

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

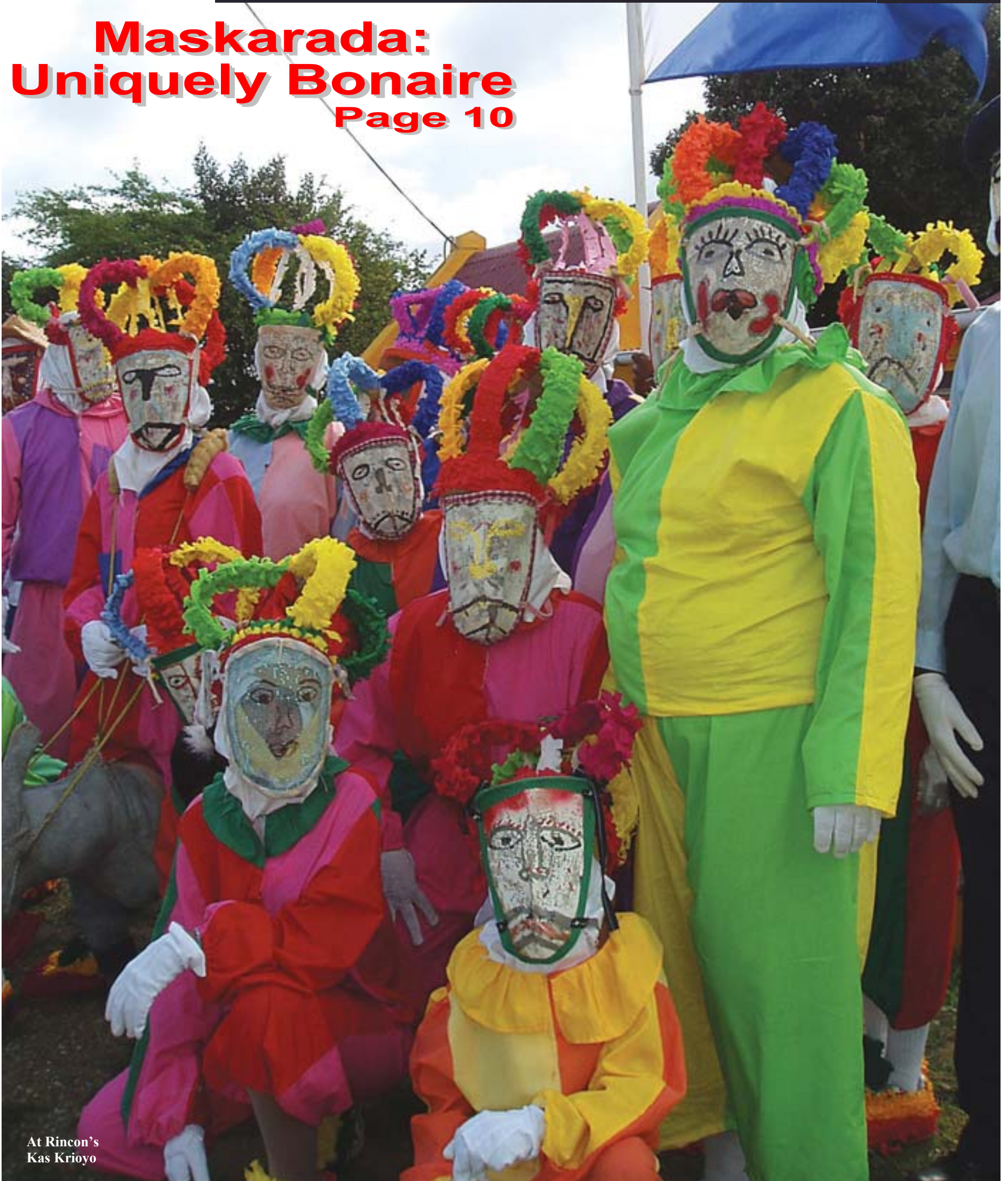
January 13 to 20, 2006 *Volume 13, Issue 3*

The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

Maskarada: Uniquely Bonaire Page 10



At Rincon's
Kas Krioyo

Flotsam and Jetsam

Last Thursday Parliament approved the amendment to the **Firearms Ordinance expanding police powers to search persons, vehicles and buildings when they suspect the presence of firearms.** The amendment passed by a 14 to 4 vote. When it comes to a search of people's property, home or office, the Prosecutor has to give permission in writing. That authorization must mention a specific time and place, and the search can't exceed 12 hours. The amendment is designed to assist authorities in the fight against the possession and use of firearms, a big problem in Curaçao.

Some who oppose this action say amending the Firearms Law is a violation of the European Treaty of the Human Rights (EVRM). "In fact, the entire population become criminals when the police get the authorization to hunt down people who have not broken the law," said the president of the Antillean Bar Council, Eric de Vries. "There is also no legal remedy against this police action."

► **Parliament is also debating the "Expanded Self-Defense Law."** Supporters say that currently attackers can terrorize decent people by breaking into their homes and traumatizing them. The current law protects the criminal. When you defend yourself, you will be treated as a criminal. The onus of proof lies with the victim and that has to be reversed. The proposed amendment to the Penal Code says it's no longer a crime for a person to defend him- or herself or another person in case someone violently disturbs the peace by entering the dwelling or in



close proximity to the property.

The opposition says it will lead to the increase of illegal weapons and definitely to the amount of deadly attacks. "When a criminal knows that he can be shot, he won't hesitate to shoot first." Other critics said that though this amendment has opened the door for citizens to arm themselves and for innocent bloodshed to become the norm, blowing away any drug addict that comes on a person's property.



Fokker 50

► **Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) has leased a Fokker 50 to substitute for its planes out of service for extensive ser-**

vice. The Fokker 50 aircraft is slightly larger than DAE's regular planes, the ATR-42s, explained Director Floris van Pallandt. The white Fokker has 50 seats and a greater payload, which means that more cargo can be carried. According to Van Pallandt, because of its greater capacity the Fokker aircraft will usually be used on the Curaçao-St. Maarten route.

The plane has been leased until March 1, with a possible two- to three-week extension.

The first ATR left for Montreal, Canada, last Saturday, where it will be serviced and painted with DAE's new logo. The second ATR leaves for Canada January 14. The Fokker 50 was leased from the Dutch airline, Denim Air.

► **Franklin Antoin, Jr. is the first Bonairean pilot to be hired by Dutch Antilles Express (DAE).**

He left for Holland where he will be trained on a simulator for the ATR type plane flown by DAE. The airline has wanted to hire more Bonairean pilots but those candidates, except for Antoin, haven't had the necessary licensing. Antoin has been an occasional contributor to *The Bonaire Reporter*.



Franklin Antoin, Jr.

► **Customs at Schiphol Airport in Holland will stop searching lower body cavities of incoming passengers immediately,** the Dutch daily *De Telegraaf* reported late last week. The immediate reason is a recommendation by a national

ombudsman (consumer advocate) who is very critical of the body searches at the airport.

He has started an investigation into complaints about the 100% control on flights from the Antilles or Surinam. For example, a woman who arrived from Surinam, five months pregnant, had to undress. Customs searched her in the presence of her 2½-year-old son. The Dutch Constitution and European Treaty on Human Rights allow it only if there is a legal basis on which there can be no doubt. A Dutch Customs spokesperson said the Customs Law gave the authority for body and strip searches. Cavities in the body are checked rarely, and since last May 2005, only in the presence of a registered nurse.

Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner is now considering moving the body scanner from the nearby detention center for drug couriers to the airport terminal so that suspect passengers can easily prove their innocence without having to be searched. Recently a court in Haarlem ruled in three cases that the treatment received during the controls was "dehumanizing."

► **Unless significant steps are taken the environmental consequences of a hotel school with adjoining hotel at the west shore of Lac Bay will have far more negative consequences than positive.** The drainage, the increased flood of tourists and activities and the sewage treatment form a big threat for the life around the Lac lagoon. Pieter Augustinus, a scientist, researcher, physical geographer, mathematician and physicist and specialist in the field of coastal devel-

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2) opments, upon request of concerned citizens, made a preliminary study of the environmental effects that can be expected from a hotel project.



Snapper in mangrove roots in Lac Bay

He did not exclude the continuation of the project, but he emphasized the importance of the inland water as breeding place for many reef fish as well as other natural processes.

► A former Lt. Governor of Curaçao, **Stanley Bertrian**, was appointed interim director of of the Antillean co-financing organization, AMFO, which channels the distribution of Dutch development aid to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on Antillean islands.



AMFO's Supervisory Council approved the appointment effective December 21 until April 1.

In October booking deficiencies and the discovery that the treasurer of the NGO platform of St. Eustatius had kept AMFO funds in her personal account resulted in suspension of new AMFO activities. The AMFO director Werner Wiels resigned "to make room" for the organization to address the obvious administrative shortcomings.

An operational audit is being performed by the accounting firm, Deloitte.

► **The planned \$75 departure tax is being defended by Bonaire elected officials as fair and a better deal** for tourists who stay more than a week than the present \$20 departure tax, \$5.50/day occupancy tax and \$3.50/day car rental tax.

There will be a substantially lower bill for visitors staying in resorts for two weeks or more.

The plan appears to have been moti-

vated by the Island Government's inability to collect the occupancy and car rental taxes from many of the operators of room rental and car rental businesses. The details of exemptions to this tax are still being worked out; but residents of Bonaire will pay a lower figure.

In addition there will be lower departure taxes for children and seniors (65+).

Flight crews and bona-fide family members staying in private homes as well as other special cases must also be considered. Tourists and locals will still have to pay the Central Government-levied 5% OB (sales) tax and special fees for promotion charged by some resorts.

Objection to the revised tax focuses on the bad perception that a tax bill at departure will create. It is said that while tourists are accustomed to taxes on their hotel bill and car hire, a vacationing couple will have a bad memory of Bonaire if forced to cough up \$150 (NAf262,50) in cash to leave. Government should focus on enforcement of existing laws, they suggest. If okayed, the new rate can go into effect as early as March.

Preparations are underway to explain the advantages of the new departure tax to resorts and tour operators as well as the people of Bonaire.

► **Don't rush to renew your license plates.** The company (Sonajrc) that prints license plate tax stickers is late with delivery to Bonaire. 2006 stickers won't be available until January 17 at the Island Ontvanger's Office. The office apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

► **This year will see the return of the Bonaire Dive Festival under a new name, "Dive into Adventure Bonaire,"** and a new format. The festival will take place from June 17th to June 24th. More information will be available during the coming months. This year the event will be opened up to the European market and focus on land adventure as well as the traditional underwater activities.

► The votes are in for *Scuba Diving* magazine's 2006 Readers' Choice Awards and **Bonaire has once again proven that it is one of the world's top dive destinations.** In the 2006 Readers' Choice Awards, Bonaire received the #1 rating in four Caribbean/Atlantic categories including, for the fourth year in a



► **A new website recently released by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance** aims to become the premier Internet resource for both professionals and the general public on issues of biodiversity and conservation within the Dutch Caribbean. In a ground breaking, grass roots initiative, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) was launched in February 2004 to support and promote the conservation and sustainable management of the region's terrestrial and marine protected areas and their management organizations on the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St Eustatius and St Maarten. The DCNA is directed by Bonaire's former Bonaire National Marine Park manager, Kalli DeMayer. Coming soon on the website are the results of a year-long baseline study of the protected areas as well as a fully searchable species database for the six islands. You can find the site at www.DCNAnature.org. Further information is available from Kalli DeMayer on + 599 717 5010 or kdm@telbonet.

row, Top Caribbean Dive Destination (96.3%). Bonaire was also rated #1 for Underwater Photography (97.4%), Beginner Diving (95.7%) and Shore Diving (95.4%). Bonaire



took second place in the categories of Marine Life (94.7%), Healthiest Marine Environment (94.7%), Visibility (92.3%) and Top Small Animals (89%), and placed in the top five in the Top Value (90.5%) and Top Snorkeling (85.1%) categories. For the Reader's Choice awards, thousands of *Scuba Diving* subscribers and web users rated their dive experiences on a scale of one to five. Final scores represent the percentage of

fours and fives awarded. Results of the 2006 Awards are featured in the January/February 2006 issue of *Scuba Diving* magazine.

► Several new restaurants have opened during the past holiday season. They include the African named **Mezani** in the building that housed Stiffers and Rendez-Vous; Harbourside .



Danielle van Nes owns the new Mezani restaurant (Mezani means dining room in Swahili)

Continued on page 6



► **A police raid at 1 pm last Thursday on two Venezuelan "fruit boats"-the Doña Olga, registration number ARSH 7102, and Karina, ADKN 270 - turned up a large quantity of probably stolen goods.** The loot included TVs, stereos, DVD players, electronics and many other articles. All 16 crew members were arrested and the vessels were confiscated along with their cargoes. The raid was supervised by the Public Prosecutor's office. It has long been thought that stolen goods could possibly be transported to Venezuela by fruit boats, This is a step toward confirming that.. Reportedly, the police were acting on a tip.



Bonaire Police photos

(Continued on page 6)



**BUILDING PLANS THREATEN
BELNEM HOMEOWNERS**

Dear Editor,

We would like to bring your attention to plans that threaten to alter Belnem, which we think deserve extensive rebuke and should be stopped.

Plans have been quietly made to convert a single family home into a nine-apartment and two-penthouse behemoth complex in the heart of residential Belnem. Besides disrupting southern Bonaire, the complex will re-define the skyline in the area. With a height of 12.90 meters, the planned complex is nearly 6 meters higher than most other houses in Belnem. This threat to a family neighborhood, under the false promise of 'development,' deserves extensive rebuke and must be stopped.

On one side of this dispute, are long-term residents of Belnem, such as our mother, Sonia Booi, a 70-year-old Bonairean grandmother. She lives at Belnem 58, next door to the planned complex. She is resident on the island and has been an active member of the community, member of the Queen Angel's

Club, and volunteers her time to various social causes on Bonaire. She is a member of a family which has had roots on the island for over 200 years.

On the other side of this dispute is the owner of the house where the complex is being planned. He lives part of the year in the Netherlands. And it is unclear if he cares about the future of Bonaire or its residents.

To add insult to injury, plans about the apartment complex were kept under wraps. Our mother was not informed about the plans, and she and the neighbor on the other side of the project, Mr. Goené, found out about the plans for construction only by accident. It appears that the landowner and developer had plans to obtain approval of DROB (Island Planning Department) without publicity. (According to a spokesman for the homeowners a building permit has been issued.)

After a series of meetings with government officials were initiated, the message was that "nobody could change these plans since there are no legal requirements to preserve the neighborhood, and this is good for development." How is this possible? It seems that there is an omission in the Bonairean law about zoning, and one can build as big and as high as desired. Just imagine: today an 11-apartment complex; but tomorrow a 33-apartment complex. Why not? In fact, why not take a few houses down, combine them, and put a multi-storied commer-

cial complex in a quiet residential neighborhood! There is no law to stop you. Importantly, we are not against development. But if the complex in Belnem is built it will destroy the skyline permanently. And it will not be long before we are compared to an Aruba or the East Coast of Spain, or Cancun, with their impersonal huge apartment buildings.

Our mother's and Mr. Goené's frustration should be seen as a call to action for those who want the *real* Bonairean way to be preserved. By stopping this complex, we will send a message to both the authorities and developers that such abuses will not prevail. We also need to work on zoning laws that preserve our island and expose the nefarious designs of any person falsely selling such type of development as an economic panacea to the Bonairean people.

Please write to Bonaire's government to express your outrage.

Balt, Mark, and Cynthia Herlaar

**SURPRISE, SURPRISE AND
SURPRISE AGAIN**

Dear Editor:

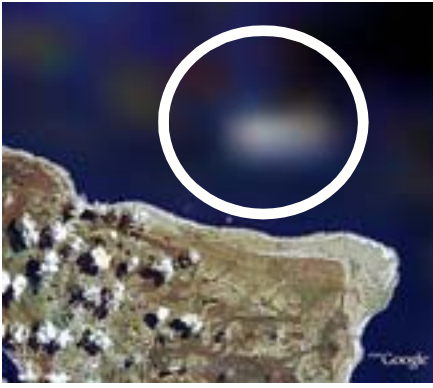
It is interesting that laws can be passed and the public hit with these, in some cases, with very little notice. As examples, the yachts were slammed overnight with an increase in mooring

fees, a few years ago the airport tax went up suddenly and the dive tags, which CURO suggested should go to \$20, were suddenly placed at \$25. Now there is going to be a \$75 Airport tax which may go into effect in April, only 3 months from now. Yet when a simple \$2 per person Marine Park use charge was planned for the Cruise Ship industry there was no way it could be accepted by the cruise ships and it was dropped by the government (apparently under the threatening influence of the Cruise Ship industry) until one year later. There is still a question of whether or not it will even be implemented then! These people come to Bonaire, leave nothing but people pollution, sewage, garbage and then leave, not caring if the island sinks behind them.

If one gives this a bit of thought, the cruise ship people bring virtually no dollars to Bonaire per person, yet they are given priorities such as delays or even exemptions in taxing and roads blocked off making life less pleasurable for residents. Yet the tourists who come to Bonaire for weeks at a time, some year after year, who leave thousands of dollars on Bonaire per person are burdened with higher and higher costs. Something is wrong here.

Name Withheld

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)
Mall's **Harbourside Restaurant**, where Cozoli's Pizza used to be; and **Bambu**, on the site of the former Mai-Mai restaurant.



► Last week, *Extra*, the Papiamentu language newspaper, carried a front page story that **a new island was rising out of the water near Bonaire's coast**. It was based on the image of a light spot on a satellite photo of the sea three kilometers off Boka Olivia available on Google Earth.

This did not come as a surprise to some people like hermit Richard Molina who lives on the east side at Playa Grandi, who has long spoken of a connection with an island off Bonaire's east side.

Local fishermen say the spot might be an indication of a *seku*, a shallow spot where there is often good fishing. Fishermen are very close-mouthed about the locations of these *sekus*. Nautical charts of Bonaire do not indicate shallows in the spot on the satellite image.

Oceanographer Dr. Dale Stokes, a scientist from Scripps Institute in California who has spent time diving in Bonaire,

says although he did not physically see this area, he has a possible explanation to the "island" developing underwater on Bonaire's coast.

"If it is a short term event, maybe it is what is known as a 'whiting,' a large white patch, sometimes several miles in diameter, of carbonate mud laden water which can suddenly occur in the open ocean. This muddy water can be formed by the spontaneous precipitation of aragonite in the water that can be initiated by sharp carbon dioxide uptake during times of diatom algae blooms. They have been seen in the Bahamas and the Persian Gulf." The satellite image also shows a similar spot off Curaçao's east coast.

► **Until April 30, 2006, the Golden Reef Inn will offer new upgrades and allow children to stay free.** Book a seven-night/eight-day Stay, Dive and Drive Package for a minimum of two persons and receive an upgrade to a one-bedroom condo apartment! Children 11 and under stay free when accompanied by paying adults in the same accommodations. Children 12 and over who are NOT divers can also stay for the price of taxes only! Both offers are based on availability.

► The new apartment complex on the Kralendijk waterfront, Seaside Resort, has a planned opening in the second half of 2006. **Right now Perfect Holiday Solutions is offering pre-construction prices through the end of this month.** For more information, contact them via email info@perfectholidaysolutions.com, or visit their web site at www.perfectholidaysolutions.com. If on island,

► The staff at San Francisco Hospital announced the **first birth of 2006, a girl, on Thursday, January 5th** at around 3 in the afternoon. The baby weighed a healthy 3970 grams (8 lbs., 12 oz.) and measured 56 cm. (22 in.) long. OB-GYN physician, Dr. R. Guera was on hand to assist. Congratulations to proud parents Ellen Wout and Egbert Winklaar. All are in fine condition.



Ellen Wout and Egbert Winklaar with Dr R. Guerra, Sister Zus Janga and Ms. Giselle Quiros



Proud parents and baby

you'll be welcomed at their office at Kaya Grandi 52 (across from Maduro Travel and Rento Fun Drive), or call phone: +599-717-6030

► An international fabric store has opened on Bonaire, **Pakus di Tela**. Owner-operator Helene de Wit and seamstress Truus van der Ree have teamed up to give Bonaire the newest in fabrics, quilting materials, embroidery needs and, most important, sewing lessons. Sewing machines by the famous Swiss company, Bernina, are available for sale.

They're located next to Telbo and open Tuesdays through Saturdays. Call 717-7560 or drop in to see the rainbow of color fabric selections.

► **Chez Nous**, Bonaire's learning center for future restaurateurs, offers gourmet class meals to the public at their stylish restaurant behind the SGB (high school). Call the school at 717-8120 (ask

for Chez Nous) 24 hours ahead to reserve. On Tuesdays a four-course dinner is served at 6 pm. It's NAf25. A three-course lunch is served on Fridays at 12:30 for NAf17,50. Wine and mixed cocktails are available too at an extra charge. There's always a new menu and the culinary standards are impressive.

► The **Rose Inn in Rincon** has a long reputation for fine local food in an old fashioned Bonairean garden setting. **They're now open for Sunday brunch** – under the flowering trees – from 7 am to 11 am. They offer an all-you-can-eat buffet, featuring American and Dutch treats and fresh squeezed orange juice for \$10 per person. The Rose Inn is open every day except Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. They'll stay open later for parties that have reserved ahead. Call 562-6364.

(Continued on page 7)



The people who helped make The Dining Guide happen: Joanie Trenidad (TCB), Soeraly Pourier (assistant to Commissioner of Tourism), Evert Piar (MCB, a big sponsor), Sara Matera (BRA) and Max Van Dortman (Publisher)

► Last Thursday Bonaire's brand new Dining Guide made its debut at Bambu restaurant. This year 36 restaurants are featured, some even with their "secret" recipes, in this official guide of the Bonaire Restaurant Association (BRA). This is the fifth time BRA has produced this handy guide, and for the first time there are free coupons inside from the featured restaurants, and anyone, tourists or residents, can use them. You can find the Dining Guide all over town – at restaurants, shops, hotels and at the TCB. It's a handy size that fits in your pocket or purse...and it's free.



► **Lose weight with a combination of nutrition and exercise with Fit-4-Life's special program** for men and women. It's a great way to start the new year. The professional Fit-4-Life team has had great success in past years in helping people lose weight and keep it off. The 12-week program combines guided exercise and diet individually designed for each client. For more informa-

tion call 512-6375 or 562-6375; Email: fit4life_fitness@hotmail.com.

► **Don't forget the Saturday, January 14, Underwater Cleanup sponsored by Yellow Submarine and Net-Tech.** Meet at 1 pm at the Yellow Submarine dive shop on the Promenade for a dive briefing and the dive. They will reconvene after the dive at 5:30 pm for a

► Last Saturday Catherine Salisbury's underwater photo exhibit, "Magical Encounters," opened at the Cinnamon Gallery. A big crowd, including artists (shown at right with Catherine, 2nd from left) Linda Richter, Willie Dijkstra, Harry Hensen, Germaine Nijdam and Avy Benhamron, enjoyed the show, and a number of pieces were sold. The exhibit will run through February 9. Cinnamon Gallery is at Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, off Kaya Grandi, behind Banco di Caribe.



pot-luck BBQ. Please bring a small item of food to share with your fellow divers.

► Last December Benetton celebrated its 15 year Anniversary on the island of Bonaire with a fashion show. **All the proceeds from the show were given to five foundations to help them continue their marvelous work for the youth of Bonaire:**

- Special Olympics
- Centro pa Hubentut Jong Bonaire
- Grupo di Scouting Sint Bernardus
- SEBIKI
- Stichting Project

► **Special Olympics Bonaire has announced that its Annual Walk-A-Thon will be held Sunday, February 5th** (Federal elections are scheduled for the end of January, the usual time for the

Walk-a-thon). In the past three years, the Walk-A-Thon from the White Slave Huts to Rincon, commemorating the weekly 30-km. slave walk, has grown into one of Bonaire's largest fund-raising events. Participants may walk, bike, ride, skate or run all or part of the route. Refreshment stations will be located approximately every five kilometers. Tickets will go on sale on January 23 at Croccantino Restaurant and Chat 'n' Browse as well as from the members of the board of Special Olympics. Participants are encouraged to get themselves sponsored for their effort. Proceeds go to support continuing Special Olympics programs and to sponsor a team for the 2007 World Games in Shanghai. *G./L.D.*



EnviroWatch

The cruise ship *Silver Whisper* Dumps on Bonaire; Bonaire says, "FINE!"

On December 17, 2005, the cruise ship *Silver Whisper* visited Bonaire, docking at the *Waf Francisco (Chico) Mercelina* (aka Old Pier, North Pier, and Town Pier). On December 18, 2005, my husband David Batalisky found a big pile of broken glass and other debris on the living coral reef just north of the Pier. This debris had not been there the last time David and I dove the Pier, which was December 16th.

The trash included champagne, wine and beer bottles, wine glasses, small jars with labels showing they'd contained jams and jellies, a couple of steak sauce bottles, other types of bottles and jars and plates. Everything except the jam tubs, a Lea & Perrins bottle, a Galliano bottle and a beer bottle or two was broken. Much of the glass was broken into sharp shards, some as small as fingernail clippings, some the size and sharpness of knife blades. Broken glass was scattered everywhere: on the reef, in crevices in coral heads, between rocks, even on sponges. **About the only delight was discovering a cabin key card, labeled "Silverseas," on the bottom.**

Luckily I had my digital camera in an underwater housing with me on that dive, so we were able to document the glass on the coral and remove it from live coral on that same dive. Later, we reported the find to Ramon de Leon, our BNMP Manager, Elsmarie Beukenboom, Director of STINAPA, and Rob Sint Jago, our Acting Harbormaster.

With Ramon's approval and the help of BNMP Rangers Denise Keller and Duvan Rios, we recruited three more divers, Susan Porter, Linda Ridley, and Phyllis Blackburn, and removed almost all the rubbish in a single dive! The



Overview of one section of the glass and other debris.

glass and discards weighed **51.5 kilos**. The next day Susan, David, and I removed another kilo or so of glass shards. For those of you not used to thinking in kilos, that's **one hundred and fourteen pounds** of debris that had been dumped onto, and removed from, Bonaire's reef.

The potential harm of this glass of course includes the likelihood that it would damage or smother living coral. Coral, by the way, is the main animal who builds the coral reefs. Coral is the most slow-growing of the reef inhabitants and is the most easily injured – which is why the laws protect it so vigorously.

But what effect might that broken glass have had on other marine animals? Did a yellowtail snapper, or a jack, perhaps gobble a few pieces down before they could even reach the bottom? What would happen to a goatfish, exploring the surface of the sand with its barbels, if it wriggled its barbels against glass shards? What about the sweetly-puckered smooth trunkfish, sucking glass shards from the sand's surface? Imagine a sharptail eel or a razorfish, burrowing beneath the sand and encountering sharp shards of glass – what would happen to them?

Ramon and Elsmarie discussed this situation with Ernst Wesselius, Bonaire's Public Prosecutor. The outcome is: the *Silver Whisper* will be fined by

the Island of Bonaire!

Rob Sint Jago, our Acting Harbormaster, is the primary developer of Bonaire's port security program. His plan keeps us in compliance with International Shipping and Port Security regulations put into effect on July 1st, 2004. If Bonaire did not have ISPS compliance, most international shipping, including cruise ships, would not be able to stop here. Rob is one of a minority of harbor-masters worldwide in that he has kept Bonaire's Pier open for recreational diving whenever possible. Dive masters, and divers, are -- thanks to Rob Sint Jago's efforts -- thus able to discover and report violations to Bonaire's reef and Bonaire's laws.

story and photos by
Dee Scarr



This poor star-coral head got the brunt of the tiniest glass shards, which fell into its every nook and cranny.



A close-up of a main coral victim, this-star coral head, showing all the glass shards that landed on top of it and fell into all its crevices.

About the Silver Whisper

Silversea Cruises, the owner of the *Silver Whisper*, the newest cruise ship in its fleet, calls itself "an innovator in the ultra-luxury niche. Silversea appeals to a well-educated, well-traveled clientele - perhaps slightly younger than some of her competitors. Aboard Silversea ships, just about everything's included - spirits, wines, carbonated beverages, mineral water; most seminars and self-improvement classes; all shipboard gratuities - and most voyages even include a complimentary shore excursion." The cost? \$3,000 per person and up per week.

It serves just 388 guests with 295 crew members. Built in 2001, she's registered in the Bahamas at 28,258 tons, is 610 ft. long and can cruise at 21 knots.

Why she dumped her trash over the side while tied up to the Town Pier, in violation of International and Antillean law as well as Marine Park rules, is a mystery.

G.D.





In December 2005 the Bonaire REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) Chapter recorded its 10,000th fish survey. To commemorate the distinction of reaching this milestone the local REEF Station, Dive Friends/Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, sponsored a REEF dive last Saturday at the Yellow Submarine Reef Dive Site. All REEF members were invited to participate.

On this single dive the group counted 136 species of fish. The prize for Most Species Found on the dive went to the team of Melody Hamilton and Chile Ridley with 116 species. The Most Exotic/Unusual Species prize went to the team of Phyllis Blackburn and Herman Leeuwen for a gray angel, a reef scorpionfish and flagfin mojarras as additions to their normal survey list. Participants received a Bonaire Marine Park Volunteer t-shirt from the Marine Park Manager, Ramon de Leon, in recognition of their efforts. All prizes and giveaways were provided by Dive Friends/Yellow Submarine.

If you are interested in becoming a REEF Diver or need more information, visit Yellow Submarine Dive shop or call your local REEF representative, Linda Ridley, at 791-4262 or 786-2397.

A variety of opportunities exist to participate in REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey program and learn more about marine resources. Fish Identification seminars and survey dives all can be found at your local REEF station and through your local REEF representa-



tives. *The Reef Environmental Education Foundation is a grass-roots, non-profit organization of recreational divers who regularly conduct fish biodiversity and abundance surveys during their dives.*

REEF's mission, to educate and enlist divers in the conservation of marine habitats, is accomplished primarily through its Fish Survey Project. The Project was developed in 1990 with support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and guidance by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The REEF Fish Survey Project allows volunteer SCUBA divers and snorkelers to collect and report information on marine fish populations. The data is collected using a fun and easy standardized method and is housed in a publicly accessible database on REEF's Website (<http://www.reef.org/>). The data is used by a variety of resource agencies and researchers.

Story & photo provided by Linda Ridley



Linda Ridley, Chile Ridley, Phyllis Blackburn, Ramon de Leon, Melody Hamilton. (Foreground) Herman Leeuwen

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)						
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides						
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT				COEF
1-13	12:02	2.1FT.	21:54	0.7FT.		79
1-14	12:34	2.1FT.	22:30	0.7FT.		81
1-15	13:10	2.0FT.	23:00	0.8FT.		81
1-16	13:39	1.9FT.	23:28	0.8FT.		78
1-17	14:01	1.7FT.	23:58	0.9FT.		74
1-18	0:12	0.9FT.	14:16	1.6FT.		69
1-19	0:19	1.0FT.	11:17	1.5FT.		62
1-20	8:43	1.5FT.	23:44	1.1FT.		55

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Altair	Go Bucks	Sirius
Alter Ego	Goril Two	Songster
Always Saturday	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Summer Breeze
Angie	JC Sogno	Sunny Side
Annka	JJ	Spartivento
Augustin		Syjoli
	Maggi	Sylvia K
Blue Moon	Mahureva	
Camissa, Chan Is.	Marive	Ta B
Casa del Mar	Maxolar	Ti Amo
Concubine	Miss Astor	Tigger
Cape Kathryn	Monami	Towanda
CRC		Trio
Charumbel	Natural Selection	
Cilly		Ulu Ulu, USA
	Okeanis	Unicorn, Norway
Delphinus	Okura	Umiak
Destiny	One Way Wind	Varedhuni, Ger.
Double Bogy	Oniro	Vendia
		Vilje
Eclipse	Paranda	Von Voyase
Endorphin	Pishi Porko	Ya-T, BVI
Explorer		Yanti Paratzi
Flying Cloud, USA	Samba	Yoi
	Sandpiper, USA	Zahi, Malta
Freestyle	Sangoma	
	Sapristi	
Galandriel	Scintella	

Rincon Happenings



MASKARADA

It's a tradition that happens only on Bonaire. In early January a group of colorfully costumed and masked children and adults show up to dance and perform short skits. Last Sunday we caught them at the Kas Krioyo in Rincon. They arrive, quietly and mysteriously. They don't speak and only communicate through their actions. No one knows who they are; even the members themselves may not know who else is among them.

They enter silently, following a group of musicians – an accordion, a tambu (drum), a raspa and a kuarto – and the dancing begins.

Certain characters are the same every year: the policeman who directs the group, the donkey, the shark, the fisherman in the boat, an old kunukero, the matador and the bull, each one personifying his or her character. During one of the dances the matador, waving a red flag, attempts to entice the bull and to rope him. Finally the bull is roped; he tries to escape but finally succumbs and is thrown to the ground. All the dancers gather around. During another dance the fisherman in the boat, after a number of unsuccessful tries, reels in the shark which lies dead on the ground.

No one knows for sure how the tradition got to Bonaire. Some say Africa,



After a fine performance, the maskarada company is presented with a bottle of rum by Kas Krioyo's Evelyn Mercera



The fisherman and the barracuda

others say it's Indian. Still others say it's South American or even European. Culture guru Papi Cicilia suggests Spain: the "crowns" worn by the company represent the Spanish monarchy which ruled Bonaire for a time. That's also where the bull and the matador come from, he says. But of course the donkey, the *kunukero* and the fisherman in his boat are totally Bonairean.

So, considering the polyglot makeup of Bonaire, although the concept may

have come from all those places, it's turned into something totally Bonairean that's not found anywhere else in the world.
L.D.



The bullfight



The musicians

More Rincon News



Maria Koeks-Sint Jago writes:

“I want to thank you for your help in promoting our activities in Rincon, and the Soldachi* Tours (of Rincon) for the last five years. Each year we are improving a little bit more with the activities. In 2005 the focus was on our walking tours and nature walks. We got nature lovers and persons who were interested in knowing Rincon better. That was great.

We also wanted to get our kids involved in our culture and history. We had a good project with the Skol di Bario (after school activities) from the Beatrix school.

We have now five young tour guides as well as a small group of aspiring Soldachi tour guide kids who are eager to do the nature walks. So there's hope for more guides in the future

The elderly persons from Rincon and Nort di Saliña (Kunuku Bieu) in small groups were able to visit different sites with the Soldachi Tours – being tourists on their own island.

I feel very happy that you believe in our project and the effort we've made, giving our energy to this island that we all love so much .. Bonaire and especially Rincon ...the heart of Bonaire...” *Photos & story by Maria Koeks-Sint Jago*



Skol di Bario



A Rincon nature tour walk

Rincon Marshe *Bou di Ramada*

Last Saturday at the big monthly Rincon Marshé during the *Bou di Ramada* (on the porch), as has become traditional, there was a “town meeting” type discussion group. Adrie Williams, and Edfrim Reyna from the Fundashon Desaroyo (foundation for development) Marie Pampoen in Curaçao came to exchange ideas with the members of the Platforma Rincon: Maritza Juan Pedro, Ermine Pourier (secretary), Freddy Piar (sports), Lourdes Winklaar (treasurer) and Ronnie Mercera (composer). Their subject was “developing countries and villages such as Rincon.” *L.D.*



In the photo are: Adrie Williams (with mike) and Edfrim Reyna from Curacao, with members of Platforma Rincon

Bonaire Ambassador

The first Bonaire Ambassador for the year 2006 is a young gentleman only 10 years old. His name is Aaron Zetley. He visited our island when he was a baby for the first time in 1996, together with his parents. This is the 10th time that he's visited Bonaire. His passion for the island is all about windsurfing. Aaron takes classes with Elvis at the Bonaire Windsurf Place. For Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) it is a great pleasure to have Aaron as the first Bonaire Ambassador for the year 2006. Congratulations! *TCB release*

For more information on the Bonaire Ambassador Program and for a listing of all Bonaire Ambassadors visit <http://www.infobonaire.com/tcb/ambassador/>.



Aaron Zetley

Pet of the Week

Here's "Jacob," taking a short rest by the water dish at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Just before that he'd been running around and checking out everything with his nose to the ground. He's a young pup – only five months old - and he's in love with life! Jacob has black, silky longish hair, the kind you love to stroke. He was brought into the Shelter with his sister and brother. (His sister didn't get that lovely longish hair; she's smooth haired!) Jacob is so friendly and social – "really nice," say the Shelter staff. He would make a great family dog. He's in tip top health, having had his exam by the vet, had his shots and testing and will be sterilized. You may meet him at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



"Jacob"

The Shelter has been very busy since the first of the year. Already in the first week there were six adoptions – five dogs and one cat. Shelter Manager Jurrle Mellema reports that they made it through the New Years celebration with fewer lost dogs than in other years. That's very good news. Also, he says, there are quite a few dogs and puppies up for adoption, nearly 40 of them, so now's an excellent time to find a good selection. L.D.

Got something to buy or sell?

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

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

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Free adds run for 2 weeks.

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

JANART GALLERY

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

BONAIRENET

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

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

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

Bonaire Images

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

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/

MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?

Make it more livable from the start. FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS Also interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-9332.

For Sale

For sale: 2 sky kennels for dogs, KLM-approved, one large NAf150, one extra large NAf300, tel. 786-5582.

Antique Wrought Iron Ice Cream/Cafe Heart Chairs \$39 each. Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm.

For Sale- glass front show case reefer, glass show case hot box, commercial meat slicer, mixers - all new! plus misc. kitchen items. Brand new jeans (several sizes, but hopi 32 waist) call for appt. to view. 790-7674

For Sale: Ultra Classic Yoga Mats. Color: Black Price: NAf60. Call 786-6416

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

WALK-A-THON 2006



Special Olympics St.Martin joined last years' Walk-A-thon

First of all we would like to thank all of you who in some way has sponsored Special Olympics Bonaire in the past and also for all of you giving us your continuing support all these years! We really appreciate it! Thank you!

As you already know, Special Olympics has been organizing the greatest Walk-a-Thon on the island since 2003. The success of it has grown over the years and it has become a tradition that many enjoy doing. The upcoming annual 30Km Walk-a-Thon will be the 4th for Special Olympics Bonaire and will be held on February 5th, 2006.

This fund-raising event will help Special Olympics Bonaire get one step closer to The Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Shanghai, China in October 2007.

It's an event where over 10,000 Special Olympics athletes and coaches from more than 150 countries and territories will participate in 20 events including athletics (track & field), tennis, gymnastics, sailing, cycling, volley ball, bocce, bowling, golf, badminton, swimming etc. About 30,000 parents, educators, scientists and distinguished guests will also participate in a variety of Special Olympics symposiums, seminars and other related activities.

For our tiny island of Bonaire to participate in such a grand event is not only a privilege but also an honor.

In the spirit of representing Bonaire in National Games in the region as well as the World Games, we need your support to help us get there.

4th Annual Walk-A-thon Special Olympics Bonaire

Date: February 5, 2006
Place: White Slave Huts
Departure: 5:00 AM
Finish: FKPD in Rincon
Price: NAf. 25.= per person
(includes t-shirt, meal and some sponsor give aways)

Support us and buy a ticket for our Walk-A-thon today!

Tickets are available through all boardmembers of Special Olympics Bonaire, at Crocantine Restaurant, Chat & Browse and FKPD offices in Rincon. Remember you can walk, jog, bike, step and even crawl! (with a smile)

Special Olympics
BONAIRE
DUTCH CARIBBEAN

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



SEEKING A NATIONAL PARKS MANAGER

The Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF), a non-profit nature management organisation based in Saba, Netherlands Antilles, is seeking a National Parks Manager to manage the Saba National Marine Park and a land park. The SCF has five full time staff to support field, operational and administrative aspects of the organisation. The incumbent will be responsible for the overall management of the organisation, staff and its functions.

Please send resume and cover letter to the Director Saba Conservation Foundation, PO Box 18, The Bottom, Saba, Netherlands Antilles or e-mail to janine_lesueur@yahoo.com. Closing date 24 January 2006. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Please review website www.sabapark.org See also www.dcnanature.org

Boats for Sale



For Sale - Cabo Rico 38 Yacht 1989, Excellent offshore cruiser. One-owner, little used, only 800 engine hours, many sails, many spares, new s-s rigging. Includes Avon R2.8 inflatable and Nissan outboard. Luxurious interior. Bristol condition. Hauled out on Bonaire \$109,000. Phone/fax (599) 717-5038. Email to icarus@flamingotv.net

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 786-6125/717-8988.



Bugs!

First of all, I wish all of you a very Happy New Year and all the best, in every way.

And of course, I want to take the opportunity to thank everybody for their support and loyalty in the year 2005. Last year was very good for us and we hope to continue this into the year 2006!!

Everywhere we hear positive feelings about this new year on Bonaire and we hope very much this will be indeed a prosperous year in every way. A lot has been written about the future of Bonaire, and we hope and think that prosperity and nature will continue to go hand in hand on Bonaire so it will stay the unique island it is, for all of us!

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

A New Year Always Brings New Resolutions

Business wise, one of my goals in the new year is to try to find a solution for most of the bug problems on Bonaire. Last year it became more and more a problem with the **Mealy bugs** or the local name **Pis-Pis**.

There is a new threat for all of our nice Sago palms - and that's the scale. Leaves become covered with white things and if you don't treat them they can die.

All of these diseases are kind of related and most of them are caused by bugs.

These last weeks of rain are perfect for plants but also for the bugs to multiply. Our environment on Bonaire is perfect too for those small nasty creatures. A hot humid climate, very few natural enemies and always a nice wind from the same direction - that's what helps them to spread around easily.

I know I won't find the answer for those bugs, but we sure can try to reduce the number of sprayings with nasty chemicals. Believe me, nobody wants to use them, but to keep these insects under control you have to.

When you search the Internet for solutions, there's no perfect answer to

these threats. We have made some tests with new remedies and the outcomes of some of them are very promising. We will try to continue our testing and hopefully we can find suitable solutions for everybody. But by trying to find these solutions we need your help big time. Don't always expect the answer from your gardener.

And when you plan on planting new plants, try to use as infrequently as possible those plants that are most susceptible to mealy bugs. That is just a very small group of plants, so a replacement should always be available. And don't hesitate to get rid of some older, bigger trees or plants that are not curable. I'm especially thinking about the frangipani trees for instance that seem to have more and more problems with bugs. And since most of the time the trees are so big they're not easy to spray.

And, as always we are open to all of your personal experiences and thoughts. Together we can make a lot progress in helping to reduce those problems! *Ap van Eldik*



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

OPEN SATURDAYS, NON-STOP 9 TO 4.

Picture Yourself In The Reporter South of Spain



Bonaire resident Margot Berkers writes, “We took this picture at Finca el Boralejo (el arte de vivir) in Southern Spain.

In the picture you see me with (my daughters) Meghan and Mavelly, Peter and Nice Lensvelt with their three boys: Piet, Klaas and, holding *The Reporter*, Sjors. Hernando Vargas took the picture.

The Lensvelts used to live on Bonaire at Finca Verde when Peter was manager of Lions Dive Hotel (and before that Raffles, now Blue Moon restaurant).

We are standing in front of one of their bungalows. This one is dedicated to Vincent van Gogh, with a lot of pictures of this great artist inside. Peter and Nice hope all their friends and acquaintances in Bonaire are well and wish everybody a happy 2006.”

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 2006 photos are eligible.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Harry Potter and The Goblet (Daniel Radcliffe)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Get Rich or Die Tryin' (50 Cent)

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
: Chicken Little/ Zathura

THIS WEEK

Now through February 9 - Catherine Salisbury's underwater photo exhibit, "Magical Encounters" at Cinnamon Art Gallery, Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, off Kaya Grandi, behind Banco di Caribe.

Saturday, January 14- quarterly Clean-up Dive. All welcome, divers and non-divers. Contact Yellow Submarine (<http://www.bonaireyellowsubmarine.com>) or NetTech (<http://www.nettech.an>).

COMING UP

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Jan. 24 - Aida Vita; Jan. 31 - Rijndam

Friday, January 27- Federal elections

Saturday, January 28 - Bonaire Lions Club-Comcabon Run - Children: 1,5, 2, 4, 5 km. Men & Women - open category (5 km). Sign up 3:30 to 5 pm. Race starts 5:30 pm, at the Stadium. Info Ronald at 785-3902

Sunday, January 29 - Bonairean Night Buffet with typical Bonairean dishes, live kriollo music and folkloric dance performances. Come and enjoy authentic Bonairean dishes in a typical Bonairean atmosphere at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino- 6 to 9 p.m., NAf35, - including a welcome drink. Kids up to 12 years, pay their age in dollars. For reservations call 717 8285, ext. 444.

Saturday, February 11 - Guest Artist Opening at Cinnamon Art Gallery; brightly colored fabric paintings and found wood-art by Brigitte Kley. Exhibit runs through March 23.

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 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 ware-

house, 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 ambience 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 -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, and search for "Gibi." Friday-Swim lessons for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sorobon from 1330 to 1630

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

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

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday -Yoga Classes—Tel. 786-6416

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.

Daily - 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.

Monday- Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea slide Show at Captain Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm 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

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Kriyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9-12, 2,4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

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

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.

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.

January 2006 Cruise Ship Schedule

Day	Date	Ship name	Time	Location	PAX	Line
Tue	Jan.24	AidaVita	1300-2000	S.Pier	1260	P&O Germany
Tue	Jan. 31	Rijndam	0900-1800	S.Pier	1258	HAL First Call

Karnaval 2006 Schedule:

- Feb 4 - Carnival--Tumba Festival
- Feb 17 - Carnival--Youth Parade Rincon
- Feb 18 - Carnival--Youth Parade Playa (Kralendijk)
- Feb 25 - Carnival--Adult Parade Rincon
- Feb 26 - Carnival--Adult Parade Playa (Kralendijk)
- Feb 27 - Carnival--Farewell Youth Parade
- Feb 28 - Carnival--Farewell Adult Parade
- TBA - 5km Run, 8:00 am, Sponsor: PA & Associates

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. 717-8434

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 717-4685, 566-4685

CHURCH SERVICES

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

International Bible Church of Bonaire -

Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle)

Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.

Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu,

Dutch and English on Sundays at 10 am.

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays

8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu,

Spanish and English.

Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk -

Services on Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in

Papiamentu 717-8304. Saturday at 6 pm

at Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, in

English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday

at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios),

Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English,

Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

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

If you're not
ADVERTISING
in The Bonaire
Reporter you
are losing opportunities

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. 538	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
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. 780-1111	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

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<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BEAUTY PARLOR Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION APA Construction are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.</p> <p>EXTERMINATOR Professional Pest Control is at your service. Get rid of all the pests that invade your home and garden. Experienced and reliable.</p> <p>FITNESS Bonfysio offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.</p> <p>Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.</p> <p>FURNITURE THE PLANTATION Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Great Escape Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>PHOTO FINISHING Paradise Photo in the Galeries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . Now-full digital services.</p> <p>REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.</p> <p>Re/Max Paradise Homes: Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them for sale.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>REPAIRS Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345</p>	<p>RESORTS & ACTIVITIES Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.</p> <p>RETAIL Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.</p> <p>SECURITY Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.</p> <p>SHIPPING Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. FedEx agent.</p> <p>SUPERMARKETS Visit Warehouse Bonaire to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.</p> <p>VACATION CLUB Lower the cost of vacationing in Bonaire and other places. Visit Perfect Holiday Solutions to discover how you can get discounts and more.</p> <p>WATER TAXI Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the <i>Kantika di Amor</i> or <i>Skiffy</i>. Hotel pickup.</p> <p>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. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>YOGA Yoga For You. Join certified instructors Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.</p> <p>ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN: Put your ad in <i>The Bonaire Reporter</i>. Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518</p>
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Kevin Wayne Williams

“We came from San Jose, California, after my wife Cathy and I were unemployed. I spent 20 years as an engineer working for companies like General Telephone and AT&T. In 1997 I formed my own company, Mayan Networks. In 2000 when the Internet collapsed in the US we went bankrupt; the company’s value went from \$747 million dollars to nothing. My career never recovered. Cathy never owned a company, but the company she was working for went bankrupt in 2000 as well and she never found a job again.

In 2004 we realized there was nothing much left in California for us; we recognized that neither one of us was going to be an executive again. Nobody wants 45-year-old engineers and there aren’t any communication companies that need presidents.

We sold our house and bought The Great Escape hotel on Bonaire. I’d never been on Bonaire before. I’d spent two weeks in Aruba in 1999, and in 2001 I spend two weeks in Curaçao; we’re divers. In October 2004 I came to Bonaire for three days. I’d seen the hotel on the Internet and came to see if it was worth buying. My first impression of Bonaire was: ‘It’s a small town with its own island.’

We’d gotten down to four properties in the world: one in Volcano Village in Hawaii, but that was overpriced; they wanted \$3 million for a nine-room hotel, just couldn’t do it. We looked at a large backpacker hotel in Curaçao and an 11-room hotel in Silver City, New Mexico. If it was all about money I should have bought the one in Silver City, but I couldn’t see myself living in New Mexico for the rest of my life. The design of The Great Escape was beautiful, and I could see myself 20 years from now still in Bonaire.

So I went home, we studied about Bonaire and two months later we bought the place. Could I have done better economic planning? Absolutely! I could have done better economic planning...” *Kevin Williams has a dry sense of humor. He seems somewhat of a loner but also he’s easy going and good with people.*

“My name is a very common name. I went to school with nine Kevin Williams’s. When I was born there was a TV ad for One-A-Day vitamins: A woman leaning out a door shouting ‘Ke-e-e-vin!’ My mother admits it! I think that’s the reason why Kevin is such a popular name for men of my age! My middle name, Wayne, is from a great uncle who ran away to sea when he was 14. We got a letter from his wife 60 years later. He’d left her a note with our names and she wrote us to say he’d died.

I think I may be the only Japanese-born

person on the island. I was born in 1960 in Tachikawa (which means ‘Standing River’), Japan, because my parents were part of the occupation force. My sister was severely retarded and my parents spent most of their time taking care of her. I was taken care of by Japanese-speaking maids. We moved to the US when I was four years old and soon after my sister died. What happened then was that I spoke only Japanese and my parents spoke only English. I got so mad about it I refused to talk for a year! We lived in Nebraska until 1973, in Alabama in 1974, then back to Nebraska from 1975 to 1977. I went to college in Iowa, then I lived in Arizona from 1980 till 1997 and in 1997 we moved to California.

My wife was born in Iowa. I met her in college; then she moved with me to Arizona where we got married. We have one grown daughter, Erin. She’s 22 and an architect in Los Angeles. She graduated from high school at 17. I got out at 16! That’s kind of a tradition in our family: ‘Let’s get out of here!’

“What happened then was that I only spoke Japanese and my parents only spoke English. I got so mad about it I refused to talk for a year!”

From my youth I always wanted to become like Disney’s Uncle Scrooge. He’s always been my hero - that big money bin with a diving board so he could dive off and swim in his money; he had so much... that was my goal. I don’t think Bonaire is the place to make that much money... but in the meantime I am enjoying it.

We’re now trying to modernize the property and restore it to its former level. I am trying to serve the area of Belnem and Lighthouse Beach Resort. We have the only restaurant, the only bar (Friday night from 8-9 ‘One guilder a beer’ is doing really good), the only DVD-rental shop and the only Internet café and still the cheapest Internet café on the island, and next month we’re going to be adding massage service too. We’re a full-service hotel.

Yeah... we had no experience at all and some days that really hurts, but I was just really looking for something that Cathy and I could do together. There really aren’t many jobs for a husband and wife team – this was one... But I like it!



I’m not planning on going back to the States. Erin came twice around Christmas. She’s still worried her old man is going crazy! When she took time off from school to help us move she had to give a reason for the leave and the reason she wrote was: ‘My parents are fleeing the country!’ I didn’t flee. I can go back. I paid my taxes... as painful as that is!”

Two little Dutch children walk into the hotel and they ask the receptionist if they may swim in the pool. The girl tells them in a very friendly way they can’t do it if they’re not supervised by at least one parent. Kevin says: “Even if you sit for three hours with a three guilder coke and let your children swim, it’s okay with me! But I am not going to have a child in that pool without a parent watching them! No chance!”

He leans backwards on the sofa: “I am much happier than I was in California. I have a reason to get up in the morning. Nothing is worse than staying in bed all day. I hated the weather in San Jose – way too cold! I spend 20 years in Arizona; in summer it’s 50 degrees Celsius. After that nothing feels hot. I don’t feel hot here! Most days I work from 9 in the morning till 11:30 at night. Cathy works from 5:30 in the morning till 8 at night. I think it’ll be that way for about three more years, but it’s worth it – it will be. It’s not a job for the faint of heart.

I’ve made only five dives since I moved here; we’re just working. For a year we lived upstairs, moving from one room to another. Now we’ve built our own place here on the property; it’s only 65 square

meters but at least it’s ours. I can’t say I’d recommend my decision to anyone. It’s been hard; it’s been really hard, but everything will work out.

The island has four market segments: the Dutch, the Antilleans, the South Americans and the Americans. I insist that all my front desk staff speak English and Spanish, so we really focus on the Antillean, South American and the American market. I intend to make Americans very comfortable, and I like to make Antilleans feel comfortable. They’re 70% of my clients. People from South America can speak Spanish all day long. My vision is to stick with that market. Everybody is welcome, but we’re primarily business. With my English and my kitchen Spanish I can get around with my staff. I restudied Japanese for seven years and now I’m learning Dutch. I practice with Donald Duck comic books.

I’m staying here because I like the island. If someone comes up and offers me an outrageous amount for the hotel I might say yes, but then I would still stay on the island and find something else to do. What do I like here so much? I don’t know – I’ve spent too much of my life in big places – I need a small place to be and you can’t be much smaller than Bonaire.”

story and photo by Greta Kooistra



Dressing for Success

Late for a Very Important Date?

I have just recovered from an uncontrolled fit of laughter. After catching myself checking my watch to see if we were "on time" for our appointment with "Harold," the laughing jag hit me. It seems ludicrous to assume we have another scheduled afternoon meeting in the "Ocean Conference Room" with such an active, busy and prominent personality for the completion of our previous photo session. For an instant, I flashed back to my days traveling to other clients at their offices. I was always driving through traffic jams, late because of unexpected delays, trying to keep an already impossibly tight schedule. All of this activity was self-imposed to meet the demands of business and the desire to stay ahead of the competition. I am sure you have experienced that same feeling of anxiety and uncertainty in the past.

Now, back to reality. Regulator, check; mask, check; exposure suit, check; BCD, check; flippers, check; flippers? Yes, flippers, you must dress for success and be prepared for the unexpected when you are swimming where "sharks" roam.

Who Will be the Top Model?

We have entered Harold's inner sanctum escorted by his vivacious assistant "Gladys," resplendent in a striking red silk suit. She instructs us to be patient and feel free to roam around the huge space and enjoy the view. We start to move around over the soft, smooth, fine sand floor, admiring all the other wonderful, brightly attired creatures assembled for this occasion.

They all are eager to be selected as possible models appearing as companions to our host. We are anxious to start the photo session and are relieved to see Harold slowly approach us from another area nearby.

He has chosen an outlandish, oversized, cone-shaped costume with a shiny, rose pink satin lining, crowning his entire body like a huge sombrero of a mariachi

singer! He is dwarfed by the sheer size of his outfit, but he carries it well since he is a high-ranking family member of the Giant Red Hermit Crabs, the largest and strongest of the Western Atlantic marine hermit crab species! Today, he seems talkative and anxious to reveal many family secrets.

Home is Where Your Abs Are

You can recognize Harold's family members by their lavender or reddish-gray

bodies with a surface texture of irregular, overlapping scales festooned with short bristle-like hairs. They are right handed and have massive lobster-like claws, holding their prey in the larger right claw and eating with the left one. Harold has long red and yellow-

banded antennae and handsome, stalked, blue-green eyes. Like other hermit crabs, the giant hermits are also called robber crabs because they are armor less animals and insert their abdomens into abandoned snail shells that they carry about with them for protection. The abdomens of the crabs are soft and asymmetrical, flexed and twisted to fit into the whorls of the borrowed shells. Harold's



Harold, a bit overdressed?

family prefers to occupy large shells and most commonly chooses the magnificent Queen Conch, like the one he has today. In contrast, lovely Gladys is a petit Red Reef Hermit with long, shapely, brilliant red legs, a smooth red body with tiny white spots accenting her curves and joints complemented by beautiful pale green eyes on yellow stalks. She prefers small purple encrusted Tulip or Triton's Trumpet shells.

Life, Procreation and Real Estate Disputes

Male hermit crabs are generally larger than the females and are therefore able to grasp the outside edge of the female's shell and drag it around for several days until the female molts. When this occurs, the male deposits sperm on the female's abdomen. The female later uses the sperm to fertilize her eggs. The fertilized eggs are retained in her shell until they hatch as free-swimming larvae. Hermit crabs are mainly scavengers and can often be seen digging in the sand for food, preying on smaller organisms or scrounging for scraps on the ocean floor. Life-span has been observed up to 13 years, but it is speculated that many hermit crabs may live for several decades.

Hermit crabs are often forced to seek new shells because they have outgrown their old ones; they change their housing whenever chancing upon another shell into which they can fit and carry it wherever they go, creating the ultimate "Mobile Home." Since hermit crabs are encased in a skeleton that does not grow, it must be shed or molted as they gain weight, making frequent housing changes and selection critical. However, problems



Leggy, lovely Gladys

can arise if shells are scarce, resulting in one of several courses of action: keep the old shell and stop eating, abandon the shell and remain unprotected, make do and select a man-made object, or FIGHT! This is the option most often chosen. They will find another hermit crab with a desirable shell, then attempt to drive that hermit from its shell by pulling on its claws, repeatedly striking its shell with their own, and lifting and waving their opponent around. This action is more fun to watch than wrestling on TV.

Homeless?

What do you call "home?" Is it a structure or your country of origin? Perhaps it's purely an environment, a haven or an emotional response, like a feeling of happiness and love! For most it's a valued place of refuge, for others it's protection. Can you take your "home" any place you wish?

What is it like to be "homeless?" Is it simply a lack of shelter or, psychologically, an overwhelming sense of loss of dignity and purpose? What happens when we relocate? Do we take our "home" with us, recreate it, or build a new one? Why do we move? Moving must satisfy a powerful desire for change or the urge to seek a better place, because to do it requires us to leave and abandon our "home." Sometimes, like Harold, we just need more space! ©Albert Bianculli, 2006

Albert Bianculli has visited Bonaire since 1970 and now lives here. See his show every Sunday night at Captain Don's Habitat Aquarius Conference Room beginning at 8:30 pm. All images are original, un-retouched slides, shot on location and composed within the viewfinder.





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

The Moon Visits Saturn at Its Best and Jupiter Visits the Scorpion's Claw

Mark this weekend as very special because you'll be able to use the **Moon** to find **Saturn**, which is at its brightest and closest to **Earth** this month and next for the entire year. Plus **Jupiter** will pay a super close visit to one of the scorpion's claws.



The Beehive Cluster (also known as M44) is located in the constellation of Cancer the Crab.

On any night this week, about an hour after sunset in the Sky Park, face east where you'll see my favorite planet, Planet Number Six, ringed Saturn, which always knocks your socks off. If you got a telescope for Christmas this is the time to get it out because Saturn is at its brightest and closest to Earth for the entire year this January and February. It will be at its absolute closest and brightest on January 27th; 75,000 miles wide. It is second in size only to the King of the Planets, **Jupiter**. But because it is almost twice as far away it always appears much dimmer. So in case you're one of those who always has a hard time finding the planets, simply wait until this weekend because this Saturday, the 14th, the exquisite January full Moon, which is called the **Moon after Yule**, will be parked right above Saturn.

And while you're looking up at Saturn and the Moon, you might want to also contemplate the fact that this Saturday is the first day of the **Roman year 2759 A.U.C.** which mean stands for 'ab urbe condita,' which means that Rome was founded 2759 years ago. But in case it's cloudy out simply go out the next night, Sunday, January 15th and the still full Moon will be parked just below Saturn and begging you to look at it with your naked eye or your telescope. Once again, to find Saturn easy as pie, look east an hour after sunset this Saturday and the full Moon will be parked right above it and on Sunday right below it.

Plus as a bonus if you have a pair of binoculars look just above Saturn and you'll see a tiny cluster of stars called **The Beehive** which consists of a group of about 200 very young stars about 400 million years old, which is pretty young compared to our **Sun** which is five billion years old.

Now if you want to see the King of the Planets this weekend simply go out around 6 am Friday, Saturday and Sunday, look southeast and it'll be the brightest thing in the sky. It's 88,000 miles wide, just 13,000 miles bigger than Saturn, although Saturn's ring system puts Jupiter to shame. And this weekend, parked less than one degree away from it, will be the ancient southern claw of the scorpion, a star with the bizarre name of **Zubenelgenubi**, which means southern claw in Arabic. And much farther away from Jupiter above it you'll see the northern claw, **Zuben Eschamali**. Plus if you've got a small telescope you'll actually see Jupiter and Zubenelgenubi in the telescope at the same time. The king and the claw in the morning and Saturn and the Moon in the evening, check it out. *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: January 8 to 14, 2006
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can meet someone who will become very dear to you if you get out and socialize. You need to spend some time pampering yourself. You might be a tad overindulgent this week. You can come into money; however, perhaps not under the best circumstances. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You'll be angry if those you live with aren't pulling their weight. Do not confront situations unless you are sure you have a good understanding of the dilemma. Call a good friend. It will do you some good. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your talent will be recognized. You will be emotional about money matters. Face any emotional problems head-on to avoid situations getting out of hand. If you're single, get out there and you'll meet someone new. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. If they want help that's great, but if they try to take credit for your work, you will have to set them straight. If you're in the mood, go out and socialize, or get involved in sports activities. You may meet that special person if you attend fundraising functions. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Don't hesitate to talk to your partner about rekindling your relationship. Unrealistic promises will only get you in trouble. Find out exactly what's expected of you and you'll be surprised to find out how capable you are. Your added discipline will enable you to complete some of those unfinished projects. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You're in the mood for love. You haven't been watching your spending habits and you may have been neglecting your duties. You may want to look into warm vacation spots. Your input into their activities will help bring you closer together. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your family may not be pleased with your decisions. You will find it easy to learn and excel. You can pick up some overtime this week. Escapist tendencies may lead to overindulgence. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You'll only hurt your lover if you don't. Older relatives may make unreasonable demands. You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect that is presented to you. You have done all you can to sort things out a personal level. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can make financial deals, but it may be best if you're not using your own cash. Don't be too quick to judge. Make changes that will heighten your appeal. You will be able to talk about emotional problems with your partner. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Go out with friends. Develop some of your good ideas. Try to be understanding. You are better off visiting friends or relatives than entertaining at home. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Chances are they are jealous. Avoid being intimately involved with clients or colleagues. You have made an accurate assessment of the situation and have come up with ideas that will save money. Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Finish projects that have been hanging over your head. You may be looking through rose colored glasses. Don't let relatives get the better of you. This is a great day for a family outing or just a drive. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.