

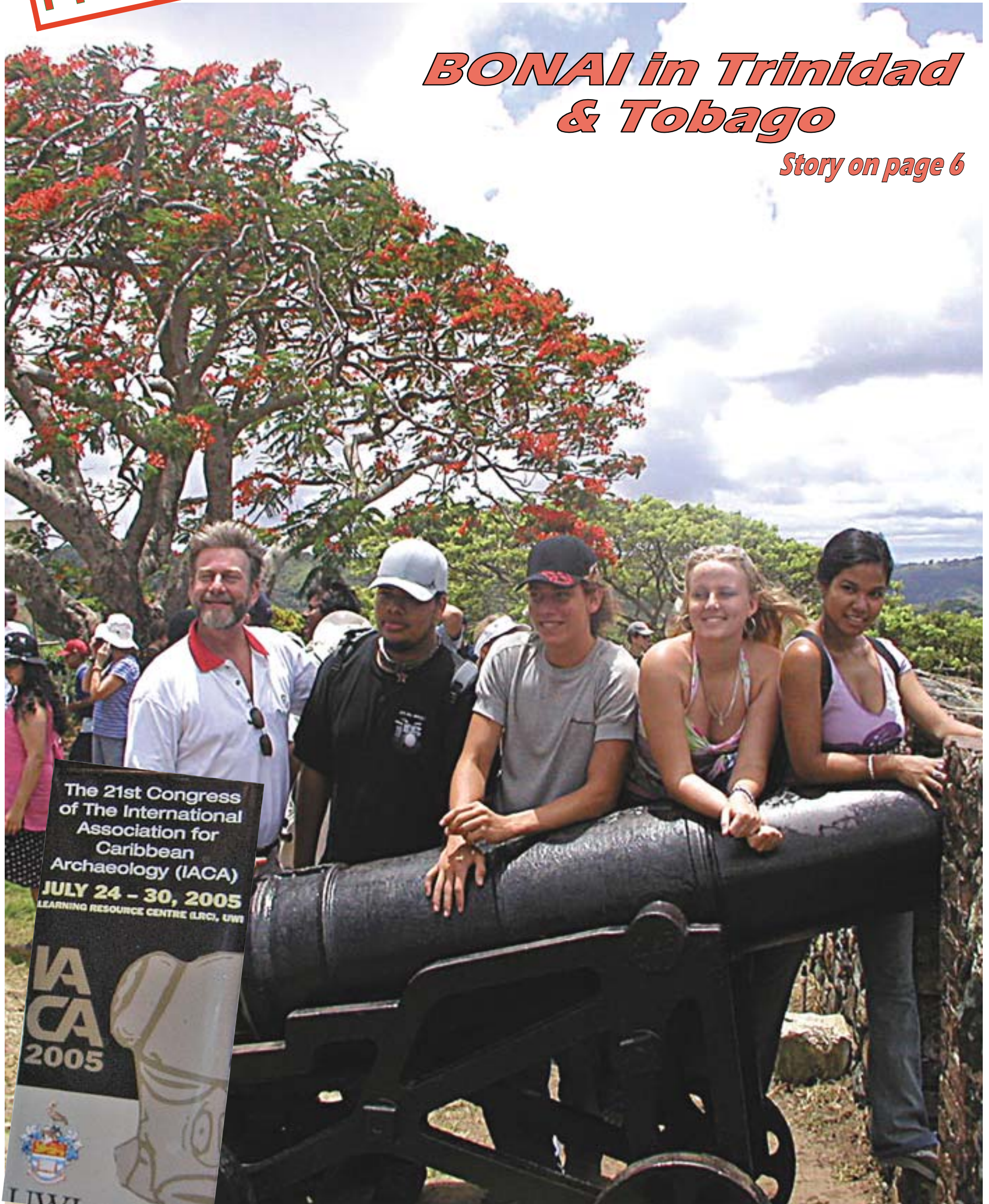
IT'S
STILL
FREE

August 12 to 19, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 31

The *BONAIR!* REPORTER

BONAI in Trinidad & Tobago

Story on page 6



FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Dutch PM Jan Peter Balkenende and Democratic Party Leader Jopie Abraham at June meeting in Holland

The Government of the Netherlands Antilles has notified the US Consul General of its "serious concern" about the intention to make it mandatory for Americans to use passports when traveling to and from the Caribbean, effective January 1, 2006, because it may discourage tourism. This issue was also discussed in Holland recently (during meetings in June 2005) with Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ben Bot.

A release by the Central Government Information Service referred to the "grave consequences" that this measure will have on tourism from the US. It urged that the US delay the effective date for the Netherlands Antilles for two years to January 1, 2008, as is the case for Canada and Mexico.

Up to now, many Americans travel to the Caribbean with only a birth certificate and picture ID. It's estimated that 80-90% of American travelers to Bon-

aire and Curaçao have passports but only 50-60% of Aruba and St Maarten tourists do.

► **On Monday Continental Airlines (NYSE: CAL) announced modifications in its free checked-bags policy** for international travel, to reflect new weight limits of 50 lbs. (22 kg) each for up to two pieces. Maximum linear dimensions: 62 inches (157 cm) each. However, OnePass Elite members are allowed two pieces of free checked baggage up to a maximum weight of 70 lbs. (32 kg) each; Maximum linear dimensions: 62 inches (157 cm) each. BusinessFirst or First Class customers are allowed three pieces of free checked baggage up to a maximum weight of 70 lbs. (32 kg) each; maximum linear dimensions: 62 inches (157 cm) each. Continental will begin flying non-stop to Bonaire from Houston in December.

► Last week Jamaican Transport and Works Minister Robert Pickersgill said that the **re-certification of Air Jamaica and Air Jamaica Express by the US Federal Aviation Administration was complete.** The FAA has reaffirmed Category One status for the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority.

He said the process began in March and that during the procedure the airline had to pay "hefty fines" when the FAA said Air Jamaica did not have a proper system of defining how its policies were to be enforced. "The fines have been paid," he confirmed.

► **RBTT Bank has loaned Air Jamaica US\$125 million,** with guarantees from the Jamaican government, bringing to US\$325 million, the amount of money the recently re-nationalized airline has borrowed within the last 30 days to help with its cash flow and restructuring.

► This past weekend the Chamber of Commerce of Curaçao issued a press release recommending that the government of the Antilles or Curaçao **not enter the airline business or finance an airline.** They cited the decades-long money losing operations of ALM and DCA as a significant justification for their action. Approximately 30% of the huge national debt can be assigned to airline losses. The Chamber feels that government funds can be better put to work elsewhere in the economy.



Isla oil refinery in Curaçao

► Districts downwind of the **oil refinery in Curaçao had to endure a heavy fuel stench** for several days last week. Isla Refinery management said the problem was caused by a shortage in power

IN THIS ISSUE

Letters (Cruise Ship Debate)	5
Unicollege Opens Monday	7
Envirowatch-Sand Stripped from East Side, Turtle Nest Lost	8
Turtles Nest in Slagbaai	8
Accolade Award to Bruce Bowker	9
1st Ethienne Windsurf Cup	9
Balance for Bonaire Followup	10
RFK, Jr. -Shoreline Targets for Exploitation	11
Dietitian (Nutrition & Food Tips)	13
Marelva Soliano 30 Years at Divi	18

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
AMFO/NGO Platform:	
BONAI Students in Trinidad	6
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Picture Yourself (Dominican Republic)	10
Classifieds	12
Reporter Masthead	14
Pets of the Week	
(Amber Jaspersen & puppies)	14
What's Happening	15
Dodo (Mr. & Mrs. Smith)	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
On the Island Since	
(Urwin Juaquin)	17
Sky Park	19
(Scorpius, Sagittarius)	19

supplied by its Build, Own and Operate (BOO) utility, forcing the refinery to shut down three facilities including the "sour water stripper" and the "diesel hydro treater." Gregorio Donata, Environmental Manager of Isla, said the disabled units were restarted and running. Nevertheless the stench and the black smoke remained.

(Continued on page 4)

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

► Last week the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis requested the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to study the possibility of **establishing an oil refinery on St. Kitts.**

► There are reports that the **Tribon car ferry**, which had a brief career on the Bonaire-Curaçao route, will return to service running between Venezuela and the ABC Islands, and include Bonaire on its route when needed.

► NOAA says there is a **95% to 100% chance of an above-normal 2005 Atlantic hurricane season.** This is according to a consensus of scientists at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The updated outlook calls for an extremely active season, with an expected seasonal total of 18-21 tropical storms (usual is 10), with 9-11 becoming hurricanes (usually there are 6), and 5-7 of these becoming major hurricanes (usually there are 2-3). The predicted seasonal totals include the considerable activity that has already occurred prior to this update (7 tropical storms and 2 major hurricanes). Therefore, for the remainder of the season, they expect an additional 7-9 hurricanes with 3-5 of these becoming major hurricanes.

Since 1995, all of the Atlantic hurricane seasons have been above normal, with the exception of two El Niño years (1997 and 2002). This contrasts sharply with the generally below-normal activity observed during the previous 25-year period, 1970-1994.

► Rotary Club of Bonaire President,



Edsel Winklaar, and Secretary, Edwin Vrieswijk, **handed over a Handicapped Equipped car to Rignald Saragoza** (above). With the assistance of SASO which provided the license plates and insurance, Rotary Club bought a specially equipped car for Mr. Saragoza, which will allow him to drive to work, visit family, go shopping etc. Mr. Saragoza's car broke and was un-repairable and after a request made to Rotary Club Bonaire his wish was fulfilled.



► CKB, a foundation to improve business practices and help local persons in their own business, and FEBILA, a foundation dedicated to life-long education, **are looking for volunteers to serve as conversation guides during their course in English conversation.**

Volunteers must be native speakers of the English language. Make an appointment for the evening you can come. The



► Hurricane Ivan, which cut a swathe of destruction across the Caribbean last September and battered Bonaire's coasts, **generated ocean waves more than 90 feet (27 meters) high**, researchers said last Thursday. They may have been the tallest waves ever measured with modern instruments, suggesting that prior estimates for maximum hurricane wave heights are too low.

course runs from 8 to 9 pm every Monday and Tuesday. This is a chance to meet local people and at the same time contribute to a better understanding and communication with Bonaireans.

Interested? Call Alex Semeleer at 717-3320 or 786-0761.

► On August 17th the Antillean community in the Netherlands will commemorate the **slave population rebellion which took place on Curaçao 210 years ago** under the leadership of slaves Tula and Bazjan Karpata. The Antillean priest Simon Wilson, a well-known cleric among Antilleans, will conduct the commemoration mass in the Emmaus church in Den Bosch. The events are organized by the Antillean and Aruban association, *Nos Baranka* (Our Rock).

Ronnie Martina, a famous columnist, writer, Papiamentu expert and historian, will present a lecture on the history of

Tula and Bazjan Karpata. Martina feels that the Antillean /Aruban community should know of their past and what happened exactly on that day back in 1795. The Antillean poet Charlton Marcos will recite his poem *De Zwangere Slaaf* (The Pregnant Slave) in Dutch as well as in Papiamentu. (Contributed by Natalie A.C. Wanga)

► **American resident Al Curry**, who shot and wounded a man in his home whom he alleged had betrayed his trust and was stealing from him, **was sentenced on Monday to one year in jail, plus time served.** Curry has been in jail for the last eight months after being arrested for shooting and wounding the man who had been the consort of his recently deceased daughter. The Prosecutor had asked for a three-year confinement instead of the usual six because of the circum-

(Continued on page 5)



The cruise ship Oriana was once a regular caller at Bonaire

OUR VALUABLE CRUISE SHIP VISITORS

I have worked as a tour guide for cruise ships from almost the beginning of their arrival on the Bonaire scene. Tourism pioneer L.D Gerhardt's was my first "boss!" I find the "cruisers" exciting, interesting, enthusiastic and anxious to learn about Bonaire. I think there is a very wrong impression about our cruise ship visitors. They do not just get off the ship to go shopping or eat or drink.

What about the snorkelers, the beach sun worshippers, the divers, the bird-watchers, the cyclists, the excursions to the mangroves, wind surfing, day sailing trips and trips to Washington Park? This is just to mention a few alternative activities to shopping that "cruisers" enjoy during their stop here.

Many times a tour has resulted in a change of vacation plans. Only last year I had a group of seven from the United Kingdom (avid divers) who while here

changed their upcoming trip from another Caribbean dive destination to Bonaire.

I see many of the people I have guided return to Bonaire for a "land" vacation. Recently I worked with a couple from the US who, on the spot, bought a house before they left the island. There are many ways to measure the impact of cruise ship visitors rather than on how much they spend on shopping.

Tourists are Bonaire's greatest resource for a bright economic future. Does it make any difference how they arrive? If this is so, why not limit snorkelers as they don't rent equipment and use dive shop services? How about the shore divers? - rental car - no boat trips. I think it is important for all of us to appreciate what we have of the Caribbean market rather than finding fault. We all want a prosperous Bonaire.

Petri Hausmann

NO CRUISE SHIPS FOR ME

You asked for reader's opinions on cruise ships in the last edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

Unfortunately, people on many islands are led to believe that cruise ships are going to bring a great deal of revenue to the island. From what we have observed on other islands, the people on the cruise ships spend very little on their excursions to the island and the majority of eating and drinking is done on the ship. They do seem to generate a huge amount of trash on the oceanfront. The ships also damage the reefs as do the large groups of inexperienced divers. One island that I visit frequently, Cozumel, has changed drastically

(*Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4*) stances, as well as the age and health of the defendant. Curry is 73 years old. Chief Judge de Lannoy questioned Curry before pronouncing sentence and considered his responses in granting a lesser jail term.

► The support organization, *Stichting Ontwikkeling Nederlandse Antillen* (USONA), signed a financing agreement with TCB Director Ronella Croes, who represented Tourism Director Burney el Hage, for a new "Tourism Awareness Program." The project is designed to raise the awareness of Bonaireans regarding the significance and effects of tourism on their island. It's hoped it will provide local people with knowledge of their heritage which they will pass on to the island's visitors.

► Ann Phelan, who jointly conducted the successful Windsurfing Diva class last month, was approached by some women, all in their 30s to 60s who wish to learn the calming yet challenging sport of windsurfing. Ann is putting together a **three-day Diva Windsurfing Clinic** August 28 to 30 for beginners only. If you are keen on learning to windsurf in the most perfect setting of Lac Bay, this is the time. The price is NAf250 and includes the Clinic and gear rental. There will be an 8-person minimum. Contact her at www.bonairecaribbean.com or 011-599-786-3134.

► **Want to get the true feeling of Bonaire?** Do it with the friendly staff of the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino. Enjoy authentic Bonairean dishes in a typical Bonairean atmosphere every Sunday from 6 to 9 pm, with a Bonairean Night Buffet featuring typical Bonairean dishes, live "kriollo" music and folk dancing. The buffet costs NAf 35, which includes a welcome drink. Kids up to 12 pay their age in dollars. For reservations call 717-8285, ext. 444.

► This Saturday, August 13, **Movie-land Cinema** presents "**Magic and a Movie.**" **Famous Magic Ed** starts at 3 pm with an all new Magic Show that will leave you wondering. Directly after the show, the film, "Herbie Fully Loaded" will be shown. Tickets are available on Saturday for NAf15, including fresh popcorn. A nice opportunity to say goodbye to the summer vacation! Come join the fun and make sure to arrive early because there are only so many seats available. Magic and a Movie this Saturday at 3 pm!

► This week's **Benetton models from Jong Bonaire** are Joemy Ricardo and Remison Makaai. The Benetton ad is on page 13. *G./L.D*

since the cruise ships started visiting. All kinds of new shops have opened, but the majority aren't owned by the people from Cozumel, and they employ people from the mainland, not from the island. If anything, the people are worse off than before the cruise ships.

I recently purchased a home in Bonaire and hope that the government will either restrict or eliminate cruise ships in the future.

Barbara Petersen

What Are NGOs All About?

Activities of AMFO and the NGO Platform



COVER STORY

Bonairean High Schoolers Make the Island Proud

We are the SGB students who got to represent Bonaire BONAI at the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology (IACA) 21st Congress at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, July 24-30, 2005. Our group, called BONAI, consists of about 20 high school students who over the last two years have worked on science projects such as Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology and Biology under the direction of Dr. Jay Haviser. Dr. Haviser is also the current president of IACA and was able to make it possible that the BONAI group could present a paper at the 21st Congress of IACA. We - **Douglas Abraham, Fleur Veldkamp, Mireille Nicolaas and Cris Maldonado** - were selected to be the representatives of the BONAI group and make the presentation. AMFO and the Prins Bernhard Culture Funds generously sponsored our participation in this international congress of professional

archaeologists from around the world.



BONAI Students and Dr. Haviser with the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The IACA congress is held every two years in a different country of the Caribbean and is the world's largest gathering of archaeologists who specialize in research in the Caribbean. In the Trinidad congress there were about 250 partici-



BONAI students during their IACA Presentation

pants and about 120 papers presented, including ours. These papers are based on the most up-to-date professional research and results ranging from Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology, Ethnology and Paleo-biology (ancient plant, animal and environment studies). During the congress there not only were papers presented but also discussions were held about the contents of the papers. There were several receptions in the evenings, including one at the palace of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Chancellor's house at the University, and also at the National Museum. After the closing of the Congress we had two field trips, one to the island of Tobago and the other around Trinidad.

Our 20-minute presentation was about the activities and projects the BONAI group has done over the past two years. We divided the presentation into four sections, with each of us presenting one section. We created and used a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of our group and activities. Afterwards there were questions and discussions from the audience to which we responded.

One of the most important experiences we gained from this trip was the opportunity to meet and socialize with world renowned archaeologists about their research and experiences over the years. This was a great honor for us and a perfect opportunity to gain knowledge from them, as well as to inform them about

(Continued on page 7)

Bonai (Continued from page 6)

the BONAI projects. We received many very positive compliments and were told that our project is an important model for the youth of the region. We have therefore accomplished one of the main goals as BONAI, to create a dynamic youth and science program.

It was not only all serious and professional, we also got to have fun social experiences, such as dancing at one of the receptions, eating a lot of the local food like *roti*, flying to Tobago, meeting different local people and talking to them about their island and exploring the large UWI university campus. It was also nice that our hotel was full of the IACA delegates and so we got to sometimes sit around the pool and personally socialize in the evenings. Throughout the congress both the presentations and the social events were well organized.

We were delighted to have received this opportunity to represent Bonaire in an international congress and at the same time increase our own personal knowledge about archaeology. We also have established a network of professional contacts which will help us in the development of our future careers. None of this would have been possible without the full support and dedication of Dr. Jay Haviser who gave his time, energy and passion, as an inspiration to help us develop ourselves. Although Dr. Haviser will be moving on to work in

St. Maarten, the BONAI project will continue under the guidance of Ms. Jacky Bernabela, who has also been a great support from the beginning of the project. Next year's BONAI students will continue in the beginning of the new school year.

We are proud that, not only were we able to develop ourselves, but the BONAI project has been able to enrich our community with an appreciation of Bonaire's culture and nature. And that the BONAI project which started on Bonaire, has now become an international model for youngsters of the Caribbean. *Bonai Trinidad Team*

Dr. Jay Haviser, the organizer of Bonai, had this to add:

"After being back for only a day the Bonai students wrote their report for *The Bonaire Reporter!* I am so very proud of them, and indeed the entire community of Bonaire should be proud of the very mature and confident manner in which they acted during the congress. The professionals at this congress were amazed at the serious efforts which these students made, and indeed many thought they were university students. Clearly, we did establish Bonaire as the pioneer island for this kind of youth and archaeology project."

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

FO **NGO Platforma Bonaire: New address as of August 1:** Plaza Terras, Kaya Grandi 23, Rooms E,F,G. Tel. 717-2366, Fax 717-2367, website: www.ngobonaire.org

Bonaire's First Private High School Opens Monday

The Board of Directors of the *Stichting Vooruitstrevend Voorgezet en Hoger Onderwijs* (UniCollege-Bonaire Foundation) welcomes Ingebord van der Linden, as Principal of this new HAVO/WVO level school.

Ms. van der Linden comes to UniCollege after having held the position of Dean of the *Stedelyk Gimnasium* of Leiden, The Netherlands. This school has been evaluated during three consecutive years as one of the top three secondary schools of Holland.

Besides her 20 year experience as an educator, Ms. van de Linden's professional background includes school level orientation ("deecan"), Student Counselor, and School Proctor for supervision and orientation of older students (15-18 years old).

UniCollege is a progressive school that seeks to provide academically inclined Bonaire children with the opportunity to complete their HAVO/VWVO level secondary education without leaving their homeland and severing their family ties.

As previously reported, the school seeks to teach through innovative teaching methods now being applied by the UniC School of Utrecht, which shall also provide support and resources to UniCollege. The UniC concept, which is geared to encourage individual initiative and learning through research and group projects, is officially recognized by the Dutch government.

UniCollege-Bonaire opens its doors August 15, 2005. Persons interested in obtaining information on this new school can phone 717-0864 and/or log in to the UniCollege website at info@unicollege.org.

The Board of the Foundation is grateful for those companies and individuals who have been providing financial support for this praiseworthy effort, but UniCollege needs additional financial help to accomplish its goals. *Press release*



Ingebord van der Linden, Principal of the new HAVO/WVO High School.

Please send donations to:

The Foundation's Bank Account
MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK
(Bonaire)
Stichting Vooruitstrevend Voorgezet en Hoger Onderwijs
Account Number: 112.649.00

ENVIROWATCH

Sand Stripped From East Side Turtle Nest Destroyed

Photo Credit Ramon DeLeon



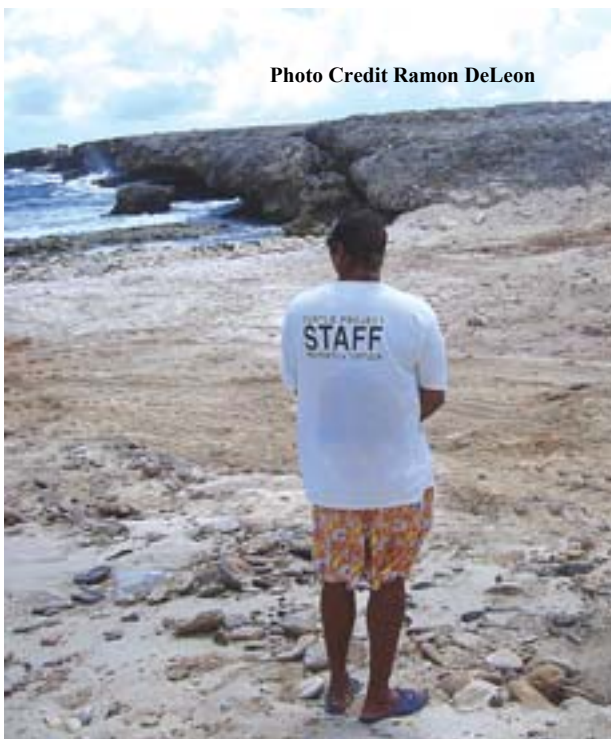
This scalped area was once a sandy beach

Sand mining has been outlawed by law on Bonaire for some time. However, on Monday, The Bonaire Marine Park Manager photographed sand mining operations at one of Bonaire's most well-known cultural sites, Boca Onima, close to the ancient Indian Inscriptions. He has presented the case to the Prosecutor.

The operation was an environmental outrage. At the spot where truck-loads of sand were stolen four turtle nests hatched last year, and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire had already discovered one nest there this year.

Illegal mining enforcement is lax. If the police find a driver without up-to-date auto tags they take his/her keys and tow the car away, not to return it until tags and fine are paid. Government officials from the DROB Environmental Section were on the scene, but no police appeared. G.D.

Photo Credit Ramon DeLeon



Sea Turtle Conservation Funchi Egrachts looks sadly at the remains of a turtle nesting area.

Nesting Activity At Washington Slagbaai National Park

On Saturday night, July 30th, the Abdul family and some friends were spending the night at Slagbaai and had the chance to see the hatching of the first reported nest in that area this year.

While barbecuing, the group noticed hatchlings emerging from their nest. But instead of heading to the ocean, the hatchlings started marching towards the saliña, apparently attracted by the light of the barbecue fire.

Recognizing that there was a problem, they contacted the Park's Chief Ranger George "Cultura" who advised them what to do. The family members and friends collected all the hatchlings in a bucket and successfully released them into the sea. Chief Ranger "Cultura" immediately called Mabel Nava, the Project Director for Sea Turtle Conservation (STCB) about the incident.

The next morning Mabel Nava traveled to the Park and surveyed the now empty nest. As part of STCB's on-going research program, she counted the hatched shells as well as the number of eggs that did not hatch.

This episode provides us all with a snapshot of how much our



community cares about sea turtles and sea turtle conservation. STCB would like to express their sincere appreciation to everyone involved with

the rescue. Because of their prompt and positive action, 94 hatchlings made it into the sea!

Please remember that if you see any activity where sea turtles might be in trouble, contact Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire on 717-2225 or

STINAPA on 717-8444.

Press Release



Bonaire Environmental Accolade to Bruce Bowker



Capt. Don presents the Accolade to Bruce Bowker

Capt. Don explains the meaning of the Accolade
"We believe that it takes a very special type of person to be involved in ocean and reef conservation or any program pertaining thereto. These people must be totally committed. There is no room for bleeding heart liberals. There is no room for once-a-year conservationists. Because all the room has been reserved for around-the-clock, sincere, and totally dedicated ECO warriors fighting for the ongoing health of our oceans. And what we feel here is an overwhelming dedication, a camaraderie amongst you, who in my opinion, are the indisputable pioneers of our earth's last frontier."

Accolade Recognition to Bruce Bowker

"Bruce Bowker, you are an extraordinary environmentalist. Hidden behind years of service, few know of the enormous tasks which you have accomplished. Your involvement with Klein Bonaire is well known. Less well known is your role in 1972 in founding Bon "Y" to teach Bonaireans to dive and learn the art of protecting the undersea environment.

The installation of the first moorings with chain and engine blocks and your enormous guidance in founding UPEC (Underwater Preservation of the Eighth Continent) which became CURO, which from amongst its hidden roots arose the Marine Park – are only two more of your pioneering efforts.

You have walked a long trail of so many firsts. The Bonaire reefs salute you for your kind hand in preserving their life for others to share and for the training so others too would understand and share your strong beliefs about the oceans.

Bruce, your footprints on diving safety and reef savvy are island history.
 We thank you.

*Captain Don, Founder
 "The Accolade Foundation"*

Bruce answers:

"I am honoured to receive this award from Don Stewart, a person who has so much foresight. There are far too many people whose only concern is how much money can be made today with no thoughts of any of the consequences for tomorrow. Let us hope this program will be a shining light to this world and especially Bonaire, and we can preserve Bonaire' most valuable and most fragile asset – its coral reefs.

1st Ethienne Cup

Last Sunday at Sorobon, Ethienne Soliano, one of Bonaire's top Olympic Class and Formula Class racers, organized a regatta exclusively for this class of windsurfer. In recent years the popular focus has been on the Freestyle Class, which uses different equipment, and contestants are rated on their ability to perform stunts on their boards. In the Formula Class, speed counts. The new style Formula boards are 2 meters-30 cm long and a wide 1 meter in width. They really move! Ethienne was satisfied with the turnout and hopes more sailors will join next year. *Daisy de Jongh*



Ethienne (left) with some winners

Results.

Junior:

Men:

1. Elton "Taty" Frans
2. Christiaan "Keke" Dammers
3. Ronald "Ro" Mejer

1. Arturo "Payo" Soliano
2. Jeager Sint Jago
3. Demenson "Kiri" Thode
4. Bjorn Saragoza
5. Harvey Piar
6. Raymison Ellis

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
8-12	4:58	1.0FT. 19:16	54
8-13	5:33	0.9FT. 19:51	49
8-14	6:04	0.8FT. 20:28	48
8-15	6:34	0.8FT. 21:15	54
8-16	7:11	0.8FT. 22:01	65
8-17	7:47	0.8FT. 22:45	77
8-18	8:18	0.8FT. 23:36	88
8-19	0:21	2.0FT. 8:50 0.9FT. 13:39 1.1FT. 15:36 1.0FT.	97

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alter Ego	Endorphan	Nelson	Saptivart
Andren	Eva Luna	Natural Selection	Sportivento
Angie	Flam	Orion	Sylvia K
Anything Goes	Flying Cloud, USA	Pamala Jean	Sylvestre
Augustine	Freestyle	Papeete	Thetis
Bluestar	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Pyewacket	Ti Amo, USA
Bright Sea	Jan Gerardus	Santa Maria	Tish
Camissa, Chan Is.	Josina	Sandpiper, USA	Tohill
Cape Kathryn	Key Lara	Seascape	Triumphant Lady
Catchloo	Luna C. USA	Sea of Time	Ulu Ulu, USA
Chalice	La Baronne	Sea Witch	Unicom, Norway
Criterion	La Serena	Shalimar	Varedhuni, Ger.
Delphinus	Marisol	Silvestre	Ventoso
Durchess	Mimo	Sintella	Ya-T, BVI
Elenoa	Moana	Sirius	Yanti Paratzi
Endangered Species	Moonglow	Sola 2	Zenitude

Balance For Bonaire Follow-up



A modern high rise hotel on the Sunset Beach Hotel property might look like this.

Recently, *The Bonaire Reporter* ran a reader survey along with the last two articles in its 'Finding Balance for Bonaire' series on island development. Thirty-one valid questionnaires were tabulated, with 75% coming from tourists and almost all of those from the US. This is not surprising since *The Reporter* is an English language paper.

Obviously, the survey cannot be seen as a random sample of Bonaire's tourists but more a snapshot of loyal American tourists who read *The Bonaire Reporter*. But it is at least a start to offer ideas about what research needs to be done and what efforts for improving the Bonaire experience might be considered.

What Our Readers Said

The respondents were primarily 40 to 60 years old and, no surprise, are mostly scuba divers. However, almost 1/3 are

now windsurfers even though only one came to Bonaire for the first time as a windsurfing tourist. Only seven respondents discovered Bonaire in the past five years to be considered 'new' visitors; all the others have been coming to the island for many years.

Satisfactions Levels

The respondents to the survey are basically happy customers, rating their Bonaire experience a 3.6 out of possible 4 points. And the thing that scored highest on the questionnaire was the 'friendliness of the people.' Also high on the list was number of dive locations and also the quality of diving. But even these 'fans' have some issues with our tourist product.

In the chart following you will see how satisfied the respondents are as they rate the items on a 1 to 4 scale, where a score of 4 means extremely satisfied and 1 means not at all satisfied.

Balance for Bonaire, Survey Results

Friendliness of people	3.81
Number of dive locations	3.77
Quality of your Bonaire Experience	3.65
Quality of the diving	3.60
Number of hotels	3.59
Number of restaurants	3.55
Number of tourists	3.52
Quality of hotels	3.48
Quality of the environment	3.47
Quality of restaurants	3.40
Number of activities available	3.33
Quality of activities available	3.27
Cleanliness of the island	3.18
Condition of the reefs	3.12
Service attitude of businesses	3.10
Number of cultural activities	3.00
Quality of cultural activities	3.00
Personal safety	2.97
Internet service	2.90
Water and electric service	2.87
Activities for children	2.71
Telephone service	2.66
Quality of the roads	2.53
Airline service to the island	1.73

Lowest level of satisfaction was naturally the airline service to the island, especially since the questionnaire followed the reduction of Air Jamaica service to only one flight a week.

We have listed the questions in order of satisfaction and put in pink those items which received a grade of 3 or less as indicators of where improvement could start.

Interestingly, most of the items with the lowest scores tend to be issues concerning island infrastructure--roads,

safety, water and electric, telephone and internet. It is also somewhat distressing that 'cleanliness of the island' did not have a higher score along with the condition of the reefs and service attitude of business. These are all key elements to the Bonaire tourist product and can almost be considered as part of our tourism 'infrastructure.'

Most of the respondents say they are reasonably satisfied with the number and quality of hotels, restaurants and activities, but many mentioned the need for more and better cultural activities. Cultural ties with tourists are especially important because it is one of the few ways an island can differentiate itself from competing destinations.

When it came to describing what they like most and like least about Bonaire, there were few surprises:

Like most: quiet, peaceful, not crowded, relaxed, un-spoiled, diving, reefs, nature, and the people of Bonaire.

Like least: airlift, increasing crime

When asked for ideas of how to improve Bonaire, after mentioning improved air service, many of the respondents said to keep the island as it is. These are a few of the quotes: "Don't change. Bonaire is incredible." "Keep Bonaire peaceful and quiet." "Can it be improved without changing the character of the island?"

Several important questions were not included in the survey, issues like price vs. value and also intention to return. And, as said before, projectable research must be done randomly from the entire

(Continued on page 11)

Picture Yourself with the Reporter Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



Mini Miss Bonaire, Sabine Schleper, and her mother, Millitza, are shown at the Resort Barcelo Copella in the Dominican Republic. Sabine, representing Bonaire, was third finalist in the International Mini Competition. Just to make her feel at home two flamingoes posed in the background for the photo.

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 2005 photos are eligible.)

Shorelines Target For Environmental Exploitation



Bonaire's pristine western shoreline at dawn photo by Marian Walthie

(Balance Follow-up. Continued from page 10)
tourist base, not with just the loyal *Bonaire Reporter* readers.

Exit interviews at the airport, if done with all the various flights leaving the island in a given period of time, would probably yield the most valid results. But at least from this small, biased group we have a clue as to where strengths and weaknesses exist.

For instance, is there a way to take the 'friendliness of the people' and turn it into a better 'service attitude at businesses'? Are there more opportunities for tourists to interact with the Bonairean community, in more cultural activities, for instance? There are clues here of where to improve the product and also where it should not be tampered with. G.D.



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Urges the Caribbean to Invest in Environmental Development

The keynote speaker at the recent Caribbean Hotel Association's Caribbean Hotel Industry Conference (CHIC) in Miami, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., echoes

some of the main points made in the "Finding Balance for Bonaire" series. His speech was the high topic of conversation among the Caribbean hoteliers and others in the travel and hospitality business.

Kennedy believes that the Caribbean should invest in environmental development that embraces all of its peoples. "One of the **big problems in the Caribbean**," he said, is that the **shorelines are the easiest areas for development and (to) reap quick profit.**"

"One of the impacts is that, in too many cases, the **development is being done carelessly** in ways that not only **contaminate the environment**, destroy the coral reefs – but the **poor members of the public who are not directly connected to the tourist industry are being fenced from their traditional resources**," he continued.

He warned, "Ultimately, the passion that is engendered by that dynamic is going to explode and they will come to pay the industry and they are going to damage everything – political stability, the economic vitality of those islands."

He said that tourists not only visit the Caribbean to experience the beautiful scenery but they go to the islands because of the **friendliness of the people** they encounter. "...If we do something that makes people resentful, the poor people on those islands, that attraction (for the tourists) is going to be much

less for the people to come from abroad. So the kind of development **has to be good for the people of the island** and not cut them off from their traditional resources that are part of their lives."

Kennedy said the job of environmentalists is to **inject a 'long term view' into the political dialogue.** Too often, politicians, economic leaders and corporate CEOs have **'short term horizons.'** "Your job," he said, "as environmentalists is to **amplify the voices of the future generation and inject them into the political dialogue and to ensure that the decisions that we are making today are not short term decisions that will end up penalizing the next generation of our community.**"

During his passionate address Kennedy gave the audience a background on 'River Keeper' – fishermen and ordinary people in New York who legally fought corporations that were polluting the Hudson River. The Hudson River is now an international model for ecosystem protection.

Kennedy serves as Senior Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, Chief Prosecuting Attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper and President of Waterkeeper Alliance. He's a Clinical Professor and Supervising Attorney at Pace University School of Law's Environmental Litigation Clinic and is co-host of Ring of Fire on Air America Radio. He served in the past as Assistant District Attorney in New York City. L.D.

Got something to buy or sell?

REACH MORE READERS than any other WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
by advertising in THE BONAIRE REPORTER

Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):

FREE FREE FREE FREE

Commercial Ads only NAf0.70 per word, per week.
Free adds run for 2 weeks.

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

JANART GALLERY

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

BONAIRENET

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

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

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

Bonaire Images

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

MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive.

Call Donna at 785-9332.

LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981

SALT TREASURES BONAIRE

100% natural body salts "Scrub Me" 100% natural Bath Salts available at Chat-n-Browse, KonTiki and Jewel of Bonaire or call 786-6416 for more information.

JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/

BE?

Are you having trouble collecting an old debt from BonairExel?

Is BonairExpress claiming that they don't owe you the money because of a name change? Call 717-7488 or email: greatescape@bonairelive.com

FOR SALE - Baby Macaw. Information telephone/fax. 717-2006 fam. Jonkman

WINDSURF SAIL 3.5m CARBON FIBRE MAST/BASE STAY AND BOOM Naf 300.00 WINDSURF BOARD - STARBOARD - EXCELLENT FOR BEGINNERS OR CHILDREN Naf 525.00 KITE SURF CABRINHA BLACK TIP KITE 10m WITH BAR AND LINES Naf 525.00 KITE SURF CABRINHA BLACK TIP 12m WITH BAR AND LINES Naf 525.00 ACCESSORIES - CHILDREN WAIST HARNESS Naf 45.00, ph: 717-3640; 786-0816. pelican@flamingotv.net

Like new Samsung 13.1 cubic ft. refrigerator NAf500 786 4399

LADA NIVA (jeep) for sale 1991-4X4 drive 1.6 Cyl. 95.000km NAf5.400 717-2844 or 786-2844

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

Property, Sales & Rentals

House For Rent: 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 kitchen, 1 sitting room, 2 porches. Kaya Korona #103. Tel. 785-3835.

Wanted

Wanted: Black bookcase. Please call 786-3134

A HANDY-MAN/ CARE TAKER. ONE FULL TIME AND ONE PART TIME. PLEASE WRITE OR CALL VICKY BISSESSAR. PO BOX 279 CEL 786-1592

LOOKING TO RENT OR SHARE - SAILBOAT- around 10 meters (30 foot). Call Maarten 717-8285, ext. 481

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

NEEDED:
Exercise equipment
for Capt. Don.

Do you have something that
would work for us?

Call Janet or Don,
786-0956.

Ask the Dietitian

Food and Nutrition Tips You Should Know

Looking for a natural way to enhance your absorption of iron from the food you eat?

Including Vitamin C with your meal helps you absorb the most iron from the other ingredients. So take your portion of Vitamin C from any of the following choices. All of them provide at least the minimum amount of Vitamin C needed to maximize iron absorption:

- 1 cup broccoli
- 1 cup Brussels sprouts
- ½ cantaloupe
- 1 cup cauliflower
- 1 cup cranberry juice (100% pure)
- 1 cup grapefruit juice (fresh or 100% pure)
- 1 cup orange juice (fresh or 100% pure)
- 1 cup kale
- 1 cup papaya chunks
- 1 cup pineapple juice (fresh or 100% pure)
- 1 cup fresh strawberries

How can you get rid of garlic breath?

Do you love garlic but not what it does to your breath?



After eating garlic, chew on a sprig of fresh parsley to relieve the effect on your breath.

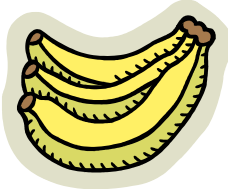
Do you love cabbage but not how it smells during cooking?

Here's a tip for you.

While you are cooking cabbage, add a celery stalk to the water.



Did you know that plantains are a high source of vitamin A and potassium?



With a little experimenting, you will be able to include plantains into your diet easily. Here are some suggestions:

Mash steamed plantain by hand and stir in a bit of reduced fat margarine and freshly grated low fat Parmesan cheese. Serve hot as a side dish with grilled fish for example.

Put some slices of plantain in an ovenproof dish with some grated cheese and ground cinnamon. Bake in the oven until cheese is melted.

Bananas are also a good source of potassium.

When choosing bananas look for those with yellow, unblemished skin.

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 dieti-



Pets of the Week



Amber Jaspersen and four cuties—Edith Foks photos

Four of the cutest puppies in the Bonaire Animal Shelter are shown here with volunteer Amber Jaspersen. Although Amber is only 11 years old she's taken her volunteer duties very seriously and she worked at the Shelter every day during her vacation. In fact, other volunteers say she is a wonder and did the work of an adult. Once school is back in session you'll find her volunteering every Saturday.

Amber is holding these beautiful black and tan puppies, all females. There were brought into the Shelter with their mother who had hidden them in a secret place, away from everyone. Some people who knew the mother suspected that she had puppies secreted somewhere and set out to find them so that they could be taken care of and not raised in the wild. They found them, then brought the mom and the pups into the Shelter. At first the puppies were shy and skittish, but now, at about six weeks old, they're totally acclimated to people. The mother herself is such a fine dog with such a good character, and because it seems to have rubbed off on the pups, it was decided to put all of them up for adoption. With their black and tan coloring and squarish heads it's suspected they might be Rotweiler mixes. But then there's a little indication of Rhodesian Ridgeback as well; they seem to have the best of both breeds. And because of their diverse background they won't have of disorders that sometimes occur in some breeds that have become over bred.

Stop by the Shelter on the Lagoen Road to see these and other pups available for adoption. The Shelter is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. *L.D.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

War of the Worlds Tom Cruise

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Mr. & Mrs. Smith

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

Star Wars Episode III

THIS WEEK

Saturday, Sunday, August 13-14-Sailing Regatta, sponsored by Canti Awa Snack, Budget Marine, Hilltop Caribbean Club – Micro boats, Optimist, Sunfish, Cats, Fishing boats. Sign up at Budget Marine. Cost is Naf20 per boat and you get entry, T-shirt, lunch, 2 drinks daily. Email: regatta@budgetmarinebonaire.com

Saturday, August 13– “Magic and a Movie” at Movieland. Famous Magic Ed Show followed by movie, “Herbie—Fully Loaded” 3pm, Naf15 –includes show, movie, fresh popcorn.

COMING

Sunday, August 21- Sentro di Bario Nikiboko Cultural Festival For more information pass by the Sentro or call Edichi Agostien at 717-3905
August 28-30 - 3- day Women's Windsurf Clinic Naf250 per person includes 3-day clinic and gear rental. 8-student minimum. Contact Ann Phelan at 786-3134

September 1-6—Annual Bonaire Motorcycle Tour.

Tuesday, September 6— C-run, 2/4/5 km., 7:30 am. Sponsored by COM-CABON 717-8629, 780-7225

Sunday, October 9—Jong Bonaire Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire, 8 am, Bongo's Beach

October 9 - 15- International Bonaire Sailing Regatta

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

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen in

Movieland Cinema:

MR. & MRS. SMITH, by Doug Liman, starring Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. Both actors are top ranking on the most beautiful people lists, enjoy girls and boys, and, according to the tabloids, Brad left Jennifer for Angelina, so aren't we curious how that came to be? Well, they do very nicely together. Actually, without them the film would be very thin, and I wonder if it would have survived a preview screening. It's all about guns and shootings and cars and helicopters, and the storyline is absolutely secondary. True, this isn't the most intelligent or thought-provoking movie I have ever seen, but it sticks to what it's good at, and that's action with a capitol A, and for that I'm happy. *Dodo*



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

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

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts and Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 717-7117

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.an

Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. Call 717-7103.

Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4303.

Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

Special Olympics - Contact Roosje 717-4685, 566-4685

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

Bridge Club - **Wednesdays**, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. Naf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

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

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

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

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

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

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from “The King's Storehouse.” Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018
Visit the Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

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

Sunday at Cai- Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire's popular musicians.

Rincon Marshé- every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in 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

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

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

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

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

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

Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

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

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
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	Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight! Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes with authentic ingredients. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out
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. 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 until 6 pm 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
Stiflers Bar & Grill Kaya L.D. Gerharts 3 (next to MCB Bank) 717-8584	Low-Moderate Open from 5-midnight, closed Sunday The late night place for food	Get Stuffed at Stiflers! Ribs, Burgers, Sandwiches and more Grilled meat a specialty



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.

COMPUTERS

Bonaire Automation B.V. fills all your computer needs: hardware, software, supplies, service, repair and more.

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.

Dive Friends Bonaire (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 an 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. **Now-full digital services.**

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.bonairealty.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.**

SPA

Face & Body Day Spa by Nubia -massage, facials, all body treatments for men and women.

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.

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Urwin Juaquin

I was working with the Curaçao police corps; when I got a promotion and they couldn't place me on Curaçao they gave me a position on Bonaire for three months. I'd been here before for Regattas, to visit friends and especially for Dia di Rincon. When you live in Curaçao those are the days you go to Bonaire. I had friends in Rincon, but I didn't know that many people. I'm not too social; in fact I'm a reserved person. I like my privacy and I think it's also because of the job. I don't want to know too many people and when I'm not working I don't like people to ask me about my work. Private is private, and work is work, and if we stick to that we don't have problems maintaining secrecy.

It wasn't so easy to come and live here. All my friends were in Curaçao and I felt a little homesick. I was used to all the hustle and bustle of life in Curaçao, so when I came here all this tranquility gave me stress! But little by little I got used to it. Now I feel stressed when I have to go to Curaçao. People here are so much friendlier and hospitable.

A year ago I started in a new position, a one-man unit, something new. I support the PR department. I'm in charge of security of the different districts, and I do crime prevention at schools. Together with the help of Chief Daantje I started the project. We discussed the problems we're having on Bonaire with our youngsters; we made investigations and reached a rapport. I went to Curaçao to see how they were handling the problem there. Police officers receive special training so they can give information and guidance at schools about aggression, badgering, drugs, teenage-pregnancies, etc. Professional study material is provided, and together with the teacher the officer tries to help the troubled child. Here on Bonaire we applied for money for the project from AMFO, but there are some organizing problems because it's a Curaçao police academy project. However, I've had the training and I'm certified to work at the schools, but the study material still isn't available and that's the problem.

Last year, at the beginning of the school year I started to work at elementary school *Kolegio Luis Bertran* in Rincon and lately also at *Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador* in Nikiboko. Together with my partners, Guilian Gougou and Eric Paulina, who work for FESBO (Organization of Community Centers) and who also received special training on Bonaire, I am guiding a group of troubled youngsters, from 9 to 13. I work with these children almost every day during school hours, after school, and frequently I visit their homes during the weekends, trying to put a structure in their lives. Our team comes out of the Bonaire youth care department, the child welfare board, GVI (the family welfare board), FORMA, the two FESBO

workers and a truant officer.

My motto is: There are no bad children! A child reacts to his or her environment. A child is like a hard disk: they take in everything they see and hear and experience. If you want to work with a child and bring out his good qualities you have to give a good example. After even one week working with a child I see progress and changes. It's all how you do it. You have to be tough too, but afterwards you have to encourage them and work on their self esteem. I always say, 'I don't have a problem with you, you're okay, but I don't accept your behavior!' The problem is worldwide, but as we are such a small community I find that we should be able to find a solution.

For me it's like this: If a child has a problem, he should receive aid instantly, not two months later, because then it's too late. We have to learn to react faster, to work together more intensely and not to waste time. I went through a lot myself; I know what these kids are feeling because I was there. If I hadn't had a strong character, I would have lost it too. That's why children need guidance; you have to know what kind of a person the child is. If he has a weak character you have to catch that in time and teach him to be more assertive, which creates another problem, because at home the parents don't accept children talking back. They're not used to it, and often the child doesn't know his limits either. If there's a psychiatric problem that's something else, but in practically all the cases I am involved in, it's **lack of attention or a responsibility too big for their shoulders** that has caused severe problems in the child's behavior.

“My motto is: There are no bad children! A child reacts to his or her environment.”

When the adults in his environment for whatever reason are not functioning well, the child starts looking to his friends: 'My friend is using drugs, so I have to do that too,' or: 'My girlfriend is pregnant and now I want to be pregnant too.' They see the adults around them spending money, but what they don't know is that many of them are in debt or have a triple mortgage on the house.

Every parent has the responsibility to be a good parent... that's it! You have a child and it's **your** responsibility! The most important thing for a child is attention, emotional support, and parents should listen to their children. A child needs to know that he can count on his parents. That's the most important thing - the emotional bonding with the child."



Urwin Juaquin

Urwin Juaquin is a soft spoken man with an open, friendly face, but at the same time you feel he's a strong, determined person. He knows what he wants and he knows what he's talking about and his heart is in it.

"I was born on Curaçao in 1963. When I was seven years old this woman saw me in the street and she adopted me officially. My two brothers went to live with family, and my sister stayed with my mom. My adoptive parents were very, very strict. I was married on Curaçao, and now I'm living with my partner and our son. I have five children, from 17 to five. My children are very active, cool kids. They're just like me, and I have a very good relationship with all of them.

This last year my work has become very important to me. A year ago I was thinking of accepting an offer to manage a big company, but now I only want to work with children. There's still a lot to be done. We're looking for an alternative, where we can house youngsters temporarily who have been involved with the judicial system. That's a priority. Also the police corps management has come up with a policy of prevention by approaching the problem socially in the districts. Teachers, schools, *sentro di barrios* and the people who live in the neighborhood should all be involved. Also they're planning on stationing a police official in every district as an intermediary.

You can't start everywhere at the same time, you have to set an example, and I chose Rincon. It's a unique neighborhood with its own special culture. After I'd

spoken with Roosje Vinck, the ball started rolling. They set up a committee and raised a platform together with the people who live in the district. The results are that the amount of burglaries has decreased drastically. Nevertheless there are still many problems that need to be solved.

The fact that Bonaire is such a small community also has a negative side. Because, for instance, when a 16-year old is selling drugs, what can we offer him to leave it and make money in a legal way? First he needs to be socially accepted again, and secondly, we need to offer him a job, but that's hard as there are only certain sectors for him to work in. FORMA is doing a lot, has very good projects and training and also re-socializing projects, but they need the cooperation of the employers and there aren't that many!

Well, my next challenge is the SGB high school, but for that we need to put together a real good team. We've got all the support of the corps management and Chief Daantje. They're 100% behind us. I'm working for the future of the children of Bonaire and my son is one of them. If we can't make it, we have to go, because I want a good future for him, but if we really can make a change and I believe we can, I'll stay." *photo and story by Greta Kooistra*



Marelva Soliano –30 years at Divi – and “Mama” to all the employees



*Marelva (center) with her family and new Divi
General Manager Maarten Van Wijk (front)*

At a surprise party last week at the Divi Flamingo Marelva Soliano, the face of Human Resources for the last 15 years, was honored by the staff for her 30 years at the hotel.

In 1975, a young Marelva was hired at the Divi as a clerk. She progressed to the reception desk, front office manager, reservation manager, and then in 1990 as Human Resources Manager. During her 30 years at the Divi Flamingo she worked with 17 different general managers for the hotel.

Her hotel career started way back in 1967 at Habitat, but it wasn't Capt.

Don's then. It was owned by Dr. Ad Hart and called "The Bonaire." The following year, in 1968, she started at the old Hotel Bonaire, working at the front desk, back office and reception, until 1975 when she joined Flamingo Beach.

Along the way, in 1988, she was Commissioner of Tourism for the Bonaire Government.

"I'm the oldest in tourism in Bonaire," she says, proudly. Why has she been in the business for so long?

"Because I just love the hotel business. I love to teach the staff and help to bring them along. They say I am

'Mama' to every employee!"

During these years she had three children, one of which, daughter, Carroll-Ann, is now Divi Food and Beverage Manager. "All my life I heard about the Flamingo Beach," says Carroll-Ann, "and it was always my dream to work her too, just like my mom."

Congratulations, Marelva, from all your fans! *L.D.*

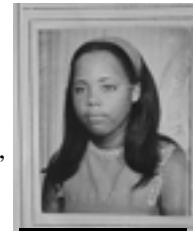


Photo from
Marelva's
original
"work-book"



*Marelva with son, John, and Divi
employee daughter, Carrol-Ann*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Use the Moon This Weekend to Find My Two Favorite Summer Constellations

Beginning this weekend you can use the **Moon** for four nights to find my two favorite constellations of summer, which I hope will become your favorites once you've learned how to find them.

This Saturday evening, August 13th at 9 pm, Sky Park Time, face south where you'll see a wonderful

eight-day-old Moon, which means it's just one day past first quarter, and is at the very top of a pattern of bright stars which looks like a fish hook. In fact in ancient Hawaii it was believed that the demigod Maui used this fish hook to pull the Hawaiian Islands up out of the ocean. The ancient Greeks and Romans, however, thought these bright stars looked more like the body of a scorpion. And indeed it really does fit the shape of a scorpion, complete with a bright red star named **Antares** right where the red heart of the scorpion should be, with two stars at the end of the upturned scorpion's dreaded stinger.

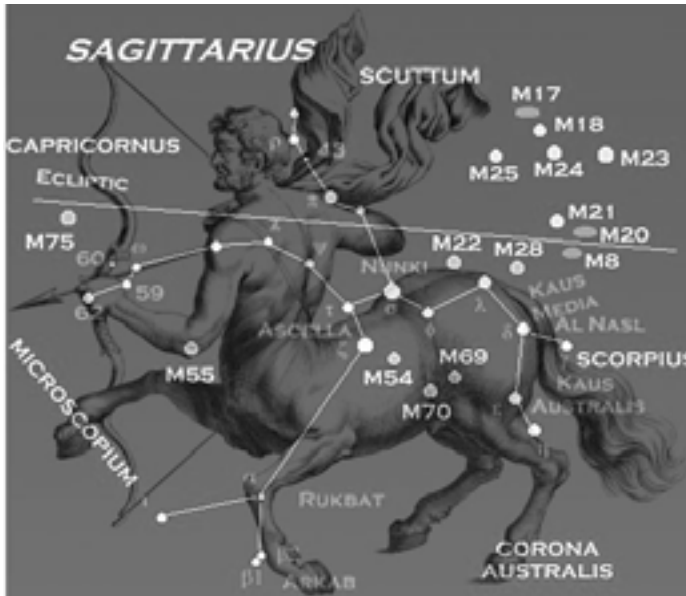
Now if it happens to be cloudy this Saturday you can still use the Moon to find it on Sunday when a slightly fatter Moon will be just past Antares. Then the next night, Monday, the 15th, the Moon pays a visit to my second favorite summer constellation, **Sagittarius**. It's a huge constellation, half man and half horse, but whose brightest stars form a pattern which, if you draw lines between them, look like a teapot. In fact the Moon will be right above the spout of the teapot Monday night, and if it's cloudy on Monday, on Tuesday a slightly fatter Moon will be parked right next to the stars that mark the teapot's handle.

Once again, to find the scorpion start watching on Saturday, and as the Moon moves from night to night it will slowly grow fatter. On Sunday night it is just past Antares and high above the stinger. On Monday it is parked right over the spout of the teapot of Sagittarius, and on Tuesday right beside the stars that mark the handle.

How wonderful that two star patterns so close together really look like familiar, easy-to-identify objects - a scorpion, or a fish hook, and a teapot. But as easy as they are to find, especially if you use the Moon this weekend, the wonders that these constellations contain are numerous, and I'll give you just a couple. Antares, **Scorpius'** red heart star, is second only to **Orion's** red **Betelgeuse** in size as far as red stars go. In fact if we could place Antares where our Sun is it would reach out past the orbits of **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars** and even **Jupiter**. Indeed it is so huge we could fit 216 million of our **Suns** or 281 trillion Earths inside it. Wow!

Sagittarius is equally wonderful because it points directly toward the center of our Milky Way Galaxy which you can see any clear moonless night.

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
August 8 – August 14, 2005
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Those you care about may oppose your ideas. It might be time to do some of those chores at home. Escapist tendencies may lead to overindulgence. Curb your mood swings; they could result in loneliness. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Use your charm, but don't sign or agree to anything. You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts this week. Avoid any confrontations with colleagues. Sudden disruptions will cause upset and a change of routine in your home environment. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your passionate nature may make you jealous if your mate has been too busy to take care of your needs. Help elders get their personal papers in order. Keep an open mind when dealing with youngsters. Your boss may be on the rampage, and you certainly don't want to be the one to take the brunt of a bad situation. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) It's a good time for long awaited relationships to begin. Get involved in groups that are creative in nature. You can accomplish a lot if you deal with other people's money or possessions this week. You can sort out any differences you have in an amiable manner. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Make sure you concentrate if operating machinery or vehicles. You can make favorable changes in your home environment. Travel and communication will be lucrative for you. You can enjoy social events and meet new potential mates; however, avoid being lavish. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Find ways to mellow out. You may find yourself mixed up in a triangle of sorts. Double-check before you go out. Take time to explain your intentions to loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Let others know what your intentions are and be honest in your approach. Good week for romance. You may have a problem dealing with elders. You will have the discipline and fortitude to accomplish what you want this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You must look into your options. You need a break from your daily routine. Take a second look; another person's philosophy may be extremely different from yours. You may have been too nice to a friend who just wanted to take advantage of you. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your passionate nature may make you jealous if your mate has been too busy to take care of your needs. Romance could be exciting if you are spontaneous. Be cautious of making any residential changes this week. Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't reveal information that is personal or confidential. Direct your energy wisely this week. Anger will prevail if you expect help from others. Health problems may prevail if you don't take care of them immediately. Your sensitive nature will allow others to read you well. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your own small business on the side could ease your financial stress. You may find that you are a little lucky this week. You will have a productive day if you organize yourself well at work. Take work home but be sure to spend some time with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Be aware of any emotional deception. Do not sign legal contracts or documents this week. Do your job and then spend some time with family; you'll be glad you did. You could experience delays in shipments or mail, and should be careful while traveling. You may find that you're being used. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.