

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

February 10 to February 17, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 7

The REPORTER

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

SINCE 1994



Flotsam and Jetsam



The Bonaire Direct non-stop flights announced two weeks ago to have begun in the middle of this month have been cancelled, disappointing many who were counting on the new connection.

According to a press release by the organizers: "The partnership between BONUSA Partners and Caribbean Sun Flights (CSF) has been interrupted. Flight services between Fort Lauderdale and Bonaire are therefore suspended, until further notice.

The 'Marketing Agreement' between BONUSA and CSF for which BONUSA provided CSF with financial guarantees along with a commitment to develop an extensive marketing program has been declined.

Due to the end of the season approaching, BONUSA Partners has decided to stop pursuing airlift options for this season. We will continue to support and promote any airlift options for the 2006-2007 season. Thank you for your understanding in this matter."

► Caribbean Business Report reported that **Air Jamaica racked up a \$136 million loss in 2005**, setting a new record for the beleaguered airline, tens of millions more than predicted. The airline was privatized in 1994 with Gordon "Butch" Stewart taking control and revitalizing the airline through marketing efforts and adding new routes. However, following a

dispute over taxes, it was returned to Government ownership at the end of 2004. The following year saw it beset with problems. There was a maintenance issue which resulted in many of its aircraft having to be grounded. It was embroiled in resolving pilots' salaries and pension issues; it faced reliability problems, not to mention escalating oil prices. It decided to cut its fleet of aircraft from 20 to 16 and trimmed a number of routes, including two weekly flights to Bonaire. **Air Jamaica continues to service Bonaire on Saturdays.**

► **A record four billion passengers took to the skies in 2005, up 5.5%** from the previous year despite higher fuel costs and concerns over terrorism and bird flu, the main airport operators' association said. International passenger traffic jumped 6.7%, while domestic traffic grew 4.4% from 2004, the Airports Council International (ACI) said last week.

► Dutch Minister of Immigration and Integration Rita Verdonk has a draft law ready to **send home Antilleans who have lived in the Netherlands less than three years and have gotten into trouble with the law** during that period. The draft law would make it possible for Dutch authorities to send home Antillean young people, ages 16-24, who have been in the Netherlands for fewer than three years and who are found guilty of criminal activity. The Netherlands has a big problem with young Antilleans, mostly from Curaçao.

Outgoing Antillean Prime Minister Etienne Ys (PAR) has an issue with Ver-

donk's draft law. Essentially it treats full Dutch citizens, Antilleans, as foreigners. Antillean organizations in Holland have come out strongly against the proposed regulation, calling it "humiliating treatment of a specific group of Dutch citizens," and say it will use whatever means necessary to prevent its approval.

► A respected Curaçao parliamentarian, Pedro Atacho, accepted the assignment of "informateur" (the person who attempts to form a government). Governor of the Netherlands Antilles Frits Goedgedrag offered him the position last week. His main task is to form a transition coalition government that will have to



Pedro Atacho

deal with the dismantling of the Antilles as well as usual Antillean legislation. **It's hoped a new national government will be in place next month before the next Round Table discussions with Holland.**

► One of the reasons that Curoil

charges higher-than-world prices for fuel to Bonaire might be the fact that the salary of **Curoil Director Marcel Nicolina is over NAf29,000 a month**, making him the highest paid director of a public enterprise in Curaçao. This salary does not include fringe benefits and other bonuses.

► Dutch Minister of Antillean Affairs Pechtold said the **ordinances regulating Dutch municipalities will not be applied to the three "smaller" Antillean islands of Bonaire, Statia and Saba**, which have chosen for direct ties with Holland. The Minister explained, "It's based too much on the Dutch situation and does not fit in with particular circumstances of the islands." This seems to say that Bonaire won't be burdened with inappropriate laws once closer ties with Holland are made next year.



► **The Caribbean's first DonkeyCam (www.donkeycam.com) was launched last week** thanks to a donation by Richard Mann through Support Bonaire. It shows activities of the some of the animals resident in Bonaire's Donkey Sanctuary. The Donkey Help Foundation created the Donkey Sanctuary in 1993 to improve the

(Continued on page 4)

BONAIRE The REPORTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter	
(Animals are God's Creatures Too)	5
Walk-a-Thon Triumph	6
School Swimming Championships	8
Tonky Heads for Australia	9
Kas di Arte, Opens,	
Verhoeven Exhibit	10
Antique Living Houses	
(Mentor 2: Brick Factory)	11
Gold Ambassadors (Seeling)	12
Cactus Blue Opens	13
Gardner (Mealy Bug)	14
Karnaval Schedule	15
Diving with Dee (Parrotfish)	18
Help Save the Whale (Skeleton)	18

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Mega FM Schedule	5
Dee's Coral Glimpses	4
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Classifieds	12
Picture Yourself	
(Sulawesi, Indonesia)	12
Reporter Masthead	14
What's Happening	15
Pet of the Week (The Two Lisas)	15
Movieland Film Schedule	15
Cruise Ship Schedule	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
On the Island Since	
(Renata Domacassé)	17
Sky Park (Venus)	19
The Stars Have It	19

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: Tonky Frans, Wilna Groenenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Dee Scarr, TCB, Valarie Stimpson, TCB, Michael Thiessen, Ap van Eldik

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

©2006 The Bonaire Reporter

Flotsam & Jetsam. (Continued from page 2)
 living conditions of the donkeys on Bonaire. Before the Sanctuary was open, the donkeys, used years ago for various jobs, were left to fend for themselves since now the need for working donkeys is non-existent. Roaming free, they were frequently hit by vehicles. To form the Sanctuary, the Island Government of Bonaire rented the sanctuary land. Now, over 300 of Bonaire's donkeys reside in the Donkey Sanctuary, which provides food, water, and medical care.

In March, 2006, the Sanctuary will premiere a Donkey Paradise Safari Park, a drive-through, safari-like experience, with all entry fees going directly toward the maintenance of the donkeys. In March, the Sanctuary will increase its opening hours, from 10 am to 5 pm.



► **Parrot Count Update:** This year a total of **700 Lora** (Bonaire's Amazon parrot) were counted by more than 50 volunteers, stationed at 22 different sites. During last year's count there were 300 Loras counted from 17 different sites. The Lora Count in 2003 was 350 to 400 birds. Thanks to Fundashon Salba Nos Lora in cooperation with STINAPA, Scouting and DROB. Sponsors this year were supermarkets Cultimara, Warehouse and More for Less.

coral glimpses

(a bit of information about corals by naturalist Dee Scarr)

► A coral head is started by a single coral larva which grows and begins to secrete a calcium-based skeleton, clones itself, and repeats the process. Slowly.



► **Changes are coming for the Cinnamon Art Gallery** which opened almost two years ago as Bonaire's only fine arts gallery. The Gallery exhibited art selected by the non-profit Bonaire Artists Foundation run jointly by Linda Richter, Avy Benhamron and Jake Richter. As of the end of March 2006, Linda and Jake Richter will be taking their works out of the Gallery, as well as resigning from the Bonaire Artists Foundation, leaving Avy in charge of both the Foundation and the Gallery. Beginning in May, the Richters' works will be exhibited at their Belnem home by appointment only (phone 717-4112 or e-mail info@bonairecreations.com).

Avy says that he has some new ideas for Cinnamon Art Gallery, which includes at least two other artists: Catherine Salisbury and Nina Ledezma. Their work will be on continuous display in the Gallery beginning in April along with Avy's African-themed art and craft items.

► Support Bonaire, Inc., a US non-profit organization created to help support Bonaire's non-profit social and environmental efforts, announced that its 2005 grants to various **Bonaire non-profit organizations exceeded US \$18,000**. Funding for Support Bonaire's grants comes solely from individual donors who select from a series of special projects Support Bonaire has created to focus on particular needs on Bonaire.

Top recipients of grants from Support Bonaire were Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) with over US\$5,000 in donations, and the Donkey Sanctuary and Captain Don's Bonaire Accolade Foundation with approximately US\$2,800 each. Additionally, the Bonaire Animal Shelter, the Bonaire National Marine Park, Fundashon pa Bon Koral, Jong Bonaire, and Stichting AVST (Wowo di Bario) each received US\$1,000 or more. Other recipients for smaller grants and donations included Foundation Animal Welfare Bonaire, Mangasina di Rei, the Zuster Maria Hoppner Stichting, and Stichting van Kunst en Cultuur van Bonaire.

► **Elly Albers now runs the Lac Kai Mangrove Info Center** which hosted over 5,000 visitors in 2005.

The Center offers details of the importance of the mangroves and offers solar boat, kayak, and mangrove snorkel tours. The center will soon offer guided snorkeling via the solar boat at the Lac Bay barrier reef, one of the most exciting snorkel spots on Bonaire. Gerard van Erp, the founder of the center, will remain in charge of research and maintain contact with outside agencies supporting the center. For more information, email info@mangrovecenter.com.



A majority of the donations were donated on-line via the Internet at the Support Bonaire web site – www.SupportBonaire.org.



► **Next Tuesday is lovers' day, Valentine's Day.** Spend some time with those you love and send some love to those you don't. We've heard of three special Valentine's Day (February 14) deals:

- **The Great Escape Resort.** You can get a romantic dinner for two for NAf60 or spend a romantic night with dinner, champagne and breakfast for two for NAf200.
- **Jazz Event at Croccantino Restaurant** – Treat your lover to a special evening at Croccantino, Bonaire's most romantic restaurant, where

you'll dine on a four-course totally Tuscan meal and listen to great jazz. Special guest artists are Konkie Halmeyer, a famous steel pan player and Uti Grigorio (his bass man) playing with local jazz musicians. Konkie will play Latin jazz and also some real Antillean works. Konkie Halmeyer is one of the featured artists in the 2006 Heineken Jazz Festival. Tickets are \$40. Call 717-5025 to reserve. Starts at 7 pm.

- FKPD (Foundation For the Disabled) will be having a "**Fiesta San Valentino**" benefit night at the Lighthouse at Harbour Village Marina from 7 to midnight. Live music by Michael Boncoeur and Krishno Penso, guest star is Melania v.d. Veen. HB Disco also. Donation of

Continued on page 5

FIT 4 LIFE

PLAZA RESORT MINI MALL

**AEROBICS
 STEP AEROBICS
 BODY BUILDING
 BODY SHAPING / TONING
 PILATES / TAE BO
 WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAMS
 •BEGINNERS, INTERMEDIATE,
 and ADVANCED LEVELS**

Phone: (599) 09 512-6375
 Phone: (599) 717-2500 EXT. 8210
 Cell.: (599) -9-562-6375
 fit4life_fitness@hotmail.com
 PO BOX 303 BONAIRE

DO YOU WANT REAL RESULTS?

WE CAN HELP YOU:

- LOSE BODY FAT
- GAIN MUSCLE
- FEEL STRONGER
- GET MOTIVATED
- LIVE HEALTHIER
- HAVE MORE ENERGY
- INCREASE SELF-ESTEEM
- IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)

NAf100 includes dinner and drink. For tickets call 717-6210 or get them from any of the FKPD employees.

► In a previous issue we reported on several projects that were potentially harmful to Bonaire's environment. One was the **reconstruction of the Chogogo house near the southern tip of Bonaire**. Our sources said that it might be used as a disco or night club. There was concern that the noise and traffic might be harmful to the nearby flamingo nesting areas. This past Monday we were assured by Joep van der Ligt, one of the Chogogo owners, who wrote to us to say that this was not so. He said, "The beautiful house will be our paradise only for us after many years of hard work." He went on to express his desire to maintain the tranquility of the place. That's good news.

► **The Diabetic Society will hold three Information Sessions** as a service to the people of Bonaire in the garden in front of the chapel at the old hospital on Kaya L.D. Gerharts.

- Thursday, February 9, from 8 to 9:30 pm – a talk by Sharine Loozen of the Health Department: "Nutrition for the Diabetic"
- Friday, February 10, from 8 to 9:30 pm – a talk by surgeon Dr. Eijkelburg: "The Feet of the Diabetic" – why diabetics have foot problems, what happens without care, how to care for the feet
- Saturday, February 11, from 11 am to 3 pm – free testing for blood sugar, hypertension. An orthopedic doctor will be there to check feet;

herbologist, Dina Veeres, will be there with her herbs. There will be tables with information, demonstrations of food products. For sale will be soft drinks, soup, chicken, salad and bread. And more....

Sponsored by *Sosiedat di Diabétikonan di Boneiru* (SODIBON), FKPD, AIDS Foundation, Foundation for the Blind, Anti Drug Foundation. Saturday's event is sponsored by Brokx Shoes, Curaçao.

► SEBIKI (the organization for the betterment of children, pre-natal to 6 years) has announced **special Karnaval activities for children**. On Sunday, February 12, from 10 am to 1 pm, the kids can come to the garden of SEBIKI, Kaya P.P. Silie #2, to prepare for Karnaval - painting and decorating tee shirts, masks, crowns etc. Price is NAf2,50 or NAf7,50 (if they don't have their own tee shirt). Parents are welcome to bring materials as well.

On Friday, February 17, there will be a Balloon Parade for the small children, starting at Wilhelmina Park at 5:30 pm, going through Kaya Grandi, by the sea, and ending back at the Park where there will be snacks, face painting and other fun activities. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes and bring balloons.

During Karnaval SEBIKI will have a stand in front of TCB, selling snacks and drinks. Tante (Aunt) Mimi and her crew will be there doing face painting.

► "Impress Your Friends. Amaze the Islanders. Startle Yourself." Those words announce the fascinating and useful little phrase book, **Getting Around the Islands in Papiamentu: A Phrasebook for Travelers and Newcomers**, for

OP ED PAGE—LETTERS & OPINIONS

ANIMALS ARE CREATURES OF GOD TOO

Good day Editor,

I just wrote something and I would like to know if you would consider publishing it, because I want to speak for animals that can't and I do think a lot of people should be more aware of the fact that animals should not be treated badly. In Holland we used to have these little pictures on TV in the 70s that every night shouted to all of us: "Animals need to be loved too!" And, you know, it worked. People need to be told a lot, to develop consciousness. So...I am hoping you will let me tell my story in *The Reporter*, which we all love by the way:

I love this island, but my heart breaks all the times I witness or hear about the way some people treat (their) animals. I wonder. How can anyone sit in church, pray, call himself a religious man or woman when they beat, ignore and chain animals? And if you don't believe in a God, how can you live with yourself if you hurt a living creature?

Reverend Henri Primatt, D.D., a 16th

Century Anglican Priest, in his time already spoke these words: "Mercy is a universal duty, and it cannot be withheld from any of God's creatures." In the Bible, God often talks about animals. Don't people know they will have to account for how they treated (their) animals?

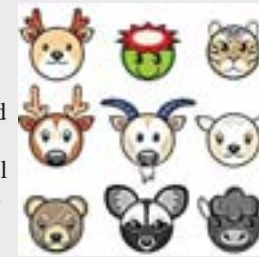
Just really look into the eyes of an animal for once, and you will know he or she is NOT an alarm on feet; he's a creature with a soul and should be treated gently. He is not guarding your house because you

make him hate people; he guards your house and children because he loves you, even if you don't treat him well. Now, where do you find a better friend than that? Please think about it: let the dog run free in your garden,

don't beat him or her, be gentle. Don't pester or hurt the free animals on the island. Don't catch and cage a bird. How would you feel in a cage?

Animals truly are God's creatures as well as we humans are. Please respect them. Thank you.

Kitty Rooker



Papiamentu, the Creole spoken locally on Bonaire, Curaçao, and Aruba. For visitors to the islands, speaking some Papiamentu is more a matter of sociability than survival. They can get by in English almost anywhere they go, but getting to know people's language is a good way to get



to know them and their culture. The book gives essential dialogues of everyday life. This new guide is available at: Chat 'n' Browse, Sand Dollar Grocery, Habitat, Valerie's Airport Shop, Carib Inn, as well as at the office of Tourism Corporation Bonaire, and at Kas di Arte during Ver-

Walk-a-Thon Triumph

It was a very dark but beautiful morning as 200 intrepid souls set off from the White Slave Huts at 5 am for the Fifth Annual Special Olympics Bonaire Walk-a-Thon. Some walked, some ran, some biked, some even roller bladed. The weather was making up for the last two years' Walk-a-Thons when it was cold and rainy. Starlight lit the salt pans. The planet Venus was so bright that you could read the street signs. You knew dawn was coming before the light when you heard all the birds chirping.

Along the way another 100 people joined the walk which ended up at the Pasa Dia (handicapped center) in Rincon, 30 kilometers from the start.

About every 5 kilometers stands were set up to dispense water, Gatorade, pan dushi and fruits. The Bonaire Motorcycle Club stationed at Karpata offered even stronger fare! It was a first for Ian and Dorothy MacDonald, manning their stand at the beginning of the tourist road. "We really felt like part of the community," Ian reported. Dorothy added, "We really will need a lot more Pan Dushi next year! It went very fast!" Other wonderful host and



Some of the Special Olympics-FKPD Walkers

hostesses dispensing goodies and encouragement were Kitty Handschul, Norka Loft, Iris Jesurun, Guus Gerritsen, Bud Pearson and their crews.

Nearly the whole island helped in some way. The Red Cross patrolled the route as did volunteers in trucks, being there just in case someone got tired or hurt.

At the end at the Pasa Dia, runners, walkers, bikers, roller bladers – were welcomed by cheering and clapping. There were about 300 of them. Every-



The first finisher on foot, William van Heyningen, from the Go Fast Walking Club of Curaçao.

one got a hot meal of baka stoba prepared by the students of Chez Nous and a fit-for-framing certificate, testifying that they indeed made the trek. Shoes were kicked off and legs stretched and time to share personal experiences from the morning.

The oldest walker was Georges Melief (71), who arrived on Bonaire just the night before for a visit with his daughter Irene who coaches the Spe-



The North Saliña Road Runner, Nazario Alberto, was among the top finishers

cial Olympics Bonaire Tennis Team. Georges made it the whole way. The oldest biker, who seems to have made it a tradition, was Larry Thielgard (78) who pedaled most of the way – from his home near Harbour Village to the

(Continued on page 7)

Refreshment Stops & More



Bonaire Bikers at Karpata

(Walk-a-thon Triumph. Continued from page 6) end.

The organizing committee is so pleased with the results: 456 tickets were sold, about NAf 13.250 in total fundraising – a big help in sending the Special Olympics Bonaire team to Shanghai, China, next year.

Thank you, Board Members: Aura Engelhart, Claire Sealy, Chio Semeleer, Lupe Uranie, Onnie Emerenciana, Roosje v.d. Hoek.

More thank yous in addition to those mentioned above: Vilma Albertsz & crew, Engelhart and Kock families, Genny Wever, Nununu Josephia, Harold and Saphida Kurban, Robbie de-Palm, Miangela Semeleer and the FKPD crew: Meredith, Varenia, Merida, Sytel, Shunilla, Inolda, Ansherella, Lisette, Monique and Marrelva.

L.D.



The heart of the Walkathon organization: MCB's Orphaline Saleh, "JP" v.d. Hoek and Roosje v.d. Hoek-Goeloe



Special Olympics
BONAIRE
DUTCH CARIBBEAN



One of the top women walkers, Antje Gunther, gets a refill at the Bikers stop.



The MacDonald's stand at the start of the Tourist Road



The Gerritsen's stand in Playa



Norka's place at the entrance to Kralendijk

Generous Sponsors 2006:

Title Sponsor – Maduro & Curiels Bank Bonaire

Also Linda Baker, Bakkerij Cicilia, Benetton, *The Bonaire Reporter*, BONHATA, Budget Rent-a-Car, Capt. Don's Habitat, Chat 'n Browse, Chez Nous, City Café, Co de Konig, Croccantino Restaurant, Dutch Antilles Express, Ennia, Extra, Figos, Flamingo Communications, Fundashon Cas Bonaireano, FKPD, Goddard Catering Bonaire, Imprenta Deco, J.C. Herrera, Party & Zo, ReMax, Selibon, Telbo, TCB, Warehouse Bonaire, Xerox.

School Swimming Championships

The 2nd Annual Bonaire School Swimming Championship was held at the Bonaire Sports Complex/ Meralney Vacation Villas on Sunday, January 29. The meet, organized by the Bonaire Barracudas Aquatics Club and INDEBON, featured teams from Bonaire's primary and secondary schools. Fifty-six swimmers between



Sampson and Asdrubal

the ages of 5 and 17 years competed in 50-meter backstroke, freestyle and breaststroke events. Medals were awarded to the top three male and female swimmers in each age category. All swimmers received ribbons for participation. In addition, swimmers in the 9 - 10, 11 - 12 and 13 -14 age categories vied for the chance to represent Bonaire at the 2006 Inter-island Scholastic Games to be held in Aruba in April.

The traditional "Pasa Boka Swim" was held after the final event and prior to the awards ceremony. Three age group relay teams from the Bonaire Barracudas challenged their coaches and teachers to a medley relay. The event was won by the adults with the younger swimmers finishing close behind. The Barracudas then treated those in attendance to a water polo exhibition match.

The meet was sponsored by Ennia Insurance, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V., IN-DEBON, and Bonaire Sports Complex.

The "Barracuda Spirit Award" was given to Kristu Bon Wardador. In 2005 this school had only two swimmers and no coach. This year Kristu Bon Wardador was represented by 13 swimmers who were coached by two parent volunteers. Several Kristu Bon Wardador parents also volunteered to serve as timekeepers during the meet.

The Barracudas presented achievement certificates to Giada Binelli, Samson Evertsz and Rooske Wagemakers for representing Bonaire in the 2005 Netherlands Antilles National Swimming Championships. *Story & photos by Valarie Stimpson*



Chaz Sweers



Papa Cornes Victory Cheer

Individual Winners:

Backstroke - 50 meters

Girls 8 and under: Yasmin Esser, Tirzah Richards, Zaira Groenendal
Boys 8 and under: Luis Marcano Bravo, Erich Fischer, Constantijn Botterop

Girls 9 - 10: Arshemira Charles, Ryda-Luz Emer

Boys 9 - 10: Samson Evertsz, Asdrubal Marcano Bravo, Jemuel Richards

Girls 11 - 12: Rooske Wagemakers, Danique Oleana, Sue-Ellen Richardson

Boys 11 - 12: Enrique Vasquez Meza, Florian Wegerer, Vernon Kromhout

Girls 13 and over: Giada Binelli, Daniela Simal, Andrea Simal

Boys 13 and over: Philip Winkel, Stephan Decaster, Joeri Lieuw

Freestyle - 50 meters

Girls 8 and under: Tirzah Richards, Yasmin Esser, Diane Werdath
Boys 8 and under: Luis Marcano Bravo, Constantijn Botterop

Girls 9 - 10: Vera Ghazzouli, Arshemira Charles, Ryda-Luz Emer

Boys 9 - 10: Samson Evertsz, Olivier Wagemakers, Asdrubal Marcano Bravo

Girls 11 - 12: Rooske Wagemakers, Diorella Cicilia, Danique Oleana

Boys 11 - 12: Enrique Vasquez Meza, Florian Wegerer, Vernon Kromhout

Girls 13 and over: Giada Binelli, Andrea Simal, Daniela Simal

Boys 13 and over: Philip Winkel, Stephan Decaster, Joeri Lieuw

Breaststroke -50 meters

Girls 8 and under: Zaira Groenendal, Tirzah Richards, Yasmin Esser

Boys 8 and under: Luis Marcano Bravo, Erich Fischer, Tomas Esser

Girls 9 - 10: Vera Ghazzouli, Sissi Spong, Emily Fischer

Boys 9 - 10: Samson Evertsz, Asdrubal Marcano Bravo, François Soree

Girls 11 - 12: Rooske Wagemakers, Danique Oleana, Sue-Ellen Richardson

Boys 11 - 12: Churmer Bomba, Vernon Kromhout, Florian Wegerer

Girls 13 and over: Giada Binelli, Meralney Bomba, Daniela Simal

Boys 13 and over: Stephan Decaster, Philip Winkel, Joeri Lieuw

Results:

Points

1st Place School: Papa Cornes	567
2nd Place School: Scholengemeenschap Bonaire (SGB)	470
3rd Place School: Kristu Bon Wardador	423

YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS PAGE

Tonky Frans, NB-7, Is On Fire and Heading for Australia

Story by *Tonky Frans, Bonaire's Champion Freestyle Windsurfer*



Tonky practicing in Bonaire

Brendan Pyatt photo

It's that time of year again when the windsurfing world businesses organize their photo and video shoots. Last year my board sponsor, F2, held its photo and video shoot in Maui (Hawaii). It seems like yesterday that I wrote a report on this trip to Hawaii for *The Bonaire Reporter*.

This year F2 is organizing its photo and video shoot in Australia. And since I am one of their international top riders I have to be there for sure from February 11th till the 5th of March.

The goals of this photo and video shoot

are to get all the product pictures for their 2007 brochure, all the product pictures for magazines for 2007, team lifestyle pictures for their website, photos for at least one travel story for magazines, photos for at least one team story for magazines, video footage for the F2 Action DVD 2007, video footage and pictures for all team riders for personal use, lifestyle pictures with accessories, and lifestyle pictures with promo wear.

This photo and video shoot is greatly supported by the Australian government and Australian commerce. F2 succeeded in getting greatly reduced air fares and accommodation fares and free excess baggage, car rental and permits. F2 in its turn has to promote West Australian tourism by placing the West Australian tourism logo on brochures, videos and websites. F2 does the promotion partly by letting all riders promote West Australia. Therefore you shouldn't be surprised to see me windsurfing with the West Australia sticker. I think that this is a great way to promote Australian water sports tourism.

The Bonairean government should take note of this whole idea by attracting these big businesses to Bonaire for their photo and video shoots by offering them great reductions in order to get Bonaire promoted internationally for its windsurfing opportunities.

I am flying to Perth airport on February 10th. Australia requires a visa for everybody. One can arrange this visa online prior to the departure to Australia. All team riders participating in this photo and video shoot have to contribute with a fixed price per day. F2 has promised us to keep this contribution as low as possible. But Australia is very expensive so I am holding my breath (and purse).

According to the F2 briefing, we will go to all possible spots in Western Australia. Travel plans will be made only on a last-minute basis, depending on the wind and weather forecast. In this windsurfing world one can never make definite plans for sure.

We will drive in a group with different cars, including Jet skies and boats. In order to limit the equipment to carry we are

not allowed to bring personal sailing equipment on the trip. You have to keep in mind that we are 11 international top riders and that each one of us has about five boards! The only things that we, as the top riders, have to take with us are board shorts, "steamers" and a shorty. Boards, F2 lycras and all other available accessories will be given to us in Australia. I am scheduled to promote the following boards: the REBEL, which is the ultimate new school wave and freestyle board; the XTC, which is ideal for both freemove and SuperX; the Chilli 96 and Chilli 105, for ultimate freestyle board; and the DISCOVERY, which is the pure beginner board.

I am looking forward to meeting the team of F2 and the big (young) bosses of F2 again. In spite of all the stress which a photo and video shoot brings with it we always have lots of fun together. In the meantime I am preparing myself, training on a daily basis in Sorobon and packing my stuff according to the F2 checklist, awaiting the day of departure. When I am back on the island I will surely share my Australian experience with all of you.

Tonky Frans

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
2-10	11:07	2.0FT.	0.8FT.
2-11	11:41	2.0FT.	0.8FT.
2-12	12:10	1.9FT.	0.9FT.
2-13	12:41	1.8FT.	0.9FT.
2-14	13:14	1.7FT.	1.0FT.
2-15	13:36	1.5FT.	1.1FT.
2-16	13:21	1.4FT.	1.2FT.
2-17	5:49	1.5FT.	1.2FT.

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alter Ego	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Scintella
Angie	Harmony	Sirius
Attitude	Honalee USA	Siorse
Augustin	Il Songo	Summer Breeze
Blue Moon	Isigare	Spart I Vento
Bright Sea	Manta Blue Water Rally	Stella
Camissa, Chan Is.	Maggi	Sylvia K
Casa del Mar	Natural Selection	Ta B
Cape Kathryn	Ocean Breeze	Ti Amo
Chaina Doll	Okeanis	Udidi
Churumrel	Okura	Ulu Ulu, USA
Delphinus	Onyva	Unicorn, Norway
Destiny	Orino	Valhalla
Eagle's Wing	Pela	Valtair
Endorphin	Pishi Porko	Varedhuni, Ger.
Flying Cloud, USA	Pythial	a-T, BVI
Freestyle	Revlou	Yanti Paratzi
Galandriel	Samba	Zahi, Malta
Golden Eye	Santa Maria	
Goril Two	Sandpiper, USA	

Kas di Arte Opens with Verhoeven



Bonaire's First Lady, Lena Domacassé opens the Kas di Arte

Last Saturday's opening of Kas di Arte and the Ronald Verhoeven exhibit was a joyous occasion. The venerable building, the oldest on Bonaire and originally the Slave Hospital, was reborn once again. It was gleaming - with fresh paint, inside and out, fresh stones in the garden and state of the art lighting inside. Artists, art lovers and friends thronged the gallery, spilling over into the garden where drinks and snacks were served and typically



Governor Domacassé cuts the ribbon to open the Verhoeven Exhibit: L to R: Henny Verhoeven, the artist, Lena Domacassé, the Governor, Jackie Bernabella

Bonairean music was played by the vet-



Ronald Verhoeven with his painting, "Simidan"

eran group, Flor di Orkadia. Lt. Governor Hubert Domacassé cut the ribbon to open the Verhoeven exhibit, and his wife Lena unveiled the Kas di Arte sign.

Verhoeven's large and striking paintings caused lots of comments like: "Why, these are the colors of Bonaire," "I love his work because he has a message: there are abstract elements to be visually interesting but with enough realism to make it seem familiar," "As you look at this painting you see more and more;" "He's captured the essence of Bonaire." Other terms we heard like "emotional," "humorous," "roots of

Bonaire, its past," "timelessness." A number of the paintings have been sold already. Two of the artist's paintings have been adapted as silk screened prints and are for sale. They're smaller than the originals but are masterfully reproduced.

The Ronald Verhoeven exhibit will continue through February. Kas di Arte is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to noon and 2 to 5 pm during the exhibition. Kas di Arte Artistic and Cultural Formation is on Kaya J.N.E. Craane #34, on the waterfront promenade, just north of the Nautico Bonaire dock. L.D.

Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Mentor 2: Brick Factory

by Wilna Groenenboom

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage

The Vis family home at Mentor is interesting. When you first see the place your eyes are drawn to the old machine in front of the house. Brother Autoon (Toontje) Vis saved this machine from burial. If you look hard you will see more machines on the left side of the house by an old wooden shack. On the shack's windward side the wood is covered with metal from oil drums to provide more protection against heavy rains. The old shack was the first brick factory.

The family patriarch, Cor Vis, had many skills and started many businesses. He had three to four boats sailing from Bonaire to North America, Cuba and Curaçao; he collected wood to make charcoal; raised goats for meat. He also had a business collecting divi divi tree pods, the extract of which is used for tanning leather.

He was also an innovator and liked new technologies. The machine in the middle of this triptych was used to crush stones into smaller ones for road-building and crush them even more into sand. On the left side is a newer crusher.

Using the cement mixer (bottom right) he made cement to put into the molds (on top, right and left). Molds were made by sawing stones in the particular form and then polishing them. The stone mold was set into a well-anchored iron box. Another machine filled the mold, under pressure, with cement. The family still has these molds, in different styles and shapes, on their property. The bricks are not just used for stone walls. People also use them as "toilet windows," which always lets in fresh air. The big stones, such as at the bottom right center, were for the walls of the main house.

The molds pictured in the upper corners are not architectural, so it may seem a little bit strange to give them so much attention in an article about architecture. But once you start looking for them, you will find these open bricks in a lot of houses on Bonaire. So, in some way, they influence the architecture of Bonaire, and that makes them important.

By the way, the barrel (center bottom left) was for rum. W. G.



Wilna Groenenboom is an artist and photographer who teaches art at the SGB high school



Gold Bonaire Ambassadors

We are honoring our GOLD Bonaire Ambassadors, Susi and Ernst Seeling from Vienna, Austria. Back in the 1980s they read in a German dive magazine about Bonaire and its shore diving opportunities, the perfect choice for Ernst who suffers from sea sickness and was looking for an alternative to boat diving.

When they wanted to book the flight, their Viennese travel agent did not know about Bonaire and almost sent them to Borneo! But they finally made it here and fell immediately in love with the island. It was exactly what they were looking for: a quiet and clean place with friendly and helpful people and a wonderful reef along the west coast. Since then they have been coming to Bonaire every year, stealing days from their skiing vacation to save for a lengthy vacation in Bonaire.

Ernst is an enthusiastic underwater photographer and many of his award-winning pictures were taken on Bonaire's reefs. Five years ago, when they retired, they were offered the opportunity to work as free-lance photo journalists for a dive magazine. Since then they've pub-



Susi and Ernst Seeling

lished numerous photo stories about Bonaire and promoted the island in the Austrian diving community. TCB has received copies of marvelous stories that have been published. According to the Seelings, they've discovered also that Bonaire has more to offer than just shore diving. Their favorite place on land is Washington Slagbaai Park, and they feel that Bonaire is a great place for outdoor people and nature lovers also.

Susi and Ernst have made several friends on the island and have been visiting for 23 years and are planning their next trip already. They have visited many other destinations since they retired but keep returning to Bonaire again and again. "Now as Bonaire Ambassadors,

Picture Yourself In The Reporter Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Reporter subscribers Corky and Sy Halberg from Poughkeepsie, N.Y. write, "Here we are at Wakatobi Dive Resort in Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. Of course we brought a copy of *The Reporter* with us. Hope to see this photo in a future edition of the paper. Oh, the trip was phenomenal!"

Well, here it is.



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.)

we feel even more motivated to write about the island and prove with our pictures its beauty both above and below the sea," they say.

For Tourism Corporation Bonaire it is a great pleasure to have Susi and Ernst as GOLD Bonaire Ambassadors. "We thank

Susi and Ernst for their numerous visits, the promotion they have done for the island and the promotion they will continue doing, true Bonaire Ambassadors," said Ronella Croes, Director of Tourism Corporation Bonaire. Congratulations! *TCB release & Photo*

Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— They are still free Got something to buy or sell?

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

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

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

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

JANART GALLERY

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

BONAIRENET

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

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

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

Bonaire Images

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

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: Water ski bindings for combo skis. Size 38 to 46 (Eur.) New, Complete with mounting material. NAf 100/pair. Tel. 786-5591

For sale: 2 Sky kennels for dogs, KLM-

approved, one large NAF 150, one extra large NAF 300, tel. 786-5582.

1990 ISUZU TROOPER 5 DOOR AUTO Many new parts including, battery, tires, shocks, service etc. Drives very well, genuine reason for sale NAf5250; Tel: 786-8648

SCUBAPRO Twin Jet fins extra large, used once. Listed at \$179-; Sacrifice \$90- "or best offer" Leave message for B. Olla at 717-8738 for call back.....

For Sale- 21" TV/VCR Quasar, TV works great, but not VCR. Call for more info. 100 naf 717-6862

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

Wanted

The Bonaire Reporter is still looking for a Partner

Join us to "Publish in Paradise."

Working partner with journalism writing/editing skills, business sense and energy desired.

Most important: Must Love Bonaire! Call The Reporter at 717-8988, 786-6518. Email qualifications to: search@bonairereporter.com

RECORDER (BLOCKFLOTE) Interested in playing with us on Bonaire, May 13 - June 10? email bubbheads@mac.

com Corky & Sy Halberg

WANTED: Small dingy or kayak... (no inflatables) in any condition. 717-6862/ 791-6003

20-year old Belgian student looking for a job to live and work on Bonaire for about a year, or maybe longer. Preferably in the hospitality sector because I already have experience in that sector. dominickgeentjens@hotmail.com (0032)(3) 322-7636.

Property

For Sale : Washikemba Kunuku land 2009 M² Private property incl. building permission Tel.: 717 2023 Cell : 785 0918

For Sale: Modern house Santa Barbara Visit : www.posada-bonaire.com Tel.: 717 2023 Cell : 785 0918

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.



CACTUS BLUE Restaurant Opens

You step into the place and you immediately know it's run by pros! You're greeted warmly; the service is prompt, accurate, and the food and drinks are exemplary. Sure enough you find that owner-operators, Hagen and Corinna Wegerer, ran a bistro style restaurant in Guernsey in the Channel Islands for seven years. And Hagen was raised in the business. "It's in my blood," he says. Their restaurant won the coveted Egon Ronay award in the British Isles.

The couple sold their restaurant and took a hiatus of two years while they traveled the world with their three boys (two, six and eight at the time). Bonaire was the last stop on their sojourn and it worked its magic. "We'd heard Buddy Dive was looking for a Dive Manager," Corinna says, "and I wanted to work for awhile (be the breadwinner) so I took the job and was there for five years." Hagen was in the hotel-dive business too, but the time came when they both wanted to get back to their roots.

Cactus Blue opened on February 1. Champagne flowed during the opening



The Cactus Blue Family: Corinna and Hagen Wegerer with their boys, Sebastian, Christian and Florian

where many of the "beautiful people" came to offer their best wishes. Friends of the Wegerer boys, Sebastian (13), Florian (11) and Christian (8), helped to round out and enjoy the all-ages party. Guests were treated to fall-off-the-bone spicy ribs, crab meat balls with a sweet chili dip and salsa with chips.

A few days later we stopped by to try the drinks and stayed for dinner. There are all kinds of Margaritas and a load of "Cactus" specialties and numerous brands of beers and wines. So many choices, so little capacity! We decided to try some of the show stopping appetizers and soup: an exceptional Ceviche, crispy Calamari and the White Chili Chicken Soup. Their entrees feature Caribbean style flavors – jerk, curry, or a Blackened Cajun Tuna Sashimi, for example. A special feature on the menu is Mama Lou's Kabrito Stoba. (Mama Lou worked with Corinna and Hagen at Buddy Dive and her *stoba* is to die for.) Vegetarians, according to Corinna, can order off the menu and their dishes will be individually prepared.

To invite people to come into their well run bistro Hagen and Corinna are offering specials like: Monday 2 for 1 – an appetizer with every entrée ordered; Tuesday "Bucket Night" - free finger Lick'n Chicken Wings; Wednesday Open "Mic" Night with Moogie – Pitchers of beer NA, \$14.40 (\$8); and of course Happy Hour every evening 5 pm to 7 pm. And something new on the island: a Cactus Blue Loyalty Card: spend a total of \$50 on food or drink at Cactus Blue and receive \$5 off your next meal.

Cactus Blue is on J.A. Abraham Blvd. #12, just south of the post office on the opposite side. Tel. 717-4564. And tell them *The Reporter* sent you!
L.D.



*Caribbean Cuisine
Now Open*

*Monday to Saturday
5 pm - 10 pm*

*JA Abraham Blvd 12
Telephone 717 4564*

Happy Hour 5-7 pm Mon-Sat

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

The Hated Mealybug

In my last article I wrote about a goal for this year: **to start a serious fight against some of the plant pests and diseases.**

This is, as I wrote, not something that we can do alone. We need your help big time and also the support of all of our landscape worker colleagues.

The most important effort will be to **not plant too many types of plants that are vulnerable to, let's say, the Mealybugs** (Mealybugs derive their name from the white, waxy, mealy secretions that cover their bodies). If we can reduce the plagues after a period of time, we can always go back to those types of plants. Not being able to use susceptible plant types like the **Hibiscus** or **Texas Sage** is such a shame, because they are very beautiful.

And the second, most important effort is **to make everybody aware that something has to be done about it.** There is not much use in continuing to fight the Mealybugs in your own garden if your neighbor's garden is totally full of these nasty little creatures. As I wrote in my last article, the diseases are spread easily by wind and contact with leaves. Also some types of the mealy bug are known to simply walk over to the neighbors if it gets too crowded! Don't hesitate to ask your neighbor if he can do something about an infected plant. There are a lot of people who may not even know there's a problem, or worse, in some cases, don't care. That is sometimes fully understandable: if they're renting a house why should they worry?

And the last effort is the most difficult, that is **the education part.** We ourselves are still in the midst of this process because there are no easy solutions for these problems.

When you see an infected plant, don't worry, just start by cutting off the most infected part of the plant. That is most likely to be the top part, so not too much damage is done. Throw all infected parts away, best in closed bag. If there is a lot of infestation you can use chemicals. Apply them yourself or hire a professional to do this for you. Even washing them off with a strong stream of water is effective.

Always rake leaves that have fallen down because they too are infected, and throw them away, again in something closed. The spores or eggs can also hide in your soil, especially in those places that get water frequently. And sometimes you see big white clusters of spores and eggs in old trunks. Spray them off with water!

Keep a close look at those plants that have shown infection. And if you decide to spray, once won't do the whole trick. **You have to spray at least two or three times to get rid of the problem.** If the infestation is in old plants you probably have to continue spraying for a longer period. This is a process that we and our colleagues still have to learn and try to keep up with all the time.

This brings me to the last part of this article. My experience is that this spraying takes a lot of time and is a dirty job, so if your gardener has to spray regularly in your garden, that doesn't give him much time to do other things like pruning or other, nicer works. It is very important that your plants remain in a healthy condition. They will be less vulnerable to whatever disease. You see, they are almost human! We will keep you informed on the progress on whatever other ways we find to get rid of this problem. *Ap van Eldik*



Soil Mealybugs



Mealybugs on a plant

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

The Family Stone
(Sarah Jessica Parker)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
Casanova

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)
NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
CLOSED MONDAY TUESDAY
AND WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM
**Zathura / Cheaper By
The Dozen 2**

THIS WEEK

Now until February 28—Art Exhibit by Ronald Verhoeven at Kas di Arte. See page 10

Thursday, Friday, Saturday—February 9, 10, 11. Diabetic Society Information Sessions. See page 5.

Saturday, February 11 - UniCollege open to students - see the innovative learning system, 10 am to noon.

Saturday, February 11 - Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers," Coco's Beach Bar 7-9 pm

Saturday, February 11 - Brigitte Kley Exhibit opens at Cinnamon Art Gallery, 7-9 pm. Exhibit runs through March 23.

Sunday, February 12 - Jazz Brunch at Den Laman -- Wonderful music by Guus, Benji, Robbie, Lando and Chris, plus other special guests. 11:30 am

Sunday, February 12—SEBIKI Karnaval Preparations for Kids—see page 5

Tuesday, February 14-Valentine's Day Tuscan dinner and cool jazz at Croccantino - see page 4

Tuesday, February 14 - Valentine's Day FKPD Fundraiser Fiesta at the Lighthouse at Harbour Village. All inclusive, food, drinks, entertainment, music, more, 7 pm - midnight—see page 4.

Friday, February 17—SEBIKI Children's Parade. See page 5

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon. See Schedule above.

COMING UP

Karneval—See Schedule upper right

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 warehouse, 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Great wines - NAf2,50 a glass.

Saturday -All You Can Eat BBQ at Divi Flamingo with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444 .

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

Monday-Kriyoyo Night BBQ Buffet featuring Chef Gibi and Los Princes Mariachi, Golden Reef Inn (2005 Small Inn of the year). Band 7 pm, BBQ at 7:30 pm. Reservations \$20, walk ins \$25. Drinks available for purchase. Call 717-5759 or email info@goldenreef.com

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar - Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers" 5-7 pm

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 - Bonaire-Talker Dinner/Gathering at Gibi's, known for great local food. Call Gibi at 567-0655 for details, or visit www.BonaireTalk.com, and search for "Gibi."

Wednesday Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar - Live music by Flamingo Rockers 5-6:30 pm

Wednesday The Windsurf Place at Sorobon - Live music by Flamingo Rockers 7:30- 9:30pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar - Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers" 5-7pm

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 Wildside 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, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm- 4 am; Sun. 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.

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.

February 2006 Cruise Ship Schedule

Date	Ship	PAX	Arrive	Depart	Pier
14 FEB TUE	RIJNDAM	1258	09:00	18:00	SOUTH
20 FEB MON	SEA PRINCESS	1950	12:00	19:00	SOUTH
21 FEB TUE	AIDA VITA	1260	13:00	20:00	SOUTH
27 FEB MON	ARCADIA	1550	08:00	18:00	SOUTH
28 FEB TUE	RIJNDAM	1258	09:00	18:00	SOUTH

Karneval 2006 Schedule:

Feb. 10 - Election - Queen, Prince & Pancho - children & teens

Feb. 11 - Tumba Festival- adults

Feb. 12 - Tumba Festival- children

Feb. 16 - Queens of Tumba - Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao

Feb. 17 - Election - Queen, Prince & Pancho - adults

Feb 18 - Carnival--Youth Parade Rincon 2-6 pm

Feb 19 - Carnival--Youth Parade Playa (Kralendijk) 2-6 pm

Feb. 23 - Marathon Jump-Up, BonFM

Feb. 24 - Elementary School Parade 8-11 am

Feb. 24 - Teens Parade 7 to 11 pm

Feb 25 - Carnival--Adult Parade Rincon, 1-6 pm

Feb 26 - Carnival--Adult Parade Playa (Kralendijk) 1-6 pm

Feb 27 - Carnival--Farewell Youth Parade 3-8 pm

Feb 28 - Carnival--Farewell Adult Parade

7 - midnight

TBA - 5km Run, 8:00 am,

Sponsor: PA & Associates

Pet of the Week

Two very valuable volunteer teens at the Bonaire Animal Shelter every Saturday are Lisa Schut (15) and Lisa Verbiner (16). They're shown here with a new pup that was just brought into the Shelter and doesn't even have a name yet. What a nice welcome for him!

Both girls are working at the Shelter as part of a school project where they have to volunteer for 40 hours. But they've both been volunteers here previously. Lisa Verbiner explains, "I've worked here before. We clean the kennels, feed and wash the dogs. We play with them, teach them to be social and love them. It's good for animals to see people who show them love and tenderness." But the down side, she says is, "I want to take them all home!" Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema is very impressed with these young ladies. He says, "I can give them a job to do and they can be left alone to do it. They don't need any supervision."

Jurrie also reports that there have been at least 18 adoptions since first of year, many of them adult dogs. We wondered why there had been so many adoptions after the first of the year. "Maybe they waited until the fireworks were over," Jurrie suggests. The two kittens from last week's column were also among the adoptees. Congratulations and best wishes to all the new owners and pets. May you have many happy years together!

A volunteer to do some gardening on the Shelter grounds would be very much appreciated right now. If you can spare some time, call the Shelter at 717-4989. You may choose your own hours. L.D.



The two Lisas

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 Zezicht. 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

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
Cactus Blue Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564	Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday	Trend setting décor and menu Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margarita's a specialty Owner-operated for top service
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

See advertisements in this issue



<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 Galleries 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>
--	--	---

Renata Domacassé

“My dad is a very active person and my mom is quiet; she loves to read. It was a very good combination because now I love both things. My father is Willy Domacassé from Bonaire. When he was young he left for Curaçao and stayed there. He met my mom, Marie Provence, who is from Curaçao, and I was born October 11th 1976, in Curaçao. I have an older and a younger brother. My father has his own business, a small construction company, and he also works for a trust company. My mom works there too, after she worked practically all her life for ALM.

I left for Holland when I was 18. My parents accompanied me for the first 10 days; after that I was on my own. The first thing I thought was, what am I doing here? But after awhile the feeling wore off because my old schoolmates and my family were within traveling distance and I tried to see them as much as possible. So I wasn't lonely. It was so different; for instance traveling by train was something I'd never done before! I lived in Amsterdam, a multi-cultural environment, so it wasn't so bad.

The first year I did my bachelor's at the Hogeschool of Amsterdam; after that I went to the University of Amsterdam to study education. I'd always wanted to work with children, but I wanted to do more than teach. It was just a great study, very broad, with a lot of sociology and psychology, really something for me. The first three years were theoretical; the last three years I interned for a year in Curaçao where I worked at a child therapist's private practice. Then I did research in Curaçao for my dissertation about how many children are suffering from ADHD. In 2003, I went back to Holland for three months and got my master's in educational science.

During my research period in Curaçao I worked with some psychologists who were planning to open a practice on Bonaire and they asked me to join them. The plan was they'd commute from Curaçao to Bonaire and I'd be here permanently. In the beginning of 2004 we started the office on Kaya Korona. We did well, but because SVB (workers' health insurance) didn't want to cover the expenses and BZV (government employees health insurance) was always behind with their payments it couldn't last. The psychologists returned to their practice in Curaçao and I'd fallen in love with Bonaire. For myself and my career I see many opportunities; there's a lot I can do here.”

Renata Domacasse, 29, is a well organized young woman, very much to the point and with a broad view and she's

also a nice and patient person. “I started working for FORMA on July 1. FORMA is an institution that provides education for adults from the of age 16 until any age after that, as long as someone wants to learn. I'm the project leader of *Sociale Vormingsplicht*, an educational project for young people between 16 and 24 who left the regular school system without a diploma. We're offering them a second chance in education so that they can either go back to the regular school system or find a steady job. This group is having trouble finding steady work that offers a future. In fact, since January 2006 a new law was introduced that obliges these young people to participate in this social education project. But it is mainly meant for those who are not doing anything at the moment, who don't have a diploma and who can't get a steady job.

“The beauty of my job is you can help someone reach for a better future, to make a difference in their life, and that's the greatest reward! It won't make you rich; it's because of the love you feel for another person. But for me that's what wealth is all about!”

We started this pilot project in April 2005 to see how things would go, we're seeing a positive effect. The course takes between nine and 24 months, depending on what the person chooses or what he or she needs. Most people in the group volunteered to participate in the course. We have about 50% women, 50% men. In most cases it wasn't that the person wasn't motivated, but because of circumstances like pregnancy they dropped out of school. Because they've discovered how hard it is to find a steady job without a diploma they're eager to start again.

We looked at the market to see what was needed on the island and we choose three different branches: handyman, hotel and restaurant assistant, and activity assistant. The handyman group learns the basics of how to become a painter, a carpenter, a plumber or a mechanic. In the hotel and restaurant assistant group they learn to wait tables, to cook, customer service, languages, arithmetic, bartending and housekeeping, again the basics. In

the activity assistant group we teach them the principles of education, how to deal with the elderly, child care, to create activities and work in after school programs. The course is from 8 to 5, five days a week. They'll also go further to complete the project.

At the moment we're still in the pilot project but preparing for the bigger one. In the meantime Holland has given its approval for the next five years. This project is

primarily financed by Holland, but also partly by the island of Bonaire and by the Netherlands Antilles, as the same project has been carried out on the other islands. My colleagues at FORMA have carried out several similar programs, so we do have the experience, but still there needs to be a lot of creativity, know-how and organizational talent.

I've worked with the students as well, especially in the beginning, and we still see each other frequently as it's a small place and they come to ask me questions. Sometimes the difference in our ages is only five years and that's fun! I really can understand the position they're in, but I also know how to help them to make the change. From their point of view I am one of them, but they approach me with a whole lot of respect.

At the moment I'm giving most of my time to FORMA, but in my spare time I test children and interview parents and give advice. I also give courses and workshops for parents and teachers and... within... let's say, five years, I'm planning to open my own private child therapy practice here on Bonaire.

The beauty of my job is you can help someone to reach for a better future, to make a difference in their life, and that's the greatest reward! It won't make you rich; it's because of the love you feel for another person. But for me that's what wealth is all about! I'm also working with JCI Bonaire (Junior Chamber International), an organization for people from 18 to 40, whose goal is to create future leaders by training them to carry out projects so they learn the skills they need in their jobs and daily life. We're aiming for four subjects: individual education, inter-



Renata Domacassé

national contacts, community, and business. During the years 2004-2005 I was the president. Now I'm the immediate past president; my job is to advise and guide the new president. JCI Bonaire had been inactive for a couple of years, but with the help of its members and members from JCI Caribbean we've put new life into the Bonaire section.

Well, apart from all that I like to go to the beach and to the happy hour at City Café.” *She laughs.* “I am well-known for that! I like to organize cozy get-togethers with friends; I do a lot on the Internet; and I love to play tennis - but that has been a while and I should do it more often. I also love to travel. I did it a lot with JCI, but also when I was young we traveled all over as my mom worked with ALM. I love to read and I love to dance and to be with my family and friends, even if it's only just to chat or watch TV together.

I have a job you can never really leave behind. You always take it with you. It's the same for my colleagues, but the most important things in my life are my family and friends. And if you look for things yourself and if you're not afraid to try new things Bonaire has enough to offer, and the way I see it now: my future is here on Bonaire.”

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



DIVING with DEE Perfectly Preoccupied Parrotfish

“Just the other day my cousin Richie and I were saying it’s kind of a shame that parrotfish are so common.” I greeted this remark, delivered oh-so-casually, with dead silence (except for the sound of my jaw hitting the ground). The speaker was Ben Kantor, a young man who had been introduced to the wonders of the sea during Family Weeks on Bonaire more than a decade ago. “How have we failed Ben?” I wondered, “What the heck is he thinking?”

Ben noticed the look on my face and explained: “Parrotfish are so beautiful, and people’s reaction is, ‘Oh, yeah, we saw a bunch of parrotfish.’ Richie and I thought people would appreciate parrotfish more if they didn’t see them all over the place all the time.” I started breathing again. *This* was the Ben we knew and loved!

It is easy to dismiss parrotfish; since they’re always around, we feel we know all about them. But also, precisely *because* they’re always around, we often filter them out of our minds and memories.

Parrotfish were named for their beaklike fused teeth which they use mainly to scrape algae off rocks. Sometimes the algae is from the gardens guarded by damselfish. The damsels nip busily at the much, much larger parrotfish, who depart meekly – after all, other algae awaits. Sometimes parrotfish join the mobs of surgeonfish. The more fish who mob the algae, the more targets there are for the damsel guards, and the less chance that any individual algae thief will be attacked.

With each bite of algae, parrotfish scrape off a bit of the coral rock. Also, they occasionally scrape living coral, presumably for the algae within the coral tissues, but occasionally to mark territory. In this way parrotfish are responsible for much of the sand on and around coral reefs.

In fact, parrotfish munching algae on the reefs is one of the first sights that divers and snorkelers are likely to see. And hear. Sometimes you don’t even have to slow your breathing; you can hear parrotfish *scrrrapes* and *munnches* despite the noise of your breathing. Yesterday, snorkeling, I was actually startled by a loud crunch that turned out to be a two-foot-long rainbow parrotfish who had found some especially succulent algae in water about three feet deep!

I wished I’d had my camera, then envisioned what would happen: the parrotfish would just keep on swimming. I thought about all my other interactions with parrotfish. Hmmm. There really weren’t any other interactions with parrotfish. Parrotfish don’t interact with divers, and they don’t interact with other marine creatures,



Princess parrotfish *An initial phase parrotfish, probably the princess parrotfish -- which is distinguished from an initial phase striped parrotfish by dark borders on the base of the tail.*



Stoplight Parrotfish *The initial phase of the stoplight parrotfish is a very common fish on Bonaire, especially around coral rubble.*

either – with a couple of exceptions.

If you see a parrotfish hovering near the bottom, in a vertical position, head up, look for cleaner shrimp or fish examining the parrotfish.

The other kinds of interactions parrotfish have are reproductive interactions. Especially late in the day, you might notice an especially active brightly-colored parrotfish (the male) swimming rapidly around the reef and checking out other parrotfish. The exuberant one may be farther off the bottom than usual. He’s paying no attention to algae at all, and the other parrotfish he’s checking out aren’t colored or patterned like he is. Eventually the exuberant one and a more dully-attired fish (the female) begin to circle each other. The circles increase in speed as the pair ascends, suddenly snapping away from each other and barreling downward, leaving their sperm and eggs to find each other in the water. The female resumes foraging; the bright one often stays in mid-water, seeking another dull-colored one.

Imagine what a surprise it must have been when the first fish-watchers realized that male parrotfish and female parrotfish and sometimes juveniles of the same species are usually different in size, coloration, and pattern! Okay, it’s not a challenge to

Help Save the Whale (Skeleton)

The spectacular whale skeleton at the entrance to the Washington-Slagbaai Park was put together by the teens of the Bonai group over a period of four months, having been “delivered” to Bonaire after being impaled on the bow of the cruise ship *Nieuw Amsterdam* in January, 2000. (See *Bonaire Reporter* June 10-17, 2005).

The incredible feat of erecting the skeleton was thanks to the Bonai Group and their leader, Dr. Jay Havis, Cargill salt company, the Bonaire Marine Park, the Rotary Club, the Prins Bernhard Culture Funds and AMFO. According to Washington Park Manager Fernando Simal, the skeleton is purposely being left uncovered for up to a year so that the sun can “cure” it. This was on the advice of experts in the field who also put together the flamingo and iguana skeletons in the Washington Park Museum. Even though the vast amount of rain hasn’t been that good for it, with the dry season coming up the “curing” should continue. There are only four whale skeletons in the Caribbean and this one is the largest.

But now the skeleton is in danger because it needs to have a roof over it to protect it from the elements it by November this year, according to Simal, but there are no funds to build it. **You can help to preserve this fantastic work of so many by donating to Washington Park** c/o MCB Bank, Stitching Stinapa Washington Park, Account #107-295-01, specifying “whale skeleton roof.” According to Park Manager Simal, your donations will go only towards constructing the protective roof. *L.D.*



Bonai students cleaned and prepared the whale bones for display

find parrotfish on a dive, but the lack is more than made up by the challenge of learning the multiple appearances of each type. (Paul Humann’s *Reef Fishes* shows 14 species of parrotfish in the Caribbean, but more than 30 identification photos!)

It’s easy to have a favorite fish, some of ‘em are just so cute – but not the parrotfish! And it’s fun to complete REEF fish surveys, looking into nooks and crannies to find species we hadn’t logged before – but they aren’t likely to include parrotfish. It’s great to have cleaner animals respond to us, but parrotfish don’t clean.

Ben’s right that parrotfish lull us into inattention by their very numbers. When I added to that the fact that they ignore us, I realized they’ve perfected the ability to stay out of our attention.

Don’t let them succeed! *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.





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Venus : February's 'Super Star' Planet Will Wow You!"

Get ready for a Venus super show in the Sky Park because this week and next Venus is absolutely spectacular and will be at its very best for the entire year of 2006. In fact the old *Farmer's Almanac* describes this February appearance as "a morning star of great splendor" and *Sky and Telescope* magazine describes Venus as "a veritable lantern" in the sky. The participants in this past week-end's Walk-a-Thon could read their watch by the light of Venus it was so bright.



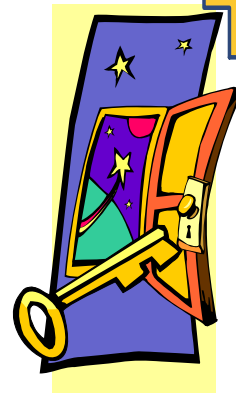
Surface map of Venus

During this week and next, about two hours before sunrise, face east-southeast where the absolute brightest thing you'll see in the sky will be our closest neighbor after the Moon, 8,000-mile-wide Venus. Often called the twin sister of our Earth because it is almost the same size, 8,000 miles wide, although because it is completely enshrouded in bright clouds it is much brighter as seen from space than our Earth because its cloud cover acts like a giant mirror and reflects much more sunlight than our planet.

You can see Venus all the way to and through sunrise. It's just that as we get closer and closer to sunrise that the sky gets brighter and brighter and thus makes Venus look less bright by contrast. But if you follow Venus very carefully this week and next you will actually be able to see Venus even after sunrise if you know exactly where to look. In fact Venus is the only planet which we can ever see in the daytime because it is so outrageously bright. This week, on the 17th, it reaches its greatest brilliance for 2006. And its official astronomical brightness is labeled 4.6 magnitude, which means that it is about 18 1/2 times brighter than the brightest star we can see in the sky, Sirius, which marks the eye of Orion's dog.

Now every time Venus makes a brilliant morning appearance like this and is rather low in the sky it frequently sparks reports of UFOs because it is so terrifically bright and is slowly but steadily moving higher as the sky slowly brightens. Often sailors at sea believe it to be another ship. It is said that a naval commander once ordered his ship to fire upon it and that a railroad engineer brought his train to a screeching halt because he thought he saw the headlight of an oncoming train heading for him. Now, although for hundreds of years Venus has been called the morning star, it has another name - the evening star. You may recall that only a few weeks ago Venus was the evening star, very bright but very close to the western horizon just after sunset. Then during the second week of January it disappeared from evening skies as it slipped between our Earth and the Sun and then reappeared very low in morning skies at the end of January.

Through a pair of binoculars or a small telescope Venus will look like a thin crescent, but as week after week goes by and it slowly moves farther away from Earth more of its surface will become illuminated and it will appear to grow in shape like a waxing crescent Moon. But because it is going away from us it will get steadily smaller from night to night. So if you got a small telescope for the holidays get it out now and do some Venus watching. Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: February 5 to 11, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can meet potential new mates if you socialize with friends. Focus on your domestic scene. Get together with friends or relatives. Secret affairs will only lead to deception. You will be able to close any deals successfully. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Opportunities to get involved in investment groups will pay off. Exercise your talents and present your ideas to groups you think you can contribute to. If they don't want to get involved, work by yourself. Don't bother getting even; they'll make themselves look bad. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) A new you could help your attitude. Lovers may prove unworthy of your affection. You'll regret every word for some time to come. Your mind may not be on the job. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your ability to ferret out secret information will lead you to an inside scoop on an amazing financial deal. You need to get down to basics with regard to yourself. Difficulties at an emotional level may be likely. You are likely to reveal information unintentionally. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress. Sign up for tours or courses that will enlighten you. Keep your eyes and ears alert for any evasive or deceptive statements. Partnerships will be favorable and contracts can be signed. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Educational pursuits can bring interesting, helpful people. You can meet new and exciting friends who will provide mental stimulation. Conflicts over joint finances are likely. Problems with in-laws may cause friction in your personal relationship. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Social functions will bring you in touch with new lovers. Attend seminars that will bring you in contact with the right people. Contracts will not be as lucrative as you think. This week will be rather hectic on the domestic scene. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Travel may be confusing. Don't overspend on luxury items. You may be looking through rose colored glasses. There could be disappointment regarding investments. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Join humanitarian groups and let your leadership ability take over. You can make or break your personal relationship this week. Things may not be as harmonious as you would like with colleagues or employers this week. It will be all around you. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Your involvement with children will be most rewarding. Problems on the home front might be a little disconcerting. Be careful not to come on too strongly. You will have to put those you live with in their place if they try to interfere with your work. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't let your partner put you down. Opportunities to get ahead are evident. You will have the ability to capture the interest of others. Your involvement with children will be most rewarding. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Be cautious when dealing with coworkers. This is a turning point. You'll find it easy to upgrade your environment by redecorating or changing your residence. Take some time out. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.