

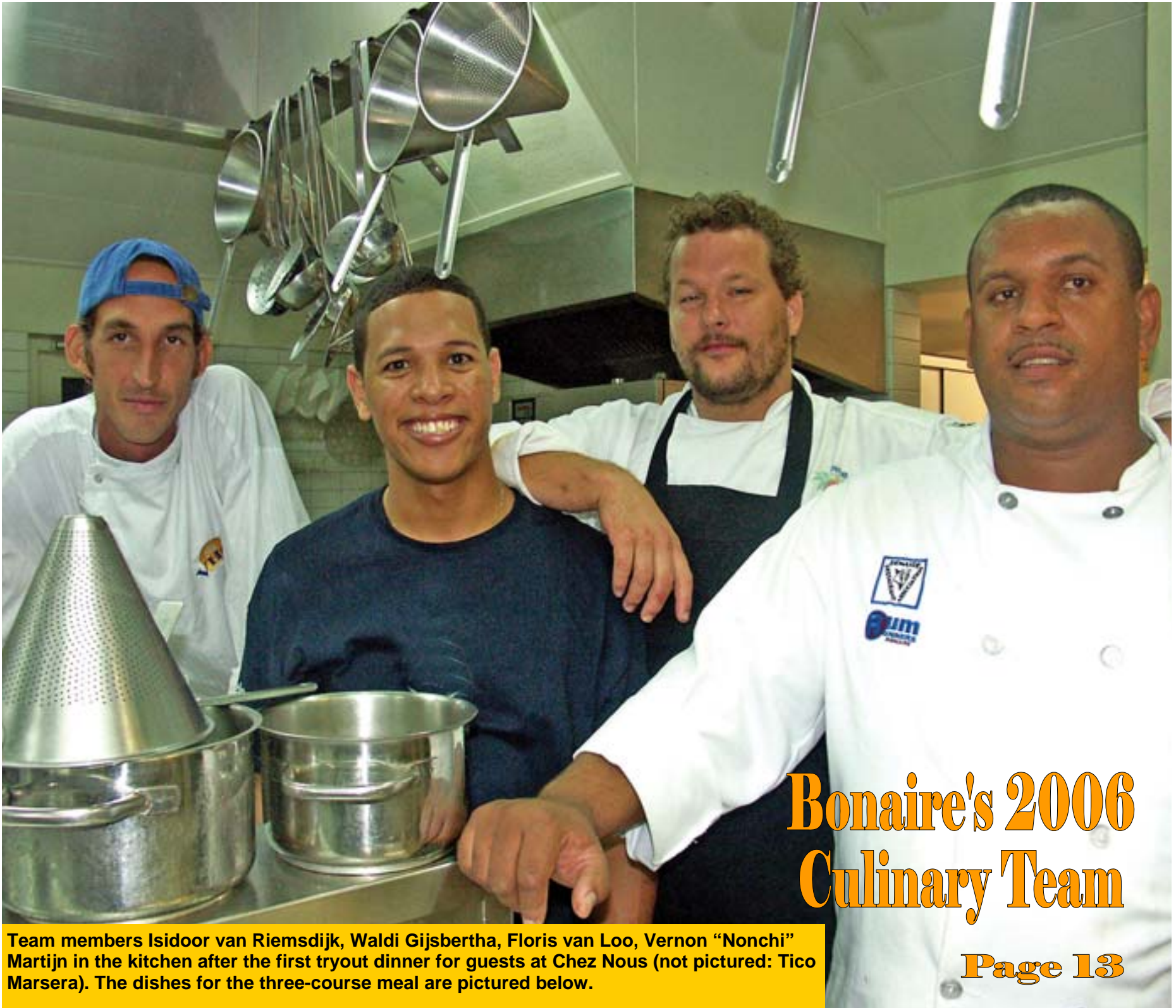
**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

April 21 to April 28, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 16

The REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: reporter@bonairenews.com • 717-8988 SINCE 1994



Bonaire's 2006 Culinary Team

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Team members Isidoor van Riemsdijk, Waldi Gijsbertha, Floris van Loo, Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn in the kitchen after the first tryout dinner for guests at Chez Nous (not pictured: Tico Marsera). The dishes for the three-course meal are pictured below.



Appetizer



Main Course



Dessert

Flotsam and Jetsam



Marian Walthie photo

In response to the soaring fuel prices, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines increased its fuel surcharge by 5 Euro to 57,00 Euro per stretch on long-haul flights. The increase, imposed on tickets issued as of April 15, will be withdrawn as soon as the barrel price drops below US\$65 for 30 consecutive days.

► Antillean Minister Plenipotentiary Paul Clemencia accused the Aruba police, the Aruba Public Prosecutor and the producers of the TV program "Opsporings Verzocht" (Dutch version of America's Most Wanted TV show) of **consciously twisting the facts by depicting the white Joran van der Sloot, the chief suspect in the Natalee**



Holloway case, as a brown Antillean.

According to Clemencia, Joran van der Sloot, a white Dutch boy, was unjustly presented as an Aruban person of color. In a press release response, the Aruba Prosecutor said that in the TV show reenactment of the supposed crime, the actor who depicted Joran has very light skin and is considered white in Aruba. Besides, skin color was not considered during the selection. "It is not important for the investigation team what the color of a person's skin is, or how dark the person is." Within 24 hours of the show being aired 60 tips were received. They are being followed up.

► **Last Saturday authorities made an arrest in the Natalie Holloway case.** Mariaine Croes, spokeswoman for the public prosecutor's office, said Aruban authorities were not prepared to disclose why the person was arrested. Croes also would not say how the arrest was linked to the disappearance of Natalee Holloway nearly a year



ago, on the final night of her high school graduation trip. Croes would only say that the person who was arrested is 19 and has the initials "G.V.C." In Aruba, as in Bonaire, when an arrest is announced, officials usually release only a suspect's initials, not a full name.

However, the news media soon reported that the suspect is named Godfried van Cromvourt. A former neighbor told *The Reporter* that Van Cromvourt lived in Bonaire up until a few years ago when his father left to take a Security job in Aruba He lived in the SABADECO neighborhood.

Holloway, an 18-year-old honors student from Mountain Brook, Alabama, was last seen on May 30, 2005, leaving an Aruba bar with Joran van der Sloot and Deepak and Satish Kalpoe. The young men were arrested in June but were released after a court ruled there was not enough evidence to hold them. Police would not say if this arrest was

based on a tip from the *Opsporings Verzocht* TV show.

► Crime among young Antilleans in Holland is a high profile problem with lack of jobs being one cause. According to a report in the Dutch Press, **a group of 50 youthful Antilleans will be given special training at Rotterdam Airport** this autumn. The Antilleans are selected by Rotterdam's police. Once the police have made a choice, the 'candidate' is given a psychological and intellectual test as well as showing the motivation to attend the classes. The initiative is a continuation of the extremely successful project, 'Marokkans,' that in 2004 trained 25 underprivileged Moroccans. Within a couple of weeks they'd been instructed to be 'all around' airport employees with a diploma, which also increased their chances in the labor market.

► **The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba recently joined the Oil Fund of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).**



The Oil Fund compensates the fishery, flora and fauna, and the tourist sectors for damages suffered due to incidents with oil tankers. Since she took office, the Dutch Minister of Transport and Communications, Karla Peijs, insisted that the Antilles should join the Oil Fund because in the Kingdom the Caribbean islands are most vulnerable to an oil spill due to the im-

(Continued on page 3)

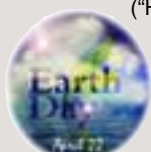
BOINAIRE The REPORTER

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)
 portance of tourism, the coral reefs, and the fisheries. There is a lot of tanker traffic in the region, and a lot of oil is being shipped in and out of refineries in Curaçao and Aruba and storage facilities in Bonaire and Statia.

► There has been **criticism of the Foundation Based Education (FBE) System** used in the Antilles for the past several years. In addition to the directive that the first years' classes be conducted in Papiamentu, which has resulted in waiting lists at private schools, there is concern that children are not competent to advance to higher levels. Education Minister Omayra Leeftang said after an FBE workshop in Curaçao last week that, "This is normal in any innovation process."

The Dutch Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations has ordered an evaluation of FBE and preparatory secondary vocational education in the Netherlands Antilles. Two Dutch consultants will be visiting all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles to meet with all relevant parties. They were in Curaçao last week to talk about developments in Curaçao and Bonaire. The results are expected to be in by next month.

► One of the investors of Curaçao's yet-to-fly Insel Air airline indicated that the **new company wants to start flying next month**. The small airplane for the inter-insular flights is ready. Then the company will join forces with Surinam Airways (SLM) for regional

flights. An SLM MD-82 airliner will be used for this.

► In a release to *Luchtvaartnieuws*, an Internet publication specializing in aviation items, Germaine Richie, one of the owners of **Divi Divi Air, announced her airline will begin flying to Aruba**.

Up until now Divi's largest plane was a 9-passenger Norman Islander, but they will put a 20-seat aircraft into service for the Aruba route. Divi says they expect to process the needed paperwork in May.

Divi Divi is appreciated by Bonaireans for the reliable service they already offer between Bonaire and Curaçao.

The new route will be from Curaçao to Aruba.

► **An Air War is developing over regional flights**. Dutch Antilles Express, born as Bonaire Express, is having its monopoly on the Aruba-Curaçao challenged by three carriers, Divi-Divi, Tiara Air (see last week's *Reporter*) and Insel Air, a Curaçao-based startup.

► Justice Minister David Dick is **working on a decree requiring a Dutch citizen to have a gross monthly income of NAf1.500 to bring his or her foreign spouse to live in the Netherlands Antilles. For non-Dutch citizens the amount is NAf3.000**. Dick said the decree wasn't complete. For example, in the future cohabitation contracts will only be accepted from countries where they are legally regulated by law. "Now we ac-




Bonaire Plans
 A **cleanup** is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, at **Lagun**, starting at 8:30 am and finishing around 11:30 am. SELIBON will have rough-cleaned the area with a front-in loader and volunteers will be collecting the excess. Bags and lots of cold water will be available.
 A group of Bonaire youngsters from the schools and Jong Bonaire will be **cleaning the Playa Chikitu** area. Sponsors are needed. If you cannot be there but would like to help, a donation would be appreciated. Donations will fund bumper stickers for vehicles showing the support for Earth Day on Bonaire. The cost should run around NAf4 for each bumper sticker. If you're interested but have no way to get to the cleanup, please call Linda Ridley 791-4262 or 786-2397 to arrange transportation.
 Also planned are **"What on Earth"** activities and a parade for children. Call 717-4593 for more information.

cept all cohabitation contracts," he said. Dick hopes the decree will be finished this week.

► Anthony Nicholaas, Bonaire's newest Member of Parliament, has

asked the Justice Minister **how to handle the question for Medical Insurance for foreigners when they reach 60 years old and cannot qualify for the government SVB Health Insur-**

(Continued on page 6)

WOWO DI BARIO SAYS THEY HAVE SOLVED LAPTOP CRIME

Dear Editor:

As long-time supporters of WOWO DI BARIO (security organization) we were dismayed and upset to learn of a crime associated with a new graduate of the WOWO DI BARIO training program. The media reported the official police statement which did not express the situation accurately. (See *The Bonaire Reporter* 4/7-14/2006; Flotsam and Jetsam) The police were apparently not aware of all the facts when they issued their report. We are hopeful that, with the facts of the situation now revealed, they will issue a corrected report.



Robert Statie

We contacted Robert Statie, the founder and director of the AVST foundation which runs WOWO DI BARIO. Robert told us that WOWO had actually solved the crime and reported it themselves to the police because they work closely together. At the time of the incident WOWO was contacted by the victim of the laptop theft, and WOWO began an investigation. WOWO discovered the location of the laptops and contacted the police. The police did not come and recover the laptops. WOWO recovered the laptops and brought them (along with one of the two individuals who were involved with the crime) to the police station to aid the police in carrying out their criminal investigation.

Naturally Robert is upset and concerned about the penetration of WOWO by a person of mal intent. Only one of the two individuals involved with the crime was a member of WOWO DI BARIO. Robert stated that all prospective WOWO candidates are first cleared by the police who issue a good conduct paper. This individual had been cleared before taking the WOWO training program. The man had just started patrol work with WOWO approximately three weeks before the incident. The second individual who was party to the crime had no connection with WOWO DI BARIO. The crime was not committed on work time and not in the neighborhood to which the man was assigned.

Robert Statie says, "We do our very best to prevent such things, but rotten apples can get into any organization. If, and when, such things occur in any organization they must be dealt with immediately. WOWO DI BARIO is a serious organization that has solved many crimes in the neighborhoods in cooperation with the police. While nothing is perfect, we do a very good job for Bonaire."

Other organizations and clients have expressed support and satisfaction with the WOWO DI BARIO services.

Laraine and Phil Katzev

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Dear Editor,

I have the good fortune to have a Bonaire Based Travel Business specializing in eco tours and windsurfing vacations. I thoroughly enjoy this labor of love bringing wonderful people to Bonaire.

As a seasoned travel professional with over 19 years experience in Caribbean Sales I am concerned about a few aspects of tourism in Bonaire. With the loss of 3 weekly flights on Air Jamaica I personally lost much business to clients who could not find air or could not afford the high fees, some upwards of 1000.00 USD pp. I communicated my concerns to Ernst Van Vliet, Ronella Croes and others on island so they were aware we are all losing clients who were going to nearby Aruba which has more airlift and much more affordable flights. Some weeks I lost 2-6 clients who chose to travel to Aruba. Another concern is the increased crime targeting tourists. I had 10 guests (3 parties) who were victims of robbery from Feb. 14- March 20. It included robbery at Washington Park as well as at three hotels. Lastly there is the new tax being imposed in June. My concern is that imposing such a tax on an already fragile tourism economy is poor timing. We need to rectify and resolve the crime problem. We need more airlift to the island. Many are working diligently to improve these two areas. Please, government officials, stabilize our tourism sector before imposing a fee that is going to send more people to other islands. The timing is NOT right for this drastic change and timing is everything. Ann Phelan

Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations; www.bonairecaribbean.com

Errata: In last week's Reporter Larry Thielgard provided the incorrect last name of one of his staff, Poppy Rodriguez (not Martinez). He offers his profuse apologies. (Ed)

MOORING FEE INJUSTICE

To the Editor:

This letter comes from a visitor to your island, on a second visit in the last 16 months and on our own boat tied to a mooring in Kralendijk. This is offered as constructive comments about the lovely island of Bonaire and after reading your excellent paper, *The Reporter*, which I have thoroughly enjoyed and has given me a pleasant insight into life on Bonaire along with our many visits ashore to your shops and restaurants etc.

My letter mainly involves the changes we have noted here on Bonaire in between our two visits here. 15 months ago we paid US\$5 to be on a mooring and today it is US

(Continued on page 5)

(Letters. Continued from page 4)

\$10. The difference in the service we receive is nil. I asked around to ascertain whether the cruise ships visiting Bonaire had a similar rise in charges, was told 'no' but do not have the evidence to support this. However, if 'no' is correct I am amazed.

As sailors visiting the island we spend money in the supermarkets, restaurants, hairdressers, diving, internet cafes; the list is endless. We all know passengers on cruise ships spend very little money ashore so my suggestion would be to raise the price to the cruise ship operators certainly in ratio to that of the sailors' charges. Many locals have told us that tourism is 'down' and that fewer sailing boats are coming here.

We visited Klein Bonaire for snorkeling and general enjoyment again after 15 months to be dismayed this time by litter in the form of, in one case, over 15 empty cans and bottles of Amstel beer, empty cartons of milk, general polythene etc. With your unique marine life situation one would think local youngsters or older would be employed to clear the litter.

On snorkeling in close proximity to my boat I had to leave the water for fear of my life as Jet Ski bikes were racing in the vicinity of the boats. On enquiry at the customs office I was told they are 'allowable' on the island. The Tourist Office put it slightly differently: 'that they were 'allowed' but we don't normally have a problem with them. They must be away from diving and snorkeling areas, and maybe they came from Curaçao'

In many places on the island you see 'expressions' of "protect our marine life" etc. One thing that will not protect marine life and therefore not promote tourism are Jet Skis, for obvious reasons of abhorrent noise, danger and nuisance.

I have asked myself many times whilst here 'does the Bonaire government really want tourists, does it want sailors visiting and injecting money into the economy?' I read in your newspaper that indeed Bonaire relies on tourism for its economic well-being..... sadly I fear many tourists will just not come. And now I have just read of the proposed 'departure tax' for visitors, so if we were to leave our boat in a marina in Bonaire to 'pop home' for a short while, we would be penalized there too.

In the interest of preserving your 'island bliss' I write this letter to you and hope it may help in some small way.

Patricia Chapman

DEFENDING BONAIRE AS A YACHTING DESTINATION

The following Letter to the Editor was written in response to a letter sent to the boating newspaper, Caribbean Compass, which was critical of Bonaire's treatment of visiting yachtsmen and women.

I think the overall picture of Bonaire that was presented (difficult immigration

rules, expense, attitude) may influence unknowing cruisers to conclude that they don't want to go to Bonaire. If that occurs, I believe it will be the cruisers, not Bonaire, who will lose the most. True, Bonaire will lose some income, but the cruisers will miss a lifetime cruising opportunity to visit a truly wonderful island – an island that my wife and I have loved the best in almost 10 years of cruising the US, the Bahamas and mostly this terrific Caribbean.

We have many cruising friends who feel the same way. Some of them are returning here in June by sailboat, some by air, for a bit of a reunion, celebrating our time together here as cruisers. We will be visiting cruisers' favorite places like Bobbejan's and Richard's restaurants plus diving, sailing, touring, drinking and partying. I'm sure there will be much laughter and tears as we remember and enjoy a place we all consider the closest to Paradise we have found.

In 2002 my wife and I left Bonaire "for good" to return to a stateside live aboard life, closer to family and old friends, better medical facilities for our ageing bodies, etc. After two discouraging years up and down the East Coast from South Florida to Washington DC, Annapolis, Maryland, and both sides of the Chesapeake Bay where most marinas don't want live aboards. Many cities don't have dinghy docks; anchorages are inconvenient or scarce; in general, we felt unwelcome and uncomfortable in our own country so we decided to head to the Bahamas for the winter. We anchored mostly in the south and out islands of the Bahamas, but it was cold, and we were forever dodging fronts with high clocking or reversing winds, and swimming without a wet suit was impossible. In the spring we decided that Bonaire was where we had been happiest, so we turned the bow south.

We had a crew for the passage from Provo, Caicos, to Bonaire – a family member and an English cruising couple we had met who had returned to England. They all jumped at the chance to make the trip. You see, they had all been to Bonaire and were eager to return. As we approached our mooring, stretched out on the dock behind was a large, wildly colorful banner which proclaimed, "Bonbini bek, Banjo," (Welcome back). Where else but Bonaire?

We've been back in Bonaire since June, aside from making a few trips to Venezuela for immigration purposes.

We've recently been granted residency status. We have American, Antillean, and Dutch friends on Bonaire who are a big part of our love of the island. We are proud and happy to be Bonairean and hope to make Bonaire our home base for a long, long time.

No, Bonaire isn't perfect. It has a few flaws, but when I look in the mirror, so do I!

Tom Davis, SV *Banjo*



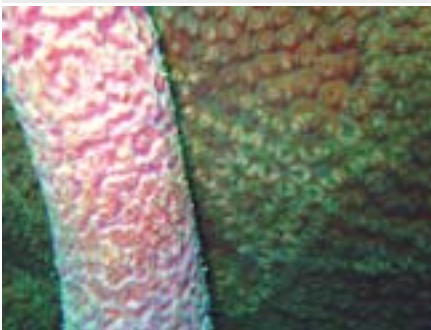
*Aubrey Seeley, Vicky Bissessar, Sidney Manuel and Adele Everts Winklaar
Chamber of Commerce photo*

► The Bonaire Chamber of Commerce and the Business Association (AKIB) is putting together a delegation to attend the Trinidad and Tobago Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) from May 17 to 21. The TIC is the Caribbean's largest business-to-business event for manufacturers, suppliers, exporters, buyers, distributors, service providers, financial institutions and investors. The Convention includes a trade show, a business education program and several networking events. The country of Trinidad and Tobago is one of the largest manufacturing islands in the Caribbean and specializes in petroleum-based products, natural gas and asphalt. Bonaire's coordinator for the event is Davika (Vicky) Bissessar. Others forming the delegation include Sidney Manuel, President of AKIB; Aubrey Sealy, President of the Chamber of Commerce; Anthony Linkers, Airline coordinator; and Adele Evertz Winklaar. Onnie Emerenciana, Commissioner of Economic Affairs, is in charge for the Government of Bonaire. For more info contact Mrs. Davika Bissessar Tel. 786-1592, Tel/ Fax 717-3348, email bismar@bonairelive.com or Ms. Adele Evertsz Winklaar Tel. 515-6379 or 513-6379. Visit the website www.tic-tt.com.

(Flotsam and Jetsam., Continued from page 3)
ance. Immigration law requires all foreigners to have medical coverage. Dutch citizens can qualify for PP medical coverage, but foreigners are not eligible.

coral glimpses

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



The tissue of every coral polyp in a coral head is connected to all the polyps around it. Thus, the entire surface of a coral head is covered with living coral tissue. text and photo by Dee Scarr

► Dr. Mark Vermeij from the Department of Botany at the University of Hawaii reports that plans are **currently underway to start a field station for marine biological research on Bonaire.** A location directly bordering the water has been acquired and designs for the station are currently being put together. The station will be built from scratch and is planned to be fully operational in two years. The station will be capable of housing up to 28 people, making it suitable for classes/courses as well and provide modern facilities for diving, lab work and experiments on the nearby (deep) reefs, mangrove systems and sea grass beds (or even land ecosystems and geological work). To strengthen the capability to obtain additional funding for this undertaking

and enhance local as well as international support for this facility, he is putting out a call to people who would be interested in using these facilities (how many people and for what period of time), what ideas exist regarding its desired inventory (e.g. lab- and dive-wise) and other suggestions. He expects construction to start sometime this year, so the time to make suggestions is close. Contact him at vermeij@hawaii.edu or (808) 250-4133.



A rock at Tolo (Ol' Blue dive site) deposited by an ancient tsunami

► **A seismic warning system will be centered in the Dutch Windward Islands** to closely monitor volcanic and seismic activity. Highly sensitive measuring equipment will be installed later this year to provide early warning for earthquakes and volcanic activity forming part of a tsunami warning system for the Caribbean. The coastal areas of Bonaire show evidence of large tsunamis several thousand years ago and smaller ones in historical times.

(Continued on page 7)

Liane Rojer Called to the Lord



In this photo of the 2005 Regatta opening ceremony, Liane Rojer and Roy Bottse, both instrumental in organizing the Regattas in the years 1985-1998, were honored by the Regatta organization. Extra photo

Liane Manon Rojer, the woman who automated the results for the Bonaire Regatta, passed away last week following an extended illness. Last year Regatta 38 was dedicated to her. Liane's Regatta involvement dates back to 1985, when Niki Tromp was in charge, and continued through 1998. Although ill, Liane maintained her fighting spirit and unwavering faith. She will be sorely missed by her husband, Roy, and child 'Maui' as well as all her family and friends, especially the sailors and Bonaire Sailing Foundation. Thanks to Byron Tromp of the Bonaire Sailing Federation for this information. G.D.



► Last week 33 people were naturalized as Dutch citizens in a ceremony led by Governor Herbert Domacassé and the head of the Register's Office (Bevolking), George Mensche. Congratulations! People who are legally living on Bonaire can apply for the Dutch citizenship after residing here for five years.

Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 6)

► One of Bonaire's most renowned artists, **Winfred Dania**, is having an **exhibition** of his artwork at the Kas di Arte, Kaya J.N.E. Craane 34 – the blue building on the waterfront. Acclaimed in Holland as a painter with "extraordinary dimension," gifted in "portraying the spiritual" with a "spontaneous, direct and narrative style," Winfred will be showing his work from April 24 until May 21, daily from 10 am to 5 pm. His opening will be on Sunday, April 23, from 5 to 7 pm. See the article about Winfred Dania on page 10.

L./G.D.



Winfred Dania with his longtime friend, Frans Booi, who's explaining one of Winfred's paintings. Frans Booi will assist with the exhibition.

Reading Contest



Reading contest commences

On Tuesday, April 4, a reading contest was held at Kolegio Papa Cornès. This contest was organized by three trainees from the Netherlands: Marloes Verbrugge, Bas de Smit and Sascha van Eldik.

The week before the Finale Grande (Grand Finale) the contests took place in the 3rd till 6th forms. The winner of each form went to the final contest on April 4th. There were nine winners who had to compete against each other. The Finals started at 10:30 am and went until 12:30 pm. All contestants had to read two pages from a book of their own choice. The jury, Marloes, Bas and Sascha, gave them scores for eight criteria. A few of them were: presentation and pronunciation. It goes without saying that all the other pupils were very eager to hear the results of the competition; they screamed a lot!

And then...The Winners Are...: Germaine Sijssling (3rd place), Giovanni Castro (2nd place) and Mary-Ann Dijkhoff (1st place).

The awards were a lot of books from the library of Bonaire. Two workers from the Bibliotheka Publika Boneiru had the honor of handing the prizes to the winners.

The principal, Mr. Kurban, was very enthusiastic. He said that from now on this contest will be held every year!! *Story & Photo by Sascha van Eldik*

Inter-island School Sports Games in Aruba - 2 Swimming Medals for Bonaire



Bonaire Swimmers

The top 15 swimmers from the 2006 Bonaire School Swimming Championship competed in the Inter-island School Sports Games held in Aruba on April 7 and 8. The swimmers, aged 9 to 14, competed against teams from Aruba and Curaçao in 50-meter backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle individual events and 200-meter freestyle mixed relays (teams of two boys and two girls). Although the School Games are an annual event, swimming has not been a featured sport until this year. The Aruba Olympic Pool at Saveneta was the venue for the swimming competition which took place on Saturday afternoon.

The Bonaire team, representing six different local schools, was accompanied by coaches Imre Esser and Valarie Stimpson and a delegation from INDEBON led by interim head Francis Wanga.

- Basisschool de Pelikaan:** Samson Evertsz, Vera Ghazzouli
- Kolegio Papa Cornes:** Asdrubal Marcano, Jemuel Richards, Daniela Simal, Florian Wegerer,
- Kristu Bon Wardador:** Arshemira Charles, Ryda-Luz Emer, Danique Oleana, Rooske Wagemakers
- Kolegio San Bernardus:** Sue-Ellen Richardson
- Scholengemeenschap Bonaire (SGB):** Giada Binelli, Churmer Bomba, Philip Winkel
- Unicollege:** Enrique Vasquez Meza

Vera Ghazzouli and Samson Evertsz both won bronze medals for backstroke in the 9 – 10 year age category. The most exciting race of the competition was the Boys 9 – 10 years 50-meter freestyle event in which only 0.69 seconds separated the first and fourth



Bonaire Swim and Soccer teams after the Opening Ceremony

place finishers. Samson Evertsz finished fourth in this event, being edged out of medal contention on the last stroke by a competitor from Aruba.

Eighty-seven percent of Bonaire swimmers improved their personal best times in at least one stroke and 80% of the swimmers improved their personal best times in all three strokes. The team was prepared for this competition by the volunteer coaching staff of the Bonaire Barracudas Swim Team and visiting coach, Mary Anne Coburn, a Masters swimmer from the US.

Soccer and dam (a board game) competitions were also held during this Inter-island School Sport weekend. After the opening ceremony on Friday night the swim team enjoyed watching two soccer matches including one played by Bonaire School Champions, Kolegio Papa Cornes. Saturday morning the team was treated to an island bus tour. Immediately after the swimming competition on Saturday all athletes attended the closing ceremony followed by dinner and a pool party.

The Bonaire School Team and their coaches would like to thank Mary Anne Coburn, Meralney Sports Resort, Sand Dollar Grocery, GAIA Productions, Chat'N'Browse, Cesmar and INDEBON for their contributions to our team.

Story by Valarie Stimpson; photos by Asdrubal Marcano & Valarie Stimpson

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
4-21	7:21	1.9FT.	15:53 0.8FT. 55
4-22	0:45	1.3FT.	8:15 1.8FT. 16:09 0.9FT. 22:35 1.3FT. 55
4-23	2:53	1.2FT.	9:18 1.7FT. 16:20 1.0FT. 22:20 1.4FT. 60
4-24	4:29	1.1FT.	10:13 1.5FT. 16:24 1.1FT. 22:34 1.5FT. 70
4-25	5:58	1.1FT.	11:22 1.4FT. 16:17 1.1FT. 23:02 1.7FT. 81
4-26	7:29	1.0FT.	12:32 1.3FT. 15:55 1.1FT. 23:42 1.8FT. 90
4-27	0:19	1.9FT.	8:55 0.9FT. 97
4-28	1:04	2.0FT.	10:18 0.8FT. 99

Bonaire Ambassadors

Rudy van Geldere, our recent ambassador, is a fanatic and experienced underwater photographer. Rudy has been taking underwater pictures for 31 years. On his fourth dive he already had his underwater camera with him. His advice though is to start with underwater photography after approximately 100 dives. Rudy visited the island 15 years ago upon an invitation from Pascal and Kali de Meyer, and since then he's been visiting two months every year.



Mr. and Mrs. van Geldere with TCB representative

Rudy says that Bonaire is a marvelous nature island, both on land and below the water. The underwater nature is one of the best and most beautiful in the Caribbean.

Rudy has produced two underwater photography books; his last one includes much of the underwater scenery of Bonaire. The book, titled *4000 Duiken in Beeld*, is for sale at different dive shops on island, among them Divi Dive shop. Rudy has won underwater photography competitions worldwide, his first one in 1988. He's an underwater photography instructor as well. Rudy wants to emphasize that the people of Bonaire are friendly with a good heart! Rudy's wife is also in love with Bonaire and they both share this passion.

Ronella Croes, Director of Tourism Corporation Bonaire said, "For Tourism Corporation Bonaire it is a great pleasure to have Rudy as a Bonaire Ambassador. We thank Mr. van Geldere and his wife for their numerous visits and are delighted with their decision to return year after year to our beautiful, tranquil and friendly island. We are confident that Rudy can find plenty of material in Bonaire for his passion which is underwater photography. Congratulations!" □TCB Press Release

Picture Yourself In The Reporter

York Beach, Maine, USA

Cecil and Sue Berry from Raymond, New Hampshire, write, "Our tans from Bonaire may be fading but not our memories. This picture was taken at the Cape Neddick Lighthouse (the Nubble) in York Beach, Maine.

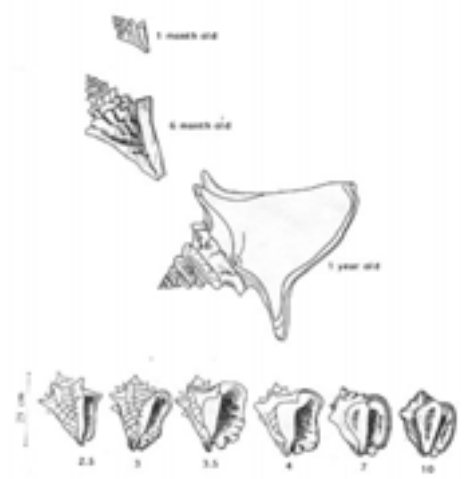


WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN PRIZES.** Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2006 photos are eligible.)

Park Staff Confounds Conch Culprit



Discarded immature conches



The growth stages of a conch
Cindy Lott diagram

Recently the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) received an anonymous phone call informing them about possible conch poaching in Sorobon. According to the Marine Environment Ordinance A.B. 2001, no. 13, art. 16.1, it is forbidden to collect conch in the Marine Park without a permit. When the staff arrived at the location, the reality appeared to be even worse than what they could have imagined. Forty-six juvenile conch were found, already taken out of their shells. They were all dead.

The poacher had deserted his catch as soon as he realized Marine Park rangers were on the scene. This poacher might think that he outsmarted everyone. But in reality it's completely the contrary. The poacher is taking away the future of his own people and the fishermen of Bonaire.

The fact is that the Marine Park is working closely with fishermen in order to give the conch population a chance to replenish themselves and make it possible to eventually start harvesting conch the way it was done in the old days. This goal can only be achieved by creating a healthy and sustainable conch population and NOT by killing 46 juvenile conchs.

STINAPA and the Bonaire National Marine Park staff in particular would like to thank the anonymous caller. Without his help, they would not have been able to stop this illegal activity. Masha danki.

To the poachers they have a message; "Be patient, let the conch grow and give all of us a chance to eat conch in the future. You will benefit too."

If you notice any illegal activities in the Bonaire National Marine Park, STINAPA would appreciate your cooperation. You may call them anonymously; no need to give your name, at 717-8444 or 786-9603. Karen van Dijk, STINAPA Information Officer

Dania-Soul of an Artist

Winfred Dania, well known local Bonairean artist, is opening his Artwork Exhibition at **Kas di Arte** this Sunday April 23. His many new paintings reflect the ever changing, intriguing, provocative and mystical dimensions of his art. "I want to be painting something deep from within myself, but I will remain painting mythology as part of what I create."

Winfred's paintings have become more vibrant, more alive these past few years. In his beginning years he painted at Frans Booi's "Moon Era Workshop" and feels that it was there that he painted his best. Then in the following years he began to paint at home. His wife, a deeply religious woman, was afraid of the mythology he painted. She asked him to tone down what he did and he feels that he went into a less inspired though still interesting period in his painting life. Now he is working in a small workshop by himself and feels his new freedom coming out in his paintings.

Winfred feels that some people misunderstand the Boynay mythology of Bonaire. He wants them to understand and enjoy the mythology and not be afraid of it. It is not black magic, not voodoo. It is the stories of Boynay, the first mythological Bonairean, and the stories of Uncle Louis that are most prominent in his mythology paintings.

"I have no goal when I start a painting. I just take the colors and play with them on canvas. Then I look a long time at what I did and discover new forms and new color combinations; then I follow my feelings." This is all normal, spontaneous and simple. Not having to be afraid of the forms – just free giving of the forms.

The painting for the exhibition poster is called "Baptized in Fire and Water." As a Catholic, a baby is baptized with water, and candles are lit all around – fire. Winfred sees the baby in the wild as an ancestral Indian. The baby is cleaned with water, and the people are joyful. Fire dries the baby; his family cooks on the fire and dances around it. The animal soul is represented in the deer that looks at you. The dove is the symbolism of rain. There are many deep spiritual dimensions to this painting.

Winfred has started to paint a series of birthday paintings. "On my 53rd birthday

I received a letter from my good friend Frans Booi who lived in the Netherlands. He wrote that there were 52 weeks in the year and then the one day the year all comes together was my 53rd birthday. He told me about birthday cakes with candles all around and the last one in the middle to symbolize that I am the center of the world that one day." So Winfred started to paint his birthdays. His first one was a tree-like cake with 52 candles around the center one and fire all around. Every year his birthday paintings become more exotic, exuding deep emotional feelings and freedom.

The themes of his paintings in this exhibit are: Mythology, Birthdays and Mystical Numbers, Sun and Rain, Doves, Self-Portraits, Old Bonairean Indian Art – which has cave drawings and replicas of beautiful old Bonairean pottery - and Don Booi Elements. His latest painting is a three dimensional piece.

Winfred was born deaf in Aruba. His father was a Bonairean customs worker and his mother was from Aruba. At the age of 4 he went to St Michael's School for the Deaf in The Netherlands. At St Michael's there was an enormous gold angel on top of the tower, and two large, powerful, gold lions on balls flanked the gate. He watched that angel every day and understood her mystical power. He grew up as a humble Bonairean with the richness of Europe all around him. He was a great actor and sportsman. There he learned to read, write, and lip-read. He began the laborious task of learning to speak – which he mastered after years of study.

Winfred studied to become a graphic designer. His first job was the solitary work of a typesetter for a local newspaper. The work was too lonely so he next tried working for a zoo, taking care of feeding the animals.

At 17 Winfred came back to Bonaire after a short stay in Aruba. He took over his father's old family home in Antriol and went to work for Capt. Don's Habitat where he learned to love gardening. He still has a "green thumb."

In the mid 80s he met Frans Booi. Winfred had been doing some painting on paper with pastels, and Frans helped him to make the transition from pastels



Winfred Dania with painting, "Baptized in Fire and Water"

to vibrant oil on canvas. He taught him how to do his own framing, and he put him to work. Winfred moved into Frans' Moon Era Workshop and started to paint seriously. He became immersed in the magical tales of Uncle Louis and Boynay from the mythology of Bonaire that Frans would tell to people who came to the shop, and he put onto canvas the visual image of Frans' tales. Winfred became enormously productive and eventually helped Frans to set up the Bonairean Museum where he continues to work to this day.

Winfred Dania's paintings hang in museums in the Antilles and in The Netherlands. His artwork is owned by collectors throughout the world, and many Bonaireans proudly display their own "Dania's" in their homes.

The Winfred Dania Exhibit runs from April 23 until May 21 at Kas di Arté. Hours are from 10 am to 5 pm daily. Story and photo by Maggie Booi

WINFRED DANIA ARTWORK EXHIBITION



**Opens: Sunday April 23, 2006
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**kas di
arte**

Kaya J.N.E Craane 34

Daily - 10:00 to 5:00 thru May 21

Bonaire Reporter - April 21 to April 28, 2006

JAN ART Anniversary Open House



Trophy Fish

This Friday, April 21, Janice Huckaby of JanArt will celebrate her Ninth Anniversary with an **Open House** from 5 to 7 pm. Two special exhibits have been organized for this opening. The first is a new series of oil paintings titled "Rincon Ladies." These were created from photographic images acquired during Rincon festivals and Rincon Marshé days.



Mermaid

The second organized exhibit is a new collection titled, "Trophy Fish." These pieces are made from Bonaire's driftwood. As Jan says, "As I was putting these fish together, I recalled my younger days in Texas when the fishermen would catch big bass and mount them on wooden plaques for displays around the fireplace. Making my 'Trophy Fish' from driftwood and various pieces of beach trash provided me with a humorous frame of mind with contrast and comparison."

Traditionally, Ms. Huckaby paints in all mediums, but this year has been a "clay discovery" year. Be sure to look for and enjoy her new series of clay sculptures. These include reef scenes, mermaids, turtles and a very special octopus!

The JanArt Gallery is located at Kaya Gloria 7. Turn right off Kaya Korona onto Lagoen Road, then right on Kaya Gloria.

The exhibit will continue after the open house on Friday during regular open hours.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 1 to 7pm. Phone 717-5246, email info@janartbonaire.com. Story & photos by Janice Huckaby



Janice Huckaby

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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.

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Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/

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For Sale

For Sale: 1995 Mitsubishi 4-door pickup truck, diesel, 4-wheel drive, asking NAf 6.000. e-mail... ellen@flamingotv.net or call 717-5567 late evenings.

For sale: Sky kennel for large dog, KLM-approved, size F, NAf 300, tel. 786-5582.

Refills! Do you have an empty 1.25 oz container of SeaGold, SeaDrops or a 2-oz. container of PSI 500 defog? Bring it in and the Carib Inn will fill for half the price of a new bottle!! You must have an original bottle though.

For Sale Daewoo Matiz 2002 +/- 30.000 km Airco, Radio, very good condition. First Owner, Call 717-5632

LADA NIVA (jeep) for sale 1991-4X4 drive 1.6 lt.; 95.000km NAf2.400 717-2844 or 786-2844

Boats for Sale



Hartley Rorc 39 Sailing Yacht for sale. Ferro-cement ocean cruiser in good shape with lots of equipment; new sails-2005, GPS, solar panel etc. Presently cruising the Netherlands Antilles. Asking price: \$35,000 US.

Please email : Hilde for more info e-mail: hmkvalhe@yahoo.com

Why expensively 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.

Wanted

Help Wanted

Last Bite Bakery looking for **kitchen help, part time**, 4 days a week, some English preferred. Call for details 717-3293.

The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a Partner or Managing Editor



Join us to "Publish in Paradise." **Working Partner or Managing Editor** 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

Wanted to buy: 4x4 vehicle in good condition. Jeep, SUV or pickup. Call *The Reporter* at 717-8988.

POPO (ALFONSO) MORALES RETURNS



Høfi Ambiental Tour with Popo Morales

The Høfi Ambiental (Nature's Garden) is a combination eco-plantation and restaurant at Kaya Mexico 110. It was closed for three years while its founder, Popo Morales, was in Holland studying horticulture. He apprenticed at several nurseries around The Hague. Who else but Popo would do that at age 50?

Now his Høfi is open once again.

Recently back on Bonaire he started up his plantation again, cleaning, planting and harvesting, and will make it an economically viable endeavor with a combination of home grown, eco wise products and a restaurant.

The first group of 27 people, all living on Lagoen Hill, visited the Høfi and had an overwhelming evening starting with a tour of the plantation (planned by Popo for 15 minutes, but lasting instead for one and a half hours), followed by a welcome drink of home-made tamarind juice, a three-course dinner prepared by Ingrid and her daughters (iguana soup was on the menu) and a great after-dinner evening.

From now on he is open for groups (even small ones) by appointment for tours, dinners or the complete evening. Telephone 786-0651.

He even has had requests from people who have been there in the past to serve a dinner on, for instance, April 24, with certain vegetables which he is now growing to be ready for that day. He showed us several of these letters. We now can understand why since he is always very enthusiastic, explaining all that is possible and showing amazing results.

Popo has proved that it's possible to do everything to make nursery economically valuable. He trained himself and has a good plan and the guts to work hard. We all believe he is going to make it and wish him all the success. *Story & Photo by Rob Taal*

LAST BITE BAKERY OPENS IN PLAYA

Since Last Bite Bakery started serving up savory delights and fantastic bakery items five years ago it's continued to gather many, many loyal fans – private persons as well as restaurants. "My first restaurant client was Richard of Richard's Restaurant," Annette says, "He said, 'You bake 'em; I'll sell 'em.'"

Until last week owner Annette Roswell operated out of her home, but her business got booming and nearly took over her whole house, so she had to find a bigger spot. That's good for all of us because now all those goodies are easily accessible in a conveniently located shop in Playa on Kaya Gob. De-brot (next to Xerox and across from BonFysio), chimney red on the outside, and a relaxing pale blue with white clouds on the inside. And of course in the "showcase" are all those tantalizingly delicious items she's so famous for – fresh baked breakfast items like cinnamon rolls, muffins, ham and cheese rolls as well as carrot cake, key lime pie, coconut pie with



Last Bite owner Annette Roswell shows a tempting delight to fitness girls: Rosita of Fit 4 Life and Bon Fysio's Aleta, Anja and Albertina



Baileys and butter cream for example! Annette also makes event cakes (birthdays, anniversaries, etc), quiches and a multitude of appetizers by order. And she'll continue to do take-away.

The first two days of the shop's opening everything was sold out...so don't tarry. Get down there early and make your selection. Last Bite opens early, at 7:30 am, Tuesday through Friday, so you can stop by before work or going to the gym. And have a coffee or tea too. They're open until 6 pm. On Saturdays Last Bite is open 9 am to 4 pm. Telephone is 717-3293. Don't miss it! (Please note: this is the correct telephone number. The number was incorrect in Flotsam in last week's Reporter.) L.D.



CULINARY TEAM CHOSEN

Bonaire has a new team to send to the "Taste of the Caribbean," a culinary Olympics held every year, this year in Miami in June, when star chef and bartender teams from the islands all over the Caribbean compete. Last year our team got a bronze (the bartender got a silver), but this lesser-than-gold award has galvanized the team to pull out all the stops, work hard, get super creative and go for the gold this year. They're practicing already and had their first demonstration meal for some of their supporters last Saturday night at the SGB restaurant, Chez Nous.

The Bonaire Team 2006 consists of Captain Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn (SGB Hotel School); Floris van Loo (Rum Runners at Capt. Don's Habitat); Isidoor van Riemsdijk (Rum Runners); Vladimir "Waldi" Gijsbertha (City Café); and Tico Marsera (Den Laman Restaurant). The bartender member of the team will be determined after the April 29 Balashi Bartender competition in Rincon. BONA-purveyors, have offered their support for that has helped to elevate the quality of the team and have a top-of-the-line wine for \$25, every Sunday, starting 30), at 7 pm at Chez Nous. Make reservations with Sara at 786-9299, Floris at 786-1508 or Laura at 786-6518.



Team Captain Nonchi Martijn explains the courses to an appreciative audience of diners

Pet of the Week

Our pet this week is “Debbie,” a very petite and dainty one-year old who already has been a mother to four kittens. Although she was forced to live on the street she was being fed by tourists, so she and her kittens were in pretty good shape considering they were a homeless family. However, the kind tourists realized that they had to leave and so Debbie and her little family were bought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter to be taken care of and put up for adoption. Debbie was tested for the deadly feline leukemia and she passed with flying colors, and her kittens are free from the disease as well. She’s had her shots and now that her kittens have been weaned she will be sterilized so she can live a full and happy life, knowing she will no longer be susceptible to an unwanted pregnancy. She’s so sweet and demure and her coat is soft and lovely – perfect for petting and loving. And who can resist those huge, expressive eyes? She’d make a great addition to an appreciative family.



“Debbie”

You may see her and her kittens at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

If you find an unwanted dog or puppies or a cat or kittens don’t ever hesitate to bring them into the Shelter. It’s the kindest thing you can do for them. At first they’ll be put into a quarantine cage until they can be seen by the vet who will examine them. If they’re healthy and “social” they’ll be given their shots, wormed, sterilized (if they are male; females when they are adopted) and put into an appropriate cage with the other cats or dogs. They will be cared for and have the opportunity for inter-action between others of their kind and loving humans. That’s why you can’t go wrong when you choose a pet from the Shelter: they’re healthy, well cared for and relate to humans. Stop by the Shelter to see for yourself. *L.D.*

Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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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 Menu Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas 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 David 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 - Now in Playa—next to Xerox 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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ART

Richter Art— By Jake and Linda: Digital paintings, Giclees on canvas, limited edition and open prints.

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.

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

DIVING

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

Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine) -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.

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

FITNESS

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

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

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

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

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

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

HOTELS

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

METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

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

Nature Exploration

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

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. **Full digital services.**

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.

Re/Max Paradise Homes: Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them for sale.

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

REPAIRS

Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345

RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.**

SILKSCREEN, EMBROIDERY

CesMar—Local company offers top quality, fast service for monogramming, silk screening, embroidery.

SUPERMARKETS

Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

WINDSURFING

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

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

YOGA

Yoga For You. Join certified instructors Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

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

On the Island Since...

1951

Jhr. Frederik William "Henk" Gevers

"I'd lost all contact with my oldest sister Thelma when I was 17. In the years after my retirement my wife and I traveled extensively and we decided to try to find my sister. We knew she was living in Brazil where she had emigrated to after World War II. Via Holland, where we went to visit my mother, we flew to Brazil and went to the Dutch consulate. Miraculously the woman who was working there knew my sister personally and she took us to her house. We knocked on the door and told my sister we'd come to bring a message from her mother. Thelma let us in and we were chatting for two hours and she never recognized me! Her husband came home and she told him: 'We have visitors who came to bring news from my mother.' My brother-in-law had been an old school friend of mine from elementary school. Another hour passed by and then, suddenly, my brother-in-law looked at me, hit his fist on the table and said: 'Damn it! He's your brother!' And we laughed and cried and hugged - what a thing! Why did I keep it up for so long? Life is very boring without a thrill!

I was born December 18th 1923, in Surabaya, Indonesia. In 1941 I was called up by the land forces because Japan had invaded Indonesia. One of my first assignments was to clean up the remains of dozens of school children who had been on a train that was bombed by the Japanese. I was just 18. In 1942 I was transferred to the marines in Surabaya and after that to the south coast because we had to evacuate to Australia. Before I left, my dad and I said goodbye at the train station. It was the last time I saw him; he died in a concentration camp.

I left for Melbourne and then to Sydney where I boarded the *Queen Elizabeth*, destination South Africa. In Cape Town the ship was loaded with German and Italian POWs from North Africa and we sailed to the US. At the end of 1946 I resigned from the marines and started working for Shell on the lake tankers, sailing back and forth between Curaçao and Maracaibo, Venezuela. I was adventurous and I'd always wanted to become an engineer on a ship, but I had one tremendous handicap: I was always seasick. It probably had something to do with my inner ear balance.

But I stayed for a year on the lake tankers, then I started working for OGEM Curaçao (Overseas Gas and Electricity Company) as an engineer in the engine room of the plant - heavy work, hot too. Three years later I was transferred to Aruba. I was a bachelor, 27 years old. One day, walking the

street, I saw an open door and a girl sitting behind a desk. She was a beauty! I didn't know what to do and I had never fished in my life, but the one thing that entered my mind was to ask her where I could buy some fish hooks. It was her I wanted to hook! Her name was Yvonne Hartogh. She was 17, born in Paramaribo, Surinam."

"I had so many boyfriends - I was so popular," *his wife smiles*, "but I thought he could be something for my sister, so I took him home. I am one of 10 children; we're Jews. I was six when I came to Aruba. My mother had died and my eldest sister had promised her on her deathbed to take care of all of us. She and her husband had a small house in Aruba, and one by one, they had us come over to live with them. Both of them were darlings."

"Just before I was transferred to Bonaire in 1951 Yvonne and I got engaged. On Bonaire OGEM had taken over L. D. Gerharts' electricity company and we needed to build a whole new plant. In 1952 Yvonne and I got married on Aruba and she came with me to Bonaire."

"Another hour passed by and then, suddenly, my brother-in-law looked at me, hit his fist on the table and said: 'Damn it! He's your brother!'"

"When I think about it, I don't know how we did it!" *Yvonne says*. "Three hours of electricity per day, no refrigerator, no plumbing! You had to save rain water in a cistern, and in those days it hardly ever rained! We could get sweet water in oil drums sent by OGEM, but the taste was awful! Every night Henk had to go to Rincon where they had a small generator, to shut the thing off. In Playa the building where Exito Bakery and Movieland are was the plant and office."

Henk continues, "A 30-year-old Deutz engine was sent to Bonaire from Surinam. The flywheel alone weighed five tons! The transport from what was the pier to the plant took place by rolling the engine over pipes through the streets; there was no heavy equipment to lift anything whatsoever. When the engine was finally installed Kralendijk had round-the-clock electricity; not Nikiboko or Nort di Salina - just Playa! Years later we expanded the capacity with a Stork and a Brons' engine, and

the old equipment from Playa went to Rincon.

As the manager I was responsible for everything. I had to keep it going. We couldn't afford any major problems because there was no money, and with a population of 5,000 people there was never any

return. For the company Bonaire was a loss. When there was a power failure the Governor would come, even in the middle of the night, knocking at my door, and I had to fix it immediately! Life on Bonaire was good though and we had wonderful friends like Anton Heitkonig, L.D. Gerharts and Leo and Suzy Mayer."

Mr. 'Henk' Gevers is a gentle man blessed with a very nice and subtle sense of humor, and both he and his wife are very hospitable people. "In 1954 our daughter Diana was born and two years later our son Arthur, both in the hospital here on Bonaire. In 1965 we were transferred to St. Martin where I installed the first power plant. I did the same in Saba and Statia. It took a lot of improvisation; the islands were primitive at the time. The children went to schools where the instruction language switched between Dutch and English.

We survived several hurricanes and one day, while we were on vacation in Holland, I was called, not to go back to St. Martin but to Peru! OGEM had taken over a plant there and the whole structure had to be rebuilt. Yvonne and the children couldn't come with me. Chimbote, the city in Peru I was transferred to, was in a desert and had 34 fish-flour factories. The smell was beyond description..."

"I went to my sister's in Surinam," *Yvonne says*. "I got Henk's salary and he got pocket money. We took taxis everywhere and my sister bought four airco's for the house! The children went to school; Surinam has excellent schools. It was a great year; we had such fun, I was only 27. After a year the children and I went to Peru to join Henk. It was beautiful, gorgeous. The people were so sweet. What poverty! What wealth! And so many earthquakes! But I had the best time of my life. Once a year the fishing was



Jhr. Frederik William "Henk" Gevers and Yvonne

stopped to protect the species and the factories closed. So one day you'd wake up and realize that something was missing, something was wrong. The smell had gone! Funny thing is, you get used to it. The children went to school half days, the other half day they did IVIO School, a correspondence course from Holland."

"In 1974 we were transferred again, to Curaçao this time," *Henk says*. "And in 1976 we came back to Bonaire and I retired two years later. We're lucky to have our daughter Diana living here too. She works at SGB as a computer and mathematics teacher and she spends a lot of time with us. Our son Arthur studied at the Massachusetts' Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston. He got a master's degree in oceanography and is now working for PDVSA in Curaçao. We have three grandchildren."

For me the years I spent in St. Martin and Peru were the best years of my life because of the people, but also it was interesting to build a whole plant from scratch. After my retirement we bought this oceanfront property and built our house here. I was thinking, 'Where should I go?' I love peace and tranquility and I got used to these islands. It has been the right choice. Everything has its pros and cons, but when you get older it's easier to live in a small place where everything is at hand. I never regretted my decision to stay here. I don't feel Dutch, Indonesian, or Antillean. I don't think about those things, but I do feel that this is the most beautiful place to spend my days, especially when you're getting old like me." *Story and photo by Greta Kooistra*



DIVING with DEE Are You A Marine Animal, Or An Underwater Tourist?

I'm delighted to announce that my status as a marine *Homo sapiens* (*Homo sapiens bonaireanus*?) was reconfirmed this week. Twice. (I define a person as a marine *Homo sapiens* if they're accepted as a marine animal by a marine animal.) The first time was with a banded coral shrimp (*Stenopidus hispidus*, "narrow-footed," "bristly"). Banded coral shrimp are reputed to be cleaners. I've seen photos of them cleaning - it seems that everyone in the world has seen them cleaning - but until recently I'd never seen them clean. Not only that, but even though I'd offered my hand as a client to numerous banded coral shrimp - in the daytime and also at night - I was always spurned.

Then, in February I saw a banded coral shrimp cleaning a graysby in mid-morning but deep under a ledge.

Then, last month, I saw a banded coral shrimp cleaning a scorpionfish who was resting on the sand in about 15 feet of water. Then, last week, I saw a pair of banded coral shrimp on a vertical rock. The place was an easy one for me to reach so just for the heck of it I offered my hand to the shrimp. AND GOT CLEANED! By a banded coral shrimp!

So, the next question is: why? Why *this* time and not all those other times? Maybe because banded coral shrimp are suddenly becoming much more eager to clean? Nah, not likely. This is the first time I've been able to offer my hand from the side rather than from above. But, I've offered my hand in front of banded shrimp several times, unsuccessfully.

From the photos you can tell that the individual to whom I presented my fingers was the male of the pair since his mate shows the turquoise tummy of the female with eggs. Maybe the male is less picky about who he cleans?

I was able to hold my hand very steady and that helped, too. And, finally, maybe this shrimp's willingness to clean was related to the fact that it was BIG. Other



The banded coral shrimp cleans my finger; the shrimp in the lower right is his mate.



The banded coral shrimp cleans my finger with his smaller claws, keeping the big ones ready to defend us if necessary. His mate is to the right; the turquoise color on her underside is eggs.

creatures become more confident as they reach full size; maybe banded coral shrimp are the same way. Whatever the reason, I'll always feel closer to them because one individual (so far) was willing to accept me as a client.

The second instance in which I was treated like a marine *Homo sapiens* wasn't

quite so warm and fuzzy, and this wasn't the first time it's happened. The first time was more than 25 years ago in the Florida Keys with visibility of 30 feet or less. I turned my head, sunlight reflected off my large-paned mask, and something flashed right in



This barracuda has been hooked; the line broke, leaving the hook in his jaw, but it will rot out or fall out in a few weeks.

front of me: a barracuda who was 3 feet long, or longer. (At the time it seemed to be at least eight or 10 feet long ...) The barracuda's mouth was open; it was wriggling its lower jaw; and its teeth were even more apparent than usual. I believe the open mouth was a deliberate display of weaponry, a sort of "Okay, the situation wasn't what I expected. But don't forget that I can handle anything!"

Once I was able to think again, I remembered that barracuda will instinctively investigate flashes of light or even extra-pale things. When I was diving in the Bahamas a snorkeler dropped a dive knife from the surface in about 30 feet of water. The knife twisted and flashed its way to the sand bottom - and attracted an audience of several barracudas. The water was clear, they could see it wasn't a struggling fish, but they watched it closely until it stopped moving. Barracudas would be attracted in the same way by a diver waving a white towel. Or by a diver simply waving, displaying the pale inside of his or her hands. Or, in this most recent instance, the 'cuda was attracted by the pale soles of my feet. Sure, I know that something as large as I am would be too big for just about any barracuda to seek as prey. And I know that my feet *would* be around the right size for prey for a 3 foot 'cuda, but I also know that the visibility is too good for the 'cuda to miss the fact that my feet are attached to the rest of me. I *know* all this, but turning my back on a 3 foot barracuda in order to flutter the soles of my food-sized feet in its face is just, well, impossible. I tried swimming backwards, facing the 'cuda but discovered that (1) I still had to flutter my feet in its face, and (2) its response to this was to watch me and ease closer. Not the response I'd hoped for.

Maybe acting like prey wasn't the best idea. I turned around and swam directly toward the barracuda who finned backwards gently. After catching my breath, I swam directly at the 'cuda again. This time it swam back to the formation it'd been near when we first saw each other - with its mouth open, its lower jaw wriggling, and its teeth prominently displayed. Suddenly I realized *This barracuda is treating me as a creature which defended itself better than expected - in fact, it's treating me as if I were just another marine animal.* I'd become a competitor - something close to an equal—to this barracuda.

Considering what happened to the naturalist who made whale noises around a mother humpback, her calf, and their escort, I'd just as soon stick with being the kind of marine *Homo sapiens* whose responsibilities I understand: being a cleaner station client. *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

The Moon and Venus Make an Awesome Pair and Jupiter Sidles Up to the Scorpion's Claw!

Mark next Monday April 24th on your calendar as the morning just before sunrise when you'll see not only an exquisite pairing of the most brilliant planet of them all, **Venus**, with our nearest neighbor, the **Moon**, but you'll also see the king of the planets, **Jupiter**, in a super close meeting with the southern claw of the **Scorpion**.

On Monday, April 24th, an hour and a half before sunrise, face southwest where

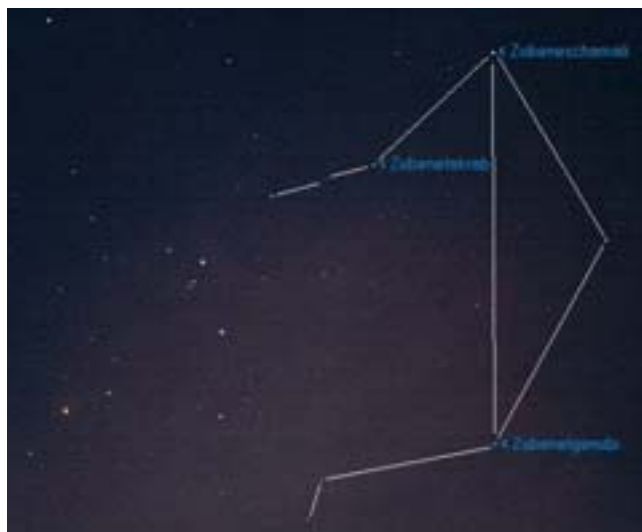
just above the horizon you'll see the second brightest planet of them all, brilliant 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter. And not only will it be beautiful to the naked eye but it will also dazzle you through a small telescope. And just below Jupiter, only one degree away, which is about the width of two full Moons lined up end to end, the star with the strange sounding name, **Zuben Elgenubi**. Translated that means "the southern claw" because it and the star directly above Jupiter, **Zuben Eschamali**, "the northern claw," were formerly the two claws of the ancient constellation **Scorpius**, the Scorpion, which went through a dramatic change in Roman times when the scorpion was declawed and Zuben Eschamali and Zuben Elgenubi became the two brightest stars of the new Roman constellation, **Libra, the scales**.

Be that as it may you will be able to see Zuben Elgenubi easily with the naked eye. But through a small telescope or pair of binoculars Zuben Elgenubi and Jupiter, side by side, will make an exquisite picture. But keep this in mind: while Jupiter is an 88,000-mile-wide planet, 500 million miles away, Zuben Elgenubi is a star over two times the size of our almost million-mile-wide **Sun**, almost a million times farther away than Jupiter, 77 light years. Wow! Don't miss these two, please.

And while you're outside Monday morning if you wait another half hour, until about an hour before sunrise, and look east south east you'll see a super close pairing of the brightest planet of them all, 8,000-mile-wide Venus, and a super thin waning crescent Moon complete with "earthshine" which will look like a bright slender crescent with a dark, almost black full Moon nestled within it. We call the darkened portion of the Moon earthshine because unlike the bright crescent, which is sunlight bouncing directly off the Moon to the Earth, earthshine is sunlight bouncing off our Earth onto the darkened portion of the Moon and then back to Earth again, thus its name, earthshine.

Don't miss this, please, because historically super close pairings of Venus and a crescent Moon have been depicted in art all the way back through prehistoric times. Indeed every time I see such a pairing, it still, after all these years, takes my breath away.

So there you have it: Monday morning April 24th an hour before sunrise Venus parked next to the Moon in the east and in the southwest the king of the planets parked next to the ancient southern claw of the scorpion. *Jack Horkheimer*



Libra



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: April 16 to 22, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't let others bait you into arguments. Losses could occur if you haven't been careful when dealing with joint financial ventures. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. Help elders get their personal papers in order. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can make life easier for an older member of your family. Investments will not be as they appear this week. Have some fun, but draw the line if someone tries to fast talk their way into your heart. Changes in your domestic scene are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You can make money through your own creative efforts. Emotional matters may not be easy for you to handle. Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment. You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Someone around you may not be trustworthy. This is not the week to be extravagant. Try to be reasonable. You will be prone to carelessness that could result in accidents. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will be emotional with regard to your personal life. You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress. You are best not to discuss your personal life with others. Try to understand both sides of the issue before taking sides. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Social get-together will bring you in contact with intelligent new friends. Do not invest in joint ventures. Things will be hectic and family members will be erratic. Be diplomatic and honest, and that person will only be made to look bad. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) If you have to deal with large institutions, be careful not to make waves. You will feel the limitations if you have been overdoing it. Deal with the needs of children and get into groups that deal with self awareness. You will have a tendency to put on pounds. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You need to keep busy doing things that you both enjoy. Think twice before you say something you might regret later. Take care of any pressing medical problems that you or one of your parents may be suffering from. Outdoor sports events should entice you. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can get ahead if you are willing to take a partner. If you're already in a relationship, use this added energy passionately. You will be uncertain of your feelings. Travel will be favorable. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't let your mate bully you into thinking that you owe them your time and your life. You may find your nights sleepless due to bad dreams. You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress. Overindulgence will be a problem if you are out in a social setting. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You need to sit back and enjoy. Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative. Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. You will have a blowup this week if your partner does things that you feel are not aboveboard. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Try to stay calm and understand both sides of the situation. Difficulties will result if you have to deal with controversial groups this week. You can expect sorrow to evolve from the information you discover. Look out for those wanting to push you into a disagreement. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.