially skills that they can apply in their daily lives. The workshop was furthermore regarded as very versatile. Finally; they expressed the need for more workshops in the near future to keep training and practicing these acquired skills."

This project is one of the many projects supported by the NGO Platform and AMFO funds.

For more information on future workshops or if you are interested in organizing the same workshop for your company or group, please contact: Marugia Janga at 790-3109/786-3109 or Angélique Salsbach at 790-9450/786-8908. □ *Natalie A.C. Wanga*



Marja Schut photo

Aggression Group Training Session

Need Help?

CONTACT INFORMATION



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



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

NGO PLATFORM BOARD

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

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



MCB Employees Help Out Bonaire Ambassadors



Every month many MCB Bank-Bonaire employees voluntarily have something taken out of their paychecks and put into a fund to be used to help fellow members of the Bonaire community.

Last week the organization named FASE (Fondo pa Asistencia Sosial Empleadonan di MCB Bonaire) reached out to help Jenies Martha and her family. They lost a lot of their possessions when a fire destroyed their home two weeks ago. In the photo above Shirley Statia (left) and Jessica Silberie (right) present their gift to Ms. Martha and her children.

The MCB employees hope their action will inspire other Bonaire workers to set up similar "social conscience" funds in their workplace as well. □ *Story & Photo by MCB*



Alfred and Sarah Galiani

The Tourist Corporation of Bonaire (TCB) welcomes Alfred and Sarah Galiani from Virginia to the Bonaire Ambassadors Club. The Galianis love the relaxing atmosphere on the island. They started coming to Bonaire in 1985 with a group of divers. They brought their daughter and now their grandson and granddaughter for their first dives in Bonaire. Alfred and Sarah appreciate that when they return, the people from Bonaire come up to them to say welcome again. On one of their visits, a joke turned into a three-week tennis session on the island. Alfred and Sarah Galiani -two of TCB's Bonaire Ambassadors. Congratulations. □ *Joanny Trinidad, TCB*

COVER STORY

Captain Don Celebrates 80 years



*Elvis Martinus and Don
Insert—Captain Don at 4*



George Buckley, Ramon DeLeon, Janet Thibault

On May 21, 1962, at 2:30 in the afternoon, after almost two years at sea, Captain Don stumbled upon the small, virtually unknown Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire. Inhabited by a multitude of wildlife, approximately 4,000 people and surrounded by an extraordinary array of marine life and coral reefs, this arid island would be forever changed by Captain Don Stewart's arrival.

He celebrated his 80th birthday last week at the dive resort that bears his name, Captain Don's Habitat, with about 400 of his close friends and admirers.

Most Bonaireans will agree that Captain Don is responsible for Bonaire being what it is today: an island that leads the way in raising people's awareness of the importance of coral reefs and



Jan and Phillipe Cousteau

their related eco-systems through environmental preservation and conservation, while offering world renowned diving and snorkeling. Captain Don, who has been inducted into the Diving Hall of Fame, is the recipient of a number of awards and honors including the Dive Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA) Reaching Out Award, the highest



*Zulay Nahr, Don, Hilda Nahr and
George Buckley*



Donna Gassert and the Captain

award in the dive industry.

He is currently striving to expand his Accolade Project, a combination of environmental awards and a monument on Bonaire dedicated to diving and the environment. □ *G.D.*

Two of Captain Don's many covers



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

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Volkswagen VW VAN 1988 2 Liter engine- automatic NAf6.900 717-2844 or 786-2844

MOTORBIKE for sale. Suzuki Shogun, 110cc 4 stroke. 4 gears. Flat rear tire, front brake needs brake fluid, cover on steer needs some minor repair. Engine/technical parts in very good condition. Built 1998. Price NAf650! Call: 786-9389 or 717-2990 ext: 2991-ask for Robert.

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

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

Put your ads here.
Non-business Ads free

Great Annual Fish Count Begins

The Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC) is an event coordinated by the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) that mobilizes and trains volunteer divers and snorkelers to identify and document fish diversity and population trends in marine environments. This annual event takes place during the month of July. The GAFC serves to introduce and inspire recreational divers and snorkelers to participate in REEF's year-round volunteer monitoring programs. It also serves to raise awareness among both the diving community and the public-at-large regarding marine ecosystems and trends in fish populations. One of the benefits of the information is to provide researchers, marine resource managers and policy makers with valuable data. The data gathered during GAFC combined with the REEF year-round database will provide valuable and much needed information on fish species, diversity, abundance and distribution.

Last Saturday Yellow Submarine provided a free tank for all REEF Surveyors to dive and do a fish count on the



Yellow Submarine's Andrea Mueller with two Reef Surveyors at the kick-off of the Great Annual Fish Count. Surveyors are Kim Stebbins, Level Four, and Laura Elsaesser, Level Three, who just completed her Level Three Rating last Saturday.

Green/Yellow Submarine Reef Site.

If anyone is interested in participating in GAFC activities or information about REEF, call Yellow Submarine, a REEF Field Station, at 717-2929. You may contact a local REEF representative at 791-4262. □ Story & Photo by Linda Ridley



The Orange Ball

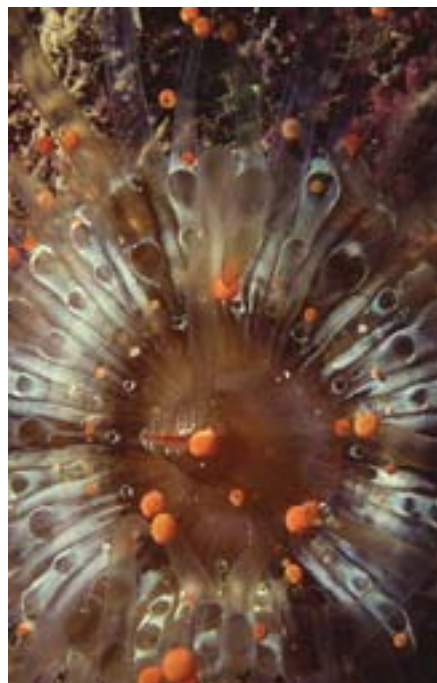


The Jewel Anemone blows a kiss

Every female, child or adult, has dreams of having beautiful jewels with sparkling facets and brilliant colors to complement and highlight her natural beauty. The flamboyant display of color and design by human animals is merely a mimic of the same ploy used by animals in nature to attract attention, secure a mate, or warn a potential predator of danger. In the sea we encounter this strategy with great frequency.

Tonight, here on Bonaire, the heavens are a deep midnight blue punctuated by billions of lights from the stars and planets of our universe. My partner is busy with our diving gear as I check the cameras, strobes and underwater lamps that will lead us on our path to discovery. It is nearing midnight, and part of my preparation for this excursion was an extra long afternoon siesta. I have also packed several bottles of very warm rinse water for use after our exit. We plan to explore the sides of the sand channel at the entrance to the harbor at a mid-level depth of 20-60 feet (6-18 meters).

We are prepared for the unexpected encounters that always seem to happen when you are focused on searching for a specific creature. Late at night, there is also the chance to observe nocturnal roamers prowling the bottom for a meal or a mate. It reminds me of the human traffic flowing around most of the downtown area attractions after dark in our own cities and towns. This particular dive site is often overlooked, even in the daylight, due to the lack of any significant coral and sponge growth on an island noted for clear, warm water and colorful reefs. Many of my diving partners have even referred to these excursions over the sand, junk and rubble as "muck diving!" Their lack of enthusiasm is instantly overcome at the first sight of mating octopus, free swimming green moray eels or a long lobster train.



After our usual buddy check, we silently enter the black ink of the night sea. Our powerful lamps penetrate the darkness with a tunnel of light. As a diver you focus your vision within this bright shaft and try to forget about what may be lurking in the nearby shadows. We slowly descend and, as I follow my partner, I momentarily shut off my light. Instantly, I find myself surrounded by minute glowing particles swirling in the wake of my buddy's flippers. These tiny planktonic creatures are displaying their bioluminescent energy in response to the turbulent force in the water created with each rhythmic kick. I am an astronaut, free of gravity, rotating in space, time traveling through the endless universe of stars and



Feeding on plankton

galaxies. A sharp metallic sound, the signal from my companion, rescues me from the rapture of the sea and the euphoria of the nitrogen narcosis that has gripped my senses.

I snap on my lamp, reorient myself to the customary horizontal swimming profile, and point my light toward a bump on the flat sand 15 feet (5 m) to my right. There, in a blaze of color, under an overhanging rock formation is the "Jewel Anemone!" It is the target of all our preparations, and tonight we have the good fortune to find two of these amazing creatures side by side. We carefully approach from each side and take care not to create any disturbing water current or point our light directly on these magnificent animals. We have learned, from past experience that these rare and shy critters are very sensitive to movement and light and will retract into an ugly brown jelly-like blob.

You will know that you have found this rare specimen by the round, bright orange balls at the tip of each of its tentacles. Most divers refer to this creature as the "Orange Ball Anemone." It is stationary and looks like a fleshy anemone with a round central disk about 2-3 inches across (5-8 mm). It can have as many as 50-100 transparent tentacles, radiating outward in concentric circles around the mouth in the center. They are arranged in a crown-like shape with the longest ones, 3 inches (8 mm), at the outer edge.

For those of us who are interested, the Orange Ball is actually a False coral referred to in the text as a *Corallimorph*. It is a rare sight for the late night diver, and when spotted you may find a pair, as in this case tonight, since reproduction is accomplished by budding or a release of cells that are not gametes (eggs or sperm), known to the biologists as asexual reproduction.

The central mouth has a very pronounced oval shape with orange or dark red lips. Us-

ing perfect buoyancy control, you may interact in the feeding behavior by carefully shining your light beside the creature to attract floating plankton which will be captured by the orange ball at the tip of each tentacle arm. The animal will then curl the arm inward to its mouth to ingest the tasty morsel you have provided. A magnifying glass will aid in the visual enjoyment of this behavior and add immeasurably to your satisfaction and feeling of accomplishment at this late night dinner engagement. No wine is necessary. If your light is too bright or you move rapidly and create any disturbance in the water your dinner guest will immediately withdraw for a good night's sleep and you will have no choice but to return at another time.

For the photo enthusiast I suggest side lighting, almost 90 degrees to the subject, with a slightly downward angle. Use a low power target light to aim your strobes and attract the floating food supply. You may only get one or two shots at the dinner table before your guest withdraws. You can always return since I have found that once situated in a comfortable location, the elusive Orange Ball *Corallimorph* will remain in place until some unusual environmental event causes it to move.

Our time limit on this night dive has been reached. My partner helps gather our equipment, and we make our exit into the cool early morning fresh air. Our warm water rinse and hot thermos of coffee is well appreciated as we debrief our adventure.

I hope you will join us on our next excursion into the mysterious world below the surface of our Water Planet.

©Albert Bianculli

Albert Bianculli has been visiting Bonaire since 1970 and now lives on Bonaire full time. See his show, "Bonaire Holiday," every Sunday night at Captain Don's Habitat Aquarius Conference Room, 8:30 pm.



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Ask the Dietitian

The Chick Pea—Versatile and Nutritious

What Are They?

Chick peas are beans, also known as garbanzo beans. These beans have special health benefits. Chick peas help to lower the blood cholesterol level. A cup of chick peas provides lots of protein, fiber, iron, and potassium, as well as substantial amounts of the B vitamins, thiamine and niacin, all delivered, of course, without high levels of fat or sodium.

A cup of cooked chick peas contains: 3 grams of fat, 16 mg of sodium, 216 calories.

How to Buy Them

At the market chick peas are available fresh, cooked, in cans, or as dried beans. When buying the dried variety, look for whole, unbroken beans with an even khaki color, no odor, and uniform size. Don't be concerned with the wrinkled surface of the beans. That's normal.

Kitchen Tips

Store chick peas in an airtight container and keep in the refrigerator. Plan for each cup of dried chick peas to yield about 3 1/4 cups when cooked. To start the cooking process, wash dried beans thoroughly. Cover with water and allow to soak overnight. Next, simmer over low heat for about 2 hours or pressure-cook for about 15 to 20 minutes. The



Fresh garbanzo beans

canned variety, of course, is a time saver because they are already cooked, but they often contain added salt. Chick peas freeze fairly well. You can easily make some extra and freeze it. They will keep for about 4 months.

Chick peas are perfect for turning a green salad into a substantial meal. They add a nutty taste and new texture. Don't forget to try chick pea dip (also called hummus). It's a snap to make in the food processor or blender. Just puree the beans and add olive oil; tahini or sesame oil and garlic. Serve with pita bread or raw vegetables.

As a substitute for meat, you can make a loaf or meatballs, substituting finely chopped chick peas for ground beef.

Chick Peas and Potato Croquettes

Makes 20 croquettes

185g chick peas, soaked, cooked, drained and mashed
500g potatoes, peeled, cooked and mashed
½ tsp paprika
2 tsp fresh parsley, chopped
sea salt, to taste
freshly ground black pepper, to taste
breadcrumbs or whole wheat flour, for coating
oil for frying

Mix chick peas with potatoes, paprika and parsley. Season with salt and pepper. Form into croquettes. If desired, roll in bread crumbs or whole wheat flour. Fry in hot shallow oil until crisp and brown, then drain on absorbent paper.

Serve with tomato sauce and a salad.

Tomato Sauce:

1 Tab. vegetable oil
crushed garlic
2-3 Tab. tomato puree
250ml water
2-3 Tab. lemon juice
1-2 Tab. corn flour
1 Tab. sugar
basil, salt and pepper, to taste

Heat the oil in a small pan with a pinch of fresh crushed garlic. Add the tomato puree, water, lemon juice and corn flour. Keep stirring until the sauce thickens. Add the sugar, salt, pepper and basil.

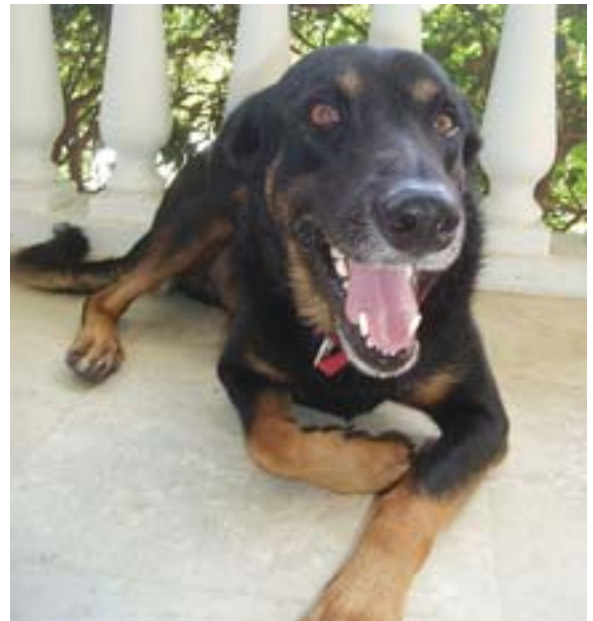
Serve on croquettes, chips and burgers. □ *Angélique Salsbach*



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

Pet of the Week

“Major” has been a much loved dog and his owners are heartbroken to have to leave him, but they’ve been transferred to Osaka, Japan, where they’re not allowed to have pets in their apartment. So, with much sadness they’ve brought Major into the Bonaire Animal Shelter with his bed, his collars and leashes and his toys. When they first got Major he was skinny and pathetic. But with love and attention he’s now a handsome dog with a very shiny black and tan coat. But the most important fact is that Major is an incredibly great dog. He’s mellow and so gentle that children love him. He gets along with other dogs and even cats. He’s so tuned into his family that he prefers to stick around home. And he’s not a fence jumper! “He’s such a wonderful companion,” his owners say. They love to take him jogging and along on bike rides where he trots alongside their bikes even without a leash. Be-



cause Major is so intelligent he took immediately to training and can sit, stay, and heel.

Major is four years old, is in excellent health, and has been sterilized.

You may see Major at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □L.D.

Found Dog



Do you know this dog?

This very large male dog was found on Kaya Amsterdam in Hato, where he had apparently been wandering the streets for several days before being taken to the Animal Shelter by some very kind people. If you are his owner, or if you can offer this friendly fellow a good home, please contact the Bonaire Animal Shelter, open 10 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday, or Saturday until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □MaryDiSanza

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Sahara
(Penelope Cruz)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

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:

STAR WARS: EPISODE III – REVENGE OF THE SITH by George Lucas starring Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman and Hayden Christensen. Don't go and expect brilliant acting and dialogues because you will run away crying but... that's not why we go to see a Star Wars film. Star Wars promises adventure, a fun ride and brilliant effects and this episode surely delivers. The opening scene draws you immediately into the story and sets the (roller coaster) pace for the rest of the film. With this episode I think that George Lucas brings this saga to a dignified end. Now the series is concluded, and wouldn't it be great fun to have a Star Wars marathon in Movieland Cinema! □ *Dodo*

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. See page 8.

The **International Bonaire Sailing Regatta October 9 – 15, 2005**

EVERY WEEK

Saturday Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon
Sunday -Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar**. Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live **Fla-Bingo**-great prizes, 7 pm, Divi Flamingo
Monday -**Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire**, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

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

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

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

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

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

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

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

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

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

Thursdays until 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 Topsy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NAF5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

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

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

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

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

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

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

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

Visit the Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868
Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

International Bible Church of Bonaire –

Lora Breeding Time Begins



Photo: Peter Montanus

Three lora chicks confiscated in 2004

STINAPA is calling on the people of Bonaire to help protect their endangered parrot. Advertisements on local radio and in the print media are calling it to their attention. Unless the birds are protected against poaching, a formerly common problem, they will become extinct.

In 2002 the local government sponsored a campaign to put ID rings on all the island's caged birds. About 600 birds were registered, more than the 300-400 counted in the wild. It is now illegal to own an unringed Lora, as the Bonairean parrot is called. The fine for possession of an unringed Lora is in excess of NAF1.000. The job of protecting Bonaire's Lora is not only the job of the police, it is the responsibility of everyone on Bonaire as well. People are encouraged to call the authorities if they believe a Lora is being held unlawfully.

717-3741 (SSV)
717-8000 (Police)
717-8444 (STINAPA)

Sam Williams, the British biologist who spent many months on Bonaire studying the Lora, is preparing a series of articles for *The Bonaire Reporter* about Lora breeding. We will be bringing them to you in the upcoming issues. □ *G.D.*

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

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am.**

Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm. Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

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

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

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

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

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

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Want your restaurant listed here?	It's easy and not expensive	Call <i>The Reporter</i> at 717-8988 or 791-7252 for info
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Brasserie Bonaire Royal Palm Galleries Kaya Grandi 26, Next to Re/Max, 717-4321	Low- Moderate Lunch and Dinner Open 11 am -2:30 pm 5:30-9 pm Closed Saturday and Sunday	Lots of parking in big mall lot Kitchen Open 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.bonairealestate.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

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

VILLAS

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

WATER TAXI

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

WINES

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

YOGA

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

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:

Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.

Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

Born on Bonaire....

Daniella Bernabela

“My life is the sea; when I’m far away from it I don’t feel well, and when it’s been too long since I’ve been in the sea, I hear the waves calling me, ‘Come, Daniella, come Daniella, come...’ And when the sea is rough it’s even more beautiful... like a fully decorated Christmas tree. Sometimes it’s so dark that with a sharp flash of lightning you can see the bottom of the ocean! It’s exciting... magnificent!”

I was born and raised on the waterfront in Playa Pabou, a bit further from here, in that small wooden house that looks like a puzzle, because every time my grandfather would sell a boat he would add a piece to the house.

I am Daniella Bernabela, but I don’t have Bernabela blood. My mother was Angelica Domacassé Thode, my father is the fisherman Ismael Soliano, and his boat is the *Etienne*, the last of the original Bonairean sail fishing boats. I was born on February 12th 1954. My grandfather was Antonio Domacassé, a boat builder and a carpenter. My grandmother was ‘Machi Dodo’ Thiodora Thode. The governor and I have the same grandparents; we’re cousins.

I was raised by my grandparents and by my stepfather, L.D. Gerhardts, so I had two homes. I lived off and on in Playa Pabou with my grandparents and uncles and in Hato with the Gerhardts family. But most of the time you could find me by the sea. My uncles protected me. I was the only little girl and they spoiled me badly but raised me very well at the same time because I was never fresh or ugly.

L.D. Gerhardts also took part in my upbringing. His was a well-to-do family; I had everything in the house, and I learned from them as well. I have my grandma’s character. She didn’t have small pots and pans, only big ones! Everyone was welcome! She was an Indian from Nort di Salina, and my granddad was a little man from Venezuela.

In the old days an unfamiliar young man wasn’t allowed to enter the village of Nort di Salina, and if he did, people would throw stones at him. So when they were ‘dating,’ it was my grandma who’d pick up my granddad and bring him home to make sure he’d be safe! After they got married they came to live in Playa Pabou because my grandma was from a family of fishermen. When I got married I also built my house at Playa Pabou, but a little bit more to the south. I had the best childhood with my girlfriend Mariella Craane. She’s still living there and I am here! We’ve been best friends our whole life!

When I was 18 I went to Holland to study to become a hairdresser. Everything was very good, but I was terribly homesick because I’m somebody from the sea. I stayed barely 12 months, then I came back to Bonaire. A year later I married Steve Gustowski, an Englishman who came here on a barge to see if they could build a pier at Barkadera. Together with two aunts of mine I applied for a job as a stewardess on the barge, but first I had to ask my grandparents and L.D. because there were 48 men aboard, and I was a well brought up and naïve Bonairean girl. Steve was one of the men. He was fun, but what made me fall for him was that one day when a man got sick, Steve looked after him in such a carefree way that it really touched my heart.

We got married and in 1975 we went

“In the old days an unfamiliar young man wasn’t allowed to enter the village of Nort di Salina, and if he did, people would throw stones at him.”

to live in Sicily for a year. When we returned Steve started working for HMK, a trading company that belonged to the Gerhardts family. We have two daughters: Marcella, 27, and Valeska, 24. Valeska has a son, Shepherd (6), and Marcella has Michelle (9) and Marvin (3). But Michelle lives with me. I took her in and now she’s mine!

Daniella is a character; she’s a darling, very cute, full of stories, and her house is filled with people and playing children. There’s always food, lots of conversation and laughter.

“As I said before, my grandfather was a carpenter and I was always by his side when he was working on a boat. We would chat constantly. I learned so much from him that if it were now, I could become a boat builder myself! When his work was finished he would make a tiny brush out of some hairs from the broom. My job was to seal the tiny holes the nails had left and fill up all those holes with putty. When Don Stewart opened Zeebad (Flamingo Beach Hotel) my grandfather got an order to make 10 small sailboats for the guests. I thought it was a lot. Every time one was ready my uncle and I had to drag the boat all the way to Zeebad. Every time I felt sad that the boat was leaving, but in the end I got one myself!

All the fishermen knew me and when they came back from sea they’d give me the leftovers from their bait. I would collect it in cans and sell it to Anton Heitkoning who had a small zoo with a boa constrictor, turtles and flamingos (site of La Guernica restaurant). That was my pocket money!

Many people knew me because on Wednesdays grandmother would send me on my bike to Tera Kora, Antriol and Nort di Salina with packages of fish. No time for a swim on Wednesday afternoon! In return the people would give me a package for grandma, mostly vegetables from their kunuku or eggs.

My mother was living in Curaçao with my brothers and sisters, and although I missed them, my life here on the waterfront was more important to me. In my grandparents’ garden there were little huts where the fishermen who lived far from the sea could spend the night. Once I met two American biology students who were looking for a place. My grandma offered them one of the huts. We were having dinner: fish, fried bananas and funchi. The boys ate their fish and the bananas, then the funchi. Afterwards they smiled at us and said, ‘Good cheese!’ That was so funny!

I learned everything from my uncles. I could swim when I was two. People would call me *Piskechi* (little fish). I could row; no other Bonairean girls could row! I could sail and handle a motorboat; I could fish and dive and water-ski like no one else. I didn’t know the difference between boys and girls; I was always with my uncles. Later on, after I was married and living here, people would bring their children, asking me to teach them how to swim. And that’s what I did. I learned everything about the island from my uncles and L.D., and I love to pass it on to other people while I’m doing the tours. It is work, but it’s also my hobby, I could do it night and day.

In my life I’ve met thousands of people. I even met Queen Beatrix personally as I had the honor of styling her



Daniella Bernabela:
Her life is the Sea

hair when she was here on one of her visits. And also many tourists passing by the house stop to ask me questions. I invite them inside and we chat, something that Steve didn’t always appreciate, but I can’t help it, that’s how I am. Steve and I were married for 28 years. The last years of his life he was living in Curaçao. Earlier this year sadly he passed away. My mother also passed away this year, so... in a way, it has been a tough year. But I can’t complain. We’re healthy, I have this place at the sea, I have my family and friends and a very special dear old friend in Holland, Karel Steensma, the founder of the Marine Park, who sends me a ticket now and then so I fly to Holland where he spoils me terribly! My salon is doing okay. I help people become more beautiful on the outside, but when they need it, I also try to help them with their problems. I live in peace with myself because I know that God is inside of me.

There’s always this inner voice telling me, ‘You’re not alone; you don’t have to be afraid.’ I go and sit by the sea, thinking. Did I do it right or wrong? Could I do it better and how will it go tomorrow? I talk to the sea and she talks back to me. I have no plans. Once I feel better about Steve and my mom, once everything is more quiet inside of me, I’ll see what life holds for my future...” □

Photo and Story by Greta Kooistra



The Cast of Rèk Buriku Rek'e Goes on the Road

The cast of the puppet show, *Rèk Buriku Rek'e* that has been so popular among Papiamentu speakers during the last year, left for Holland to tour that country for three weeks, giving 15 or more performances. *Rèk Buriku Rek'e* (which means "Stretch, Donkey, Stretch"), the show put on by JePoBon, Bonaire's puppet theatre for children, will be performed in areas of Holland where a lot of Antilleans are living as well as in the schools all over that country. For those children who are not familiar with Papiamentu, Jacky Bernabela will do a "voice over" simultaneous translation.

Traveling along with Jacky are cast members Kathy Thielman, Gina Correa and percussionist Carlos Jimenez.

The play is from a Grimm's fairy tale adapted to Bonaire. In this type of theatre the puppeteer doesn't pull the strings or use hand puppets. He's the actor who plays a part along with the puppet, each having an interchange with each other, moving together sometimes as in a dance.

The costumes and puppets were created by *Speeltheater* of Holland, a famous Dutch theatre company for children which specializes in theatre with actors and puppets. The script was written by Saskia Janse; Onny Huisink directed; Jacky Bernabela translated it into Papiamentu. □*L.D.*



A scene from the show

Picture Yourself with the Reporter Miami, Florida, U.S.A.



“Taste of the Caribbean” Silver medal winner Brad Conner takes a break from the bartending competition in Miami last week to catch up on news in *The Bonaire Reporter*. Way to go, Brad! □

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



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up



Venus and Mercury Continue Their "Pas De Deux"

This week and next the two planets closest to the Sun, **Mercury and Venus**, continue their extremely close meeting. If you have a hard time identifying planets you can use the **Moon** on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 12th and 13th, to find **Jupiter**.

This Friday, July 8th about 45 minutes after sunset, while there's still twilight, look west northwest. You will see an exquisite sight - a very young crescent Moon complete with Earthshine, which looks like a black full Moon nestled within the crescent. And directly below it will be the brightest planet of them all, 8,000-mile-wide Venus, and only 2 degrees below it, the tiny 3,000-mile-wide pink planet, Mercury. And if you've got a pair of binoculars please use them because seeing this threesome through binoculars will be absolutely spectacular.

I must remind you, however, that you have to have a clear flat horizon in order to see Mercury, and be sure to look during evening twilight because by dark it will have set.

On Saturday, Mercury and Venus will still be only 2 degrees apart, but the Moon will have gotten a little fatter and will be just to the right of the brightest star of **Leo the Lion, Regulus**. On Sunday Mercury and Venus will be a little farther apart, but the Moon will be well beyond Regulus up to its left. Then night after night you can watch Mercury and Venus pull away from each other, a little farther each night. You might want to keep track of just how long you can see Mercury before it disappears below the horizon.

On Tuesday the 12th Mercury and Venus will be only 3 degrees apart. If you look up to their left, west southwest, you'll see an exquisite almost first quarter Moon parked just down and to the right of the king of the planets, 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter. And on Wednesday the 13th they'll be even closer to each other with the Moon just past Jupiter. Don't miss this exquisite sight. Tuesday the 12th, the Moon to Jupiter's right, Wednesday the 13th the Moon just past the super planet, second in brightness only to Venus.

But once again may I remind you that these apparent close meetings between planets and the Moon are simply an optical illusion. This weekend Mercury will be 69 million miles away from **Earth** whereas Venus will be 133 million miles away! Plus next Wednesday when Jupiter appears closest to the Moon, our 2,000-mile-wide Moon will be only 242,000 miles away, whereas Jupiter will be a whopping 516 million miles beyond!

Once again, be sure you catch Venus and Mercury while they're still a close pair even though they are pulling apart. And then use an exquisite Moon to find the planet king on Tuesday the 12th and Wednesday the 13th. Time to get out the binoculars or a small telescope this week and next. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
July 8 to July 15, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are apparent. Acceptance is the key. Your charm will attract members of the opposite sex. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Keep your cash in your pocket and offer them sound advice rather than your financial assistance. Use your charm, but don't be phony. Try to join groups of interest such as ballroom dance classes or perhaps an Internet organization. Romantic encounters will develop through group activity. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You will be relentless when it comes to getting yourself back into shape. Your partner may make you feel jealous and unloved. Financial gains can be made through wise investments. Do not force your opinions on others the connections will be short lived. Your lucky day this week is Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't be alarmed. You could be emotional if you didn't take care of problems with loved ones. Take some time out. You can put in some overtime and make extra cash. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Talk to those in a position of power about your intentions. You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances. You could come into extra cash. Be prepared to make compensations and adjustments. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Stop those bad habits. You will have additional discipline that will aid you in your objectives. Opportunities to learn important information will surface through discussions with peers or seminars you attend. You may find yourself changing crowds. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can pick up some overtime this week. Avoid lovers who already have a relationship, even if it is a bad one. Be an observer before getting involved. You need to spend some time pampering yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Weigh the pros and cons and make a decision that will change the conditions you've been living under. Monitor your budget carefully to avoid unnecessary stress. Don't let friends convince you that you should contribute to something you don't believe in. You'll be angry if those you live with aren't pulling their weight. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your charisma will no doubt attract a lot of attention. Older family members may try to make demands that are impossible for you to handle. Travel will be exciting. The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Social get-together will bring you in contact with intelligent new friends. Try to avoid any drastic decisions concerning personal legal matters. Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You may have difficulty trying to get your mate to understand your position. Investments that deal with property will be lucrative; however, upsets with family members may be likely. Don't blow situations out of proportion or you could find that others will misinterpret what really happened. You may find that someone you live with may be irritable; you're best to leave them alone. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Get involved in competitive sports. Friends will appreciate your attention and playful nature. You may be tempted to spend too much on entertainment or luxury items. You could pick up valuable knowledge through conversations with experienced individuals. Look into the cost factor, but don't try to get backing yet. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. □