



**BONAIRE**

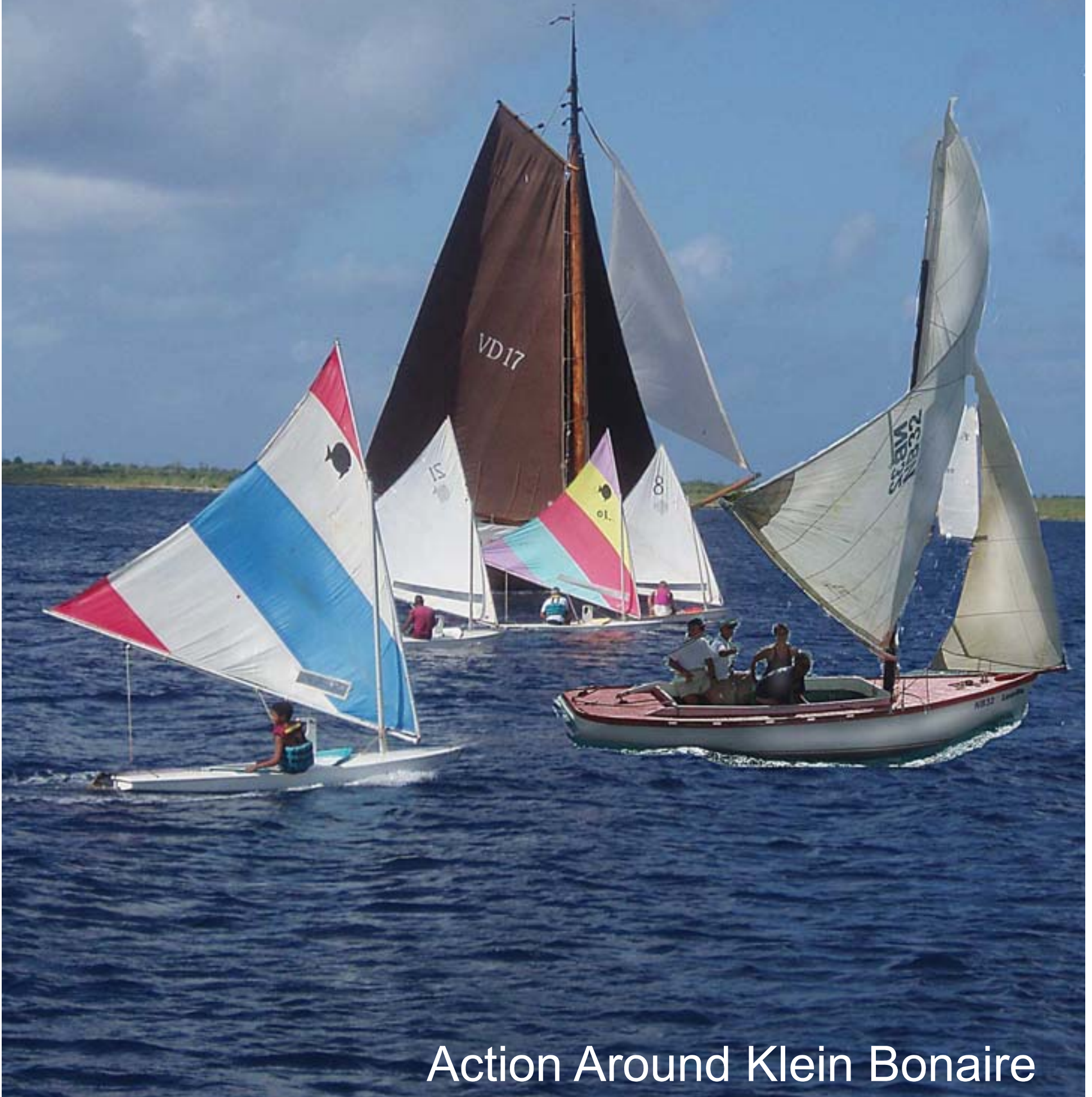
December 23-30, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 48

# The REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) • 717-8988

SINCE 1994

**End of the  
Year Regatta**  
page 9



Action Around Klein Bonaire

# Flotsam and Jetsam

## Continental Airlines

Continental Airlines began scheduled service from Houston, Texas, non-stop to Bonaire, an historic event. See the story on page 7 for details.

After a year of down-sizing and job cuts in a bid to squeeze itself into profitability, Air Jamaica is facing a loss of over US\$99 million this year, and the airline has signaled a review of the business model it crafted only months ago. Air Jamaica's recently-appointed chairman, O.K. Melhado, will unveil a revised business plan in the first quarter of 2006 following a review of its business strategies. Key to the strategy will be upping the average flying time of its planes from eight to 12 hours a day. (*Jamaica Observer*) Air Jamaica flies weekly to Bonaire on Saturdays.

Following a five-year-long study, new driving regulations for Bonaire are scheduled to come into effect next March. The new rules mandate seat belts, helmets for motorcycle riders and hands-free cell phones while driving, among other specifics. Authorities promise to inform the public about the new regulations prior to their enforcement.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) advised the Central Government to cut back on the health care expenses now. The IMF also says that privatization is the best option for most of the public enterprises of the Central and Curaçao governments, including UTS, Curoil, CDM, and Isla.



The Isla oil refinery in Curaçao spewed an unexpected, unacceptable amount of extra pollution following the start up of the catalytic cracker unit after a major fire early in December. The Environmental Affairs Department said it had ordered a halt to the process. However, it did not stop. Isla management said it had not refused to obey any order but had failed to receive it.

One third of the refinery was still not operational due to the fire. According to Isla, 400,000 cubic meters per hour of additional sulphurous gases have been emitted since then, of which 100,000 were hydrogen sulphide. No gasoline can be produced when the cat cracker is stopped. Manager Pedro Jimenez said that the fire damage and loss of production totaled about US\$25 million. He expected the refinery to be up and running again within four to five days. Bonaire and Curaçao get all their gasoline from Isla.

Manager Marcel Nicolina of the Curoil fuel distribution company will retire next year and will get a "golden handshake" of NAf900,000 in addition to his considerable pension. This has upset some people. Curoil provides Bonaire with virtually all its fuel needs except for the airport jet fuel.

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Matters is preparing numerous treaties with other countries. Twenty of the 293 treaties are for the benefit of the Antilles and/or Aruba, including: eliminating the visa requirement for Barbados. The shipping treaty with South Africa will be extended. Aviation treaties are in the making with Antigua/Barbuda, Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Germany, and Haiti. There will be a treaty concerning economic border traffic with Venezuela; a trade agreement with Colombia. Tax treaties on exchanging data with Australia, France, New Zealand, Chile, Austria and Venezuela will be made to prevent double taxation. There will also be a treaty with the US concerning collaboration for the civil aviation safety.

Last Thursday, December 15, was Kingdom Charter Day. Except for some activities in Holland, which had more to do with Queen Beatrix's 25th anniversary, the day went by largely unnoticed in Bonaire. Last year it received some attention because it had been 50 years since the charter called *Statuut*, granting the Netherlands Antilles autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom, was signed.

It was once an official holiday but not anymore. Instead, following the first constitutional referendum a decade ago in which a majority on all the islands chose to keep the Netherlands Antilles together, October 21 was proclaimed as Antilles Day, to promote a sense of togetherness and Antillean identity. In 2007, if present goals are met, the Antilles will cease to exist as a "country."

Orphaline Saleh of the Bonaire Banker's Association wrote: "Just thought you and your readers might like to know that the island's banks will be open normal hours all this week, closed on Monday Dec 26<sup>th</sup> (bank and religious holiday), while on December 30<sup>th</sup> we will be open from 8 am till 12 noon for the public. On Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> we will open as usual - normal hours. This is for all three local banks - Banco di Caribe, Maduro & Curiel's Bank-Bonaire N.V. and RBTT."

"Fish with chips"--hi-tech implants that enable either satellite or seabed tracking--were one of the breakthroughs to uncover ocean migration paths, scientists in the 73-nation Census of Marine Life (COML) said.

One bluefin tuna swam the Pacific three times in 600 days according to satellite records-an enormous 40,000 km (24,850 miles) or the distance around the world. That indicated that Japanese and American tuna stocks were one and the same.

Need a permanent way to mark your dive equipment? Carib Inn just got in a supply of ID MY GEAR. This permanent vinyl paint will stick to most anything and comes in nine great colors. Easy to use with the special applicator bottle. Stop in the Carib Inn. Any questions call 717-8819.

Welcome to *The Reporter's* newest advertiser, **Plantation**, a dream of a store carrying solid teak furniture, antiques, accessories, paintings, bedspreads and

*Continued on page 4*

## BONAIRE The REPORTER

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Papiamentu Phrase Book	3
Envirowatch (Rangers Confiscate Conch)	4
MCB Honors Press	5
MCB Yearly Award (Youth Outreach Program)	5
Crocantino Dinner for Ka'l Mimina Elders	6
Buddy Dive Celebrates 25 Years	6
Plaza Celebrates 10 Years	6
Welcome Continental	7
Olympian Trained Swimmers	8
End of Year Regatta, results	9
Adventist Youth Group Cleans Up	10
Miss & Mr. Jong Bonaire	11
Stichting Project Celebrates	11
Antique Living Houses (Salsbach Home)	12
UniCollege Students Say Thanks	13
Announcement - Linkels 50th	14
Trunkfish (Dee Scarr)	15
Protect Pets, Part 2	17
Whale of a Story	22
Reef's Golden Hamlet Club	22

### WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Mega FM Schedule	7
Vessel List & Tide Table	8
Picture Yourself (Above Arctic Circle, Greenland.)	14
Classifieds	14
Pet of the Week (Rhonda)	17
Reporter Masthead	18
Special Olympic Spotlight (Egon Augusta)	18
What's Happening	19
Movieland Film Schedule	19
December Cruise Ship Schedule	19
Shopping & Dining Guides	20
On the Island Since (Carlos Lopez)	21
Sky Park (Planets)	23
The Stars Have It	23

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Getting Around the Islands in PAPIAMENTU:  
A Phrasebook for Travelers and Newcomers**



Senior Author, Terry Dovale.

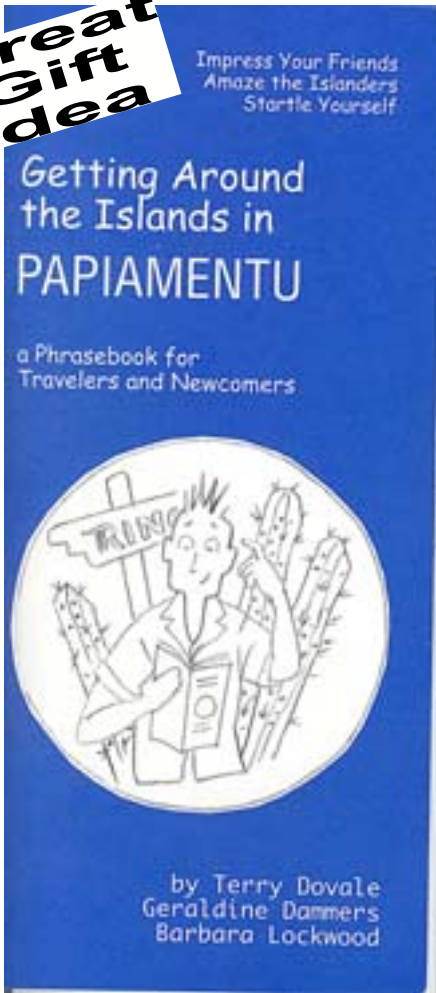
**J**ust in time for Christmas—*Getting Around the Islands in PAPIAMENTU: a Phrasebook for Travelers and Newcomers.*

“Impress Your Friends. Amaze the Islanders. Startle Yourself.” Those words announce a fascinating and useful little book just published on Bonaire. While ostensibly a phrase book, and an excellent one too, this slender volume is also a cornucopia of interesting facts about the language, the culture, and the day-to-day practices of the people living in the Netherlands Antilles. Did you know, for instance, that if someone sends you home with food in a dish, good manners require that you return the dish with food in it? Or that, according to local custom, a woman should not put her purse on the floor, or she will never have any money?

For someone searching for the right words to speak, the phrasebook is thoughtfully planned. It is organized into sections—conveniently marked with tabs—on such Basics as greetings and politeness, time, money, and numbers. Other sections include Shopping, Directions, Hotels, Activities, Accidents, Chatting, as well as Living Here, which presents phrases useful to cruisers and residents who, for instance, might need to talk with someone about getting work done. Each set of phrases is accompanied by easy pronunciation guides. The book includes short dialogues that help the reader imagine in advance how both sides of typical two-way conversation might go.

*Getting Around the Islands in PAPIAMENTU* was co-written and illustrated

**Great Gift Idea**



by the late Terry Dovale. She, as artist and Papiamentu expert, teamed up with Barbara Lockwood, as book designer and desktop publisher, to conceive and create the initial draft. Following Terry’s death, Geraldine Dammers stepped in to assure the book’s Papiamentu accuracy, and her mother, the artist Elena, added to the illustrations. More than a score of other people generously helped Lockwood bring the book to publication, and the production costs were underwritten by BONHATA, the Tourism Corporation of Bonaire (TCB), Maduro and Curiel’s Bank (Bonaire and Curaçao) and Cargill Salt.

*Getting Around the Islands in PAPIAMENTU* is for sale for \$10 at Chat n Browse, Sand Dollar Grocery, Valerie’s Airport Gift Shop, Captain Don’s Habitat, and Tourist Corporation of Bonaire (TCB), and will be available in other stores soon. It will be distributed on Curaçao as well. □ D.R..

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) more. You may have visited Plantation in Curaçao, but now you can find everything here in Bonaire; no need to travel. It's in the building that once housed Criollo Paint (ex-Global), behind the rice mill. Look for the big Plantation sign. Take the dirt road by Warehouse Bonaire. They'll be open this Thursday, non-stop until 9 pm, and will offer a wine tasting of new South African wines from noon to 9. Their ad is on page 22.

► Also welcome The Windsurfing Place to The Reporter family of advertisers. This Thursday they will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have helped make Bonaire the windsurfing Mecca it is today and have inspired several Bonaire youngsters to achieve world-ranking and professional windsurfer status. Pabien Elvis, Patun and Roger. Ad is on page 13.

► The Buddy Dive Resort celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a big party last Friday night (see photos on page 6). Music, food and shows were great. For the entire Christmas weekend (Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) they will feature outstanding dinners at the hotel and the Lions Den Restaurant. See their ad on page 12 for

details.

► Other restaurants offering Christmas dinner include Den Laman, Divi Flamingo and Rum Runners.



*Governor Domacassé with the captain of the Sea Princess*

► Last week Governor Herbert Domacassé, Harbormaster Rob Sint Jago and representatives of the Bonairean travel world welcomed the captain of the cruise ship *Sea Princess* during its first port call on Bonaire. More new cruise ships will call in at Bonaire next year, like *Arcadia*, *Rijndam*, and *Prinsendam*.

► All of us at the Reporter wish all our readers a very merry holiday time. It has been a good year for Bonaire and the future for the island appears brighter than it has in a long time. Stay with us for an even better 2006. □

G./L. D.

# Enviro Watch

## Rangers Confiscate Conchs

STINAPA/Bonaire National Marine Park Rangers received a tip that there might be some men harvesting conch in Lac Bay. The rangers went to the place mentioned to take a look at the situation. Arriving at the scene they saw five men who said that they were looking for lobsters. The rangers stayed on guard and shortly after they caught three men with three bags which contained a total of 65 conchs. Only five of those were adults and the rest were between 10 and 15 centimeters long.



Taking conch is illegal since they are on the brink of extinction. STINAPA is calling for the cooperation of everybody. Do not buy fresh conch; you are committing a illegality. If you spot somebody taking conch call STINAPA/Bonaire National Marine Park at 786 8444 or 786 9603. □

*Elsmarie Beukenboom for STINAPA Bonaire*

**The Bonaire Reporter is getting the final details and photo evidence of a massive slaughter of conch on the west side of Bonaire. The exclusive story will be in our next issue.**



# Celebrating

## MCB Honors Members of Bonaire's Press Corps



*MCB's top staff with Bonaire's Press Corps  
- representing newspaper, radio and TV*

For the fourth year in a row Maduro Curiel's Bank Bonaire honored the press of Bonaire at a reception last Friday night at Salsa. At the same time they gave an annual monetary prize to a local volunteer organization – this year it is the Bonaire

Youth Outreach Foundation.

As MCB-Bonaire Managing Director, Mr. Evert Piar, said regarding the press corps, "...the Bank's show of appreciation for the important job you fulfill every day of educating and informing our community. This year, our

Bank had as an internal slogan, "*Ban Uni Mar I Ser Positivo*," which means, "Let us Unify More and Be Positive." It is exactly more unity and attention for the positive things in our community that we wish to achieve with activities like these. ... We also want to give recognition for all the efforts and accomplishments of our friends of the Press who work tirelessly to fulfill their tasks. We cannot emphasize enough the enormous responsibility of the Press, a responsibility which in today's complex world, with in-

creasingly rapid developments, ought to be exercised with objectivity, seriousness and high integrity. It is not an easy task, and we thank you very much for your dedication to this charge, that is so important for our Society."

In appreciation the Bank gave each of the press members an embroidered polo shirt with their company logo and cap. A number of these shirts and caps were seen being worn by the press corps the following morning at the airport during the Continental flight greeting. □ *L.D.*

**T**he MCB Yearly award this year goes to Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation, which for the last six years has organized "Pasku Briante," Brilliant Christmas, where they give Christmas gifts to needy youngsters between two and 12 years. The foundation, begun in 1995, offers spiritual, social, educational and physical activities to 40 young people from the age of 13. More on this foundation next week.



*Gabrielle Nahr (L), Orphaline Saleh (R) and Managing Director Evert Piar (2<sup>nd</sup> from L) give the award to members of the Outreach Foundation: Timothy Bissessar, Board members Richandro Emerenciana and Willem Piar, Ronald Coffy (who conducts the Saturday radio program) and Sheloutka Martinus. In the rear (R) is Alejandro Martinus, President and Founder of Outreach.*



# Celebrating

## Crocantino Dinner for Seniors from Ka'i Mimina



*Happy elders from Ka'I Mimina after a delicious four-course holiday dinner at Croccantino Restaurant. Croccantino owner Elisabeth Wigny and Organizer Delno Tromp in front*

Thanks to generous donations from members of the community, a total of 50 elderly people were able to enjoy a festive Christmas dinner at Croccantino Restaurant. Members of the *Ka'I Minina* feasted on Thursday; and Friday it was the turn of 25 seniors from the 60 Plus Club of *Flor di Orkidia*. Everyone went home with a special gift. Thanks to Delno Tromp and Elisabeth Wigny for organizing the event and raising the funds. □ *L.D.*

## Plaza Celebrates 10 years



*The Plaza Resort celebrated its 10-year anniversary at a gala reception at the Topsy Seagull last Saturday night. The Samara Band from Venezuela entertained. Shown in the photo are some of the honored guests and their hosts.*

## Buddy Dive Remembers 25 years



*Founders of Buddy Dive, Joop and Yvonne Rauwers, and their daughter Debbie with current owners, Martijn and Ingrid van der Valk.*

Last Friday evening Buddy Dive's new pool bar was the scene of a rendezvous of people from Buddy Dive's past and present. Joop and Yvonne Rauwers, original founders of the resort came to reminisce with old friends and employees. Their daughter, Debbie, who ran the resort for a number of years before it was sold to the current owners, Martijn and Ingrid van der Valk, was there too. Moogie (Ralph Stewart), who's been performing at the Buddy Dive manager's parties for eons, was in his spot, serenading the crowd as always. (Some things never change!) Two slide shows were presented: Bart Snelder, WannaDive owner and former Manager of the Buddy Dive Shop, narrated one on the "old days." Corinna Wegerer, present Dive Shop Manager, presented another of more recent photos. Top members of both political parties spoke, a special buffet followed. □ *L.D.*

# Welcome Continental



*Burney el Hage, Ronella Croes, Governor Domacassé and Continental's Luis Cruz*

The first flight of a scheduled US airline, Continental Airlines, non-stop from the US, arrived with much fanfare on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6 am. Many Bonaire residents turned out at the early hour to help greet the flight. Following a brief official ceremony there was music, coffee and orange juice for all. Continental flies more than 3,000 flights per day to 150 US domestic and 130 international destinations which make it a prime source of US travelers to Bonaire. □ G.D.



*TCB's Eveline Marchena and Robert Everts greeted the passengers from the first Continental Air lines non-stop flight from Houston, Texas.*



*So many people turned out for the 6 am arrival of the Continental flight that parked cars overflowed into the main road*

*Celebrating their wedding anniversary the same day the Continental flight arrived are Commissioner of Tourism Burney el Hage, his wife Genia and their children – Eugene, Denzel and Gianni. They're shown in front of the Christmas tree at the newly opened airport restaurant. Burney was one of the Bonaire dignitaries who traveled on the first flight.*



**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	Sandpiper, USA
Altair	Go Bucks	Sapristi
Always Saturday	Goril Two	Scintella
Angie	Great Sensation	Serenade
Anouk	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Sirius
Audentes	Hinnica	Summer Breeze
Aurora	Honalee	Sunny Side
Blue Moon	Invictus IV	Sun-Ra
Blue Star	Island of Corn	Syoli
Camissa, Chan Is.	Jan Gerardus	Sylvia K
Cancubine	Jennifer	Tatoosh, Cayman Is.
Cape Kathryn	Kamana	Three Ships
Carisea	Karminda II	Ti Amo
Celtic Avenger	Kat-Anne	Tigger
Cers	Katinka	Trio
Cheers	La Baronne	Ulu Ulu, USA
Delphinus	Longo Mai	Unicorn, Norway
Destiny	Maggi	Umiak
Double Bogy	Mahureva	Varedhuni, Ger.
Eclipse	Maxolar	Vendia
Endorphin	Natural Selection	Vilje
Estefanie	<b>Octopus -the world's private largest yacht</b>	Von Voyase
Est-Oust	Okeanis	Ya-T, BVI
Finasia	Okura	Yanti Paratzi
Flam	One Way Wind	Zahi, Malta
Flying Cloud, USA	Paranda	Zee Vock
Freestyle		Zeezot

**KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)**

*Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides*

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
12-24	0:39	1.0FT.	35
12-24	9:19	1.7FT.	35
12-25	0:13	1.0FT.	35
12-25	9:26	1.8FT.	35
12-26	0:05	1.0FT.	41
12-26	9:43	1.9FT.	41
12-26	19:42	1.0FT.	41
12-26	22:06	1.0FT.	41
12-27	10:07	2.0FT.	52
12-27	20:08	0.9FT.	52
12-28	10:39	2.1FT.	65
12-28	20:37	0.8FT.	65
12-29	11:20	2.2FT.	77
12-29	21:18	0.7FT.	77

## Olympian Trained



*The children: Wouter Vriesma, Diana Werdath, Artuur de Jong, Stella Winklaar, Adriaan Arends, Koen Jansen, Finn van Bekkum, Emma de Vries, Almar van Leeuwen, Lauré van der Eijk, Jay Ottens. Examiner Jennefer Petersen and swim teacher Enith Brighitha behind the children.*

Every Friday afternoon at Sorobon these children practice their water skills like swimming fully clothed, trying different strokes, swimming through a circle under water, jumping or diving from the pier and treading water (you have to be vertical in the water with your head and two fingers on each hand above the water). Their swim teacher is Enith Brighitha from Curaçao, an Olympic medal winner in the 1976 games in Montreal. Every two or three months the exam takes place under the supervision of the examiner, Jennefer Petersen. The children who swam for the exam had to show their different water skills to the best of their ability. Everybody did a very good job because everybody received a diploma! □  
Yvonne de Vries



# End of Year Regatta

The Aqua Speed Foundation, which organized the End of Year Regatta, thanks everyone who participated and especially the volunteers including Director of Sailing Karel de Regt, Liesje Saragoza, Cynthia Schreiner, Jessica Sint Jago, Elvis Martinus, Jendell Birginia, Geerlof van der Wol, and Irma Nadorp.

Special thanks go to Dineke and Steven Verbiest for allowing us to take photos from their beautiful sportfisherman, *Pishi Porko*.

Commercial sponsors included: Aaron Construction, Balentien Construction,

Casa Bonaire, Bonaire Government (Indebon), Jose Bar, Maximo Chirino, Pue Restaurant, STINAPA, Surinamese Restaurant, The Island Supplier (TIS), Tropical Flamingo and the Yua Restaurant. Apologies to those we may have overlooked.

Their involvement ensured a perfect end to a most successful 2005 racing season. To everyone a Happy Christmas and hopes for a new year filled with peace and joy. □  
L.D. & J.S.J.



Competitors and volunteers say "Goodbye 2005."



Mom Agnes helps the kids rig the Optimists



Sunfish in blue water



The Classic Etienne



Microboat Masters Sandro Joosten & Farid Ayubi

<b>"END OF THE YEAR RACE"</b> December 2005			
<b>CLASS RESULTS</b>			
<b>Optimist A</b>	1. Urs Schuiheiss	2. Robin Jansen	3. Arnd Chirino
	4. Boy Ottens		
<b>Optimist B</b>	1. Ruben van Eldik	2. Dominique Meijer	3. Merel Houthuijzen
	4. Bas Richter		
<b>Sunfish Junior</b>	1. Kevin Dijkhoff	2. Shernic Winklaar	3. Victor Brouwer
	4. Jamal Trinidad		
<b>Sunfish A</b>	1. Sipke Stapert	2. Franklin Soliano	
	3. Fred Corporal	4. Dick de Jong	5. Arjan Schipper
<b>Windsurf Super kids</b>	1. Erzi Heymans	2. Amado Vrieswijk	3. Hendrick Balentien
<b>Windsurf Big kids</b>	1. Archeundro Finies	2. Bjom Saragoza	3. Hendrick Piar
<b>Windsurf Juniors</b>	1. Evertson "Choko" Frans	2. Jaeger Sint Jago	3. Harvey Piar
		4. Demenson "Kiri" Thode	5. Arthur "Payo" Soliano
<b>Windsurf Men</b>	1. Elton "Taty" Frans		
	2. Christiaan "Keke" Dammers	3. Ethienne Soliano	
<b>Beach Cats</b>	1. Peter Zweers and Edwin Vingerhoets	2. Rob and Edwin Vrieswijk	
<b>Yachts</b>	1. Paranda- Broersma	2. Ella Rosa- Enrique	3. Bugalu- Simone Sweers
<b>Fishing Boats</b>	1. Laurita- Captain George De Salvo	2. Volendamer VD 17- Captain Fred Ros	3. Ethienne - Captain Ismael Soliano
<b>Micro Boats "A"</b>	1. Novio Magnum- Sandro Joosten	2. Flying Dutchman Pondo Benneth	3. Mr. Big Trouble- Roy Winklaar
<b>Micro Boats "B"</b>	1. Gladiator Sandro Joosten	2. Gepi — Constantino Thielman	3. Jerry Domacasse
<b>Micro Boats "C"</b>	1. Matador - Constatino Thielman	2. Sea Bird - Jerry Domacasse	3. Puma - Roy Winklaar
<b>Micro Boats-Remote Control</b>	1. Benjamin Robles □		



Jopie Soliano and microboat friends

# THE YOUNGER BONAIRE

## Adventist Church Youth Group Cleans Up



*The Adventist clean-up group*

As a gift to the Bonaire Community the youth group of the Adventist Church, under the guidance of Pastor Elbert Presenachon, beautifully cleaned up the traffic circle just north of Kralendijk last Sunday, December 18. They were motivated by the rhythms of the Drum Band. Thanks to AMFO and the NGO platform for supporting this activity. □G.D.

# THE YOUNGER BONAIRE

Winners—  
Miss and Mr. Jong Bonaire.



The Fifth Annual election of Miss and Mr. Jong Bonaire was held last Saturday night at the Jong Bonaire activity center. Eight young women and three young men participated.

**Results for 2005 are:**

- Miss Popular 2005: Jomaira Rosario
- Miss Photogenic 2005: Jomaria Rosario
- Miss Personality 2005: Susanne Seket
- Miss Congeniality 2005: Rashirah Hanson
- Miss Dynamic 2005: Nadelia Chirino

**Finalists:**

- The fourth runner-up Miss J.B. 2005: Janey Alberto
- The third runner-up Miss J.B. 2005: Johaimy Ribardo
- The second runner-up Miss J.B. 2005: Alciane Charmant
- The first runner-up Miss J.B. 2005: Jomaria Rosario

**The winner:**

**Miss Jong Bonaire 2005 is Julissa Stroop.**

**Mister J.B. 2005 results:**

- Mister Popular: Jomar Vlijt
- Second runner-up Mr. Jong Bonaire: Jermaine Stroop
- First runner-up Mr. Jong Bonaire: Jarvis Reyes Grande

**The winner:**

**Mister Jong Bonaire 2005 is Jomar Vlijt.**

Jong Bonaire thanks all who helped and participated in this event. □

*Rudsel Chirino*



Miss Jong Bonaire 2005, Julissa Stroop, and Mister Jong Bonaire 2005, Jomar Vlijt

## Stichting Project Celebration



North Salina girls dish up some good food

At the North Salina Neighborhood Center, teens Joanne and Santa serve at the Christmas party celebrating the success of the Stichting Project, a non-profit program for youths from 8-18 who discover a sense of purpose, learn to be responsible and make meaningful choices about their future

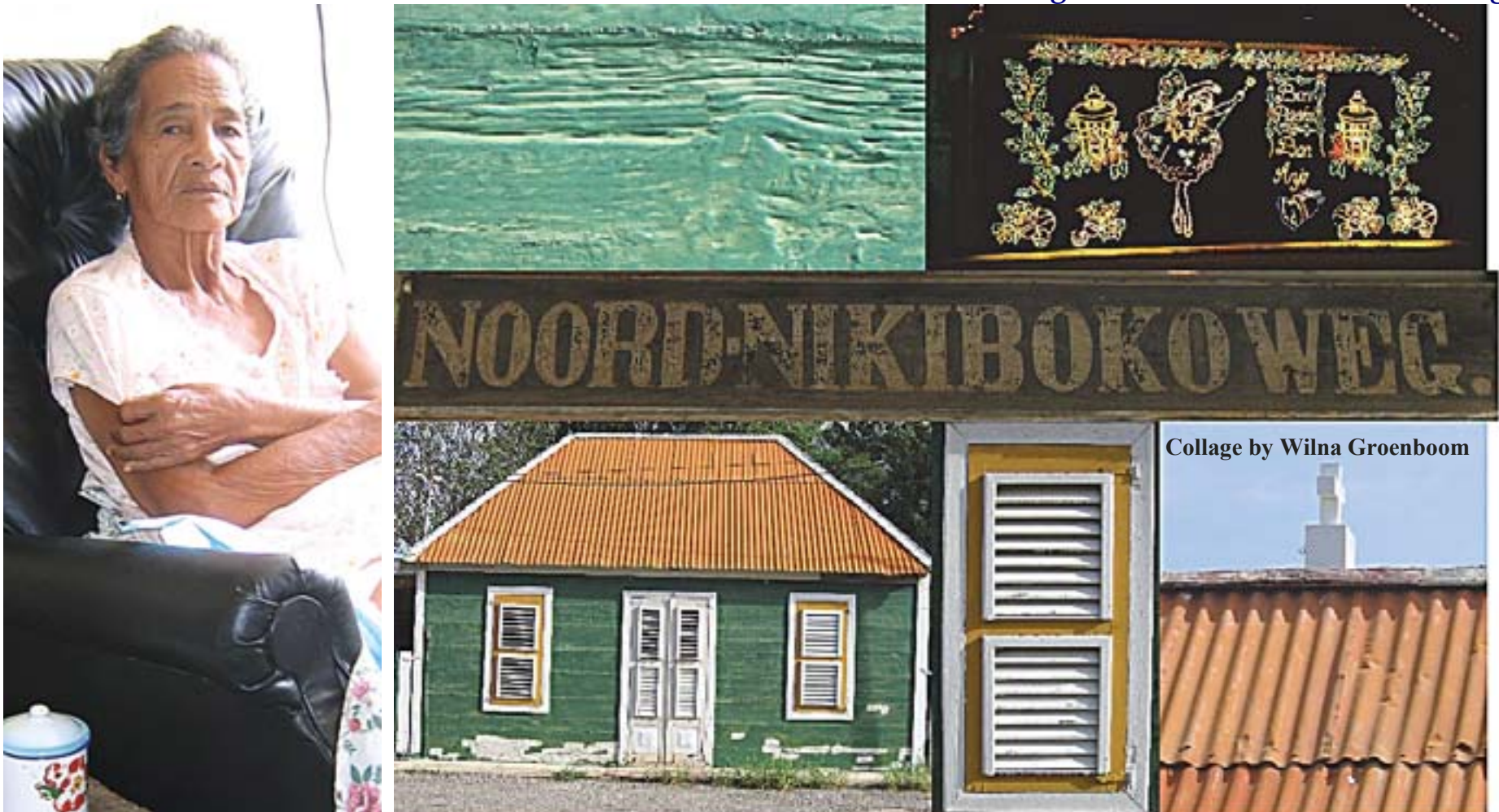
About 30 children are now involved in a variety of learning activities. The original group of six boys and girls worked hard to learn their swimming and first aid skills. They recently passed their Open Water exam for SCUBA diving. Keep up the good work, kids!

Please contact Mick Schmit at 786-6816 for more information or to provide needed support. □ *Story and photo by Barbara Bianculli*

# Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Salsbach Home

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage



Collage by Wilna Groenboom

This is the house of Maria Gomez Salsbach (above). She is now 81 years old and has been living here for more than 50 years. Her husband, who passed away a year ago, told the family that the house must be more than 100 years old. For me it is a special house because it still has its original wooden shutters on two sides and two 100-year-old walls. The other two wooden walls had to be replaced by concrete because a little extension was added (left photo on top).

On Christmas the family traditionally makes the house more special than it already is by adding little lights on the outside (upper right photo).. Every year it takes three weeks of hard labor before Christmas. This year perhaps it will not be done because of the high cost of electricity. □ *Wilna Groenboom*

# THE YOUNGER BONAIRE



**UniCollege  
Students  
Say “Thank  
You”**

*Students Rocca Chin-On and Derek  
Aranguren at the  
learning computer*

The students of UniCollege, a private junior high and high school for college or university-bound youth, hosted a “thank you” gathering for their volunteers and interested friends who provided the financial, material and personal support that helped the school get off to such a dynamic beginning. □

*Barbara Bianculli*

# Picture Yourself In The Reporter Above the Arctic Circle, Greenland



Masja de Koning sent us this photo of her parents, part-time Bonaire residents, **Co and HanneVibeke de Koning**, with *The Bonaire Reporter* last August, way above the Polar Meridian in Greenland. The distant ice makes for a dramatic backdrop. □

**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](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2005 photos are eligible.) □

## Got something to buy or sell?

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

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

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

Call or fax 717-8988 or email [ads@bonairereporter.com](mailto:ads@bonairereporter.com)

### JANART GALLERY

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

### BONAIRENET

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

### CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m<sup>2</sup> nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). Phone: 786-0956

### Bonaire Images

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

### LUNCH TO GO

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

### SALT TREASURES BONAIRE

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

### JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 [www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/](http://www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/)

## Properties

For Sale : Modern house in Santa Barbara Visit : [www.posada-bonaire.com](http://www.posada-bonaire.com) Tel.: 717 2023, Cell :785 0918

For Sale : Washikemba - Kunukuland 2009 M<sup>2</sup> Private property incl. building permission Tel.: 717 2023, Cell:785 0918

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Linkels Golden Anniversary



Hubert and Pauline Linkels today



Hubert and Pauline Linkels on their wedding day in December 1955

Congratulations to Hubert Linkels and Pauline Linkels-Gruber who married on December 15, 1955, 50 years ago. They met in Austria, near Salzburg, Pauline's home, when Hubert was on holiday. In 1971, the couple with their sons, Hans and Harald, first moved to Curaçao, then a year later to Bonaire where Hubert became Headmaster of the St. Bernardusschool, a position he held until his retirement in 1992. They and their sons continue to live on Bonaire. Pabien! □

**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.

### Boat for Sale

Why import a sail boat when you can own a fast Regatta winner built right here? Classic 21' Bonaire Sail Fishing boat recently refurbished is for sale for NAf14,000 (\$8,000)  
Call George 786-6518/717-8988.

### Space For Rent

Need a low priced centrally located activity space for concerts, shows, receptions; cocktail, birthday, staff parties, church meetings, porch sales, workshops, yoga or fitness classes, cooking workshops, presentations, etc?

Rent our spectacular "Oasis terrace" or "Rock-garden area." We offer kitchen and bar facilities, a dance floor, dining area and performance stage. Capacity over 500 people. Call "We Dare To Care Foundation" Parke Publico Bonairiano. Kaya Soeur Bartola, Tel: 717-4262 or 786-1592, 786-6467. Email [bismar@bonairelive.com](mailto:bismar@bonairelive.com) or [jamesfinies@flamingotv.net](mailto:jamesfinies@flamingotv.net)

### Wanted

#### The Bonaire Reporter is searching for a Partner

Join us to "Publish in Paradise." Working partner with journalism writing/editing skills, business sense, and energy desired. Call *The Reporter* at 717-8988, 786-6518. Email qualifications to: [search@bonairereporter.com](mailto:search@bonairereporter.com)

English speaking babysitter needed for on-call needs for windsurfing tourists. A car is needed. References required. Please call 786-3134.

Wanted: Big 4-Wheel Drive JEEP or PICK UP in good condition. Call Edwin at 786-5582

### For Sale

FOR SALE/ tel: 786-5209. To collect by Jan 5/6.

Large Refrigerator, NAF. 650,00  
Small Stove, NAF. 50,00  
Microwave 110v., NAF. 80,00  
Toaster Oven, NAF. 35,00  
Deep Fryer 220v, NAF. 75,00  
Dining Room Set (4 chairs) NEW, NAF. 300,00  
Living Room Set, NAF. 450,00  
Book Shelves (wicker), NAF. 250,00  
Mahogany Table, NAF 200,00  
High Chair, NAF. 50,00  
Folding Table, NAF. 15,00  
TV (LG, no remote), NAF. 150,00  
DVD home theatre, NAF. 400,00  
Bunk Bed, NAF. 450,00  
3 High Quality Standing Fans, NAF 75,00 ea.  
Double Bed with matching table, NAF 650,00  
2 plastic tables, NAF. 25,00  
Sharp TV with VHS, NAF. 100,00  
Children's training potty, Ea. NAF. 5,00  
Set child potty/diaper pail, NAF. 15,00  
Ab Lounge training machine, NAF. 300,00  
Washing Machine (old, but works great), NAF. 350,00  
Partial double bed (missing platform/mattress), NAF. 50,00  
Baby Gate, NAF 35,00  
Telephone w. clock, NAF. 30,00  
Telephone, NAF 20,00  
Voltage Regulator, NAF. 75,00  
Set dumb bells, NAF. 10,00. □

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

# DIVING with DEE

## Maybe Puckering Up Shouldn't Always Lead to Kissing: An Introduction to Trunkfish

Jim was a handsome young man in his early 20s who'd been a dive guide for less than a year when he had his most memorable encounter with a smooth trunkfish. After a usual two-dive day, Jim was guiding a single photographer on a night dive. The photographer wasn't anywhere nearby when Jim saw the trunkfish, so Jim simply captured the sleeping trunkfish between his thumb and fingers and swam it to the photographer. Then, to add just a bit more oomph to the photo, Jim held the trunkfish, with its puckered lips forward, up to his own puckered lips.



Unfortunately for Jim, he had never thought about how trunkfish use their cute little puckered mouths.

On this night the trunkfish had been suddenly awakened from sleep, to find itself being brought to the mouth of a huge alien monster (Jim). The trunkfish grabbed the opportunity to grab Jim's lower lip in his cute puckered lips, and sucked. Hard.

(At this point, the first time I heard the story, I began laughing like crazy. "That'll teach you, Jim!" I exclaimed, without a shred of sympathy for him. "Yeah, now I realize I was pretty rude to the poor trunkfish," Jim replied. "My problem at the time was that I'd taken my regulator out of my mouth for the kiss, and with the trunkfish sucked onto my lip, I couldn't put my regulator back in!" I knew it turned out okay because Jim was telling me the story, but I stopped laughing at this point anyway. Poor Jim had been faced with too few choices: pulling the trunkfish forcibly off his lip would have been really painful, but bolting to the surface from 60' wouldn't have been such a good idea either, especially considering his nitrogen content ...)

In desperation, Jim held his regulator below his mouth and pushed the purge button, hoping to gulp some air on its way by. He wasn't able to breathe any passing air, but the bubbles did cause the trunkfish to release his lip and escape, allowing Jim to put his regulator back in and escape his own immediate problem. He has a scar on his lip, and he has never, ever disrespected a trunkfish since then. In fact, his respect for other living creatures in general is much greater.

The trunkfish presumably went on about its life, which includes foraging for invertebrates both by blowing a current of water at the sand to expose creatures living there, and by sucking at the creatures to swallow them. Did the trunkfish grab Jim for one last meal? Probably not. Sucking onto Jim might

have been like grabbing a tree to keep from being swept up in floodwaters. Or, there's always the possibility that the trunkfish was thinking, "I'll get you for this, my pretty! Ah ha ha ha ha!"

We have three types of trunkfish in the Caribbean: the biggest one has no adjective; it's just called the trunkfish (*Lactophrys trigonus*, "triangle") and is rarely seen on Bonaire. The spotted trunkfish (*L. bicaudalis*, "two tails") is seen occasionally on our reefs and around sand, rubble, rocks, or other habitats. Bonaire's most common trunkfish is the smooth trunkfish (*L. triquetra*, "triangular") pictured here.

(Why oh why is one species of trunkfish called the spotted trunkfish when two species of trunkfish have spots? Gee, maybe that's one of the disadvantages of common names. A REEF instructor gave me a hint for remembering the two correctly: the smooth trunkfish has spots, but also a blurry spot as if someone tried to smooth it before the paint dried; the spotted trunkfish is just spotted.)

Smooth trunkfish have large eyes and puckered lips and are generally very appealing to humans.

Don't assume – like Jim did -- that just because these little fish are cute they can't take care of themselves. They're well-equipped for their lifestyle. For example, their slow speed isn't a disadvantage for feeding because their food doesn't move rapidly. Smooth trunkfish eat invertebrates, especially worms and little crabs and shrimp. If you see one hanging around on the sand, get down low, stay still, and pat the sand with your hand a few times. The trunkfish – or other opportunists such as razorfish and maybe a bar jack – might well zip over to see who's been uncovered. If you stop patting the sand, you might see them do their own version of sand-patting: ejecting a current of water through their pursed lips at the sand. They can put on a short burst of speed to grab any critters they uncover that way.

The burst of speed that enables trunkfish to grab a newly-uncovered worm from the sand is not nearly enough to get them away from a determined chase predator, such as a big grouper or shark. Trunkfish have other ways to protect themselves from predators. First of all, when trunkfish live on coral reefs, there are lots of nooks and crannies for a little fish to hide in that a predator fish can't reach. Then, of course, there's the trunkfish's armor plating, which would protect it from the partial chomping of a predator. Only a predator big enough to swallow the entire trunkfish at once would be able to hurt a trunkfish.



And what's in store for that large, fearless creature that swallows a trunkfish? Trunkfish have poison glands in their skin, especially around their mouths, which were discovered by scientists and others who kept trunkfish in aquaria. When a trunkfish was stressed, say by being netted from a tank, it would secrete the toxins and all the other fish in the tank would die. If the trunkfish was returned to the tank, it would die too. If the water was changed, the fish who were exposed to the toxin usually died anyway. Jim's lucky he didn't learn about this firsthand!

On the other hand, trunkfish have been found in the stomachs of tiger sharks, Nassau groupers, and other large predators that presumably lived long enough to begin digestion. My own personal theories about this include:

- \* Maybe some predators who eat trunkfish do die, just not all of them.
- \* Maybe some predators gulp the trunkfish down so unexpectedly (groupers), or so quickly (sharks) that it's swallowed before it can secrete any poisons.
- \* Maybe some predators chase the trunkfish around so long it uses up all its toxins and then they swallow it.

Luckily trunkfish aren't chased around on Bonaire, so they can be remarkably comfortable around divers. They allow us to watch them forage and will even let us help them forage in the sand. I watched one being cleaned by ghost shrimp and a snapping shrimp, from only about three feet away. The trunkfish was not disturbed at all by my presence. And it really is cute.

Just don't try to kiss one. □ Story & Photos by Dee Scarr

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.



### ***Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter***

Published **weekly**. For information about **subscriptions, stories** or **advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, phone (599) 717-8988, 786-6518, fax 717-8988, E-mail to: **Reporter@bonairenews.com** **The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

**Reporters:** Elsmarie Beukenboom, Barbara Mason Bianculli, Rudsel Chirino, Florence Ditlow, Yvonne de Vries, Valerie Gast, Wilna Groenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Tai Mosest, Dee Scarr, Michael Thiessen, Roosje v.d. Hoek

**Features Editor:** Greta Kooistra **Translations:** Peggy Bakker, Sue Ellen Felix

**Production:** Barbara Lockwood

**Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

©2005 The Bonaire Reporter



# Pet of the Week Protect Your Pet - The Pet Project

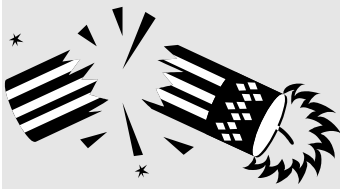
Everyone who has seen her agrees: "Rhonda," our pet of the week, is one of the most striking looking calico cats. She has lots of white fur; her black fur is very black and the red is a dark, almost mahogany color. Not only is she beautiful, but she's very queenly and elegant. But the best part is that she is so friendly with people and just loves being petted and stroked. Who wouldn't want to pet that soft furry creature! Rhonda is about one and a half years old and is ready for adoption. She's been thoroughly checked by the veterinarian; she's had her tests and shots and is neutered. All this, as well as the neutering, is included in the adoption fee of NA/75. You may see Rhonda at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □ *L.D.*



"Rhonda"

in-

**ATTENTION PET OWNERS:** It's fireworks time again on the island until New Years. It may be fun for people, but it's hell for pets. The Shelter staff says this is the worst time of year for runaway dogs and cats who are terrified of the noise. As it has in the past, the Shelter will act as headquarters for lost pets. If you find a lost animal or are missing one, call them at 717-4989.



Please be cautious when setting off fireworks, making sure that children and pets are at a safe distance. A live firework could be a disastrous "toy" that a dog might try to retrieve. Plan ahead so that your pet will have a safe refuge from all that noise. If you have a particularly nervous animal you might check the accompanying article on "The Pet Project." Another suggestion is to make sure there are enough chew toys on hand – rubber, rawhide or other bones of pigs' ears. The chewing will help them release their fears and nervousness. □ *L.D.*

## More about Remedies for Your Pet during the Fireworks The second in a series.

The holiday season is here!) On December 31<sup>st</sup> we will welcome 2006 with a fanfare of fireworks which will help us celebrate. Most of our pets show their dislike for fireworks by running away if they can. I intend here to suggest a way to help your pets through the celebration.

There is a liquid remedy for stress which has been used by millions of people and their pets since 1930. It's called Rescue Remedy. This homeopathic medicine is made from five flowers. Each of the flowers has a calming effect. Here are the ingredients:

Cherry Plum: promotes rational thinking.

Clematis: promotes enjoyment of life.

Impatience: promotes ability to think of the present moment rather than to worry.

Rock Rose: builds courage.

Star of Bethlehem: soothes pain.

The ability of certain flowers to treat mental stress was uncovered in 1930 by Edward Bach, a noted British immunologist. He designed a system of heal-

ing for the layperson. The flowers above are gathered, heated for a time and diluted homeopathically. We are left with the "soul" of the plant. Perhaps due to the dilution it has no side effects.

The solutions are preserved by trace amounts of alcohol and vinegar and the mixture tastes like water.

Giving your pet this stress relieving remedy is easy. Simply drop one drop into the pet's water dish, early on December 31<sup>st</sup>. This will allow it to work all day, as your pet drinks. During the firework's loudest noise, if you are able to get near the pet you may give it on the pad of his foot. Place one or two drops on the palm of your hand, then apply to the pet's foot pads. It may be added to food as well.

I wish a happy 2006 for you and your pet!

The cost is one guilder. Next week: how to give the remedy and your questions about the remedy for fireworks. □

*Florence Ditlow*

*(Editor's Note: Fireworks on the island have started already-albeit illegally)*



*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 guilder** which is earmarked for donation to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. If so contact [fhummingbird@yahoo.com](mailto:fhummingbird@yahoo.com) or *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Most of you will know him as "Juny".

We know him as one of the most energized and motivational bowling coaches.

Juny is always there on Saturday, rain or sunshine.

His pupils love him, because he has a way of "becoming" like one of them. His way of coaching is by showing, and we all know that actions speak louder than words.

In the world of volunteers, he is surely a great asset for Special Olympics and we are very proud and grateful to have Juny as part of our family.

Juny is an inspiration to us; because of the commitment he made to always be there for Special Olympics and always being ready to help where necessary.

We're proud of you Juny!

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](mailto: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:

**Special Olympics Bonaire**  
Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V.  
P.O. Box 366  
Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

#### Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

**The Legend of Zorro**  
(Anthonio Banderas)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

**Two For The Money**  
(Al Pacino)

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

**Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Decem-**  
**ber 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.

**Arts and Crafts Markets** at Wilhel-  
mina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting  
days, starting around 10 am to early  
afternoon: Dec.26 *Braemar*; Dec.27  
*AidaVita*

#### COMING UP

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 Fla-**  
**mingo 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 break-  
fast while you shop: fresh fruits and  
vegetables, gifts, local sweets and  
snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles,

incense, drinks and music. [www.infobonaire.com/rincon](http://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 -** Bo-  
naireTalker Dinner/Gathering at Gibi's,  
known for great local food. Call Gibi  
at 567-0655 for details, or visit [www.BonaireTalk.com](http://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, rou-  
lette and black jack, Monday to Satur-  
day 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 Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's  
Habitat.

**Monday- Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea**  
**slide Show** at Captain Don's Habitat,  
8:30pm Call 717-8290 for info

**Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) Turtle Con-**  
**servation 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

#### December 2005 Cruise Ship Schedule

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time	Pier	# PAX	Line
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.

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 Tues-  
day, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette  
Rodriguez.

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
**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 Vala-  
rie Stimpson at 785-3451; Val-  
rie@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 holi-  
days. 717-8444/785-0017

**Sunday at Cai-** Live music and danc-  
ing 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 Papiam-  
entu, Dutch and English on **Sundays**  
**at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting**  
**and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonk-  
man. 717-2006

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-**  
**ter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26** Sun-  
days 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in  
Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

**Catholic San Bernardus** in Kral-  
endijk - Services on **Sunday at 8 am**  
**and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 .

**Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of*  
*Coromoto* in Antriol, in English.

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

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di**  
**Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi).** In  
English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sun-**  
**day 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

# DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> 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 <b>highest standard of cuisine.</b>
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	<b>Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight!</b> 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.
<b>The Great Escape</b> EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Breakfast every day; Lunch, Dinner Tues-Sun.	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof.</b> Cuban cuisine. New kitchen. New cook Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> <b>Home Delivery or Take Out</b> 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 <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> 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 <b>Caribbean-style bistro</b> owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> 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 <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111

# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## APPLIANCES/ TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

**City Shop**, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances. Fast service and in-store financing too.

## ART GALLERY

**Cinnamon Art Gallery** non-profit gallery for local artists has continuous shows. Each month a new artist is featured. Stop by. Free entry.

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

**APA Construction** are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

**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 For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.** Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

## FURNITURE

**THE PLANTATION** Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.

## 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 Galeries 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:** Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them for sale.

**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

**Antilean 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

# On the Island Since...

September 2, 2003

## Carlos Lopez

**"I** was born in La Victoria, near Maracay, Venezuela. My father is an accountant, my mom a homemaker, and that's hard work too. I have one sister who is 42 years old and she has two children, Dubraska and Carlos. They are like my sun and my moon as I have no children of my own. They are my two eyes, and they are very, very important to me. My family doesn't have much money; it's a small family, but we are very happy.

At first I studied electric engineering, but I didn't like it. I prefer doing something with people, so I studied industrial relationships – how to improve relationships within a company. I studied for only three years as the finances were not good in the family and I needed to start working.

I was 20 years old when I began working for a big company in Venezuela, Condoven, which makes steel tubing for the oil industry. I was doing PR and human resources. After I'd been working for a year, my boss, who was very good, asked me if I could work as a 'recruitment and selection assistant' - interviewing all the applicants who wanted to work for the company and doing psychological testing and salary analysis. It was very, very important for me, and for two years I worked with the people.

Then two years later I met the human resources manager of the company, Venceramica, who offered me a job. It was a better position with more money. The idea was to create a new image for the recruitment and selection department within the company. It was hard work because the company had 2,500 employees and we had to change all their minds and ways of thinking, so they could work together in a better way. It took two years but... we did it!

Then I thought I needed a change. So I moved to the capital, to Caracas. At the time it was very hard to get a job in my field, but one star – a good friend – told me, 'I have a job for you.' I became the manager of one of the PPM Records Concreta CD shops. I thought, 'Oh my God, this is very different.' I never worked in a shop – all the sales – all the people – all the different types of music! But it was a lot of fun for me!

I worked in a part of town called Prados del Este and lived in a very small room. I didn't have much money and some days I ate only a piece of bread with ham and cheese, but at the time I thought, 'Thank you, Lord, for the food, for the big opportunity, for being alive!' I met a lot of people: performers, singers, important show business people. Then my boss said

to me one day, 'Carlos, I need your help. I want you to train all the people who will be the managers in the stores.' So, I began the training and I received some very good feedback.

At the same time I had this dream of going to Europe. I'd never been outside my country. I planned a vacation to Spain for one month. It was very different when I arrived at the airport; it was the first time my foot touched foreign ground! I did it! I was very happy. I had two friends in Spain who told me where to go and what to see. In my first week I met someone who worked for Manzana Records who said, 'Carlos, you have experience, you're a very good boy and you are very active. Would you like to work with us?' My first reaction was, 'Oh my God, this is a dream... am I asleep? But thinking it over my answer was 'No, I have my responsibility in Venezuela... my family... it's my country.'

Right now I think it was a good deci-

---

**"In Bonaire you have very beautiful people and maybe in two years we can send Miss Bonaire to the Miss World Pageant!"**

---

sion. I was very young for that type of work. All in all I stayed two months in Spain.

When I went back to Venezuela PPM Records was planning to open a branch in Curaçao. My boss asked me, 'Carlos, are you still hot? Go to Curaçao!' I met Mr. Ostos, the partner of my boss in Venezuela. We thought it would be only for two weeks, but two months later I was living in Curaçao. A tourist sees Curaçao as the beaches, the parties, the nightlife and the Amstel beer, but as a citizen, life is different. I felt some people were jealous that I, a Latin guy, had gotten the job. But after I started *papia Papiamentu un tiki*, speaking a little bit of Papiamentu and learning about the culture and the food, I changed, and the attitude of the people changed towards me too. I made lots of friends and I liked it so much. I was the general manager of the shops in Zeelandia and Hato International Airport. But as time passed by I started feeling

very much alone. I don't know why. I had my friends and I was traveling to Venezuela every two or three months. After I had been in Curaçao for two years my father got very sick and my mom needed my help so I decided to return to Venezuela – to do I don't know what – but my family needed me."

*Carlos Lopez (34) is a sleek looking man and a very relaxed and a hospitable person.*

*He continues,* "I was in Venezuela for six months with my family – they were the most important thing to me. My father recovered – I think he needed his son! I contacted my boss in Curaçao, who'd moved to Bonaire in the meantime, and told him I needed a job. He answered, 'I need you here.' So, on September 2, 2003, I came to Bonaire. I had been here two or three times before and I liked this island. It's quiet and secure and the people are very friendly, but the thing I like best about these islands is the mixture of cultures.

I started to work as a manager of the CD store, and 20 days later I met the most important person right now in my life, apart from my mother. So, I feel stability, love, sincerity and everything has changed. I worked with the CD shop for one year and one year ago I established my own shop called Second Hand Store. It was a dream; everybody wants to have his own business. But the economy was no good in Bonaire, so in May this year I decided to close. At that moment the Venezuelan consul told me that she needed a secretary to work with her. I started to work the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and now I am so happy. I like to organize and also I like fashion shows. I've been working with a famous Venezuelan designer, Eduardo Kano, who lives in New York now. Here in Bonaire I helped the Lion's Club with a fashion show in Plaza last December; I organized a fashion show this year in June at the Lighthouse; and this month I organized the 15-year anniversary fashion show for Benetton Bonaire.

I like it here. In Bonaire you have very beautiful people and maybe in two years we can send Miss Bonaire to the Miss World Pageant! There is a lot of work to



Carlos Lopez

be done and we need a sponsor! The young people can have a very good future, but we have to help, to motivate and to push them! I feel I can do everything as long as I have my health.

I think I am going to stay here for a long time. I feel I've got my life here in all aspects. I live here, and I am Bonairean now, and I want the local people to feel the same with me, please! My English is not so good, but my Papiamentu is good! I have some plans to build my own home with a Venezuelan design to feel my country near me. In the future I would like to start a foundation for people who need help. I am a person who likes people; there's always chemistry. I can see whether a person is good or bad when I look in their eyes. It's in my blood. My mother and I are very similar; we like to interact with people. I have made different steps in my life; I came from a small village, I went to a big city, but right now I prefer this place. It's my piece of paradise. Here I have a beautiful house, a good job, very good friends and these things are very hard to get in another place. I yearn for my family, but it's only one hour of traveling. I sincerely hope I will be able to enjoy this moment for a very long time." □ *Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*



# Whale of a Story

From the pages of the **San Francisco Chronicle**

One of our readers, part time resident Gerry Clow, sent us this item that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle as a follow-up to our photo and story about a humpback whale in the last issue:



“On Sunday morning near the Farallones Islands, which are off the coast of San Francisco, a crab fisherman happened upon a female humpback whale ensnared in about 20 weighted, nylon crab-pot ropes. Attached to the ropes were a dozen 90-pound crab traps. The whole tangled mess was wrapped tightly around the whale and dragging her downward, while she struggled to keep her blowhole above the water. The fisherman alerted the marine mammal rescue people, who called around and assembled a team of divers, who motored out to the site.

It took the divers an hour to free the whale, which "floated passively in the water" while they painstakingly cut through the ropes with curved knives. When the whale was finally liberated, she did not immediately dive beneath the surface and get the hell out of Dodge, like any sensible whale -- or other wild creature -- might do after such an ordeal. Instead, the whale began swimming in circles, approaching each diver and bumping him gently before swimming to the next diver.

What I found so compelling about this story, aside from the fact that it's extraordinary, was its moral clarity and sense of wonder. You rarely find something so effortless in the news biz, which is characterized by more shades of gray than you'll find in a tombstone factory. Not to mention the horror, the cynicism, the attitude, the world-weariness ....the whole schmagirggle that makes up so much journalism.

One diver was eye to eye with the whale the whole time he was cutting her free. A single casual flip of a 50-ton whale's tale can kill a man, but the diver said he never felt he was in danger. The whale just kept looking him in the eye, and he kept looking her in the eye. 'It was an epic moment of my life,' he said. □ Tai

## To See or Not to See - Reef's Golden Hamlet Club

Reef's Golden Hamlet Club now has a membership of two. Linda Baker (of Carib Inn) is the inaugural member and Peter Leahy has followed suit. Linda and Peter are both volunteers for REEF, the Reef Environmental Education Foundation.

The Golden Hamlet Club was not created to honor Shakespearean literature. Experienced REEF members know that the hamlet is a small oval fish in the sea bass family. The Golden Hamlet Club was established to honor REEF volunteers who have contributed 1,000 fish surveys.

Since 2000, Linda has logged 1,149 surveys in the REEF database, all in the water surrounding Bonaire. Bonaire is not the only place to conduct surveys. REEF's project areas are divided into four zones: The Tropical Western Atlantic, the Pacific Coast, the Tropical Eastern Pacific and the Hawaiian Islands.

REEF has developed the Roving Diver Technique, which allows surveyors like Linda freedom as they explore the reef. They are not restricted to a transect line. In her surveys, Linda has documented more than 300 fish species in Bonaire, including some unusual ones. On one dive, a mola mola, or ocean sunfish, decided to pay a visit. "It came up from the



Golden hamlet *Hypoplectrus gummigutta* (*Hypoplectrus unicolor*) courtesy Reef Series CD.

deep and stayed with us for about five minutes before it left," Linda says. At the Something Special site Linda encountered a broadband moray eel about six feet long. It was also at Something Special that she recorded 114 fish species in one dive-her personal best.

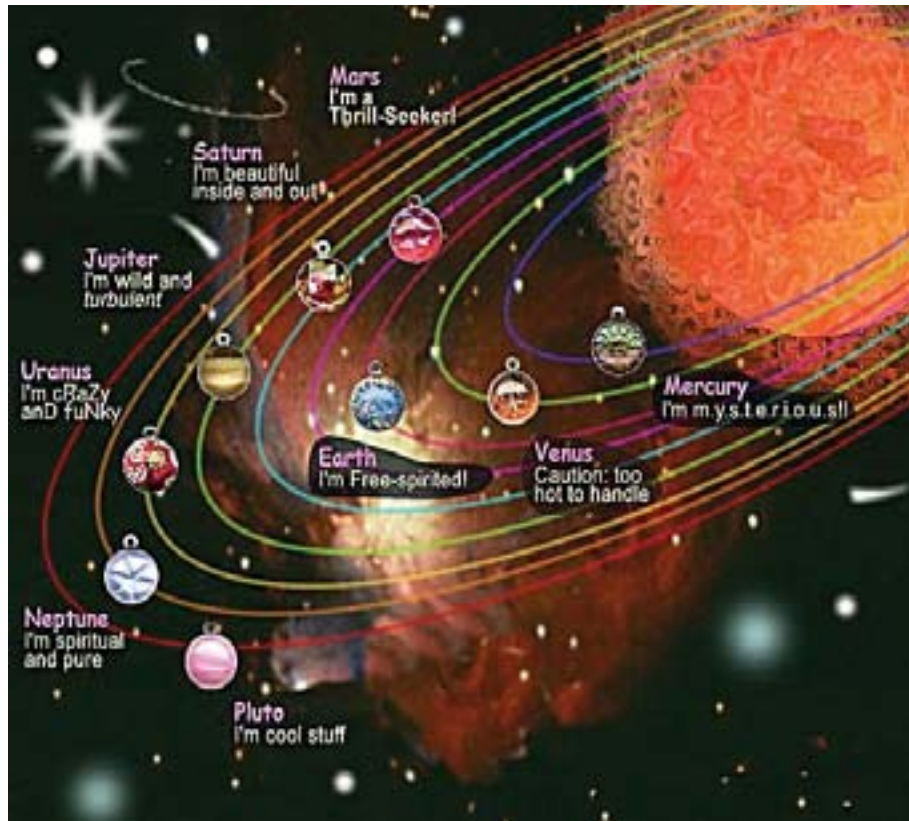
As a PADI master instructor at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn, Linda teaches PADI Fish Identification specialty and enjoys introducing students to some of her favorites: frog fish and sea horses.

Linda and Peter will be honored by REEF at the end of the year in a ceremony recognizing all its volunteers who have conducted 1,000 fish surveys. Will you be the Club's third member? If you are interested, call the local REEF representative at 791-4262. □ Valerie Gast



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up



## Four Fabulous Planets for the Holidays

This year the cosmos is very happy to bring you, free of charge, four fabulous planets for your Sky Park holiday viewing pleasure. In early evening you can see dazzling **Venus**, rouge-gold **Mars**, and an exquisite ringed **Saturn**, and in early morning before sunrise the king of the planets itself, **Jupiter**. And if you're one of the lucky ones to get a telescope as a holiday gift the viewing will be absolutely super, although as always, this foursome will look great to just the naked eye. Let me show you.

During the last two weeks of December, about 45 minutes after Sky Park sunset, face west where, close to the horizon, you'll see the planet which many people have mistaken for the Christmas star all month because it's been so dazzlingly bright, Venus, the planet often called **Earth's** twin sister because it's almost the same size, 8,000 miles wide. Like our **Moon** it goes through various phases, and through a telescope it always looks rounder and closer to full when it's farther away from us. If you had watched it through a small telescope for the past several months you would have seen it grow in size as it steadily came closer to us. But even though it got bigger and bigger as it got closer its phases got smaller. It was only 25% lit on December 10th but by New Year's Eve it will be a skinny 6% lit crescent. And if you start watching this week with a small telescope you'll actually be able to watch it shrink like a waning Moon.

Around 6 pm look southeast and Mars will be still gleaming a bright rouge-gold and is still almost as bright as **Sirius**, the brightest star, but it is steadily losing its brightness. So catch it now while it still dazzles the eye. Only 4,000 miles wide its features will become more difficult to see as it zooms away from us. Around 9 pm face slightly northeast and exquisite ringed Saturn, which looks good in even the cheapest department store telescope, will be getting ready to take over planet viewing. And you'll be able to watch it steadily brighten week after week. At 75,000 miles wide it is not as bright as Venus and Mars because it is so incredibly much farther away.

And now for our last planet face southeast about an hour before sunrise and 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter will be the brightest thing in the sky. Through even the smallest telescope you can see its four largest moons, which look like pinpoints of light which constantly change their position as they orbit the king. And on Monday December 26th an exquisite waning crescent Moon will be parked just above it, making a wonderful sky duo. Likewise the next morning, Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, an even skinnier crescent Moon will be parked just below it, making yet another exquisite twosome.

So there you have it: the king of the planets in the morning and Venus, Mars and Saturn at night. Four planets gift wrapped for the holidays courtesy of the cosmos. □

Jack Horkheimer



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: December 18 to 24, 2005  
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you. You can expect changes in your living arrangements. You can meet potential new mates if you socialize with friends. Take the time to sort out your personal papers and double-check your financial investments. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Try not to allow your partner to lead you astray or upset your routine. Not everything you hear will be legitimate. You should consider submitting some of your written work for publication. Self-deception is likely. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Health problems may prevail if you don't take care of them immediately. Take a break; you can finally mend any disputes on the home front. If you put your energy into physical outlets you will avoid confrontations. Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Children may be less than honest with you. Get involved in volunteer work that will bring you satisfaction, not an empty wallet. Sudden changes regarding work and colleagues are apparent. Heed the advice given by family or old reliable friends. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You may have a hard time relating to children this week. Large organizations may try to talk you out of your hard-earned cash. You could make extra cash through creative hobbies. Home improvement projects will run smoothly. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your ability to converse with charm will entice someone you may have had an interest in for some time now. Try to think things through. Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. Make plans to mix business with pleasure. Dinner with clients or business associates should be successful. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Go to the top if you're being harassed or held back. Don't make accusations unless you are completely sure that you are correct. You may need to make a choice. Visit those less fortunate than your self; be sure to help them with their personal problems. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may find yourself interested in more than one person. Don't let your partner get you going. You are best to travel or attend lectures or seminars. You'll be an emotional basket case this week. Don't take any comments too seriously. If you can work at home, do so. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You might have some problems balancing your books. Business and emotional partnerships will run smoothly. Accommodate others but not before you do your own thing. Do the proper safety checks before you go out. Do not lend money to friends, or contribute more than necessary to groups unworthy of your cash. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Talk to an older family member you have helped in the past. Your charm will be captivating. Your dramatic approach to life has probably gotten to your mate. Do something special for them. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't be afraid to pursue unfamiliar grounds. Upheavals may occupy your day. Put your money into a safe place that will ensure a profit if you let it sit long enough. Set aside any decisions regarding your personal life this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Children might be on your mind. Don't hesitate to make special plans just for two. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions at a group meeting; however, keep your thoughts to yourself at home. Be considerate and avoid being overly opinionated, or arguments will ensue. Your ideas will be well received. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday. □