

IT'S
STILL
FREE

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

Capturing Bonaire's
Unique Architecture
A New Series
Begins on page 10

Wilna Groenenboom photo

Flotsam and Jetsam

A significant step was taken redefining relationship within the Dutch Kingdom following the meeting between delegations of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles Central Government and all five island territories in Bonaire last Friday. Directions were set on numerous basic provisions for determining the status of public finances, the debt position of the Antilles and each of the islands, economic and social development and the quality of public administration. An agenda with deadlines was drawn up for reports to be readied, steps to be taken and phases to be completed. If kept to this timetable, **Bonaire may be out of the Netherlands Antilles and "report" directly to Holland by July 1, 2007.** For more details see the story on page 4.



Extra Photo

Bonaire's Island Council members attended many meetings prior to final agreements. Bonaire government advisor Mikel Bijkerk at right.

Saba's Commissioner Will Johnson (L) and Bonaire's Reginald Dortalina



Herald Photo

(2nd from L) sign the declaration of intent between the Netherlands and the three "smaller islands" at Bonaire's Plaza Resort



Following council, effective April 1, 2006, **SELIBON will be charging businesses more for trash collections, and commercial dumping at the landfill, now free, will cost NAf8 per half ton (500kg) or un-**

der. Rates for households remain the same: NAf120/year (NAf10 per month added on the WEB water bill). Until 1997 residential trash pickup was free, and businesses paid NAf120/year. The new small business rates rise from NAf150 to NAf240 annually. Large businesses will pay NAf360.

► The opposition Democrat Party leader Jopie Abraham wants a **reduction in the cost of fuel and a government subsidized "energy**



Jopie Abraham

fund" to offset the increase in living costs on Bonaire. He explained during a radio show about the price structure for a liter of high-test gasoline. The consumer pays NAf193,2 cents per liter when he/she fuels the car. Curoil, the Curaçao-owned fuel distributing company that supplies Bonaire, pays the Venezuelan-owned oil company, PdVSA, NAf71.02 cents per liter for the gas. Curoil adds NAf14.5 cents for its costs. Then the pump station owner adds NAf12.36 cents for each liter he sells. So the total direct cost for one liter of high-test is NAf97.84 cents.

The difference between this price and the price the consumer pays is NAf95.36 cents. All of that difference is due to taxes to either the Central or local government, said Abraham. The almost 100% tax also applies to other petroleum fuels like diesel, which powers Bonaire's electrical generators as well. Therefore, the government can lower the cost of the fuel for the consumer by reducing fuel taxes.

► An area of rain showers south of Puerto Rico developed from Tropical

Depression 25 into **Tropical Storm Alpha, setting a record for the number of Atlantic storms in a single season.** The Greek alphabet has never been used in roughly 60 years of regularly named storms. After drenching the island of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) it merged with Hurricane Wilma as it pounded Florida. Forecasters believe that there will be more storms before the end of hurricane season at the end of November.

► Christopher Frans from Rincon writes: "During Regatta I was in Paris, France, for a **world youth conference**, organized by UNESCO. It was a forum and the theme



Christopher Frans was "Young People and Dialogue among Civilization, Culture and People – ideas for action in education, science and culture." There were 200 participants from all over the world. I was chosen to represent the youth of the Netherlands Antilles and AMFO sponsored my ticket, my stay, transportation and other costs.

The following week on Wednesday I went to Sint Maarten with a youth delegation to represent Bonaire at the Youth Summit organized by the Central Government. Each Dutch Caribbean island has to be represented by a youth delegation. The Aruban youth parliament came too. The theme was "Youth: Future of

(Continued on page 3)

(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

our Nation.” We were split into nine groups, with each group having delegates from each island. The four themes we discussed were: education, culture, economics, environment, religion and the constitution. The next Youth Summit is in 2007 and will be held in Bonaire.”

► Where on Bonaire can you try a **top label glass of wine for only NAf2,50?** It's at (AWC) **Antillean Wine Company's Wine Tasting on Saturdays** from 6 to 8 pm at their shop-warehouse storage area at Kaya Industria 23 – across the road from Warehouse Bonaire, near Consales Cash and Carry. Every Saturday evening a different group of great wines is offered. The bottle prices are reasonable for such high quality wines. The shop has lots of interesting wine-oriented products like gift boxes, wine coasters, etc. etc. They're also open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 am to 12:30 pm so you may stop by for shopping. AWC also offers free delivery. Tel. 560-7539.

► It's Halloween! Don't miss a visit to the very scary **Haunted House at Captain Don's Habitat this Sunday and Monday, October 30 and 31.** The entrance cost as been dropped to only NAf5 and all the proceeds go to Special Olympics Bonaire. The ghouls who put this together claim that it's Bonaire's original and creepiest. In fact, it's so scary that it's not recommended for children under 12 and parental discretion is advised. Whatever you do, don't go alone – bring a friend you can hang onto! See their ad on page 18.

► **The Coast Guard came to the aid of the Venezuelan**

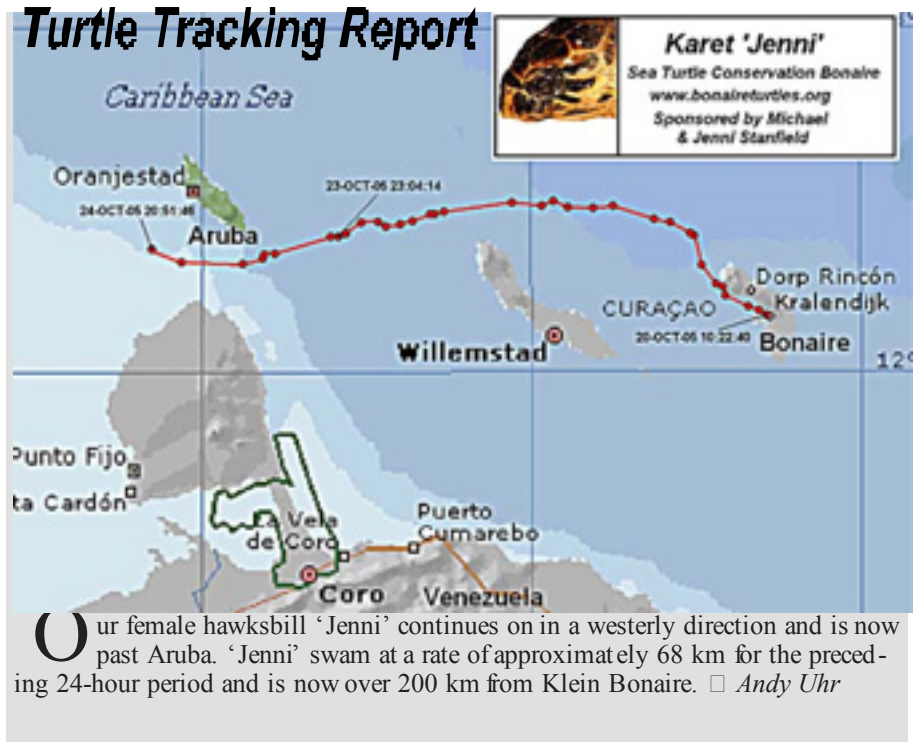


fruit boat Bella Lisa, which had taken on water and was in danger of sinking some 12 nautical miles south of Curaçao. A helicopter and the Coast Guard cutter *Jaguar* responded. The water was then pumped out of the engine room and the boat was safely towed to the harbor.

► The father of Joran van der Sloot, who is one of the suspects in the still unsolved disappearance of Natalee Holloway, **has filed for damages.** His case was heard by an Aruba court last Friday. The hearing was conducted behind closed doors. Paul van der Sloot was held by the authorities for several days on suspicion of involvement in the disappearance of American teenager Natalee Holloway three months ago. He was released after a couple of days and told he was no longer a suspect. The law provides for the filing for possible damages within three months after suspicion is officially lifted. The Court will rule on November 11.

► **GSM-Chippie customers will soon be able to create "chat rooms" on their cellular phones** in a setup similar to the Internet Instant Messaging concept. Chippie subscribers will be able to enter chat rooms with up to 10 people for NAf0.10 per message.

Turtle Tracking Report



Our female hawksbill 'Jenni' continues on in a westerly direction and is now past Aruba. 'Jenni' swam at a rate of approximately 68 km for the preceding 24-hour period and is now over 200 km from Klein Bonaire. □ *Andy Uhr*

► Last week a decision by the Island Council **to increase pensions for needy retirees by NAf100** per month was made effective. The increase applies to older persons who have been living in Bonaire for six months or more, are not in a nursing home, and can prove that they cannot make ends meet. SASO is in charge of allotting the extra allowance; payments are made by the SVB. Sign up at the Sentro di Barios.

► **The Mangazina di Rei Foundation is looking for enthusiastic volunteers** to help in their open-air museum. The Mangazina Foundation is recreating life in Bonaire as it was in the past, centered

around the "Warehouse of the King" – the beautifully reconstructed building on the east side of the Kralendijk-Rincon road just before Rincon. Visit the center or call 717-4060 or 786-4643 or email residat1@bonairelive.com.

► **The lovely models in the Benetton ad this week are Jermainy Diaz and Rhoda Celestijn**, both from Jong Bonaire. The girls are shown in the Royal Palm Galleries, in front of the RE/MAX office. The Benetton ad is on page 20. □ *G.L. D.*

Giant Step Taken Towards a New Constitutional Status for Bonaire

Representatives of the Antilles Central Government, all five Netherlands Antilles island territories and the Dutch government signed a “main points” agreement that puts the breakup of the Antilles on course for completion by July 2007.

In a marathon meeting that lasted three times longer than scheduled, well into the early hours of last Saturday morning, October 22, the *hoofdlijnen* (headline) *accord* spelled out the future for the islands and the condi-

tions necessary for a successful redefinition of the relationships among the Netherlands and their former Caribbean colonial possessions. Aruba was invited to participate but was not at the meeting.

In 1954 the Netherlands Antilles were defined as a semi-autonomous part of the Kingdom of Holland. In 1976 Aruba left the Antillean constellation, headed for independence in 1996, but later declared it wanted to remain part of the Kingdom.

In the new structure, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba will have direct ties, a term still not precisely defined, with Holland. Sint Maarten and Curaçao will operate as independent political entities



Minister Pechtold and Governor Domacassé

Photo/ Barbara Bianculli

but remain part of the Dutch Kingdom, in a relationship analogous to Aruba's today.

In a series of referenda conducted over the last few years, voters on each island expressed their preference for those arrangements, except for St. Eustatius, who voted for the status quo – part of the Netherlands Antilles.

Bonaire's Commissioner Reginald “Jonchie” Dortalina, who leads Bonaire's task force to implement the status change, referred to the declaration as a “first step” to realize the wishes and vision of his island for direct ties. He said he was proud to have arrived at the posi-

tion along with Saba and Sint Eustatius.

Details of the agreements and procedures for the actual breakup of the Antilles remain to be worked out over the next two years. Aruba took three years, from 1983 till 1986, to hammer out its status aparté with the Dutch.

Dutch Minister of Kingdom Relations, Alexander Pechtold, who negotiated for the Dutch government, said that these agreements on constitutional status reform for the Antillean islands will be the basis for a “round table conference” to be held before the end of this year. Significant elements to be worked out include: debts, finances, security, the 2.4 billion euro national debt and government operations.

Prior to the meeting Bonaire's Senator Ramonsito Booi spoke eloquently about Bonaire's goals: “Bonaire feels at home in present-day modern surroundings. Bonaire has chosen to directly link with the Netherlands on the basis of its age-long history and mutual relationships. Bonaire has no other partner with which it feels connected to this way. That link with the Netherlands is intensely impor-



Extra photo

Commissioner Burney el Hage shakes the hand of Minister. Commissioners Dortalina and Kroon await their turn

tant to us. Bonaire is too small to supply the needs of its citizens, the economic strength, the prosperity and the well-being which is commonplace in large developed parts of the world. With the Netherlands, Bonaire hopes to reach that level.”

He continued, “Today we stand at the beginning of a new partnership between the Netherlands and Bonaire. Lots of consultation is still needed, but a political decision has been made. The Netherlands and Bonaire respect the choice of the people of Bonaire and together opt for a one-on-one relationship. Therefore, Bonaire will break its present links within the Netherlands Antilles.” □ G.D.

A Vision of a New Bonaire – Presented in the Bonaire Way

Several days before the formal meetings, on Wednesday evening, October 19, the Dutch Minister of Kingdom Relations, Alexander Pechtold, spoke to a public gathering in Tera Corra. His speech was an affirmation that Holland is moving forward to build a new, more direct, relationship with Bonaire, as the island had requested by its referendum vote last year.

In true Bonaire style the speeches by Bonaire's government officials and Mr. Pechtold were followed by musical entertainment. The Silver Bullet Steel Band, the Watapanas, and Glen i Su Geng performed.

Artist Nochi Coffie created the eye-catching stage backdrop. The mural consists of six points of the star on the Bonaire flag which represent the "eyes" of the six original villages of the island. They all face the central evergreen Wayaca, the tree of life, and a vision of the "New Bonaire."

On Friday, October 21, Antilles Day, Mr. Pechtold returned to Bonaire from meetings in Curaçao and, as reported elsewhere, signed a declaration of intention to restructure Holland's relationship with the island of Bonaire and the start of the breakup of the Antilles as they exist today. □ *Photo and story by Barbara Mason Bianculli*



Willie Wanga and The Silver Bullet Steel Band

2005 International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame Recognises Dive Pioneers

On October 13 the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame recognised four extraordinary individuals for their outstanding contributions to the sport of scuba diving at its fifth annual Dinner and Induction Ceremony. During his speech, the Hon. Mr. Charles E. Clifford, Minister of Tourism, said that the inductees were dedicated and professional individuals who have taken their love of the sport and applied it through various disciplines to promote awareness, increase safety, and establish a foundation for the development of diving.

International inductees for 2005 were: Ernest Brooks, II; Andreas B. Rechnitzer, Ph.D.; Dewey Bergman; and Captain Donal Stewart.

Captain Don was nominated for his founding of dive tourism in Bonaire, the Council of Underwater Resort Operators (CURO), and Captain Don's dedicated diving resort. He has spent the greater part of his life in Bonaire taking visitors diving and successfully campaigning to protect the natural underwater wonders. Among his many accomplishments, Captain Don led the campaign to ban spear fishing in Bonaire, instituted the first permanent mooring system which eliminated the need for boats to drop an anchor, which eventually led to the Bonaire Marine Park, founded the Council of Underwater Operators, and initiated a mandatory orientation dive for all people diving on Bonaire.



Captain Don accepting his award from the Hon. Mr. Charles E. Clifford, JP: Minister of Tourism, Environment, Investment & Commerce, Cayman Islands Government

In accepting his award Captain Don said, "After seeing the biographies of my fellow awardees, I felt that I had done nothing for SCUBA. However, consider what SCUBA has done for my island! Scuba was the vehicle used to enter into Bonaire's magnificent bay, its underwater treasure. I was a bit like the Lone Ranger, with the silver bullets, but it was the 'Tontos' who did all the

(Continued on page 12)

Bonaire's Sentro di Barios:

Tera Corra Part 2



A Candidate for Funding from
AMFO and the NGO Platform

21st Century Tera Corra Sentro di Bario, the Present

The large mural painted by Norwin "Nochi" Coffie and designed by Franklin Scherptong and Egilio Goeloe stresses the beliefs of the Tera Corra community. Central to their emblem is the stately Tamarind tree under which the first people met for worship, education and recreation. This tropical evergreen tree, like the people of Tera Corra, is strong and handsome yet drought resistant with its deep, extensive root system. Painted above the Tamarind tree is a white dove representing freedom. A wheelbarrow used in the salt ponds and the aloe plant from the plantations symbolize the early economy. The words, **unity, positivism, peace, love and justice**, surround the tree, indicating the strong beliefs of the people of Tera Corra.

"Think of each word as one of your fingers," Frank Goeloe, past board member of the Sentro di Bario, explains. "That means whenever you shake someone's hand, you wish the person unity, positivism, peace, love and justice. Our aim is for all our neighbors and all who were born here to walk together and help one another like the fingers on this hand. That is the strength of Tera Corra. Together we stand. We don't spare our energy because we love this land of Tera Corra."



The Seal of Tera Corra - unity, positivism, peace, love, justice

neighbors. All this he did for no pay, just to help people. A story is told that he helped some people who had flooding problems during a hurricane period, even though the flooding at his own house was worse.



Kaya Felipe G. Clarinda is named for a Tera Corra sailboat captain who traveled between Curaçao, Bonaire and elsewhere in the Caribbean.

Chiana Rosario, another street name, was named for an intelligent child whose parents could not afford a higher education for her. She used her talents to volunteer at the Sentro di Bario throughout her life and encouraged many sports events, especially "korfbal," a kind of basketball.



Respect, self-sufficiency and pride are important to this community. The government had named many of the Tera Corra roads after rivers. The community, however, wants to honor the important people of their past, so they are changing some of the street names. One of the new names is Inees Domacassé. She came to Tera Corra from Rincon in 1850. After a day of hard labor, she took the time to teach her neighbors to read and write, and, since there was no priest at that time, taught them about God as well.

Domingo Bernabela was the messenger who brought the news to Tera Corra. Day or night, sun or rain, he walked the miles between Kralendijk and Rincon to Tera Corra to deliver messages to his



Kaya Monseigneur Niewindt was named for a bishop from the Netherlands Antilles who wrote letters to the government as well as the Queen about the inhumane treatment of people working in the salt pans and of the need for education, especially during the bad times beginning in 1852.

Tera Corra is an active community. Music has always been important. In the book printed for the 155-year anniversary, it mentions that neighbors played many different instruments including the accordion, drum, mandolin, rasp, trombone, violin, trumpet, triangle, guitar and more. Theo Scherptong, the *tata di musika di*

A neighborhood rich in folklore and history, built on the solid foundation and spirit of its passionate ancestors



Mr. Ubaldo Anthony and Mr. E.F. Goeloe point to the rock from Rincon

Tera Corra, in his youth played the guitar. In 1958, he and Lanlan Clarinda formed the musical group *Tipico Boneriano*, which represented Bonaire when it performed in North and South America and Europe. Theo's son, Franklin, started the island's first steel band in 1968. It is now called the Silver Bullet Band and can be heard playing at many locations on Bonaire. It has also entertained in North and South America. Baseball is another favorite neighborhood activity, and with the help of RBTT bank, many from Tera Corra play in its Little, Junior, and Senior Leagues. This past summer, a three-week vacation program, sponsored in part this year by AMFO, was enjoyed by the children of Tera Corra.

In 2001, the Sentro di Bario erected a monument near the Tamarind tree, not far from the yellow house that was Tera Corra's first community center. In true Tera Corra spirit, the neighborhood people created it on their own, with their own funds. They constructed a pedestal of stones that had as its largest and most central piece an igneous rock from Rincon, the village from which they came. On the pedestal is a plaque of the Tera Corra seal.

Every five years, starting in 2000, the Sentro di Bario celebrates its anniversary and pays tribute to people in the community who have made positive contributions. These celebrations are made possible through community volunteers and fundraisers. Seven people were selected in 2000 and five people at their 155-year anniversary in 2005. One person honored was Janchi Janga, a pioneer of the Sentro di Bario on Bonaire, who selflessly gave his time and energy to working with the people of the community. He helped protect the rights of the hotel and restaurant workers and understood the ecology of the island. He predicted that cutting the canals for real estate development would drain the water from the trees in Tera Corra. It did and many trees died.

Tera Corra, the Future

In August 2042, Tera Corra hopes to be part of a very special celebration. That is when the time capsule placed in Kralendijk by the Lion's Club will be opened. Then the enclosed pictures and history of Tera Corra will be shared with the whole island. (editor's note: copies of *The Bonaire Reporter* are also in the time capsule!)

"Remember the games of 'War' we played under this Tamarind tree?" Mr. Goeloe asked his brother, Richard. Then he explained it to me. "Two boys were on the ground under the tree and two were in the tree. All four were armed with the hard green pods of the Tamarind tree as ammunition. We'd scamper all around the branches trying to hit our target below. Sometimes, when a group of barefoot boys were playing in the tree and it was close to sunset and time to go home, the big boys would quickly dart off the tree and encircle the base of the tree trunk with pieces of thorny cactus, leaving the smaller boys with no way down except the high jump from the ends of the branches!" Ouch!

"I remember the sounds of the bari," chuckled Ubaldo Anthony, a past Sentro di Bario member, "when they played under the Tamarind tree at night. The drummer would use a deep male voice when he sang the questions and then a high woman's voice for the answer part."

"What memories do you wish for the future generations of Tera Corra?" I ask.

All three men agree that the kids need time and help from the adults. Not to just be given things or money, but to be given good examples and responsibility.

"I'd like to start a Scouting group in the neighborhood," says Richard Goeloe, Tera Corra's Sentro di Bario's president. "And start a table tennis team again," adds Ubaldo. "And classes like those we

(Continued on page 7)

(Tera Corra, Continued from page 6)

used to have in craft making. It can create pride. For example, one of the bracelets made by the souvenir group years back was sold to a visitor for her friend, Mrs. Pat Nixon, wife of the then US President. So something from Tera Corra went to the White House! It's about more than making money, you know; it's about pride and respect. Franklin Scherptong demonstrated that. He was the first leader of the Silver Bullet Band and they were playing for one of the cruise ships that came into port. The passengers enjoyed the music and they started throwing money. Franklin stopped and said to please not throw money, they will, however, accept a polite donation!"

Pride in ourselves comes from appreciating our accomplishments, and pride in our neighborhood comes from understanding the achievements of our ancestors who worked so hard. Frank Goeloe wishes that the community would continue to seek the history of Tera Corra, especially from the neighbors over 80 years old and from archives involving Bonaire history. That's why, when he had the booklet for the 155-year anniversary printed he had every facing page blank. "We hope that people will correct or add to what is in the book," he explains. "Our wish is to have Tera Corra as it used to be – a caring, supportive family - a positive, proud community. We're not just from Bonaire, we're from Tera Corra!"

For this 155-year anniversary of Tera Corra, Mr. Ubaldo Anthony wrote a special song, "Thanks to Them," honoring the first inhabitants, the first heroes, of

Tera Corra.

After they got their freedom from oppression of slavery, They built the village . . . my beloved village. . . In 1850 they built it. Together they made it flourish, For the first time, proud to be free, With a sense of great honor and dignity.

Ubaldo sings encouragement to his neighbors: "Let's work hard to maintain Tera Corra . . . and honor the heroes who first built it."

The leaders of this resourceful community have many dreams and plans, some confidential right now, for Tera Corra. I look forward to being amazed at what this strong, persevering, united community will be able to accomplish! □ Photos and Story by Barbara Mason Bianculli



Mr. Janchi Janga,
pioneer of the Sentro di Bario



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Thanks to the kind and generous help from Ubaldo Anthony, E. F. Goeloe, Richard Goeloe, Sue Ellen Felix, Arthur Sealy, Hubert Vis, Felix "Papy" Cicilia, Jeanne Emmers, Udo and Berni Lusse, "Chiki" Chirino, Jiri Lausman, and community members who contributed to Tera Corra's Sentro Bario's Information Book



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BONAIRE The REPORTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Turtle Tracking, Jenni	3
Step to New Constitution	4
New Vision of Bonaire	5
Scuba Hall of Fame Awards (Capt. Don)	5
BONAI Coral Reef Project	8
Young Chefs in Italy	8
Navy Days Willemstad	9
Yellow Submarine Welcomes REEF	9
Antique Living Houses of Bonaire	10
SGB Students Write about Regatta	11
Foks-Ferrageau de Saint Amand Exhibit	13
Art for Fun-Donkey Torso	14
Gardner- Rock & Cactus Garden	15

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
AMFO/NGO Platform: Tera Corra, Part 2	6
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Picture Yourself (Cartagena, Columbia)	11
Classifieds	12
Pet of the Week ("Stanley")	13
Reporter Masthead	14
What's Happening	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
On the Island Since (Ronald Schleper-Repeat)	17
Special Olympic Spotlight (Richard Molina)	18
Sky Park (Halloween, Mars at Biggest)	19
The Stars Have It	19

BONAI - Coral Reef Project

The BONAI youth group (this year with 15 students) is back on track this new school term with a different kind of interest: "The Coral Reefs of Bonaire," with their instructor Marine Biologist, Caren Eckrich. They will snorkel, dive, collect data, and make analyses and finally make a report about their findings. The three topics they'll cover will be the diseases of the corals, do divers follow the rules, and the difference between "bad" garbage and "good" garbage. Their findings will be published in *The Bonaire Reporter* and *Extra* for the Bonaire public. This project is made possible thanks to the Island Government, AMFO and the Prins Bernard Cultural Funds. □

Story & Photos by



Caren Eckrich with student Mireille Nicolaas.



Bonaire's Young Chefs in Italy

Report from Sara Matera

The SGB hotel school students in Italy for a four-week training session, studying cuisine, Italian style, are having a fantastic learning experience. Together with culinary students from Curaçao, Aruba and other countries from around the world, they're studying in the Nazareno School in Carpi, in the Emilia Romagna Region, considered the most outstanding culinary area in Italy.

Just to mention some of the subjects, they've had lessons in pasta and bread making and classroom studies in guest services. They've had several wines classes from professional sommeliers, who show them the full "Italian way of life." One weekend they learned about wines in a 15th century Castle in Dozza. They've had lessons in the bar too: cocktails, coffee, liqueurs and mixing styles.

Old castles are everywhere, and the students have shown a lot of interest in the culture of the country along with the food and wine.

These have been invaluable life experiences for these young people. They're learning from the professionals themselves about the dedication it takes to pursue a career in the culinary arts. And they've made new, life-long friends and have taken a bigger step in understanding the cultures of other countries.

Bonaire's students working in Italy are Channethon Jansen, Minosca Mercera, Angel Albertus, Shakira Mattew and Gianna Martines. □ Sara Matera



Navy Days in Willemstad



Action in Curaçao's harbor

Over the weekend the annual waterfront "Navy Day" celebration was held in Curaçao. Photographer Els Kroon provided us these photos. □

American consul Robert Sorenson and his wife Lesley on Hr Ms Tjerk Hiddes during the Navy Days



↑ "Smoke Jumpers" from the bridge backdrop the crowds waiting to board the Frigate Hr Ms Tjerk Hiddes

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
10-28	4:10	1.0FT.	38
10-29	3:55	1.1FT.	47
10-30	3:28	1.1FT.	57
10-31	2:51	1.1FT.	68
11-01	11:58	1.8FT.	77
11-02	12:31	1.9FT.	85
11-03	13:15	2.0FT.	90

Yellow Submarine Welcomes REEF



Happy REEF Dive Friends

REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) conducts trips to various locations around the world and has a loyal following of divers. REEF conducts survey dives, seminars and holds other educational events, showing the dive travelers what the destination has to offer.

In September REEF's Joe Cavanaugh led a group of nine divers to Bonaire where the island's only designated REEF field station, Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, hosted the group on September 7 and 8. Guided by Yellow Submarine's dive guide, Jan, the group made a survey dive in front of Yellow Submarine on the

7th, followed by a guided shore dive on the southern leeward shoreline on the 8th.

The Dive Friends family of dive shops is proud to say that many of the nearly 10,000 underwater fish surveys conducted on Bonaire came from staff or guests of either Yellow Submarine or Photo Tours Divers. Dive Friends Bonaire is a new company devoted to offering the best in diving services on Bonaire. Their four locations offer flexibility and personal service to the Bonaire dive traveler. For additional information, visit www.dive-friends-bonaire.com, or email info@dive-friends-bonaire.com. □

Susan Davis

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Altair	Gallivanter	Sho Fun Time
Alter Ego	Going	Scintella
Amorita	Good Hope	Shalimar, Caymans
Andrea, Bermuda	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Sirius
Angie	Guerdo	Sol Y Mar
Angelique	Jan Gerardus	Sylvia K
Annke	La Baronne	Tish
Aguila	Lazzorone	Theis
Augustine	Makai	Ttuut
Bright Sea	Natural Selection	Ulu Ulu, USA
Camissa, Chan Is.	Nirvana	Unicorn, Norway
Cape Kathryn	Noorhinder	Valkerie
Delphinus	Pizazz	Varedhuni, Ger.
Destiny	Santa Maria	Water Musik
Double Buggy	Samantha Nova	Whitewings
Flying Cloud, USA	Sandpiper, USA	Ya-T, BVI
Freestyle	Seascape	Yanti Paratzi
Esperanza	Sea Horse	

NEW! Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

by Wilna Groenenboom



This week begins the new *Reporter* bi-monthly feature column, “Antique Living Houses of Bonaire,” by Wilna Groenenboom. Wilna, an artist, photographer and art teacher at the SGB (high school), noticed that on Bonaire there are some simple old buildings – the unsung heroes of the unique architecture of Bonaire – with very attractive details. These antique buildings are not ruins; they are still being lived in or used in some way. At the escalating rate that so many of our old buildings and houses on Bonaire are being torn down we felt some sort of photographic record should be made of these historical places and especially their interesting details before it’s too late. Wilna will be capturing them in her photography.

This week, as a precursor of things to come, Wilna shows a composite of photos of different houses, some details and the people who live in them. “Antique Living Houses of Bonaire” will be an artistic feature, with the emphasis on the photos rather than on a lot of text. As Wilna says, “People remember images sometimes more than reading text. We want it to be an eye opener, to show people how important it is to preserve the art of the past. Don’t just throw it away or cover it up! It could be a treasure of Bonaire.”

In the weeks to come the only text accompanying the photos will be where the building is, who the people are, how the house functions and its details. □ *L.D.*

If you think your house and its details could qualify for this column, email antiquehouses@bonairenews.com.

SGB Students' Impressions of Regatta



Youngsters at the Parade of Nations

We wanted to get a glimpse of what the teenagers on Bonaire thought about our recent Regatta so we asked SGB English teacher Artie de Vries to share some of the compositions written by his HAVO 1-5 students. He told them that their words could appear in *The Bonaire Reporter*. The compositions are titled "My Regatta." In most cases, English is their 2nd, 3rd or even 4th language! Here are some excerpts.

Timothy Bissessar:

"On the last day of school before the Regatta I was so excited about the vacation that I wasn't paying much attention to the teachers. It was like gibberish to me. I was so caught up in the vacation vibe that all I was doing was singing the song, "I can't wait for the weekend to begin!"

Re Regatta: "During the day the sea was decorated with many boats, ranging from sailboats to the windsurfers and microboats. By night the Regatta festival took over Kralendijk and pretty much

everything in it including the boulevards. Everyone was having such a great time. There were many food and game stands. The local music groups and bands were keeping everyone entertained. ... It might not have been the biggest Regatta of them all but it was sure the liveliest one ever and the organizers must be proud of their accomplishments."

Gideon Nigel Williams:

"Most of the people at the Regatta celebration were kids and most of them either sat on the long red wall next to the new Salsa Restaurant, on the tall yellow wall by the parking lot next to the Ribs Factory, were in Wilhelmina Park or at Karel's, waiting for Happy Band to perform. Regatta is still fun because you can spend some quality time with family and you can socialize with friends or just chill and hang out...but for kids we get to chill, hang out and relax after school started and just be a kid!"

(Continued on page 18)



Young Almar (5 years old) took the photo of his brother Niek and parents Wilna and Herman Leeuwijtjes last summer on holiday at Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas in Cartagena, Colombia. It's the strongest fort ever built by the Spaniards for their American colonies. □

WINGREAT 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.) □

(Scuba Diving Hall of Fame. Continued from page 5)

work. As 'Captain Don,' I can only accept this award on a shared basis - to share it with the Island of Bonaire which did all the work."

Captain Don Stewart also read a moving message from the Governor of Bonaire, congratulating the Cayman Islands on its miraculous recovery from Hurricane Ivan. □ Story & photos by TCB



R to L: Bonaire's Founder of Diving Tourism, Captain Don, and Janet Thibault with Cayman Islands Father of Diving, Bob Soto, and Susie Soto.

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Outboard engines; Yamaha 15 hp \$800.00, Nissan 8 hp \$600.00, Nissan 5 hp (4 stroke), \$400.00 contact: kevinstewart7@hotmail.com

For Sale

Aluminum sliding doors for sale. Blue profiles. Sizes: 2m high x 4.75m wide (4 doors), 2m high by 1.6m wide (2 doors), 2.3m high by 3.5m wide (4 doors), 2m high by 4.8m wide (3 doors), 0.5m high by 1.1m wide (2 windows). Discount for buying all 5. cathsalis@aol.com or 791-1886

3 single Ikea beds for sale. White wooden head and base boards. 50NAfeach or a special price for all three. cathsalis@aol.com or 791-1886

40' container in good condition with window, door and air conditioning. Also a sun roof that attaches on to the front for shade. Asking 6000 guilders.



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Beautiful special big yellow Chevrolet pickup, Cowboy Conversions, 1992, automatic, C-1500, V8, double cabin. Needs repair. NAf 7,000, = Call Ed 786-5544.

For Sale Suzuki Samurai 1995 – Good condition. Big tires, only NAf 3,800. Call 786-6796

For Sale: Refrigerator: A big refrigerator with 2 slicing doors. Height: 59 Width: 30 Depth: 19 Inches \$1,672; Slicing machine: To cut meat and cheese \$ 500; Freezer: Height: 3 Width: 4 Depth: 2.5 Ft \$ 175; Horror movies \$1 a piece; Christmas Decorations/ Jeans size 32 and 38, Food warmer small.: Food Cooler: Food processors: Food mixers: Letter Board: PHONE: 717-2249

LADA NIVA (jeep) for sale 1991-4X4 drive 1.6 Cyl. 95.000km NAf 5,400 717-2844 or 786-2844

Boat for Sale

It breaks my heart to sell the undefeated Bonaire Sail-Fishing boat-class



A winner, Laurita. Would cost \$20,000 to replace. Refit at Blonk Boat works completed October 2nd. No reasonable offer refused. Call George 786-6125/717-8988.

Property, Sales & Rentals

Modern house for sale-Santa Barbara www.posada-bonaire.com

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

info@pelicanreefbonaire.com or www.pelicanreefbonaire.com-

Wanted

Wanted: A Maxi Cosy for baby in good condition with sunshade. Call Inge Berben 717-2483

PARTNER WANTED

The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a partner. Join us to "Publish in Paradise."

Working partner with writing/editing skills, business sense, and energy desired. Call The Reporter at 717-8988, 786-6518.



Foks-Ferrageau de Saint Amand Exhibit at Cinnamon



This Saturday, October 29th, the 2005/2006 season of Guest Artist Exhibitions at the Cinnamon Art Gallery continues with the opening the Edith Foks-Ferrageau de Saint Amand show of new sculptures and paintings from 7 to 9 pm. It's open to the public and refreshments will be served. The exhibition will continue through December 1.

Edith is fond of saying, "The sculpture is in the stone—you only have to get it out." Because, to sculpt an object from stone, wood, or any other material, requires not only artistic capabilities but also insight into the material's possibilities. If too much is taken away, or a piece falls off, the sculpture might fail. This is one of the

reasons that sculptures may take a very long time to complete and why each handmade sculpture is unique.

Foks-Ferrageau de Saint Amand (her French maiden name comes from the time Bonaparte sent his army to the Netherlands) has been working as a sculptress since 1999, after many years of painting and other artistic expressions, such as making hundreds of teddy bears and teaching others how to create them. She is also a qualified and registered reflexologist, which means her hands not only create but also improve people's health. Edith has participated in other exhibitions in the Netherlands, but this will be her premiere exhibit in Bonaire.

"Painting and drawing runs through my life like a continuous thread," she says. "Besides my daily work in our advertising and design company, I always find time for creative studies. Six years ago I suddenly felt the urge to sculpt. When I was very young, I once used a hammer and chisel on a stone. This made such an im-

pression on me that I never forgot how it felt and my love for the visual arts did the rest."

"My first stone sculpture was of wall construction material, which is rather soft and can be shaped easily. Then I switched to natural stone, such as alabaster, serpentine, soapstone, and French and Belgian limestone, also wood and marble. I often work months on one stone, and sometimes I do two or more at a time. Sometimes I may work from a small sketch or clay model, but stone cannot be modelled like clay, so each time I am confronted with new challenges!"

In Holland it's easy to get any type of sculpting material. "In Bonaire, things are different," Edith says. "Using stones means importing them from Europe by container, or the other alternative is to use the many other materials provided by the island. I like to work with local materials such as stone, wood, bamboo, and old tree stumps as these are readily available. I made a totem pole from a flamboyant tree which had to be removed from our garden. This wood is excellent to work with. Old

Pet of the Week

Looking for a great watch dog but one who has a good character and an affectionate nature? Let me introduce "Stanley," this handsome fawn colored young two year old. Stanley was found wandering on the streets and brought into the Shelter. Because he has such a sweet disposition it was decided immediately that he'd be a perfect candidate for adoption. He's in excellent physical shape and very healthy. He's had his shots and is sterilized. To bring out the best in him he needs a little TLC (tender loving care). You may meet him at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



Attention Dog Owners: It's Parvo Season again so make sure your dog is vaccinated against it. Parvo is a major killer on the island and for puppies it's nearly always lethal. Symptoms are similar to poisoning: throwing up, bloody diarrhea. It's very contagious. □L.D.

coral stones are also good to work with, but the stone is very porous and causes many surprises when one is cutting it."

In 2001, Edith went to the Free Art Academy in The Hague to learn different techniques of sculpting, including bronze sculptures. She occasionally works in bronze, but it is a very complicated, time-consuming, and expensive procedure.

However, the results are always beautiful. Although Edith continues to paint and draw now and then, she prefers to work with her hammer and chisel, comfortably under a big tree in the garden, where all her sculptures have their own place. Each sculpture has its own history, and, in viewing them, Edith can feel the moods that held her while she was creating them! "I hope other people can feel the same!"

The Cinnamon Art Gallery is located at Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind Banco di Caribe. Tel. 717-7103 or info@CinnamonArtGallery.org. Web site: www.CinnamonArtGallery.org. □ Susan Davis

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ART FOR FUN

Five Easy Steps to Drawing the Donkey's Torso

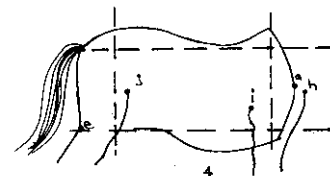
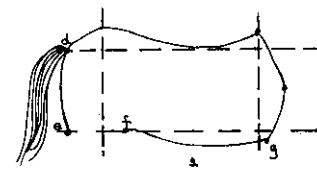
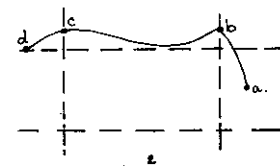
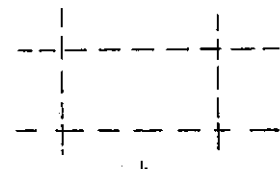
Last month (*The Reporter* September 9 to 16 issue) I demonstrated an easy way to make a donkey's portrait. This time we will continue with the donkey with five easy steps to creating the perfect torso.



1. Lightly sketch a rectangle with "run-over" lines.
2. About midway on the right side find point (a). Sketch up to (b). From (b) sketch down to the straight line and curve up to (c). From (c) angle down to intersect with the straight line again. This will be the top of the rear end.
3. Curve slightly down from (d) to (e). Add the tail at (d). Draw the belly in from (f) to (g).
4. Draw the front leg line (h) on the right side of the rectangle; draw leg line (i) inside the rectangle; and leg line (j) through the back rectangle space. Curve out and down to continue leg line from (e).
5. Sketch over all straight lines to make soft curves.

Now you are ready to add the donkey's head which you learned to draw last month. Simply start your portrait outline with the bottom lip at point (a). Then add foliage under donkey, until next time when I will continue with the donkey drawing, adding his legs and feet (hooves).

Happy Drawing □ Janice Huckaby
JanArt



This article is part of a series by Janice Huckaby of JanArt. Call 599 717-5246 or 791-5246 for information on art lessons or to view her artworks □



WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9pm)
The Cave
(Morris Chestnut)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
The Skeleton Key

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400
Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)
Children under 12 - NAf12

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
CLOSED MONDAY TUESDAY
AND WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM
Sky High

THIS WEEK

Friday, Saturday, October 28, 29 -
Vale Croes live at Moveieland 9 pm,
NAf30
Sunday October 30, Monday, October
31 - Halloween Haunted House at
Capt. Don's Habitat, 8 to 11 pm, NAf5.
All proceeds go to Special Olympics
Bonaire. Not recommended for children
under 12! (page 18)
Saturday, October 29 - Art Exhibit
Opening - Edith Foks-Ferrageau de
Saint Amand - at the Cinnamon Gallery,
7 to 9 pm. Exhibit until November 30
(page 13)
Saturday, October 29 Halloween Party
at Buddy Dive - Begins 7 pm. Costumes
welcome. All invited (page 20)

COMING

Saturday, November 5 - Rincon Mar-
shé - Big Monthly Version - outdoor
market in Rincon, the soul of Bonaire.
Criollo food, drinks, gifts, music, fruits &
vegetables, plants, candles. Friendliest
people. Opens at 6 am until 2 pm.
Saturday, November 5 - 5th Annual
Bonaire Eco Swim. Details in the next
issue
November 24-26 - Bonaire Investment
Conference
Saturday & Sunday, November 26, 27 -
Long Distance Walk - 29/44 km &
29/41 km. Comcabon 717-8629, 780-
7225

EVERY WEEK

Saturday Rincon Marshé opens at 6
am - 2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast
while you shop: fresh fruits and vegeta-

bles, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts
and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks
and music. www.infbonaire.com/rincon
Saturday - Mountain Bike Ride - Eve-
ryone is welcome, no matter what your
skill level. It's free. Just bring a bike and
your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel
Angel Brito leads the pack. Telephone
him at 785-0767 for more information.
Saturday - Wine Tasting at AWC's
warehouse, 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria
#23. Wine NAf2,50 a glass.
Sunday - Live music 6 to 9 pm while en-
joying 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, So-
cial Round Robin 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per
person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth
Vos at 565-5225/717-7500, ext. 14.

Every Tuesday Night @ 6:30pm - Bo-
naire Talker Dinner/Gathering at Gibi's,
known for great local food. Call Gibi at
567-0655 for details, or visit www.BonaireTalk.com,
and search for "Gibi."

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

Friday - 5-7 pm Social Event at
Jan Art Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7. Meet
artist Janice Huckaby and Larry of
Larry's Wildside Diving. New original
paintings of Bonaire and diver stories of
the East Coast every week

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 Bo-
nairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for resi-
dents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

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

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

Wednesday - Buddy Dive Cocktail
Video Show by Martin Cecilia pool bar
Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte
Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 7117
The Bonaire Swim Club - Contact Valarie

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

Rock and Cactus Gardens

As I write this week's article, a nice
rain outside is watering all our
plants. This seems a contradiction to my
latest articles, making a rock or cactus gar-
den. But even cactus and succulents like
some rain every now and then. See how
beautifully our **cactus, Dama de la Nochi,**
is blooming now after last week's rain. And
also plants like the **Red Aloe** will start
blooming now much more abundantly than
in the dry season.



A **Phoenix roebelini** palm. A good
"top plant" choice.

As I wrote in my last article, so many
things are possible with rock gardens. Just see the nice rock gardens made by Captain
Don and his crew all around the island.

When you want to start a rock garden make sure you have enough space for it. You
can create some contours by adding a lot of the Bonairean **diabaas.** This soil is perfect
for a start. Then add some rocks, as big as you can find. This gives a more impressive
effect. Then, when you are satisfied with the results, start making a plan for the plant-
ings. Put some taller plants like big **Cactus** or **Yucca** in the middle and then work
from the top down.

In my opinion it is very important not to use too many varieties in a small area. Us-
ing more plants of the same variety gives a much more attractive look. And always
remember that most of the succulents like **Aloe** and small **Agaves** will spread out as
they grow. Always use those varieties at the bottom or along the sides. In this way
they will have enough space to grow and they will make a nice natural borderline.
Here are some of the "top plants" that you can use:

Some palms like the **Manila palm** are nice to use on the top. Other good palms are
the more solitary growing types like the **Phoenix roebelini, Coccothrinax** and different
forms of the **Sago palm.** Don't use **Coconut palms** or **Washingtonia palms.** They
will be too big, and the contrast is, in my opinion, too much. Other nice plants are dif-
ferent forms of **Dracaena, Yucca elephantipes.** Different Cactus like the **Euphorbia**
varieties and also the native Bonairean types are perfect. Another great plant as a cen-
terpiece is the **Pandanus utilis** or **Screw pine.** They will grow slowly, but they have a
beautiful twisted trunk with green spiny long leaves.

For now, this will give you plenty of ideas and next time I'll write more about the
shorter plants which you can use. □ *Ap van Eldik*

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

Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@tebonet
an

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

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Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view
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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 holi-
days. 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.

Send events to **The Bonaire Reporter**
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

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 (halfway 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 11 am-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 too.
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 cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 am to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
The Last Bite Bakery Home Delivery or Take Out 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers gourmet class items -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The Lost Penguin Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner 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

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.

Nature Exploration

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapeling/abseilen and more
reservations : 791-6272 or 717-4555 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

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.

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.

VACATION CLUB

Lower the cost of vacationing in Bonaire. Visit Perfect Holiday Solutions to discover how you can get discounts and more. Free gift for learning how.

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.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518

Ronald Schleper

This story was first published in the November 21, 2003, issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

"I was sent as a marine for nine months to Curaçao, and in December 1989 my parents were planning to visit me for the holidays. I found a house for them right across from where Millitza Scharbaai lived with her parents. Many times I watched her coming and going and I liked what I saw! When I asked her out she said 'Yes,' and that's how it all started."

"I'd seen my neighbor peeping at me," Millitza laughs, "but I had just ended a two-year relationship and I wasn't too eager to get involved again. However, somehow he convinced me, and by the time his nine months were through, we were going steady. I told Ronald, 'Look, here things are different. When you want to date a girl you have to ask permission from her parents!' And so he did!" Millitza and Ronald Schleper and their two daughters, Sabine (8) and Sanne (4), are living in a cozy house in Hato. It's filled with books, children's drawings, souvenirs, flowers: a happy home, full of life. Millitza is cuddled up on the couch and Ronald is sitting next to me, keeping an eye on what I'm writing.

"In April '90 I left for Holland, back to civilian life, and found a job with a security service. In June Millitza arrived. I was living with my parents and Millitza rented a room. A year later I found a house and we moved in together."

"In Curaçao I was studying to become a teacher," Millitza says. "In Holland I studied economics for a year, but I found it boring and went back to my previous studies. Then my father became ill and I got homesick. It wasn't difficult to convince Ronald to go back to Curaçao; he goes with the flow, good or bad. He's very flexible!"

"Well, after six and a quarter years with the marines and before that as a soldier with Unifil in Lebanon, you find out that life can take you anywhere. You learn to adjust," Ronald says. "I went to Curaçao for two weeks, found a job with the Caribbean Hotel as the assistant chief of security, then I went back and we got married in Holland. Millitza left for Curaçao and I had to wait four months for my permits."

April 1st, 1995, our Sabine was born. The job didn't meet my expectations, then one of my neighbors asked me why didn't I apply for a job with the police. I was accepted, but I had to intern for nine months: standard procedure. The first three weeks I was drilled and couldn't go home at all. For me it was nothing new as I'd done it before. However, for Mil-

litza it was kind of hard; she was alone with a newborn baby, but she had her family and pulled through. It was funny though because I was 34 and my co-students were 18, 19 years old! Half of the class was going to be stationed in Curaçao, the other half in Bonaire. The quota for Curaçao was full. I could have waited another year, but that I didn't want, so we knew we were going to Bonaire. I'd been here once for a triathlon with the marines. We'd spent the night at the Sunset Beach Hotel. Millitza had been here only twice. The swearing-in took place July 11th 1997 in Rincon. I was born in Amsterdam, and I'm the only makamba (European Dutch) on Bonaire's police force. During the training I had been the only makamba too, and I must say I never had any problems; there was no question of discrimination ever. Now there are more makambas working with the police in Curaçao, but in Bonaire I'm still the only one! I learned Papiamentu the hard way, just by myself, and sometimes I get compliments, but I don't know if that's because they want to flatter me!"

"I told Ronald, 'Look, here things are different. When you want to date a girl you have to ask permission from her parents!'"

"It's a shame," Millitza adds. "I never taught him anything and I am qualified to teach Papiamentu in high school, but somehow, we never find the time for it. Together we speak Dutch and when Sabine was born we started to speak Dutch to her too, but then Ronald switched to Papiamentu. Sanne speaks only Papiamentu. The children never speak Dutch together. We should do something about that especially because you never know where you're going to end up. But Sabine speaks and understands English rather well and even a bit of Spanish. Both the children go to Papa Comes where I am a teacher. Every morning the three of us leave the house wearing the same uniforms!"

I like my job a lot. We're a strong team and we organize lots of activities for the children as well as for the teachers. Next year we're going on a cruise, all the teachers and their families, 135 people!"

"My job is very diverse," Ronald says

quietly. "I am stationed at Amboina with three other policemen, but usually we're covering the whole island because there's always a shortage of staff. We handle burglaries, thefts from cars, we mediate in fights between spouses, neighbors, disturbances in bars and when parents are having difficulties with their children. In fact we're doing a lot of social work. What I like best is when someone comes to report a theft, to be able to solve the entire case up to the arrest of the offender. That gives me great satisfaction. We are aware of the fact that thefts from cars at dive sites cause a lot of frustration amongst tourists, civilians and car rental agencies, but as we're only working with 40 policemen here on the island, the fact that we're always understaffed is very frustrating for us too. We're trying the best we can. We have a good team and I like my job."

Next to my work, I have another passion. I love to run!" He gets up and comes back with a picture of himself, the US Capitol at the background. "In 1989 I participated with a group of 18 marines in the Washington, D.C. Marathon. Nowadays I realize that I can't run that fast anymore." He smiles. "But I'm still participating. In 2001 I ran in the Chicago Marathon and was sponsored by an American lady who was living on Bonaire at the time. Last year (2002) I did the New York Marathon with Dirk-Jan Methorst, manager of Budget Rent-a-car, and Roland Verbeek, manager of Warehouse Bonaire. We paid for everything ourselves and we were able to raise NAf2.200 for the Maria Hoppner Foundation and the same amount of money for Special Olympics Bonaire. This year I did the Amsterdam Marathon. It was good that the Air Holland tickets were so cheap! I called my mom and told her that I was coming to Holland in October, and she answered, 'You've made my day!' I hadn't seen them for two years." "Ronald is never homesick," Millitza says. "But it was good for his mom that she could pamper him nicely for a week. Although we often fly to Curaçao, I always feel homesick. Every morning at six I call my parents, just to check on them. Our telephone bill runs up to NAf500 a month!"



The family

We've really settled down here. We bought our house in '98. It's still not finished; there are always other priorities! Ronald runs several times a week and participates in every run that's organized on the island, and he's also a member of the Lions club so his time gets used up! I didn't have a hobby, but I joined the folkloristic dance group Kayena. They performed for Maxima and Willem-Alexander, but at the time I wasn't with them, alas! Lately I started working for FORMA, teaching Papiamentu to young people, 16 to 24, who are getting a second chance. It's a very special experience to work with these people and to teach Papiamentu as it was always my intention to promote our language.

Our daughters have their hobbies too: in scouting and a choir. Sabine does athletics and models for Angelo. Next year she's going to represent Bonaire at an Antillean fashion show at the Great Escape. Yeah, you know, on Bonaire you have to fill your own time, otherwise you're going nuts! When I am in Curaçao they often ask me, 'Hey, how's Bonaire! How can you hold out!' But although we always have a good time in Curaçao, we're happy to find the peace and tranquility of Bonaire. It's a cozy island. We visit friends, we go for a happy hour or with the children to a restaurant and every Sunday morning we go swimming with the whole family at Flamingo Beach. I don't know where we're going to be in the future, but in the meantime we're here. We've been married for 10 years and we still get along very well." She laughs. "I can't complain!"

□ Greta Kooistra



(SGB Students Write about Regatta. Continued from page 11)

Isabella Wu:

“Regatta may be a Bonairean tradition but it was visited by many nations. It was a great view of a multi-culture island. Besides the many visitors from all the neighboring countries there were also many motorcycles and cars. Bands from Curaçao also came...As I passed by Regatta house all I saw was just beautiful. Many sailboats on the sea, of all different colors. It was just like a rainbow in the middle of the sea. People were walking all around or sitting and enjoying the competitions.”

Sharon Heymans:

“I’m also very proud of my little brother because he just started windsurfing and in the Regatta he ended up 3rd place and for freestyle, 4th place. ...My sister is a member of the Bailamore dance group and performed at Wilhelmina Park. So I think Regatta is to show what people learned and to show it off and of course to just have fun!”

Cassandra Nicolaas:

“The thing I liked most of the first day of Regatta was the parade. Then you can see how many different people you can find on Bonaire.”

Janet Joven:

All the four days that I went to Regatta I enjoyed it. We danced in City Café with the new band, we walked the whole city, watching the people, meeting visitors and also seeing some people who had been off the island for a long time. ...I tasted food from Peru and Colombia.

It was really good.”

Lisa Schut:

“I really love Regatta because there are so many people together. You see so many people you know. It’s really fun and cozy. Too bad about the weather and not too much wind for the sailors, but the ambience was good though.”

Andres Rodriguez:

“I think Regatta was boring this year because there were not many people or places to eat. I hope next year will be better. And the weather wasn’t that good for sailing. What was good was that we had no school the whole week.”

Sebastian Wegerer:

“My Regatta was definitely different from everybody else’s because I had nothing to do with it. Usually I compete but I started kitesurfing last year but you need much more wind to get the kite in the air so my brothers and I stayed home and helped paint our house and download music onto our computer....”

Other popular activities that the teens wrote about in their stories about Regatta week included: Sleeping (a #1 activity), going to the beach, camping at Donkey Beach, swimming, going to Klein Bonaire to help tag a turtle, renting DVDs, going to Gameland, working part time, watching TV, participating in the Jong Bonaire Klein Bonaire swim, fishing, playing soccer, playing computer games, golf, bowling, catching up on school work and helping parents at work. □

L.D.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Richard Molina athlete

Our little "dare devil". That is our Richard.

He is cute, likes to make faces as you can see, and will test his boundaries for sure. Richard is that kind of person who likes to dare himself to do better and only expects the best.

As he gets his own shoes and bowling ball, he is very alert for the needs of his fellow athletes. Need water? Shoes don't fit? Bowling ball too heavy? Whatever it is, ask Richard and he'll be more than willing to help.

Richard is an inspiration to us, because he dares to be the best that he can be, but does not forget to help others on his way to the top.

Meet you at the top Richard!

Athletes oath:

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".

Become a volunteer today!

Join our enthusiastic group of volunteers. Your help is very much needed. Contact Roosje van der Hoek at 786-7984 or mail at info@specialolympicsbonaire.org

Be a sponsor!

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Our account number is 105.780.04 at Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire N.V. or if you wish you can mail a check to:

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up



Many people imagine Mars will look like this...

...Actually it will be more like this

Mars is at Its Biggest, Brightest and Closest This Halloween Weekend

Yes indeed, the time has arrived because this Halloween weekend **Mars** will be at its biggest, brightest and closest until the year 2018 and will be the brightest object in the night sky after **Venus** sets in early evening. This week and next, 45 minutes after sunset, face west where you will see the brightest planet of them all, 8,000-mile-wide, Earth-sized **Venus**. So if you do your trick or treating early this weekend you'll be dazzled by this incredibly super bright white planet until about two hours after sunset when it will set. But if you turn around and look due east two hours after sunset you will see another super bright but rouge-red, gold object which after **Venus** sets will be the brightest object in the night sky because there will be no bright **Moon** visible this weekend.

In fact you'll be able to watch **Mars** travel across the sky all night long. It will reach its highest point just slightly south of overhead between midnight and 1 am Sky Park Time, after which it will slowly descend in the western sky until it sets at dawn. And the beautiful part of it is that if you miss it on Halloween it will be almost as bright all this week and next. Actually **Mars** will be at its absolute closest point to **Earth** two nights before Halloween on Saturday, October 29th between 11:22 and 11:27 pm SPT. It's only 43 million, 137 thousand, 342 miles away from **Earth**, although for all practical purposes it will look almost as bright all this week and next. So to see **Mars** at the moments it's actually at its closest go out between 11:22 and 11:27 pm and you'll be able to say that you saw **Mars** when it was the closest it will be for 13 more years!

And might I add that if you've been watching **Mars** approach in the past three or four months you watched it double in brightness in September and almost double again this October. And although people have mistakenly been led to believe by some Internet sites that **Mars** is at its closest this week in 60,000 years, that is simply not true. **Mars** was at its closest in 60,000 years back in August of 2003. You see, every 26 months **Mars** pays **Earth** a close visit. On August 27th, 2003, it came super close, only 34.6 million miles away, then it slowly drifted to the other side of its orbit and on September 6, 2004, reached its farthest distance for this go round - 248 million miles. And ever since it has been slowly coming back toward us.

Of course I over simplify because our **Earth** has likewise been moving at the same time, and it is their combined motions which cause the two to meet in relatively close proximity planet wise every 26 months.

So there you have it, **Mars** at its closest for Halloween. And just off to its left, also almost overhead, at midnight are the legendary **Seven Sisters** which you can easily see this Halloween night because there will be no bright moonlight to wipe them out. Wow! **Mars** and the **Seven Sisters** on Halloween. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: October 22- 28, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Look into ways that you can make extra cash. Arguments could prevail. Don't agree to make any of those cosmetic alterations you've been considering. Do some research if you want to find information that you can apply against the opposition you face. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Think about your budget before booking a trip. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. You like to stay busy and now is your chance to do just that. You may think gifts will win their heart, but it could add stress from lack of funds. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Do not hesitate to help elders with legal documents that are too confusing for them. Try to be reasonable. You could be disillusioned if you let a relative in on your emotional thoughts. You will find that valuable knowledge can be gained if you are willing to listen. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Renovations or purchases made for your home will pay off. Try to be precise in your communications. Problems on the home front might be a little disconcerting. Use your better judgment before you sign up for a costly venture. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Travel will be on your mind, but you should be sure that you've got all your work up to date. You can win if you're open and up front with your boss. Disruptions may set you back, but you're strong, and in the end the choices you make will be favorable. You may find acquaintances being deceptive. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't get involved in idle chatter that will hurt your position. Don't force your opinions on friends or relatives unless you are prepared to lose their favor. Try to be considerate in your personal obligations. You're apt to make a move or experience changes at home. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Interaction with colleagues will only be upsetting. Avoid letting family get involved in your personal life. You can't help everyone. Be cautious while traveling; minor accidents are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Partners may try to argue with you; however, you must stand your ground. Trips should be your choice. You won't get the reaction you want from your mate this week. You can look around for the right place and enlist some of your friends to help you move. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may experience financial loss if you don't use good judgment. Try to join groups of interest such as ballroom dance classes or perhaps an Internet organization. Be sure to question any detail that you feel could leave you in a precarious position at a later date. It might be best to work on your own; if possible, do your job out of your home this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22- Jan. 20) Don't let anyone take credit for a job you did. Exaggeration or deception coupled with overindulgence might be a problem. It may be a disappointing day emotionally. You may need help with your financial situation. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Do not travel unless absolutely necessary. Be careful. You could be your own worst enemy if you overreact to something you're told. Make changes to your home that will be pleasing to everyone involved. Try to understand both sides of the issue before taking sides. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Someone may try to damage your reputation. You must be careful not to reveal secrets or get involved in gossip. You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. You can purchase items that will enhance your appearance. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday. □