

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: reporter@bonairenews.com • 717-8988

SINCE 1994

**Benetton Bonaire
15 years Celebration
Fashion Show
page 3**



Flotsam and Jetsam



The first flight of a scheduled US airline, non-stop from the US, is set for this Saturday, December 17th, when Continental Airlines lands at Flamingo Airport at 6:15 am. All Bonaire residents are invited to help greet the flight which will be filled with tourists and officials from Bonaire and Continental to officially open the new route. At 6:45 am all are invited to a brief official ceremony at the airport. Continental flies more than 3,000 flights per day to 150 US domestic and 130 international destinations which will make it a prime source of US travelers to Bonaire.

► **Last week BonairExpress and CuracaoExpress, now reborn as Dutch Antilles Express (DAE), added Valencia** (via Curaçao) as its first foreign destination. It the first non-Antillean destination by an Antillean airline since DCA collapsed several years ago.

Dutch Antilles Express Director Floris Van Pallandt commented that in the last four months, in addition to restructuring, DAE has had an over 90% on-time performance. The basic round-trip



Transport Minister Omayra Leeflang and DAE director Van Pallandt at the initiation of the Valencia route

fare from Curaçao to Valencia is NAf175 (\$100).

Director van Pallandt said Valencia had been chosen because it fits into the airline's current schedule and aircraft. Longer routes will require other planes the company plans to add next year. Other desired destinations include Caracas, Trinidad, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Bogotá, Colombia.

► **A new DAE livery of blue, green and yellow for its aircraft was formally presented** and incorporated into new staff uniforms. A few days later the local press reported that DAE employees threatened a job action because of dissatisfaction with the uniforms.

DAE is the current name of BonairExpress-BonairExel.



The new DAE livery on an ATR

► **Jamaicans, by a three to one margin, think that their national carrier Air Jamaica performed better** while under the control of the Air Jamaica Acquisition Group (AJAG) headed by Butch Stewart than it does today. This is the finding of the latest Stone polls conducted for the *Jamaica Observer*. The Jamaican government took over Air Jamaica about a year ago.

Over the last year Air Jamaica has experienced maintenance problems, had pilots leaving for more lucrative salaries in the Far East, recorded a notable decline in service, a reduction of both its staff and fleet and - an unreliable on-time record. These factors may well have led to the perception that the airline performed better when it was in the hands of 'Butch' Stewart. Air Jamaica flies to Bonaire every Saturday from its Montego Bay hub (which connects to 10 US cities) relatively reliably

► **Parliament approved the 2006 budget of the Central Government**

(Continued on page 4)

BONAIRE The REPORTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

Benetton Fashion Show	3
Tennis Rankings	4
Dietitian (Low Fat Turkey)	5
Bonairaanse Jeugdzone	6
Snack Boys Guide, Harbour City	7
Protect Your Pet Against Fireworks	8
Diving Right (DIR—GUE)	9
Sanikolas at Bonfysio	10
Around Island—Landsailing, Children's Yoga, Park Publiko, Animal Shelter Fundraiser	11
Sanikolas at Hospital	12
Ars Cantandi Concert	13
Where to Find the Reporter	14
Touch me not Sponges (Dee Scarr)	15
Whale Encounter	17
End of Year Regatta	17
Announcement - Pieter and Anita Groenendal, baby Joe and Wedding of Yasmit Rios Gomez	22

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Mega FM Schedule	2
Pet of the Week (Vlekkie)	8
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Classifieds	14
Reporter Masthead	18
Special Olympic Spotlight (Natania Nicolina)	18
What's Happening	19
Movieland Film Schedule	19
December Cruise Ship Schedule	19
Shopping & Dining Guides	20
Born on Bonaire (Violeta Rosario-Cicilia)	21
Picture Yourself (Klawok, Alaska and New York, N.Y.)	22
Sky Park (Winter Solstice)	23
The Stars Have It	23

15 Years of Benetton Bonaire Fashion Show

COVER STORY



Two of the Benetton models

Benetton Bonaire's 15th Anniversary was celebrated with a gala fashion show last Saturday night at the Barracuda Club. Nineteen models from

Top's International Model Agency, 12 kids and six special guest models showed multitudinous numbers of great Benetton fashions – for men, women and all age kids. We had no idea there were so many pieces of clothing in that store! Benetton owner Marisela Croes assures us that all of it is indeed from her shop!

The show was orchestrated by Carlos Lopez; Benetton Store Manager Stacy



Luisa Marcano, Nina Ledezma, Marisela Croes and Taddy Arvelo



Benetton employees present a gift to Marisela Croes. Emcee Tica Sealy, 2nd from right

Winklaar put together all the outfits with the help of Audrey and Bianca of the sales staff. Hair and makeup were by Nina Ledezma. A colorful dancing show was put on by The Genies and songstress Samantha Jacobs from Magic Sounds (a group that used to be based in Bonaire) performed as well as her amazing six-year-old nephew, Xechell (whose father is Magic Sounds leader, Senio Jacobs). A new band, "Making Mix," played lively *krioyo* music. Indicative of Benetton Bonaire's clientele, the crowd also was mixed – totally international. The event was a complete sellout. Proceeds will go to charities in Bonaire. □L.D.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) early last Friday morning with 12 votes in favor and six against. The budget has a deficit of NAf160 million. Originally the budget deficit was NAf183 million. The deficit is part of a total Antillean financing need of NAf275 million for 2006.



The new Pelikaan

► This the design for the new **Pelikaan hydrographic survey ship** under construction in Holland. Effective mid-2006 the Dutch Royal Navy's current support vessel in the Caribbean will be replaced. The current *Pelikaan*, a familiar sight in local waters, has been serving the islands since 1990. It was taken out of commission in Curaçao last Friday.



Ben Bot, Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister

► **Ben Bot, Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister, plans to go Venezuela in the coming months to meet with President Hugo Chavez.** He wants to tell Chavez that the Netherlands will continue to exert territorial sovereignty over the Antilles even after the restructuring of the islands. "The Netherlands has no intention of giving up its sovereignty. Since Venezuela made certain remarks, the Netherlands wants to make this message clear to them," said Bot.



Happy Holidays from the Bonaire Reporter



Anthony Godett at his conviction

► The Governor of the Antilles **denied the petition for clemency for Curaçao political strongman, Anthony Godett,** Hendriks Abraham, Rob Salas and Chris Winkel at the recommendation of the Public Prosecutor and the Common Court of Justice. Godett has to serve 15 months in prison for bribery and false acknowledgement of a debt for NAf106.000 and money laundering. However, the convicted men cannot begin serving their sentences until there is more space available in Curaçao's Bon Futuro prison.

► **Bonaire civil servants will get a day off on January 2, 2006,** because this year December 24 and 31, normally a half-day off, are on a Saturday.

► **Do you have a mask which you wish had a purge valve to help clear water?** Now the Carib Inn can do just that. For a charge of just \$5, a purge valve can be added to your favorite mask. This process will work for 95% of all masks. Call the **Carib Inn at 717-8819** or stop by. They're located south of the Divi Flamingo Resort.

► **Cinnamon Art Gallery will be open on Saturday, 17 December,** from 11am to 4pm to accommodate last minute weekend Christmas shopping.

► **The Benetton ad** this week, on page 20, shows models from Benetton Bonaire's 15th Anniversary Fashion Show last Saturday night.

► **The winners of the "Picture Yourself with The Bonaire Reporter"** contest will soon be named. If you have a favorite, please let us know □

G./L. D.

Tennis Rankings

The results are in at the half-way mark for the RBTT Tennis Youth Ranking Competition. Tennis coach Elisabeth Vos reported on the results in the five classes. (Leaders are in bold-face type):

A: Gino Meeuwssen, Kevin Abdul, Daniel Carillo, Paulo Allee, Timothy Bissessar

B: Boy Roozendaal, Max van Ooijen, Damian Frans and **Denzel Elhage**

C1: Harm Bruininx, **Arnd Chirino,** Jaimylee van Kouwen, Nicholas Bissessar and Richardro

C2: Kevin Dijkhof, Samara Ellis, Keval Bissessar and Mike Groenendal

D: Marijn van Erp, Jose Alfredo, **Jevon May,** Josephine Marshall

Match sponsors include: RBTT, Movieland Cinema, KFC and Tennischool Sport Bonaire. □ Elisabeth Vos

Elisabeth Vos photo



Winner of the C2 category, **Kevin Dijkhof (center),** and two tennis friends, **Keval Bissessar (category D)** and **Yannick Finies.**

Ask the Dietitian

Stuffed Roast Turkey—Low Fat Style

The holiday season is coming up when we usually enjoy a nice Christmas dinner.

Here's a recipe that shows you how to make a **low fat dinner**. Enjoy.

Roast Turkey

- 1 Tab. olive oil
- 1 tsp. dried sage
- 1 tsp. dried rosemary
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 14-pound fresh turkey (giblets reserved for giblet broth)
- 1 lemon, halved
- herbed corn bread stuffing
- 1 ½ cups reduced-sodium chicken broth, defatted
- 2 cups giblet broth or reduced-sodium chicken broth, defatted (see tip)
- 2 Tab. flour

Preheat the oven to 350°F. In a small bowl, combine the oil, sage, rosemary, salt and pepper. Carefully loosen the skin from the turkey breast, leaving the shin intact. Rub the herb mixture under the skin and into the meat. Rub the body cavity with the lemon. Loosely spoon one-third of the stuffing into the body and neck cavities. Truss the turkey. Spoon the remaining stuffing into a 9x9-inch baking dish, add ½ cup of the chicken broth, cover with foil, and set aside.

Spray a rack in a large roasting pan with nonstick cooking spray. Place the turkey, breast-side down, on the rack. Roast for 3 hours, basting every 30 minutes



with some of the remaining 1 cup chicken broth. Turn the turkey breast-side up and brush with the remaining chicken broth. Place the stuffing in the oven with the turkey and roast for 30 minutes longer, or until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the turkey thigh without touching the bone registers 180°. Place the turkey on a platter and let stand for 15 minutes.

Pour off the fat from the roasting pan. Place the pan over medium heat and add the giblet broth, stirring to loosen the browned bits. Place the flour in a small saucepan, and gradually whisk in the giblet mixture over medium heat until combined. Cook, whisking, until the gravy is thickened, about 5 minutes. Serve the turkey with the gravy and stuffing. Remove the turkey skin before eating.

Tip:

To prepare giblet broth for gravy, in a medium saucepan, combine the turkey giblets (except the liver, which would add a bitter taste). Add water to cover by 2 inches. Bring to a boil, skimming off any foam. Add onion, a bay leaf, and celery and carrot chunks and simmer for about 1 hour while the turkey roasts. Add more water as needed to be sure you end up with 2 cups of broth. Strain the mixture through a sieve lined with dampened paper towels; discard the solids.

Herbed corn bread stuffing

In a small bowl, combine 2/3 cup coarsely chopped **dried apricots** and ¼ cup **brandy** and let stand while you prepare the vegetable mixture.

Meanwhile, in a large nonstick skillet, heat 1 teaspoon of **olive oil** until hot but not smoking over medium heat. Add 5 finely chopped **shallots** and 3 cloves minced **garlic** and cook, stirring frequently, until the shallots are softened, about 5 minutes. Add 2 diced **red bell peppers** and cook, stirring frequently, until the peppers are softened, about 5 minutes.

Stir in 3 tablespoons **pine nuts** and transfer to a large bowl. Add herbed crumbled **bread**, ½ cup chopped fresh **parsley**, 1 teaspoon **dried sage**, 1 teaspoon **dried rosemary**, 1 teaspoon **salt**, and ½ teaspoon freshly ground black **pepper** and stir well to combine. Add the **broth** and the apricot mixture and stir until the bread is moistened. *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. Her patients have successfully won the "Battle of the Bulge" and become healthier. Write her at dietitan@bonairenews.com



Bonairiaanse Jeugdzorg - the Sky's the Limit!

Creating intricate 3-D greeting and all-occasion cards is a delight for Ilse Cicilia, who has returned to Bonaire from Holland, and she hopes it will become a creative pastime for some of the children who met with her last Saturday afternoon for their first instructions.

"She came into the office and showed Nattale and me her beautiful cards and said she wished to share her craft with children," explained Suitberta Romero, the dynamic new coordinator of *Bonairiaanse Jeugdzorg* (Bonaire Youth Care), a governmental organization whose goal is to help stimulate, motivate and educate youngsters between the ages of 4-13 years. "We especially want children to discover their special interests and abilities so they can put their free time to good use." Ilse Cicilia is helping them do just that!

This year, *Bonairiaanse Jeugdzorg* (BJZ) has trained parents and other adults who work with children in after-school programs. The meetings focused on questions such as: How do we organize our student information into an efficient database? What kinds of fundraising activities will involve students in more than just asking for money? How can computers help us create effective teaching materials? How can parent groups from each school communicate and share ideas effectively?

Children and their parents were the participants in a three-day workshop focused on the effects of media and peer pressure held in Playa (Kralendijk) and Rincon. "Why are you wearing those jeans like Shakira (a sensual singer popular with teenagers)?" the speaker asked a group of youngsters. This stimulated a discussion of how teens are especially affected by outside influences. In addition,

the program emphasized the importance of listening to your children instead of simply judging their behaviors as well as the effects of nutrition on teens.

Parent workshops were held at each elementary school while Sheloutska Martinus, a public school social worker, filled in at BJZ until Suitberta was hired in June. Most of the sessions were attended by only mothers. "Therefore, I was proud of some of the dads who were willing to come," explained Sheloutska. "One man said that it was a pity so few fathers realized their importance in their children's education in and out of school! He experienced how paying more attention to his son's schoolwork solved the boy's problem behavior." That's encouraging!



BJZ often works with other agencies, such as SEBIKI (children 0-6 years), Jong Bonaire (children 12-18 years), Fundashon Guia di Famia Boneriano, FESBO, and neighborhood centers and schools.

Thirty island professionals, charged with caring for the youth of Bonaire, learned about the emotional, verbal, physical and sexual abuse problems. They plan to alert others of the serious challenge that abuse is to our families and to encourage the victims to speak out. They hope to host a theater group, "E Herencia" (The Legacy), to perform an educational and entertaining musical for children and their families about avoiding abuse.

This coming year, Suitberta would like BJZ to work directly with the children as well as with the bario centers and their talented neighborhood residents to create activities for the children. At the December 11 Info Day at Jong Bonaire, BJZ distributed flyers describing activities to do with your children. "We also recruited many volunteers who are willing to share their



Ilse Cicilia (l) and Suitberta Romero (r) with students Mariana, Shanti, Rianne and Kiona

skills with children," added Suitberta, "just like Ilse Cicilia is doing!" **If you have some special knowledge to share, see Suitberta at Kaya Niki-boko Nord 79B or phone her at 717-7316.**

What motivates Suitberta Romero to put such energy into her job? It's her eagerness to learn and to teach. "I like to give information that helps people avoid big problems. When a problem has gotten very bad, the solution is often lengthy and difficult." Suitberta experienced that in her job of working

with children who had been removed from their families by the justice court. "I've always been determined. My family was poor and both my parents worked hard. They taught me not to be ashamed to try; just do it. So I say, know yourself, know your capabilities and all your possibilities, and then the sky is the limit!" □

Story and photo by Barbara Mason Bianculli





The Snack Boys Guide to Bonaire's Finest Snacks

Harbour City Snack

This quiet snack is located on Kaya Korona in Antriol. The owners, the Wu family, just might serve the coldest beer on Bonaire. You can sit at the bar, watch TV and enjoy an ice-cold Polar or Amstel. At NAf2 a bottle it is hard to beat. Tonne (pronounced "tune") is often tending bar.

Up on the wall (the most common place to find a snack's menu) is a complete selection of mouth-watering Chinese and local dishes -in English! Be careful, a "large" order will easily feed three people and two dogs. A regular order is plenty for two people. Our picks include Sweet and Sour Chicken, Beef Chow Mien and Short Ribs with Black bean sauce. This snack also offers a weekend special (Saturday and Sunday) consisting of a whole chicken (roasted Chinese style) with French fries for NAf11. It takes two containers to take it all away. Open every day, noon to midnight. They serve beer, wine and a limited selection of mixed drinks. Phone: 717-6600

Summary: Ice cold beer and good food – One of our favorite snacks.

Directions: Located on the west side of Kaya Korona between the Progresso Supermarket and the Curoil pump station.

Ratings:



Beer Temperature – 5



Beer Price – 5
(NAf2 Amstel and Polar)



Food Quantity – 5



Food Price – 4



Food Quality – 4



Atmosphere and Service – 4



Overall – 4.5 (A great snack to start with if you are just beginning to try them.)



The Polar Beer motif makes Harbour City easy to spot

The staff and a patron (left) in front of the lengthy menu

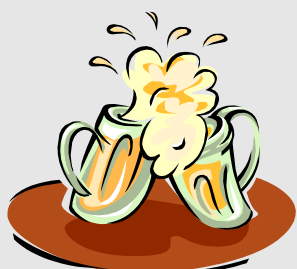
Here is an update on the Op=Op Master Grill Snack that was featured last week:

The Op=Op Grill is celebrating their Fifth Anniversary during the month of December. On December 18th they will have their Anniversary Party with live music from 7 to 9 pm, featuring the Krioyo Boys. They will be open for lunch in December ONLY, and they are offering lunch specials for only NAf5, hot off the grill. This is one of the best lunch deals on Bonaire! The phone for Op=Op is 785-9565

Lunch Hours (December ONLY):
11:30 am to 2:30 pm Tuesday thru Sunday.

Dinner Hours are always 7 pm to 11 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays.

Snack Boys Note: Op=Op is also selling beer, but only during December.



Protect Your Pet – The Pet Project



Fireworks season is about to begin. It may be fun for people, but it's terrifying for pets. According to the Shelter, it's the worst time of year for lost and missing pets. Be prepared ahead of time: have a safe place for your animals, give them medication if necessary and offer chew toys (which seem to alleviate the stress). If you are concerned about the effects of the end-of-year fireworks on your pet read "Protect Your Pet" on this page, the first in a series of three articles about a possible solution to the problem. □

Today's topic is pet's reaction to fireworks on New Years Eve. If our pets could talk and we could overhear them, it might sound this way:

Cat: Hi

Dog: (yawning) Haven't seen you in a while.

Cat: I left the neighborhood on Saturday.

Dog: I bet it was because of that noise from hell.

Cat: (licking her paw) Noise! I thought a bomb went off. I had to escape! I ran a mile.

Dog: The people were nice last week. Children were home from school.

Cat: Yeah, last week the place smelled real good, then I got leftover food, then a rubber mouse to play with...I wish I could find a real mouse, but rubber is ok.

Dog: What were they doing this week with all that booming in the night? I heard the words "Happy New Year," then the blasting started, car alarms shrieking, so I hid under the bed.

Cat: Happy New Year must mean let's set off dynamite and make the car alarms go off.

Our new year's celebration is festive. We ring in the year with fireworks that we traditionally set off for a short while, but our pets react with confusion. Last year my pets were suffering to extreme. I decided to give them a remedy that has helped me effectively for a variety stresses. It is named "Rescue Remedy."

At 11 o'clock on New Years of 2004, my pets were terrified at the noise. I placed a drop of the liquid Rescue Remedy on the pads of their feet. I did-

n't see any effect, so I repeated this treatment again 10 minutes later. The fireworks were loud, but the pets seemed less frightened. I put one drop into their water dish. This helped them to sleep.

Rescue Remedy is a natural medicine made from flowers. It was invented in England by a physician named Dr. Edward Bach, who intended to relieve psychological suffering of people. That was in 1935. Since those years, people have used Bach remedies and shared it with pets.

I intended to find a way to bring Rescue Remedy for pet owners to help their animal companions through the New Year 2006. I call this my Pet Project. I'm preparing pet remedies now. Next week's topic is How Rescue Remedy Works.

References:

Bach Center, Bach Flower Essences for the Family, May 1996; bachcenter.com aturesBrands.com



Author Florence Ditlow and her dogs.

Are you a shopkeeper who cares about animals and the effects that the fireworks celebration will have on them?

If so you may want to help distribute Rescue Remedy. The cost to the pet owner will be **one guild** which is earmarked for donation to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. If so contact fhummingbird@yahoo.com or *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988.

If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email: fhummingbird@yahoo.com. □

Story and photo by Florence Ditlow who is a Registered Nurse and certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center.

Pet of the Week

"Vlekkie" (pictured as Pet of the Week) and his brother lived with a very nice family and were very well treated. But the family had to go back to Holland and sadly, as is the case so often, they had to leave their two dogs behind. They were left with a different family who found they couldn't take care of them after all so that's how the two brothers ended up at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Both dogs are so interesting looking. (Just look at Vlekkie's photo, for example.) They are a Dalmatian/who-knows-what mix, and they are really mellow fellows. They each have one brown eye and one blue. They're six years old and in perfect health, are sterilized and have had all their shots. You may see them at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

The Indonesian dinner and art auction to benefit the Shelter was a big success. Read all about it on page 11. □ L.D.



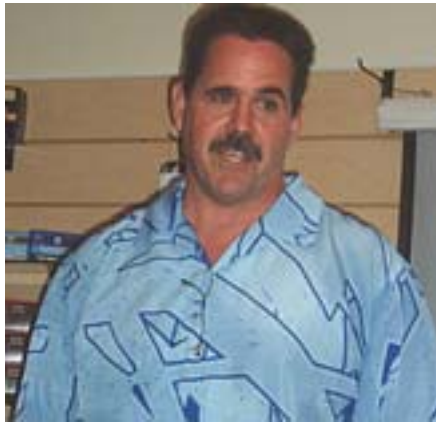
"Vlekkie"

Diving Right

Many of Bonaire's top dive pros turned out last Wednesday night for a peek at a different, arguably superior, way to SCUBA dive. Canadian Dan McKay, a retired military sky-diver, spent almost three hours explaining and showing how to Do It Right (DIR) when it comes to SCUBA diving. McKay, who describes himself as "passionate about the sport," takes issue with the underwater technique of most divers. He proves his argument, even with experienced divers, by videotaping them under water. Most are appalled when they see how they flounder when compared with a DIR-trained diver, a point emphasized by the demo video showing an almost motionless diver hovering and maneuvering and even reversing direction.

The "secret" is in extended training and practice combined with modifications to dive gear centering around a weighty back plate harness surrounded by a buoyancy control "wing." This focus on skill honing is somewhat in conflict with PADI and other popular diving instruction approaches that emphasize getting a diver basically safe and comfortable underwater.

The DIR philosophy is a base that the Global Underwater Explorers (GUE), which bills itself as "an elite educational organization, uses in offering classes in a wide range of aquatic pursuits, from cave diving to technical nitrox and trimix..." Its students are trained beyond the industry's most stringent requirements, culminating as a diver who is truly prepared for the underwater environment.



Dan McKay, GUE Instructor and lecturer

McKay says, "I've only graduated a handful of students (of the hundreds he's taught) on their first time through the training course." This is in contrast to PADI introductory courses which have an almost 100% pass rate. However, many technical and cave divers consider GUE certification a must.



Benji Schaub will bring the DIR philosophy to his new CGT business.

Benji Schaub, currently an instructor at André Nahr's Bonaire Dive and Adventure, has plans to introduce this way of thinking about diving to augment

Bonaire's already extensive dive-training offerings. His new business, Caribbean Gas Training (CGT), will incorporate DIR methods.

Almost all SCUBA divers want to improve their underwater ability, if for no other reason than it will permit them to enjoy themselves more fully under water. DIR offers a proven route to this. As Dan McKay said in his concluding remarks, "The technical side of diving has a lot to offer the recreational side."

□ G.D.



Bonaire Dive Pros at the DIR presentation

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)						
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides						
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT				COEF
12-16	13:00	2.1FT.	23:04	0.6FT.		87
12-17	13:37	2.0FT.	23:39	0.6FT.		84
12-18	0:08	0.7FT.	14:09	2.0FT.		79
12-19	0:45	0.7FT.	14:44	1.9FT.		73
12-20	1:10	0.8FT.	15:17	1.7FT.		64
12-21	1:26	0.9FT.	15:34	1.6FT.		56
12-22	1:31	0.9FT.	11:20	1.5FT.		47
12-23	1:16	1.0FT.	9:41	1.6FT.		39

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

More boats than Bonaire has seen for a long while are now in port. If we've forgotten you, please let us know. Contact info on front page.

Alize	Galivanter	Sapristi
Altair	Go Bucks	Scintella
Always Saturday	Goril Two	Serenade
Angie	Great Sensation	Sirius
Anouk	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Summer Breeze
Audentes	Hinnica	Sunny Side
Aurora	Honalee	Sun-Ra
Blue Moon	Invictus IV	Syjoli
Blue Star	Island of Corn	Sylvia K
Camissa, Chan Is.	Jan Gerardus	Tatoosh, Cayman Is.
Cancubine	Jennifer	Three Ships
Cape Kathryn	JJ	Ti Amo
Carisea	Kamana	Tigger
Celtic Avenger	Karminda II	Trio
Cers	Kat-Anne	Ulu Ulu, USA
Cheers	Katinka	Unicorn, Norway
Delphinus	La Baronne	Umiak
Destiny	Longo Mai	Varedhuni, Ger.
Double Bogey	Maggi	Vendia
Eclipse	Mahureva	Vilje
Endorphin	Maxolar	Von Voyase
Estefanie	Natural Selection	Ya-T, BVI
Est-Oust	Okeanis	Yanti Paratzi
Finasia	Okura	Zahi, Malta
Flam	One Way Wind	Zee Vock
Flying Cloud, USA	Paranda	Zeezot
Freestyle	Sandpiper, USA	

Holiday Pages



Before his long trip back to Spain, Sanikolas bought his medical fitness card at Bonfysio! One secret of his many abilities has now been revealed! A Swarte Piet looks on.

Let Bonaire follow you home Albert Bianculli photo

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Around the Island



As part of the International Day for the Disabled, Landsailing Bonaire, in association with the Dutch TV team for Expedition Paradise (a reality show), arranged an outing and fundraiser for the Foundation for Disabled Persons (FKPD) at the Porto Spaño course. For further information contact: Landsailing Bonaire at 717-8122/ or 786-8122. E-mail: info@landsailingbonaire.com □ .



extra Photo

Ubalina Everts (right) gets an exciting ride



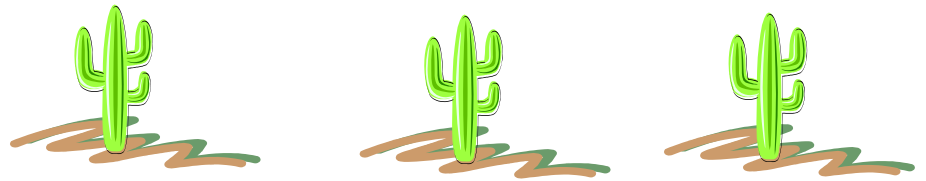
Julia and Melissa

Here are two of the children, Julia and Melissa, who participated in the recently completed six-week Yogo For You yoga program. They all had a lot of fun practicing yoga poses. The kids were so creative, even discovering new poses and playing lots of games. A favorite was bowling in a yoga pose. Relaxing at the end was fun too. □ Story & Photo by Desiree



extra Photo

Wowo di Bario's Treasurer, Eddy Crestian and President, Robert Statie sign an agreement with Parke Publico's Davika Bissessar and James Finies of the Dare to Care Foundation. Wowo di Bario will be maintaining security and order in the park during its daytime and evening opening hours. □



Bob Lassiter Photo

Spirited bidding at the Art Auction

Report on: The Animal Shelter Indonesian Dinner & Art Auction Fundraiser

Even a rainy, soggy night couldn't dampen the spirits of the diners and bidders at the Bonaire Animal Shelter Fundraiser's Indonesian Dinner and Art Auction last Thursday night. The event netted a profit of **NAf10,410**, according to Shelter Board member Lydia Duijn. Thanks to all the people who helped make this evening a rousing success.

In particular thanks to Annemarie Dalhuisen who made the whole meal for everyone, with help from Sabine Engel, Milly Kroeger, Emy Mol and Barbara Dalhuisen.

More thank you's go to sponsors: Warehouse Bonaire, Bongo's Beach, Eden Beach Resort, More for Less, Caribbean Laundry, Pension Exclusive Bonaire (PEB), Little Havana, Bobbejan BBQ, Asecom Business & Support, Jacobs Architecten, Duijn Bonaire.

And especially, thanks to the artists: Harry Henson, Alied Lippinkhof, Anguine Hodge, Manuela Winklaar, Janice Huckaby and students, Amanda Castan, Nochi Coffie, Ady Figaroa, Edith Foks, Bert Poyck, Bertie and Dos Winkel, Guno Geerlings, Henk Roozendaal, Lou Barlass, Barbara van Olphen, Germaine Nijdam, Otto Bartels and Jerry Schnabel.

If there is someone we forgot to mention to say thank you to, please forgive us, but there were so many people who helped us. And if anyone missed the occasion they can also help us next Saturday, December 17th in Rincon where we will have a stand at the Christmas market, 4 to 11 pm. □ Lydia Duijn/L.D.

Holiday Pages

Sanikolas at Hospital



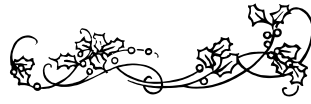
Sanikolas and Zwarte Piet entertain the elders at San Francisco Hospital

Last week, just before Sanikolas and his *Zwarte Pieten* (Black Petes) left Bonaire to return to their home in Spain, they visited San Francisco Hospital. Who could help but enjoy them and their antics, their total zany, free-wheeling style? They visited patients and had a program with the elderly who live there. There was food and drink, gifts, skits, singing and a humorous repartee between Sanikolas, the *Zwarte Pieten* and the residents, some of whom even got up to sing funny songs. Everyone had a grand time.

Farewell, Sanikolas. We'll miss you and your *Zwarte Pieten* who made us laugh. We wish you and your high spirits could be with us all year long. □ *L.D.*

Holiday Pages

Ars Cantandi Concert



The Ars Cantandi choral group

Pianist Sue Ellen Felix gets assistance from Barbara Mason Bianculli



Last Saturday evening, after a hiatus of two years, the Ars Cantandi choral group put on a Christmas concert, *Nochi di Lus* (Night of Light), at the SGB high school to a very enthusiastic standing-room-only crowd. Holiday tunes were sung in Papiamentu and English with a few Ca-

lypso versions of some traditional songs. Sue Ellen Felix was at the piano and Jon Savage conducted.

Many in the audience commented that the concert was a wonderful way to begin their holiday season. *L.D./Bob Lassiter photos*

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Call George 786-6518/717-8988.

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of January to a cold climate!
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Palm Trading (dive-equipment whole-
saler) on Bonaire needs a full time
helper starting this January. Must be in
the possession of a Driving License and
by preference have some dive experience.
Please contact: info@palmtradingnv.
com / phone number 717-2072.

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Brasserie Bonaire

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lery

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Caribbean Laundry

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DIVING with DEE

Secrets of a Sturdy Sponge



In this look into the center of a TMN sponge, called the sponge's atrium, five gobies are easily visible and another three peek out. The white marks are the tubes and fans of small fan worms.

Once upon a time, before the days of dive computers, divers had ways of calculating depth and time for dives which began deep and got shallower. The trouble was, none of the ways of calculating such dives were recognized by the certifying agencies then.

So when Bob, an experienced diver, developed terrific itching of his hands after a dive and consulted a physician, the doc immediately looked at Bob's dive profile: to 80' for about 15 minutes, then another 45 minutes at or above 30' of depth. By US Navy tables, the standard at the time, Bob's 80' for 60 minutes was well over the no-decompression limit. They popped Bob into the recompression chamber and took him to depth, asking, "Do your hands feel better?" That's a question that's tougher to answer than it would seem, so they decided to treat Bob for decompression sickness. A few hours and a couple of thousand dollars later (this was before DAN insurance, too) Bob emerged from the chamber with less itchy hands.

The Mystery is Solved

"Don't dive any more this trip," the medics told him, "and rest," so after a long sleep, the next afternoon he began to rinse out his gear. As he rinsed out his cotton gloves (yep, this was before the days of gloveless diving), his hands started itching again! That's when he began to investigate the possibility that something he had touched had caused the itching – and learned about the Touch-Me-Not Sponge, *Neofibularia nolitangere*. This event took place in the early 1980s, when divers commonly wore gloves to "protect" themselves from, for example, the sharpness of coral; the cotton gloves Bob had worn would have prevented him from being cut by coral (while not protecting the coral at all against the pressure of his "protected"

hand) but couldn't "protect" him completely from the Touch Me Not sponge.

The Revenge of the "Touch Me Not"

A few years prior to that, a friend of mine was posing for an underwater photographer. Like Bob, Sandy didn't know about the Touch Me Not sponge. Unlike Bob, she was barehanded. Sandy rested her hands lightly on a Touch Me Not sponge formation to keep her position while the photographer took several exposures. By the next morning her fingers looked like big fat sausages; they were so swollen Sandy could barely bend them, and they itched like crazy. It took more than a week for the swelling to subside; finally the overstretched skin on her fingers peeled away and the hands she remembered reappeared.

What Makes it "Touch Me Not"

Sponges get their shape from a skeleton made of particles called spicules. Although the spicules of most sponges have no effect on people (as we learned when we tied sponges back onto Pier pilings), the spicules of the TMN sponge get through our skin like bits of fiberglass, and are just as irritating; the spicules were the cause of both Bob's and Sandy's problems.

That the TMN sponge can avenge itself well on divers is unnecessary these days, but every sponge needs defenses against other marine animals. Angelfish and filefish, who occasionally eat sponges, won't munch on undamaged TMN sponges; only when a TMN sponge's surface has been breached do filefish and angelfish snack on the inner sponge. Many types of sponges are clipped off and carried around by sponge crabs, but not TMN sponges.

What a Current!

There are two interesting consequences of all this protection: the first

is that the exhaust current of the TMN sponge is the strongest of any sponge I know, certainly the strongest of any sponge I've ever seen on Bonaire. One way to tell how strong the TMN sponge's exhaust current is, is by watching the gobies who live within the sponge's exhaust port (the large, irregular-shaped depression in the center of a sponge column). Those gobies are swimming like crazy and getting nowhere! I can't think of a single sea creature that swims as continuously, as hard, as these gobies do.

A Home and Harbor to Some Creatures

What do the gobies eat while they're swimming so hard, getting nowhere, inside TMN sponges? The gobies eat things the sponge itself doesn't filter from the water and other creatures that live within the sponge. The second consequence of the protected state of



This large TMN sponge is one of the few damaged ones I've ever seen; the sponge may have been ripped by a strong prop wash. The rock beauty at the bottom of the photo is not there by coincidence; it's been taking advantage of the sponge's vulnerability to nibble on its insides.

Continued on page 17



Is this a close-up of the texture of an English muffin? No, it's a close-up of the texture of the inside of a broken TMN sponge. There's a tiny white worm tube in the lower left corner, and one can see the space for other little creatures available in the trails and streets and boulevards that the filtered water follows, within the sponge.

TMN sponges is that they provide homes for many marine creatures. The less vulnerable the sponge is, the more interesting it becomes to little animals that need fortification. The tiny white dots on TMN sponges are fanworms, and other worms and crustaceans live within TMN sponges – sometimes in the hundreds. Brittlestars live on TMN sponges, and creatures such as juvenile longspined urchins find sanctuary within the irregularities of TMN sponges.

When I think of "well-defended," I think of the walls of a fort, or fearsome teeth. The last thing I'd think of as an example of "well-defended" is the dull-colored, lumpy-shaped, totally not flashy Touch-Me-Not sponge. And yet, this unassuming creature's subtle defenses provide sanctuary to many animals, and a reason for divers to know what they're doing before touch-

ing the reef! □ Story & photos by Dee Scarr

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Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her slide show "Touch the Sea" at Capt. Don's Habitat, Mondays, 8:30 pm.



End of Year Regatta



Bonaire's End of the Year Regatta is a celebration for all sailors on the island to join - the final race of the year. In fact the tradition for such a race has been observed for so many years that even the organizers can't remember when it actually started. They do know that it is an extremely popular event, not only for the sailors but for the spectators on shore who can observe all the activity from the Regatta House on the waterfront.

This year it's this Sunday, December 18, and races start at 10 am in front of the Regatta House. Participants should be there at 9. All classes of boats, including the traditional fishing boats, and windsurfers are invited. This year there will be races around Klein Bonaire, according to Race Director Elvis Martinus. As is custom and tradition, instead of trophies the winners will get hams, beer, wine, soft drinks - great food and beverage items for the holidays.

Registration for participants is NAf10. For more information call Elvis Martinus 790-2288. □L.D.

Whale Encounter



Peter de Graaf photo

Humpback whale at Aquarius

It's not on every dive that you meet a humpback whale. Last Sunday, Peter de Graaf, who lives on Bonaire, was diving at the Aquarius site with his buddy, Hans Henneken. Ahead he spotted a huge shape, vertical in the water. Fortunately he had his Sony digital camera in its housing so he began shooting photos. This is just one of them.

Sea and Discover biologist Carin Eckrich tentatively identified it as a humpback. Adult males measure 40-48 feet (12.2-14.6 m), adult females measure 45-50 feet (13.7-15.2 m). They weigh 25 to 40 tons (22,680-36,287 kg). Humpback whales feed on krill, small shrimp-like crustaceans, and various kinds of small fish. Each whale eats up to 1 and 1/2 tons (1,361 kg) of food a day. As a baleen whale, it has a series of 270-400 fringed overlapping plates hanging from each side of the upper jaw, where teeth might otherwise be located.

Whale sharks, which also feed on similar creatures, have also been sighted recently in local waters. □ G.D.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Natania Nicolina
athlete

She is smart, she is beautiful, but most of all she is very friendly!

Our friend Natania enjoys her Saturdays very much at the bowling alley among her friends. She is very eager to help her teammates and has a funny way of remembering what she is taught.

The coaches have seen Natania grow very fast in the sport and they admire her courage to do things her way. She likes to be different from the rest and her individuality is one of the characteristics we love about her.

Natania is an inspiration to us, because she is not afraid of being herself or doing things different than others. She is a courageous young athlete on her way to the top.

We're cheering for you Natania!

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

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Two For The Money (Al Pacino)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Domino (Mickey Rourke)

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
: The Curse Of The
Were-Rabbit / Goal
(Holiday Matinee Extra)

THIS WEEK

Saturday, December 17 - Continental Airlines Inaugural Flight, Flamingo Airport, - Official Welcome 6:45 am

Saturday, December 17 - Rincon Christmas Market, 4 to 11 pm

Saturday, December 17 - Plaza Resort 10th Anniversary Celebration Samara Band from Venezuela, 9 pm, Topsy Seagull. All invited. Info 717-7500

Sunday, December 18 - End of the Year Regatta - 10 am, in front of Regatta House on the waterfront. See page 17. For information call Elvis Martinus 790-2288.

Monday, December 19 - SGB Christmas Fair and Market - Gifts, food, drinks, entertainment, Christmas spirit-NAf1 entrance (drawing for a prize). At the high school, 7 pm to 11 pm.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Dec.17 *Silver Whisper*. Dec.19 *Arcadia*

COMING UP

Saturday, Sunday, December 24, 25—Traditional Christmas Gourmet Dinner at Rum Runners, Capt. Don's Habitat. See page 10—Tel. 717-8290

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, December 24, 25, 26—Christmas Dinner at Den Laman. See page 12—Tel. 717-4106.

Sunday, December 25 - Bonairean Christmas Buffet at Divi Flamingo - Music by Kriollo Kids (*Gaitas*). The buffet will consist of all-Bonairean Christmas dishes. There will be a cozy Bonairean Christmas ambiance with decorations, Christmas tree, etc. Price to be announced. Information 717-8285.

Saturday, December 31—Comcabon Fun Run 2/4/5 km -5:30 pm. Tel. 717-8629 or 780-7225—Richard Pietersz

Saturday, December 31 - Divi Flamingo New Years Party

2006

Karnaval 2006 Jan. 7 to Feb. 28
January 14, 2006 - next quarterly clean-up dive. All are welcome, divers and non-divers alike. Contact sponsors Yellow Submarine (<http://www.bonaireyellowsubmarine.com>) or Net-Tech (<http://www.nettech.an>).

REGULAR EVENTS

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

Saturday—Mountain Bike Ride—Everyone is welcome. It's free. 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. Great wines - NAf2,50 a glass.

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, Divi Flamingo

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

Tuesday -Yoga 5 pm, Beginner; 6:30 pm, Intermediate, Harbour Village Spa 786-6416

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.

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

Wednesday -Yoga 8.30 am, Mixed Level, Plaza Resort, 786-6416

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

Friday -Yoga 8.30 am, Mixed Level, Buddy Dive Resort, 786-6416

Friday- 5-7 pm Social Event at JanArt 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 Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for residents). 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 Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat.

December 2005 Cruise Ship Schedule

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time	Pier	# PAX	Line
Sat	Dec.17	<i>Silver Whisper</i>	0700-1600	S.Pier	388	Silversea Cruises
Mon	Dec.19	<i>Arcadia</i>	0800-1800	S.Pier	1968	P&O Cruises
Mon	Dec.26	<i>Braemar</i>	0800-1700	S.Pier	720	Fred Olsen
Tue	Dec.27	<i>AidaVita</i>	1000-2000	S.Pier	1260	P&O Ger.

Monday- Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea slide Show at Captain Don's Habitat, 8:30pm Call 717-8290 for info
Wednesday (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation 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

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 - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

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

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

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

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Restaurant Zeezicht. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8454

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451; Valrie@telbonet.an
Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery. 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 7174685, 566-4685

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit 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.

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 Antril, 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 event info to

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

Year-end Regatta



Sunday
December 18th

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 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.
Croccantino 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 Breakfast every day; Lunch, Dinner Tues-Sun.	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Cuban cuisine. New kitchen. New cook 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 clean-up dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

FITNESS

Bonfysio offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness

machines and classes for all levels.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals.

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

The Bonaire Gift Shop has a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

HOTELS

Golden Reef Inn is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk to diving and the sea.

The Great Escape Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar.

METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V., offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

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.

WINDSURFING

The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too.

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

Born on Bonaire....

Violeta Rosario-Cicilia

I had a wonderful childhood because although most men were sailors and worked off the island my father was a carpenter and I was lucky to have both parents at home. My father was Herman Miguel Cicilia and my mom is Anna Maria Cicilia de Palm. I am one of nine children and I was born December 3rd 1940; a new era because World War II changed everything.

When I was nine I started taking organ lessons in Rincon with the nuns. Every Saturday instead of playing I had to sit there learning...from nine to five. All day long! Very boring! Coleta and Chabe were two ladies who had a bus and I could only go with them because they were women. Once I had the opportunity to learn to play the violin, but as the teacher was a man, it was out of the question. It was simply not done. Talking about sexual issues was also taboo, but I read a lot; the nuns had a bookcase full of books for adults and I read them all! I was fancying the idea of becoming a midwife or maybe a stewardess.

But I was going to church every day, so I decided to become a nun; I felt it was the right vocation. So, when I was 15 I went to Curaçao, to the *Martinus Ges-ticht*, a boarding school founded by the nuns, to become a kindergarten teacher. There I found out that living with the nuns wasn't for me. To be really sure I became a *novena* for nine months, but after those nine months I definitely knew I was not going to be a nun.

I came back to Bonaire as a kindergarten teacher and started working with the nuns in Playa. I was almost 18 and besides teaching I also had to make house calls as the nuns were not allowed to. I had to visit poor families whose children couldn't go to school as they had no shoes. I always came with a prayer, because when you entered a house you didn't know who you would find there. I always came alone and I was still very young. I didn't have a car so I went by foot. Sometimes I had to wade through mud puddles, but it was all for the sake of the child!

We had very big classes, three for the whole school, and each class had more than 50 pupils! When a friend of mine who had been in Holland came to Bonaire, we started working on fundraising to build three more classrooms. The convent would take care of the construction work, but everything else we had to provide. We asked Curaçao for permission to have a fair and I typed 500 letters because we didn't have a copy machine. Then the fair came - for three days - and we raised NAf 5.000 guilders! That was a lot!

We dressed up those new classrooms very modern. We could even buy lesson

materials - it was great! Then we had six classes and the newly graduated teachers arrived from Curaçao: Maria Koeks, Sonia (I forgot her last name) and Thea Pauleta. Everything was much better!

In 1962 I married Emilio Hyacinto Rosario - he was a carpenter - and the nicest thing about him was I didn't have to cook! The first time he came home from work I'd cooked and he said, 'That's not what I wanted to eat,' so he himself went to cook, and that's the way it stayed! When I came home the food was on the table! And I am easy; I eat what they give me!

I kept on working and I founded many clubs to keep the children busy after school and on the weekends. I ran the Antillean Girls Guild, just like scouting. My husband and I had five children - four boys and one girl. My mother took care of them in the daytime, and in the evening my husband was the babysitter. I attended meetings, I gave courses for adults and I was the president of the Lady's Club.

"I had to visit poor families whose children couldn't go to school as they had no shoes. I always came with a prayer, because when you entered a house you didn't know who you would find there. I always came alone and I was still very young."

When the *Sentro di Barrios* were founded they were looking for a board for the one in Nikiboko. My youngest had just been born and I went to one of the meetings, and right there and then they choose me as the chairman! I said, 'You know I have a six-week-old baby! I can't do it alone!' Their reply was, 'Here is your secretary, here's your treasurer,' etc.! We immediately started renovating the building, and for Mother's Day the Lion's Club paid for a folkloristic dance course for the children. I went to Curaçao and bought the materials, and I sewed all the costumes at home. We named the dance group *Kayena*. We performed in Kali, Colombia, in Statia, Aruba and Curaçao, and we also danced on cruise ships. *Kayena* still exists. Next year it will be 30 years old! Once a month they dance at Flamingo Beach Hotel.

Well, you know, in the old days when you got married you were not allowed to



Violeta Rosario Cicilia

continue working. Because my husband didn't mind I could go on working, but the government wouldn't take you into their health or retirement programs.

They'd give you a one-year contract and when you had a baby you had to resign!

I worked my whole life until I was 55: 15 years at St. Josef kindergarten, then in Rincon for four years in Arco Iris. Then, after I studied to get the necessary papers, I went to work in special education at the Watapana School for 20 years. I also gave Papiamentu lessons at SGB and worked as a substitute at domestic science school. However, when I went to work for the Watapana School the laws had changed and I was able to pay for my retirement pension myself, and that's what I did. And I did well!

I'd always thought when I got my pension that I'd do something with music. I started giving private piano lessons. Because hardly anyone had a piano at home to practice, I went to Holland to buy wind pianos (a reed instrument with keys like a piano) for the children. And that's how I started *Sentro Musikal Boyet!* Then I had the opportunity of taking lessons from Trans World Radio's best pianist, Connie Canfield. She taught me for 12 years. Last year I celebrated 25 years of teaching music.

My husband passed away 15 years ago, but I never feel lonely. I'm always busy. Almost every year I go on vacation to Holland; I go all the time to Curaçao; I go on cruises; I travel all over Europe; I am free! My son Roland came back from Holland to work for the *Kadaster* here. My daughter and one son are in Curaçao, two sons in Holland, sisters in Holland and Aruba. Sometimes when I go to Holland I say I'm going home! For Christmas I am going there, for New Years, here. Then my daughter gets jealous: 'Tell my brother I exist too!' Then my sons get jealous and they think I love my daughter more...Aiaiai!!!

I take care of my mom who's living independently, but at night she sleeps at my house. I have a children's choir and we just brought out our second CD. I'm in the church choir. Two of my grandsons live with their mom in Antrio!; I take them to school and after school one stays with me and one with the other grandparents. I am the secretary of the UPAH, the union for retired officials on the Antilles. I teach music from 2 to 6 pm every day and I've got my hobbies too.

Some people say they've got nothing to do, but if you stay with your hands in your lap it will never change. There's plenty to do! At night I go to bed at 11:30 and I wake up at 5 am; then I stay up all day without taking a nap. I am a happy person; if I can't laugh anymore, life is over for me. I greet everybody because I always say, 'If you pass by someone and you don't greet them, and then you trip and fall, they won't pick you up because you didn't greet them!'

Once I was in Rincon visiting people. My car was parked in front of their door. Someone passed by and saw I had a flat tire. He called at the door, 'Give me your car key!' He changed the tire and had the other one repaired because he knew I had to go back to Playa. Isn't that beautiful?

Things like that I never forget! That's Bonaire! I travel everywhere, but I'll stay here because we have to keep up our Bonaire! I've never seen a second Bonaire where I could live, so I'll stay!"

□ story and photo by Greta Kooistra



Picture Yourself In The Reporter Klawok, Alaska, US



Bonaire bartender TC Panecaldo writes, "Well, believe it or not I am here in Alaska freezing my buns off. This is way too cold for this Island Hottie. It is so beautiful here and a couple of days ago my friend Rocky and I went up to his "special" spot and got a Christmas tree. I am on Prince of Wales Island in a small town called Klawock, Alaska. There are only about 700 people in the town.

PS: by the way this morning was 18 degrees FSEND ME HOME TO THE SUNSHINE. □

New York City, N.Y., US



Here are Lisa and Joe of Bonaire's Pasa Bon Pizza, our favorite pizza parlor in the world, at the New York (City) Pizza Show keeping up on the latest pizza technology. The result? An awesome new pizza oven soon due to be operational. □

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.) □

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pieter and Anita Groenendal are showing off their newest addition: **Baby Joe**, born on October 30 at San Francisco Hospital. He was 4 kg., 54 cm. His brother Mike and sister Zaira were born there too. Mom Anita, a physiotherapist at Bon Fysio, has the honor of being the first woman to complete the "Tower to Tower" marathon hike. Dad Pieter runs The Island Supplier (TIS). □

L.D.

Readers are invited to send their photos of their anniversaries, engagements or weddings to *The Reporter*. The photo and text will be printed free of charge.



MARRIED

One of Bonaire's favorite people, **Yasmil Rios Gomez**, who has been one of the mainstays of Pasa Bon Pizza, got married this week, Monday, December 12, at the Passengrahan to **Giovanni Carletti** from Geneva, Switzerland. The couple met while Yasmil was working at Buddy Dive and have been "courting" ever since. After spending Christmas in Bonaire the couple will go to Switzerland to live. We wish this wonderful couple all the happiness in the future. □L.D.

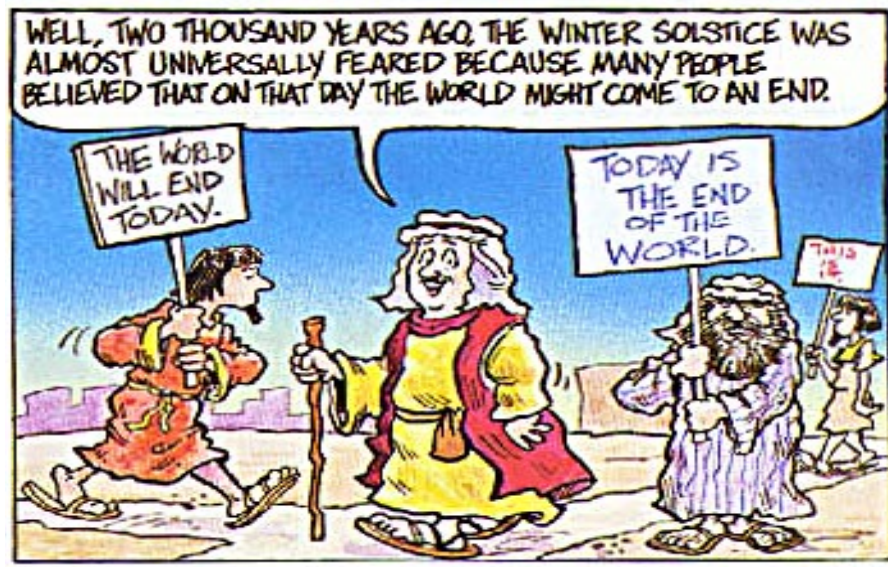


Susan Porter photo



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up



Why is the Winter Solstice Called the Winter Solstice and What's it All About Anyway?

On Wednesday, December 21st, at precisely 12:35 pm, Sky Park standard time, the **Winter Solstice**, that is the first day of winter, officially begins for the northern hemisphere. But if you're like most people the concept of the Winter Solstice can be a bit confusing. So let me explain what the Winter Solstice is really all about. But to do that we're going to have to go back in time, all the way to the first day of spring.

On the first day of spring, which is also called the **Vernal Equinox**, vernal meaning 'green', and equinox meaning 'equal night', which simply means that on the equinox the hours of daylight are equal to the hours of night. Now on the first day of spring, the Vernal Equinox, the Sun rises exactly due east and sets exactly due west. And each successive day thereafter it rises and sets just a little bit farther to the north until the **Summer Solstice**, the first day of summer, when the Sun reaches its northernmost point along the horizon and actually seems to 'stand still' and rise and set in the same place for a few days. In fact the word 'solstice' means 'Sun stands still'.

And as any school child will tell you, the first day of summer is the longest day of the year, meaning the day of longest daylight. Now after the Solstice the Sun will appear to reverse its direction and will rise and set just a little bit farther south each successive day. And each successive day the time of daylight will grow just a little bit shorter. On the **Autumnal Equinox**, the first day of autumn, the Sun will once again rise due east and set due west, and the hours of daylight will again be equal to the hours of night. Then the Sun will continue its journey southward, rising and setting a little bit farther south each day, and daylight will continue to get shorter and night time longer each day until the Winter Solstice, the first day of winter. Then the Sun will reach its farthest point south and once again will appear to 'solstice,' that is stand still and rise and set in the same place for a few days. And at the time of the Solstice, the northern hemisphere will experience the shortest day of the year, meaning the day of least sunlight and most night.

Then a few days after the Solstice the Sun will appear to retrace its steps and will rise and set just a little bit farther north on the horizon each successive day until once again we'll be back where we started on the Vernal Equinox, the first day of spring, and the Sun will rise and set due east and west. And it will then repeat the entire rising and setting cycle again and again, year after year.

Now in the 21st century we really don't pay much attention to where the Sun rises and sets each day, but our ancestors kept precise records of where the Sun rose and set every day because this gave them their first yearly calendar by which they were able to determine the seasons so they would know when to plant and when to harvest. In fact, recording the Sun's rising and setting positions day after day was as important to our ancestors as our wall calendars and atomic clocks are to us today.

So might I suggest that just for fun, beginning with this solstice, you watch the Sun's journey all this upcoming year as it rises and sets at a slightly different place each morning and night. You'll not only find it fun but absolutely fascinating. □

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: December 11 to 17, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Overindulgence may be a problem. Your need to obtain additional details will lead you into strange topics of conversation. Try to think things through. You will be able to work with fine detail this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Home improvement projects will go well if you delegate work to all your family members. Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. You're best to channel your energy into work. You will be encouraged to get involved in a moneymaking venture. Your lucky day this week is Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You'll be prone to tears if your mate is harsh with you this week. Make plans to attend group discussions or get together with friends who like to talk as much as you do. Take a long look at your present direction and consider your professional options. You need to refrain from being the generous one in the group. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack of spare time. You may have difficulties with someone close to you. You may find that children are not as accepting as you have been. Others may want to steal your thunder when they realize your ideas are pretty solid. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) If possible, rely on coworkers to back your objectives, and talk to superiors in order to get approval. Show what a dedicated person you can be. Don't be too quick to judge your loved ones. Try not to argue about trivial matters. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Get involved in activities that will be fun for the whole family. Visitors may drop by unexpectedly, resulting in tension with your lover. Coworkers may not be giving you all the pertinent information. Take care of your personal needs. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can win points with children if you take the time to show interest in their accomplishments. Don't put all your cash in one place. Don't be too quick to judge those you live with. You can make major decisions regarding your professional direction. Your lucky day this week is Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may be more emotional than usual. Dealing with foreigners will be most enlightening. Your practical approach to life may charm someone who has been observing you. Channel your energy into projects that will enhance your home. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will benefit by taking care of other people's concerns. Someone may try to damage your reputation. For now just do the best you can. Try not to allow superiors or those in a higher position to take advantage of you. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22- Jan. 20) You will be your usual charming self and the partners you attract may be the adventurous type. You may have a tendency to put on weight. You may find that someone you live with is not too happy, but you can't really do anything about that right now. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool if someone backs you into a corner. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) This time was meant for love. Make creative changes to your residence. There could be opposition or temper tantrums on the home front. You should be making plans to spend some time with the ones you love. Don't divulge secret information. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Difficulties with children will surface if you try to break a promise you made. Unique forms of entertainment could capture your attention and bring about a romantic interest. Pleasure trips will bring you into contact with new and interesting people. Stop telling others about your problems. Your lucky day this week will be Friday. □