

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

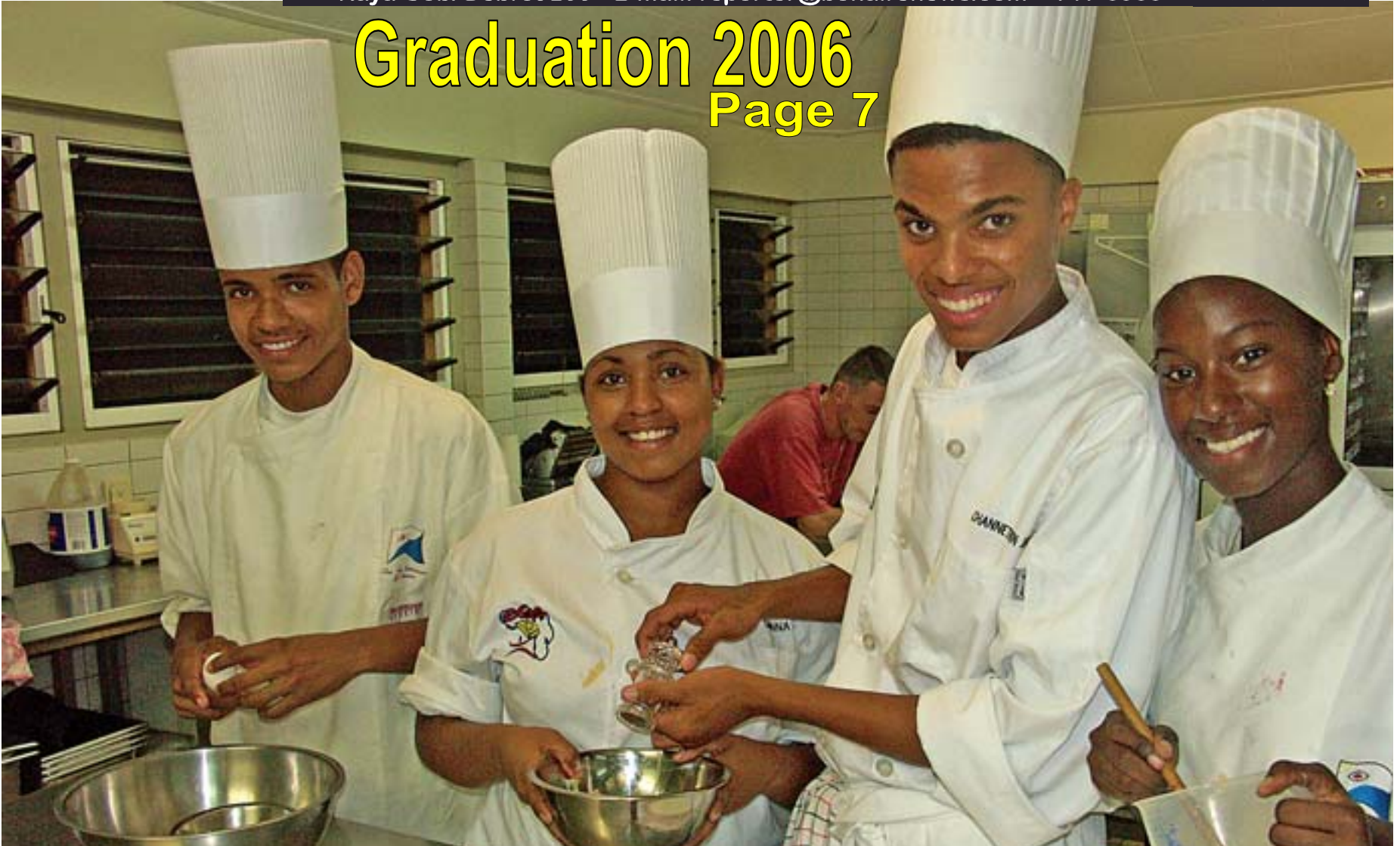
BONAIRE

May 19 to May 26, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 20

The REPORTER

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

Graduation 2006
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**SGB VSBO Graduates: Chefs: Danny Calcaño, Gianna Martines, Channethon Jansen, Angel Alberdus.
Wait staff: Shakira Matthew, Minosca Mercera, Jonathan Martijn, Vanessa Abrahams.**



Flotsam and Jetsam

The proposed new "departure tax" of \$75 is being revised in response to comments from stakeholders and others. **The earliest implementation would be July 1, 2006.** We will inform readers when the new details are made available.

► It doesn't matter that there is a deficit; **the government will raise the salaries of civil servants 2.04% in 2006.** The Central Government has about 2,800 civil servants on its payroll- 2,200 are in Curaçao, the rest on the other four Antillean islands. Last year payroll costs were NAf200 million; therefore the increase will cost an extra NAf4 million, which is included in the national budget. The increase goes to government officials in pay scales 1 up to and including 17; the uniformed coast guard civil servants; the police; the conscripts; the clergymen, like the teachers of religion, assistant ministers, the minister of the Protestant community in Bonaire and of the Jewish Mikvé Israel-Emanuel community of Curaçao; Catholic clergymen of the first rank; the members of the Court of Justice and the Public Prosecutor; and, also the political authorities themselves: the ministers, secretaries of state, and the members of Parliament.

► **The Central Government wants to increase the compulsory education age from 16 to 18 years.** Last week a draft law was sent to Parliament to provide for the necessary changes. This is one of the most high-profile measures included in

the Central Government program sent to Parliament. It focused primarily on combating poverty and improving the well being of Netherlands Antilles citizens.

► A meeting was held in Curaçao last week to discuss **possible new structures for the police forces of the various Netherlands Antilles island territories.** Justice Minister David Dick called the meeting because the findings of the Camelia-Römer Report pointed out inadequacies in the present structure like slow response time in some cases. During the meeting each island presented its proposals for changes in the structure of its police force.



The Zeeleeuw (Sea Lion)

► **The Dutch submarine, the Zeeleeuw (Sea Lion), a diesel-electric boat, will be part of the Dutch flotilla of ships** taking part in the Joint Caribbean Lion exercise, which will include

the frigate *De Ruyter* and the amphibious naval vessel *Rotterdam*. The *Zeeleeuw*, with a crew of 60, is one of the four Walrus-class submarines of the Dutch Royal Navy.



Rangers and assistant manager of St. Eustatius National Park visit Bonaire

► Last week the assistant manager and two rangers from the **St. Eustatius National Park completed a successful training exchange of marine park rangers at the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP).** During 10 days, they worked closely with the staff of the BNMP on Bonaire, which is an UNESCO-ICRAN Demonstration Site, well equipped to serve as an example for other National Parks. The St. Eustatius Marine Park personnel took a lot of interest in the administration of the dive tags so they can implement it in their park.

Amongst many other things, they participated in law enforcement activities, tourist information rounds, maintenance, monitoring and research activities.

One of the big differences between the two parks is that in Statia all dives are supervised; shore diving is almost impossible. All the boats of the dive operators leave from the town pier. Some of the

divers, used to diving in places like Bonaire where certified divers may plan and perform their own dives, are a bit reluctant to go with the supervised diving of Statia. However, eventually they all realize that this results in great benefits for the protection of the Marine Park, which is in their own interest.

Before the end of this year two or three staff members of the BNMP will visit St. Eustatius National Park and learn from them.

► **It's donkey round-up time in Rincon.** The "Let's Get a Solution for Rincon" group, in cooperation with the Bonaire Government and LVV (Agricultural Service), is ready to get the donkeys off Rincon's streets. "The animals have become increasingly aggressive and have been the cause of road accidents," they say. The donkeys will be shipped to Curaçao.



Rincon residents are encouraged to lock the donkeys in their yards, make sure they have water, and call LVV (717-8836) (Monday-Friday) to collect them. They can collect NAf15 per animal. For more information call LVV at 717-8836 or 568-5838.

► Bonaire's emphasis on protection of coral reefs received yet another confirmation when the US government said last Thursday it **would list Elkhorn and Staghorn coral as "threatened"** under

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Warehouse Bonaire Free Shopping Spree



The first one-minute free shopping at Warehouse Bonaire was won by Natalie Davelaar. In one minute she filled her basket with NAf773,51 worth of goods. The free shopping is part of Warehouse Bonaire's 10th anniversary celebration. Every Monday for a month there's a new winner. □Photos: Roland Verbeek



coral glimpses

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



The little brain coral head on the top of this photo and the starlet coral below it are not in actual contact with each other. That's because the individual coral animal, called a polyp, won't tolerate contact with other polyps which aren't clones of itself. The polyps of one coral fight the polyps of the other, and each prevents the other from growing too close.

(Continued on page 4)

(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2)
US federal species protection laws after damage to them increased last year when the northern Caribbean warmed to record levels. The higher temperatures force corals to expel algae living in coral polyps that provide food and color, leaving white calcium skeletons. Coral dies in about a month if the waters do not cool. Corals have also been bleached by warm waters on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Experts say the two corals have declined by more than 97% in the Caribbean since the 1970s.

► Several people have noticed that the driver of the big loader who is remov-

ing the debris from the old Sunset Beach Hotel site is doing this with great care and not damaging the trees. He deserves words of thanks for this from all who value and respect Bonaire's environment.

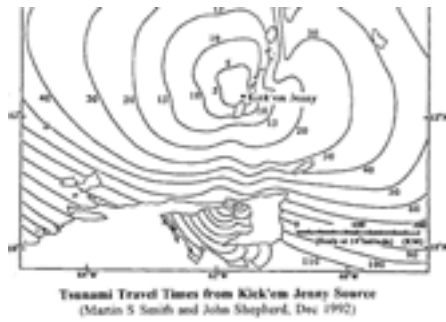
► The wonderful old floating Queen Emma Bridge linking the two parts of Willemstad, Curaçao, reopened after a months-long major overhaul. The bridge's pontoons



were originally fabricated in Bonaire by Kachi Craane a long time ago. Thanks to a NAf11.5 million European Union grant it is back in action.

► The now famous Amboina Dolphins football team's older kids, 13 to 15, will be participating in an international tournament this Friday, May 19, starting at 7 pm at the Stadium, battling teams made up of the best players from Aruba and other teams from Bonaire: A.T.C. from Tera Cora, and Vitesse from Antriol. On Saturday, starting at 10 am, the winning teams will contend to establish the big winner. Winners will receive the Phil and Laraine Trophy.

(Flotsam & Jetsam.. Continued from page 3)



► The Seismic Research Unit at the University of the West Indies said **there is no reason for persons to panic about rumors that there has been increased activity at the underwater volcano, Kick 'em Jenny**, which is located 500 miles east of Bonaire. A tsunami would take 150 minutes to travel the distance. Officials said the alert level remained at yellow, which they said was normal. Kick 'em Jenny is the only "live" (likely to erupt again) submarine volcano in the Eastern Caribbean. It is approximately 1,300 meters off the sea bottom under the surface. It is also the most frequently active volcano in the region, erupting at least 12 times since it was discovered in 1939. The last eruption was in December 2001.

► "Introducing Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sandy, Tony, Valerie and William. The pleasure is all theirs. **These are the 21 names which the US National Hurricane Center**, which has been doing this since 1953, has budgeted (at least alphabet-wise) for hurricanes this year. That is, unless we run out of letters in the Roman alphabet and

have to resort to the Greek, as in 2005 (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, and Zeta). Talk about under-budgeting!

Last year's season in fact, was a record-breaker, having ushered in the retirement of Dennis, Katrina, Rita, Stan and Wilma (by itself a record-breaker, with 882 millibars of pressure); names which have been shelved for posterity out of respect for the incalculable misery they wrought.

This does not mean, of course, that we can guarantee 21 phenomena to come barreling through our region, though at least five of the forecast nine are expected to be "major," meaning that winds could exceed 110 mph (when the average is 2.3). There are also 17 named tropical storms predicted for this season (when the seasonal average is 9.6). This forecast is considered robust, being based on 52 years of data, though I must point out, however, that 2005 fooled all the experts in this art/science who seriously underestimated the season." *Luis Carpio, Director of the Caribbean Transport and Natural Disasters Association*

► A side effect of the 2007 restructure of the Antilles will be that the **five islands of the Netherlands Antilles will not be able to participate in the Olympic Games** under their own flags. In 1996 the International Olympic Committee changed its rules and a member can only be admitted if they are an independent country and recognized by the international authorities. Aruba won't have this problem because after it got its status aparte, it registered itself as such and the different rules applied then. Antillean athletes would only be able to participate under the Dutch flag.

► The **weekly wine tasting at Antillean Wine Company** on Kaya Industria has moved back an hour. Because of the

► It might have been **Bonaire's longest sailing race ever**. During the full moon last weekend Bonaire's most talented Sunfish sailors, who are training for the Sunfish World Championships 2006 to be held at the end of September in Charleston, South Carolina, sailed around Klein Bonaire during a 14-hour, non-stop monster race. The goal of the race was twofold: improving awareness of boat heel and boat speed and fundraising to purchase new sailing equipment which is urgently needed to optimize the training of the Bonairean sailors of the Bonaire Sunfish Sailing Association (BSSA).

After the captains' meeting held at the Kas di Regata at Playa/Kralendijk, six Sunfish sailors (Shernic Winklaar, Hernando Velandia, Sipke Stapert, Vianco Serberie, Kevin Dijkhoff and Victor Brouwer) sailed to No Name Beach on the north side of Klein Bonaire. The weather conditions were perfect: a full moon, hardly any clouds and a perfect breeze. At 18:30 the monster race officially started.

The BSSA Sunfish sailors rounded Klein Bonaire time after time. The sailors were monitored by officials from No Name Beach and on the charter boat, *Aquaspace*.

After 14 hours the monster race ended early Sunday. Sipke Stapert and Victor Brouwer were the only two sailors who completed the long night at sea without any break. Sipke rounded the island of Klein Bonaire 11 times. Victor made 10 rounds. Congratulations to all participants. □ *Story & photo by Jon Brouwer*



Champions Victor Brouwer and Sipke Stapert

season's sunset they are serving between 19.00 and 21.00 hours on Saturday now.

► **Cycle Bonaire & Bonaire Wellness Connexion (BWC) invite everyone to participate in the 30 km Goto Lake Mountain Bike Tour on Saturday May 20th, beginning at 4 pm.** The 30k tour starts and finishes at Cycle Bonaire / Bonaire Dive & Adventure (BD&A is next to Sand Dollar and Den Laman resorts) and will take the cyclists north to Gotomeer,

through Rincon, and back to BD&A over Subi di Rincon. There will be a less challenging route for those who feel the main course is too tough. Water and Gatorade will be provided at stops along the route. The tour will end around 6 pm. Helmets are mandatory for all riders. The participation fee is NAf10. You can sign up at Cycle Bonaire/BD&A, Kaya Gobernador Debrot 77a. For more information call: Cycle Bonaire 717-2229 or Bonaire Wellness Connexions, 785-0767. □ *G./L.D.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Kultura's" 25th Anniversary



Fernando Simal, George "Kultura" Thode, Elsmarie Beukenboom and Evo Cecilia at the anniversary party credit: STINAPA photo

It has been written that George "Kultura" Thode is a special person: "a visionary, a medium, a man who lives close to nature and takes his life in his own hands, and who lives in accordance with strict rules of his own making." He totally understands just about everything that goes on in Washington Park. He often sleeps there.

In May, Kultura celebrated his 25th year as a Park Ranger. Now Chief Ranger in the busy National Park, the Antilles' first park, he began when it had few visitors because rough roads made it hard to get to. That all changed in 1986 when the present partially concrete road was laid.

He's a most unusual man. Consider the



Kultura Henk Roozendaal portrait

introduction to his story printed about him in the popular book, *Portraits of Bonaire*, by Guus Gerritsen and Henk Roozendaal: "You think that you are talking to me, but that is not the case.

You are now talking to three people:

The Op-Ed Page

Letter

BRIGHT, NEW DAY FOR POLICE

Dear Editor:

Recently our home was broken into and, within 30 minutes of our call, the police were on site with a detective. This is quite remarkable since it was lunch time and our home is in a very remote area. The dispatcher was very informative and told us almost exactly when to expect the officers.

When they arrived the police were extremely polite, efficient and serious. They tried to take finger prints, checked out the neighboring area and interviewed workmen nearby. The next day the police report was complete and available for us to give to our insurance company.

This is a bright, new day for the Bonaire Police Force and we wish to give them a public note of appreciation. We understand they are working very hard to upgrade and improve their service to the community. Our recent experience and the news reports of serious raids on drug pushers all show that they are having success. Pabien and Masha Danki to the Police of Bonaire.

Residents of Bonaire

The Reporter can echo the sentiment. Last week the police were called to our office in a non-criminal situation and were prompt and professional. A hopi danki from us too. *Ed.*

my father, my grandfather, and me, George Kultura. I live with my ancestors every day; I talk to them, ask them for advice if I have some problem. I am bound to the history and the nature of this island since the Indians lived here."

George Presiliano Thodé was born in 1963. His distant ancestors were among the last Indians of the island.

On the island everybody calls him "Kultura." He says of himself, "I was born without a mouth and without hands. My father drowned off Playa Frans while fishing, one day after I was born. At the exact same moment the nurse saw in the incubator that my hands bulged out and

my mouth opened, not to cry but to speak. My mother told this story on Dutch television, shortly before her death. I was a premature baby, three months early, and I was in and out of hospitals for nearly six years because there were all kinds of things wrong with me. But everything turned out alright, as you can see, and because so many sweet nurses took care of me, I learned to speak Dutch very well."

Congratulations, Kultura. The world needs more men like you to balance our machine civilization. □

Elsmarie Beukenboom/G.D.



Countdown to the Dive Into Adventure Festival

21 Days To Go



How Be Part of DIAB-2006

For the past two weeks we've highlighted some of the activities for June's Dive Into Adventure Bonaire (DIAB) June 17 to 24. This week we will tell you **how to participate**, if you haven't already. Packages (not including air fare) start at just \$619 per person based on double occupancy. Bonaire's Golden Reef Inn is one of the featured participants and host site for presentations.

Purchase a Dive Into Adventure Bonaire hotel package from one of the official tour operators (listed below). You will also pay a one-time \$75 per person registration fee to participate in the event's activities. Included with the registration fee is entrance to daytime and evening presentations by local and international "stars," evening parties including drinks, daytime select dives led by local and international "stars" (pre-registration required), photography workshops, "A Taste of Bonaire" park event, participation in the Dive Into Adventure Bonaire Photography Competition with great prizes, and an event welcome packet. PLUS, the first 100 people from around the world to purchase a Dive Into Adventure Bonaire hotel package/register for the event will receive a free Dive Into Adventure Bonaire T-shirt (distributed on-island for the event).

Some of the land and water based adventure activities as well as some of the dive-related adventure activities taking place during the week are at additional cost (activities are led by local and international experts), but special discount rates have been negotiated for event participants. Meals throughout the week, with the exception of the BBQ on Wednesday, June 21st, are not included and are at additional cost.

The registration fee is payable to the tour operator at the time a Dive Into Adventure Bonaire hotel package is purchased/booked with one of the event's official tour operators.



Golden Reef Inn

Dive Into Adventure Bonaire 2006 hotel packages include seven nights accommodations at one of the event host hotels, breakfast daily, six days of one-tank boat dives, unlimited shore diving, round-trip airport transfers, hotel taxes and service charges. Package prices may vary depending on accommodations

Only those booking via an official DIAB tour operator and staying at an official DIAB hotel are eligible to take part in the event and benefit from all special deals, lectures, parties, dives etc. Visit www.diveintoadventurebonaire.com for more information on official hotels, US and European Tour Operators and lots more.

Now: Residents of Bonaire can register for \$100 at the TCB office in Kralendijk and also take advantage of all the special activities of DIAB. Residents will receive a letter and welcome pack coupon to use when picking up the welcome package beginning Wednesday, June 14th. □ *TCB Information*

Off-island participants should sign up through one of these Tour Operators as soon as possible:

Europe

Carib Tours AG
Malzstrasse 21
Postfach
8036 Zürich
Switzerland
web <http://www.caribtours.ch>
email nancy.atzenweiler@caribtours.ch
tel 41-44-4665-613
fax 41-44-4665-602

Helin Matkat
Yliopistonkatu 32, 40100 JKL,
Finland
web <http://www.helinmatkat.fi>
email jaana.nystrom@helinmatkat.fi
tel 35-814-337-3120
fax 35-814-337-3145

Karibik & More
Neuffener Str. 3/1
72581 Dettingen
Germany
web <http://www.karibik-and-more.de>
email welcome@karibik-and-more.de
tel 49-7123-976876
fax 49-7123-976875

Nautilus Tauchreisen
Pfarrgasse 1
D-82266 Inning
web <http://www.nautilus-tauchreisen.de>
email info@nautilus-tauchreisen.de
tel 49-08143-9310-0
fax 49-08143-9310-13

World Diver
Geisbergstraße 5
28211 Bremen
web <http://www.world-diver.de>
email welcome@world-diver.de
tel: 0421-79-47-106
fax: 0421-79-47-108

ABC Travel Netherlands
Grootestraat 15

7571 EJ Oldenzaal and
Herengracht 26A
2511 EJ Den Haag
Nederland
web <http://www.abctravel.nl>
email info@abctravel.nl
tel 31-541-533177
fax 31-541-532624

Bonaire Fun Travel
Nieuwstraat 11
3743 BK BAARN
web <http://www.BonaireFunTravel.nl>
email info@bonairefuntravel.nl
tel 31-3554-26-071
fax 31-3554-26-035

Does Travel & Cadushi Tours
Weimarstraat 119
2562 GT Den Haag
Nederland
web <http://www.caribbean.nl>
email tour@doescadushi.nl
tel 31-7031-29-511

Maduro Travel
Noordeinde 136a
web <http://www.maduro.nl>
email info@maduro.nl
tel 31-70-318-0300
fax 31-70-356-2850

Jambo Tours
Lästmakargatan 8, 11144
Stockholm, Sweden
web <http://www.jambotours.se>
email info@jambotours.se
tel 46-824-0055
fax 46-824-1450

Barefoot Traveller
204 King Street
London W6 0RA
web <http://www.barefoot-traveller.com>
email dive@barefoot-traveller.com
tel 0208-741-4319
fax 0208-741-8657

Bonaire Fun Travel UK
15 Grass Slade

Brixworth NN6 9HZ
web <http://www.bonairefuntravel.co.uk>
email info@bonairefuntravel.co.uk
tel 44-1604-882-929

Dive Worldwide Ltd
Long Barn South, Sutton Manor
Farm, Bishop's Sutton
Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0AA
web <http://www.diveworldwide.com>
email sales@diveworldwide.com
tel 44-845-130-6980
fax 44-845-130-6984

RegalDive Worldwide
58 Lancaster Way
Ely, Cambs, CB6 3NW
web <http://www.regal-diving.co.uk>
tel 44-870-2201-777

America & Canada

BonairePros.com
304 Southridge Lakes Parkway
Southlake, TX 76092
web <http://www.bonairepros.com>
email info@bonairepros.com
toll-free (800) 748-8733
tel (817) 416-2580
fax (817) 416-3607

Caradonna Dive Adventures
435 Douglas Avenue, Suite 2205
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
web <http://www.caradonna.com>
email info@caradonna.com
toll-free (800) 330-3322
tel (407) 774-9000
fax (407) 682-6000

Maduro Dive Fanta-Seas
10800 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 100
Miami, FL 33161
web <http://www.madurodive.com>
email info@maduro.com
toll-free (800) 327-6709
tel (305) 981-9113
fax (305) 981-9397 □



Graduation 2006

It's expected that 202 students will graduate from Bonaire's Community High School (SGB) at the end of June. Antilles-wide, 3,132 students will take the standardized tests. The high school combines both vocational and academic tracks. As yet no students from the university preparation track (VWO), recently begun, are ready for graduation so Bonaire's university candidates will have to continue their preparations on another island or in Holland.

This year's final exam period has already started for the SGB students who are in their final year of high school. This is a very stressful and important time for the students who are about to begin a month of hard studying and last minute nerves. Of the total 202 students who will be participating, all but 29 have been educated to join the work force without any further study, but many will choose to go for additional education.

Some practical exams, like those for the Hospitality Sector students on the cover, have already been completed. On the 15th of May the official theoretical exams began. These exams are extremely important for the students, as they count for a large percentage of the student's final grades, which will decide if the student will graduate.

All students will hear the outcome of their exams on the 16th of June. They will come together with their mentor, who will tell them the results and guide them in taking further steps, if necessary.

If a student requires a re-examination for any subject, this will take place at the end of June, and the outcome of those results will be available on the 28th of June.

The big graduation ceremony will take place on the 29th of June, at the SGB. It usually includes many speeches, handing over the diplomas, and of course the presence of the proud parents.

After that a graduation party (The Prom) will be held for the graduated students, where they can have fun, and get rid of the stress they endured in the past school year.

For students who will continue their studies elsewhere or received a scholarship, there will be dates set on which the students will leave for their destination under the guidance of a professional.

Let's all wish these students good luck, and hope all 202 of them will be able to be the proud recipient of a high school diploma on the 29th of June! □ *Fleurtje Veldkamp*



Author, Fleurtje Veldkamp of the HAVO 5A class, expects to be among the graduates



Funding for NGOs Available Again



G.E.A. van Craaikamp

G. E.A. van Craaikamp, the Dutch Director of Kingdom Relations, issued a press release early this month outlining the current policy of AMFO (Antillean Co-Financing Organization - Antilliaanse Medefinancierings Organisatie) to clarify the NGO funding issues in the Antilles. Van Craaikamp suspended the financing of AMFO in October 2006 because, based on auditor's reports, it appeared that there was inadequate financial management at both the AMFO and the NGO Platforms; there wasn't a well-functioning administrative organization or internal audit.

Based on the findings of the operational audit, the AMFO is in the process of being restructured. Plans are to have the new framework and the preconditions for the new organization

completed at the end of June. Subsequently, AMFO will have to be reorganized internally, in accordance with the new structure. This is expected to take place by the end of 2006.

In order to bridge the transition period, the Director will make limited financial funds available to AMFO for the short term. These funds are intended for projects that have already been approved by AMFO (whether or not already in progress) which need (continuous) financing.

These projects have to meet one of the following criteria.

1. The projects must be directed towards the acute combating of poverty. It concerns direct and indirect combating of poverty, directed at vulnerable Antillean groups (such as youngsters of all age groups who would otherwise "miss the boat," senior citizens, single (teenage) mothers, handicapped persons, etc.). Preventing poverty by means of educational and recreational activities for the vulnerable groups is included under the term, "combating poverty."
2. The financing of current projects can, if necessary, be prolonged, provided they comply with the first criteria.
3. Projects for which a contract with third parties has already been concluded and/or for which personnel have been recruited, will qualify for financing, unless they fall outside the insular NGO programs applied until now and/or outside the formula for the various sectors of the insular NGO programs.

In order to finance for qualifying projects, NGOs can apply to AMFO. Other projects will not be dealt with by AMFO for the time being. The Director has also decided to make a once-only amount available via the Foundation for the Development of the Netherlands Antilles (Stichting Ontwikkeling Nederlandse Antillen - USONA) to combat poverty to meet this year's needs. □ *G.D.*

A BIG SCOOP IN TERA CORA



On Thursday, May 11, in Tera Cora Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé welcomed Sra. Clemence Ross van Dorp, the Dutch Minister of Sports, and her delegation for the dedication of a new Johan Cruyff Court for football (soccer) to be constructed across the street from the Sentro di Bario in Tera Cora.

Usually, a shovel is the tool for ground-breaking ceremonies, but on Bonaire, Sra. Ross-van Dorp climbed up into the cab of the backhoe-loader, and, with a little help, worked the controls to stabilize the machine, extend its arms and scoop out the ground in the first step toward construction of a grass court.



Sra. Clemence Ross van Dorp breaks ground



On hand for the ground-breaking were Onno Koerten, Dutch representative to the Netherlands Antilles; James Kroon, Bonaire Commissioner of Sports; C. Ross-van Dorp, Dutch Minister of Sports; Onni Emerenciana, Bonaire Commissioner of Economic Affairs; and Governor Herbert Domacassé

The court area will be shared by the youth of all the Bonaire barrios for football as well as other sports. Tera Cora was chosen as the site because of its convenient, central location and active social community.

Johan Cruyff, Holland's most famous football player who started his foundation in 1997, believes that sports and recreation should be accessible to everyone. "Through games, sports and other recreational activities children build up social skills, learn how to win and lose, and develop tactics and strategies etc. As a result, children develop self-confidence and a sense of achievement. Of course, it goes without saying that above all, sports can be just plain fun!" □ *Story & photos by Barbara Bianculli*

New Cave Grads



Group photo of cave guide class with Papi Cicilia, Ronella Croes and Geraldine Dammers taken on the pool deck of Buddy Dive.

Buddy Dive photo

Bonaire protects its system of caves as it does its reefs. Only certified guides are permitted to take visitors into the caves, and then only to certain specially designated caves. This helps to not only preserve the natural beauty of the caves and the resident bat population but provides an important safety factor.

This year there were 18 participants who did the course and got their certificate and official badge. Buddy Dive was the host of the evening and everybody was invited to the pool bar for a drink and a snack. This was the second year that Buddy Dive hosted the ceremony. The first year, 2004, was also the first time the course was taught.

The organizer of the course and the evening was Papi "Cultura" Cicilia who was very proud to have this large a number of enthusiastic participants. The evening started with a word of welcome by the general manager of Buddy Dive, then Papi gave a speech and invited each participant to come forward individually to be presented with a signed certificate. The certificate was presented by Mrs. Geraldine Dammers, Bonaire Commissioner of Education and Culture. The official Cave Guide Badge was presented by Ronella Croes, TCB Director. □



Ronella Croes presents the cave guide badge to Frits Gielen, one of Buddy Dive's activity guides. Commissioner Dammers looks on.

Buddy Dive photo

Jan Willem t'Hoof



Be an Angel -
Pass on The Reporter to a Friend





Bondy On The Ball | European Windsurfing Report

Hi, Football Fans (apologies to our American friends; we are talking about different shaped balls!):

Welcome to the second week of our World Cup round up. This week we will be looking at two more groups and we will be starting with **Group C** which, of course, contains two big teams, Argentina and Holland. Let's check them out!

Argentina, well, what can you say? Ranked number 8 in the world, they have style and flare by the truck load. They were strong in the qualifiers with three rounds to spare. Manager **Jose Pekerman's** strengths have been in the development of young players. This is his chance to show the world that he has the same influence with the seniors. So, who are the stars? There are many to choose from but, my choice is **Luis Gonzales**, a class act all the way. Their main weakness has to be the keeper; maybe their qualification is in his hands.

Next in this group is **Ivory Coast**. African teams have delighted the world with their passion and commitment. Ivory Coast is no exception. Under the guidance of former Captain and Coach of France, **Henri Michel**, they will be eager to impress. Watch out for **Didier Drogba**. The Chelsea player scored 9 goals in the qualifiers.

The third team is **Serbia and Montenegro**. Despite being ranked 46, they qualified above Spain in their group. Manager **Ilija Petkovic** has led the team since the break up of Yugoslavia. When it comes to BIG players, you won't find any bigger than **Nikola Zigic**. Standing at over two meters tall he is the main target for corner kicks, however, as far as his skills with his feet, he's a bit like Bambi on ice!

Finally, the boys in orange. **Holland** completes this group and will fancy their chances to progress. Former player, **Marco van Basten**, has taken over as Manager from **Dick Advocaat**, but has he got the experience? Holland still has some big stars such as **Ruud van Nistelrooy** and Goalkeeper **Edwin van der Sar**. However, I don't see the experience of past squads.

On to **Group D and Mexico**. Their



Ruud van Nistelrooy of Holland

group was weak so qualification was a breeze. In all fairness though, under the management of **Ricardo La Volpe**, they have only lost twice since 2003. **Oswaldo Sanchez** in goals is like a cat, he will break the hearts of many a striker.



Christiano Ronaldo of Portugal.

Iran, second in this group and 500/1 odds against winning. Fancy a bet? Their Croatian Manager has done well to rebuild the team since 2002 but the team lacks experience.

Surprise of this group is **Angola**. They finished top of a tough bunch so deserve their place. **Luis Oliveira Gonçalves** has managed this team well and is highly respected, but again, there is a distinct lack of world class experience here. Their strength is in defense; it's like kicking a ball against a brick wall.

My favorite for the Group is **Portugal**. At odds to win of 20/1, this is where my guilders are going. Let's look at the evidence. Under the guidance of "Big Phil" **Scolari** they have built a team that oozes class. **Louis Figo** has come out of retirement for this one and he means business. Nobody batted an eyelid when he was immediately handed the Captain's armband. The magic will be supplied by "twinkle toes" **Cristiano Ronaldo**. When he is at his best, it's poetry in motion.

So there we have it, another two groups. More to whet your appetite next week. Until then, keep the game beautiful! □ **Antony Bond**

Tony Bond was born and raised in England, happy to leave the cold of Europe behind but still follows his passion for Manchester United (Man Utd) FC.



World class windsurfer Ruben Petrisie (Sail Number NB-50) will again be sending us results direct from the European Freestyle Windsurfing Tour. This year Bonaire will have two riders in the top 16 in the Freestyle Tour: Tonky Frans rated 9th and Ruben himself who is rated 13th. He will share his first-hand experiences with *Reporter* readers.



Ruben in Austria

The First Big Freestyle event of the Year kicked off with the Professional Windsurfer Association (PWA) World Tour in combination with the European Freestyle Pro Tour (EFPT) in Austria's famous Lake Neusiedler See on April 29th. The entry list was bulging with riders from both Tours competing.



Taty Frans and Ruben

From Bonaire there was Taty Frans (sponsored by Starboard, Maui Sails, G-sport), Tonky Frans (F2, Gaastra, Fiberspar, G-sport) and Ruben Petrisie (Exocet, The Loft, Camaro, Reptile-Masts, G-sport)

Ruben writes, "It was very exciting to see all the riders again after the winter-time break. But the weather forecast was not looking that good for the week.

The judges really did push it on the first day, starting early in the morning at 9 o'clock sharp, but the weather was not that suitable for competition: Winds 12-17 knots; air temperature 4° C; water temperature around 8° C; 100% cloudy.

I was in the very first heat, freezing, and not feeling my hands nor feet, facing the roughest conditions of my life. I made it through the first round. They actually finished the whole first rounds of the elimination ladder. Then the wind took off and we waited around trying to get warm for the next possible start which never happened.

The next days were sunny with temperatures around the 16-20° range.

Although we were on standby every single day the spectators and sailors got a chance to enjoy the atmosphere at Podersdorf. There were lots of activities like bungee jumping, go carting, paint ball and volley ball, just to name a few.

The nights all week were full of parties organized by the event sponsors.

Big thanks to KLM / Air France, Jibe City Bonaire, Eden Beach Resort, RBTT Bank, Tonky, Taty, Jayson, Ronald and of course my family." □ *Story and Photo by Ruben Petrisie*

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
5-19	5:45	1.8FT. 14:30 0.8FT.	67
5-20	6:48	1.7FT. 14:47 0.9FT. 22:39 1.4FT.	60
5-21	2:48	1.3FT. 7:54 1.5FT. 14:54 1.0FT. 21:37 1.5FT.	56
5-22	4:28	1.2FT. 9:03 1.4FT. 14:49 1.0FT. 21:49 1.6FT.	58
5-23	5:55	1.0FT. 10:14 1.2FT. 14:29 1.1FT. 22:13 1.8FT.	66
5-24	7:15	0.9FT. 12:02 1.1FT. 13:45 1.1FT. 22:44 1.9FT.	76
5-25	8:24	0.8FT. 23:23 2.0FT.	85
5-26	0:00	2.1FT. 9:35 0.7FT.	92

Ask the Dietitian

Freshly Squeezed Juices = Lots of Health Benefits



cause vitamin levels soon begin to diminish.

Benefits you can get from fresh juices:

- Fresh juices are easy to digest and flush out the digestive system
- They are believed to speed up the metabolism, cleanse the blood and strengthen the immune system
- Antioxidant vitamins found in fresh juices help to

fight illness

- Juices enhance our vitality and improve energy levels

Here are two recipes:

Energizer Drink

- 2 apples
- 1 large carrot
- 50g/2oz cooked beetroot in natural juice
- 90g/3½oz white grapes
- 1cm/½in piece fresh root ginger
- Quarter the apples and top and tail the carrot.

Juice the fruit, vegetables and ginger

1 serving: 102 calories

Note: Beetroot is one of the most effective liver-cleansing vegetables. It is a very good detoxifier and laxative.

Revitalizer

- 3 carrots
- 1 apple
- 1 orange

Top and tail the carrots, then quarter the apple. Peel the orange and cut into rough segments. Juice the carrots and fruit.

1 serving: 121 calories □ *Angélique Salsbach*

Fresh fruit and vegetable juices have a powerful effect on the body, stimulating the whole system and encouraging the elimination of toxins. They play a vital role in detoxing and should be drunk fresh when following a detox program. Processing reduces their nutritional content a little, so juices are best when they're made using a juicer.

When making juices at home, choose ripe fruits which contain higher levels of nutrients. But avoid any fruits that look old or soft. Fresh juices can be very strong, so dilute with good Bonaire water. They should always be drunk as soon as they are made be-

Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Her patients have successfully won the "Battle of the Bulge" and become healthier. Write her at dietitan@bonairenews.com or call her at the Dept of Health Care 717-3737



The Jazz Festival is Upon Us

The sounds of Jazz are already being heard around town as musicians get ready for the Second Annual Bonaire Jazz Festival. While the three main days of the Festival (listed below) are totally filled with music, the jazz begins as early as Tuesday, May 23rd with a dinner session at Croccantino Restaurant.

FRIDAY- MAY 26

7.30 pm: Main concert at Plaza Resort Bonaire: Cubop City Big Band, Ronchi Matthews Zumtam Quartet and Konkie Halmeyer

11.30 pm: Festival Band at City Café

0.30 am: Jam session with festival musicians at Little Havana

SATURDAY- MAY 27

7.30 pm: Main concert at Bongo's Beach: Cubop City Big Band, Konkie Halmeyer Trio, Anastacia Larmonie, Delbert Bernabela and Question Mark

11.30 pm: Festival Band at City Café

0.30 am: Jam session with festival musicians at Little Havana

SUNDAY- MAY 28

11.30 am: Jazz Brunch at Den Laman sponsored by the Restaurant

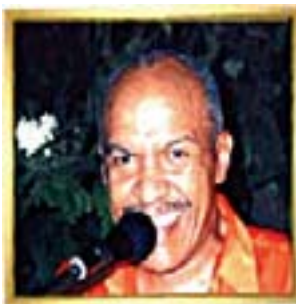
5 pm: Main concert at Kontiki Beach Club: Students Band of Bonaire with a workshop, Lucas van Merwijk, Randal Corsen quartet and Ced Ride & Band

11 pm: Jam session with festival musicians at Little Havana

The windup evening includes a performance by Antillean phenomenon, **Ced Ride**. He is a multi artist: painting, singing, writing and also a theater-man. His musical interest is broad- from tumba to jazz - but always connected to the place where his heart, home and his cultural identity is- the Antilles.

Also on that evening is the **Randal Corsen quartet**. Randal is the pianist with Eric Calmes, bass; Lucas van Merwijk, drums; and Gerardo Rosales, percussion. With the distinctive way Randal blends Jazz with influences from classical, Antillean and Latin American music, he has gained significant recognition. In 2004 he was honored with the EDISON Jazz Award, the most prestigious music award in the Netherlands, for his album 'Evolushon'.

Next week: The festival begins. □ *Guus Gerritsen*

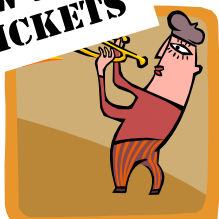


Ced Ride



Randal Corsen

LOW-PRICE TICKETS



Tickets for all three main concerts are NAf45 or NAf20 per session. The musical session on May 25 is free.

Tickets for sale at Plaza Resort, KonTiki, City Café, Bongo's Beach, TCB, Bonaire Boekhandel and at the gates of the main concert. You can become a member or supporter of the foundation. If you donate NAf200 or more you will receive two free tickets for all concerts during the festival and a reserved seat. □

Kas di Arte - accompanies the Jazz Festival

Art exposition "Polyrhythmik" at Kas di Arte during the Heineken Jazz Festival



The Suku Design Foundation presents: "Polyrhythmik" (Two or more contrasting rhythms played simultaneously) -the first annual Dutch Caribbean Art Exposition at Kas di Arte during Bonaire's Jazz Festival, May 25 to 28. They'll be showing artwork by artists from each of the Dutch Antillean Islands.

This year the walls of Kas di Arte will be inspired by music and dance, accompanied by live Jazz music provided by the Bonaire Jazz Foundation musicians. 15 % of all sales will be donated to the Suku Design Foundation for community projects.

This event will be lively and upbeat, offering to the Antillean and international community one more venue in which to satiate their artistic cravings and be introduced to a wide variety of professional artists living in the Antilles.

On May 25, 26, and 27 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) the Exhibition will be open from 9 am to 8 pm. On the 26th there will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 pm. On the 27th there will be sunset music and wine tasting from 5 to 7 pm.

This exhibition will provide you with a real taste of the Caribbean. This is how we live or have chosen to live, where we can express without boundaries, respect each other's differences. Caribbean art brings you to a place where there's enough time to reflect.

The Suku Design Foundation was founded in September of 2003. Suku's mission is to bring to the public the importance of art and communication within our community with the intention of highlighting the vast amount of Caribbean artists living and residing in the Netherlands Antilles.

The artists participating come from many different backgrounds. Whether they are Antillean native or immigrants they all have one thing in common: their love and inspiration that comes from deep within each island's distinctive past and the temperate trade winds that sweep through the Leeward and Windward isles. Currently there are artists participating from: Bonaire (Henk Roozendaal, Renate v/d Bijl, Marjolein Verhoef, Norwin Coffie, Winfred Dania), Curaçao (Ariadne Faries, Marianne Catz, Phillippe Zanolino, Stephanie Hasham, Dianthe Chirino, Edward Chirino), St. Maarten (Youmay Dormoy, Annemiek Kernhof, Mosera) and Saba (Heleen Cornet)

This exhibition is made possible by many local organizations who have taken their time to contribute to a great cause. They include Kas di Arte, SKAL, DAE, Bonaire Jazz Foundation, TCB, Divi Flamingo, Budget Rent-a-Car.

If you would like to make a contribution contact the Suku Design Foundation for more information or make a donation to MCB-175647 08. For more information call Nicole Chirino, Kaminda Jato Baco # 3, 786-1348, nchirino@polyrhythmik.com. Website: www.polyrhythmik.com □ *Nicole Chirino*

Do You Sudoku?

Sudoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. It was created and published in 1979, although the puzzles didn't really gain popularity until *The Times* in Britain began printing Sudoku in 2005, and the craze spread like wildfire across the world.

Solving The Puzzles

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle, without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region.

What makes these puzzles fun is that the rules are simple but require logical reasoning skills to solve. Some find it easier to pencil in the possible numeric candidates or write them along the outside of the puzzle. Others find this distracting. Different levels of difficulty exist. *The Reporter* will start out with Easy level, and gradually move on the Tricky and Tough. For more details visit the web site www.sudokushack.com. They have a tutorial that's a bit easier to understand. Good luck! □ *Molly Kearney*

Answer on page 14

		6	8			1	
		7	5		2	4	9
3		2		7			5
4			9		3		8 2
1			6				3
7	8			5			6
9				4		3	1
2		1	3		8	6	
	3				5	9	



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

Snip and save so you can always find a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* if there are no more at your favorite spot

Car Rental Agencies: At the Airport

Airlines: Aboard Divi Divi Air

Banks: MCB (Playa & Hato branches), RBTT

Restaurants:

- Bistro de Paris
- Cactus Blue
- Capriccio
- City Café
- Croccantino
- Lost Penguin
- Lover's Ice Cream
- Pasa Bon Pizza

Dive Shops:

- Yellow Submarine
- WannaDive
- Carib Inn

Shops:

- Benetton
- Bonaire Gift Shop
- DeFreewieler
- Exito Bakery

- INPO
- Last Bite Bakery
- Paradise Photo
- Photo Tours, Playa
- Plantation Furniture

Hotels:

- Buddy Dive
- Capt. Don's Habitat
- Carib Inn
- Caribbean Club Bonaire
- Caribbean Court
- Divi Flamingo
- Eden Beach Hotel
- Golden Reef Inn
- The Great Escape
- Plaza Resort
- Sand Dollar Resort

Supermarkets:

- Bo Toko, North Salina
- Cultimara
- Montecatini
- Progresso
- Sand Dollar Grocery
- Tropical Flamingo
- Warehouse Bonaire

Government:

- Bestuurscollege
- Customs

- Parliament Office
- BVO

Others:

- Bonfysio
- Botika Korona
- Caribbean Laundry
- Fit 4 Life, Plaza
- Hair Affair
- Harbour Village Marina
- Rocargo
- San Francisco Hospital
- TCB
- Telbo

Bookstores:

- Bonaire Boekhandel,
- Flamingo Bookstore

Realty Offices:

- Harbourtown
- Re/Max
- Sunbelt

RINCON:

- Chinese Store
- Joi Fruit Store
- Lemari Grocery
- Rincon Bakery
- Rose Inn

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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

JELLASTONE PETPARK

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

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

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.

LUNCH TO GO

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

For Sale

Like to have a seat? For Sale, 2 and 3 seat comfortable couch. Colour blue modern design. 9 months. Asking price NAf1150 Lots of pillows! Call 786-3558 between 9:00-19:00

Windsurf boards, (2) for sale with booms and sails. Contact 785-3456 Good deal!!!!

For sale: Sky kennel for large dog, KLM-approved, size F, NAf300, 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.

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

Wanted

Wanted to buy - Suzuki Samurai engine & drive train in good shape? Body should be in reasonable shape but can be mostly rust. Phone 717-3527

Wanted: trailer for sunfish. Contact info: schuitm@hotmail.com, or 786-7949

Boats for Sale

Why import a sail boat when you can own a fast Regatta winner built right here?

Classic 21' Bonaire Sail Fishing boat recently refurbished is for sale for NAf14,000 (\$8,000)



Freesss

Black & White Dark room Equipment, enlarger, safe lights, timers, light safe vent fan and more FREE for anyone who will use it! Call 717-5061.

Vacation Rental

Cozy guest cottage available. Studio with kitchen, airco, cable TV, two single beds (or king) and pull-out sofa, bikes, kayak, porch, yard and private entrance. Five minute walk to seaside promenade and 10 minute walk to town. \$50/night. Contact: seabeans@hotmail.com

The Bonaire Gardner

Well Water & How to Plant

Last time I wrote about the possibilities of using **deep well water** on plants. By the number of reactions I got, this is a hot topic that has the interest of many people! With the rising prices of WEB water that makes sense.

If you have access to free water, it makes it so much easier to decide to plant some nice palms or trees.

I really wonder how Bonaireans in the old days used to get water from wells. I know that a lot of the old houses have rain collector tanks (cisterns), but there are also a lot of old wells around. Most of them don't function anymore.

But with all the new types of plants that are available right now, you should really know which ones can stand some brackish water and which can't.

The best option is still, if possible, to combine the well water and other water like rain water (the very best choice) or septic tank water and of course, WEB water. The number one plant that can stand some brackish water is for sure the **Coconut palm**, in every variety. But, again, don't overdo



Areca palm

it. They can't grow in only salt water.

We get a lot of questions about **how to plant a shrub, palm or tree**. The answer is not that difficult. Make sure there's enough space for the roots to grow! I'm sure we've talked about this topic before, but this is something that's always important. The more space the roots have to grow in, the easier it will be for them to find water and nutrients. And this is even more important if you want to use brackish water for your plants.

Our rule is: When you plant a plant from a 10-liter (3-gallon) white bucket, for instance, **make sure the hole is at least twice as big**. The extra space you can fill with some nice diabaas that doesn't have too many rocks. That's for easy plants like the Coconut palm or Oleander. For more demanding

plants like most other shrubs you can make a mix of diabaas with everything organic that you can get. However, be careful with fresh goat or donkey manure. There could be a high risk of burning the roots with ammonia.

There are some very good mixes available on Bonaire that are sold by the soil companies. And if you really want to spoil your plants, you can use the coco potting soil or other potting soil that is always good for the more difficult plants like the Areca palm, Ixora or other plants. Make sure you mix that soil with some diabaas or the above soil mix; otherwise, no water will remain in the root area. All potting soils allow it to drain through much easier than other soils.

Next time I'll write more about this, especially what to do when you want to plant trees in holes in coral rock. □

Ap van Eldik



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

Pets of the Week

Caught in the act of relaxing in the cat cage at the Bonaire Animal Shelter are "Martin" and "Cynthia." Martin, the top cat, came to the Shelter with his mom when he was just four weeks old. As you can tell already, he's a very relaxed and mellow cat with some of the softest fur known to man. He's about a year now. His "bunk mate" below is Cynthia who's a very playful cat, full of fun, says the staff. She's about six months old and has been sterilized. Both cats have been tested for feline leukemia, are healthy and "social."



Martin & Cynthia

Cats like these two are often called "tuxedo" cats - black and white cats with white paws, chest and belly. It might have some white on the face as well.

Some people call black and white cats "jellicle" cats: after T.S. Eliot. Eliot heard this word, "jellicle," from his young niece, who sounded as if she were saying "Jellicle cat" whenever she called for her "dear little cat" and "Pollicle dog" whenever she called for her "poor little puppy."

It is said that Jellicle cats (which appeared in the Broadway musical, "Cats") are special from ordinary cats.

Jellicle cats are given three names each: one name given by their human owners, one name that is unique and fits only that cat's personality, and one name that is so divine that only the cat knows it and still contemplates over it (*The Naming of Cats*).

You may meet these black and white cuties at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □ L.D.

Do You SuDoku?

(puzzle and directions on page 12)

And the solution is:

5	4	6	8	3	9	2	1	7
8	1	7	5	6	2	4	3	9
3	9	2	4	7	1	8	6	5
4	6	5	9	1	3	7	8	2
1	2	9	6	8	7	5	4	3
7	8	3	2	5	4	1	9	6
9	5	8	7	4	6	3	2	1
2	7	1	3	9	8	6	5	4
6	3	4	1	2	5	9	7	8



Be an Angel -
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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Take The Lead (Antonio Banderas)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Inside Man

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
THURS THRU SUN
2 MOVIES 7 & 9PM
MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8PM

SATURDAY 4 PM
May: The Wild

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 21 –Bonaire Culinary Team Dinner. Support the team and have a gourmet competition dinner. 7 pm, Chez Nous, \$25 for 3-course meal with wine. Call Sara 786-9299 or Floris 786-1508 for reservations.

Saturday, May 20 - 30 km Goto Lake Mountain Bike Tour sponsored by Cycle Bonaire & Bonaire Wellness Connexion (BWC). Meet at Cycle Bonaire / Bonaire Dive & Adventure, 4 pm. Helmets are mandatory for all riders. NAf10. Sign up at Cycle Bonaire, Kaya Gobernador Debrot 77a. Call 717-2229 or 785-0767 – See page 4 for more info.

Until May 21—Winfred Dania Art Exhibit, Kas di Arte, open daily 10 am—5 pm—see page 13

Tuesday, May 23—Jazz at Croccantino Restaurant—a prelude to upcoming Jazz Festival with fine dining, Tuscan style. Call 717-5025

Thursday, May 25 - Ascension Day – Holiday - banks and many shops closed

Thursday - Sunday, May 25—28—Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2006—See Schedule on page 11.

Thursday-Sunday, May 25 –28-Suku Design Foundation presents: “Polyrhythmic” (Two or more contrasting rhythms played simultaneously) -the first annual Dutch Caribbean Art Exposition at **Kas di Arte** during Bonaire’s Jazz Festival, to 28. Artwork by artists from the Dutch Antillean Islands. Open 9 am to 8 pm. **On the 26th there will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 pm. On the 27th there will be sunset music and wine tasting from 5 to 7 pm.** See page 11.

COMING

Saturday, May 27 - End of the month

Flea Market at Parke Publico— 3 to 8 pm – Genral info call Vicky 786-1592 . Booth info call Elisabeth 717-6907/565-5225

June 17-24—Dive Into Adventure Bonaire (DIAB). See more on page 6

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

- HH 2 for 1 (on all beverages) 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—**Buddy Dive**, 5:30-6:30
- HH **Cactus Blue** (except Sunday) 5 to 7 pm,
- 2 for 1 appetizer with every entrée, **Cactus Blue**
- **Divi Flamingo Casino** 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.

Saturdays

- **Grill Night on the Beach, Buddy Dive**
- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am - 2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handi-crafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon. **Extra big Marshe 1st Saturday of the month.**
- **Mountain Bike Ride**—Everyone welcome. It’s free. Bring a bike and your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel Angel Brito leads the pack. Tel. 785-0767 for information.
- **Wine Tasting at AWC’s** warehouse, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Great wines - NAf2,50 a glass.
- **All You Can Eat BBQ at Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444 .

Sundays

Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambience at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo.** Open daily 5 to 10 pm

Mondays

- **Caribbean Night, - live local music– Buddy Dive.**
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435
- **Kriyoyo Night BBQ Buffet** featuring Chef Gibi and Los Princes Mariachi, **Golden Reef Inn** . Band 7 pm, BBQ at 7:30 pm. Reservations \$20, walk ins \$25. Drinks available for purchase. Call 717-5759 or email info@goldenreefinn.com

Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers**, 5-7 pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine**, 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Buy a Bucket of Beer & get free chicken wings**, 5 to 7 pm, **Cactus Blue**

Wednesdays

- **Open Mike Night** with Moogie, 7 to 9 pm, **Cactus Blue**
- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers** **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30 pm
- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers** **The Windsurf Place** at Sorobon 7:30-9:30 pm
- **Movie Night at Buddy Dive**

Thursdays

Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers” 5-7 pm-**Divi Flamingo**, Balashi Beach Bar

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225
- **Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers”** **Divi Flamingo**, Balashi Beach Bar – 5-7 pm
- **Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sorobon from 1330 to 1630
- **Manager’s Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, **Divi Flamingo**, 5-7 pm
- **Manager’s Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 pm, followed by **All You Can Eat BBQ**
- **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

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. 717-8290 for info.

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 (STCB) Slide Show by Bruce Brabec. **Carib Inn** seaside veranda, 7 pm. Tel. 717-8819.

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

Cancer Survivor Support Group Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093 for details

Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi’s - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

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

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

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other **Tuesday**, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every **2nd and 4th Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Restaurant Zeezicht. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

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— Call Roosje 786-7984

Volunteers to train children in sports. Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

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 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

See advertisements in this issue



ART

Richter Art— By Jake and Linda Richter: Original oil paintings, giclees on canvas, limited edition and open prints. 717-4112

BANKS

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

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

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

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 a 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.**

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.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:

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

Did you know that listing in the Guides is **FREE** for weekly advertisers?

Born on Bonaire

Angelique Salsbach

“Salsbach with an ‘S.’ I love to dance; that’s the sauce in life. That’s why the ‘S’ in Salsbach, Salsa Sauce! My childhood was full of love and happiness. We lived in Hato in one of the WEB houses along the sea and my beautiful brother Robert and I were very healthy kids, always playing in the water.

My dad is Robert ‘Papichi’ Salsbach. He worked for WEB all his working life, but he’s also an international and local musician. He plays the violin with the Mariachi, but he also plays kuarta, mandolin, bass guitar and guitar. Every Friday you can see him playing at Karel’s. He’s a man who likes to have people around him. When we meet in Playa we go dancing together! He’s also a very critical person, not a talker, but he’s good at giving advice and our education has been always very important to him.

My mom, Marie Salsbach-Weiman, is someone with great willpower. She makes her dreams happen and she taught me to do the same. She put a lot of time into our upbringing, but she also worked. She opened her own little health food shop in my grandmother’s house in Playa Pabou. Then she moved across from Boutique Vita in Kaya Grandi where she had her health food restaurant and shop.

During my teenage years I was allowed to go out, but there were rules. From the time I was 15 I could go to E WoWo (disco), but only in the afternoon. It was fine with me as long as I could dance! I went with my brother or with my girlfriends. Those girlfriends are still my girlfriends and I cherish them! When I finished HAVO I didn’t know what I wanted to do, so, to give myself some time I went to VWO School in Curaçao, an educational path that prepares for university. I had two more years to think it over.

The move to Curaçao was a big change. From my parental home where I had had 100% protection and comfort I had to live with strangers and be independent. It wasn’t easy, but I think that life shouldn’t be too smooth because you have to learn from all the things that happen to you. On Curaçao I learned to be independent and to stand up for my own opinion. For me it was a good preparation for Holland. Time passed by and still I didn’t know what to study for. Then, this dear school friend of mine, Angelique Craane from Curaçao, an angel who was there at the right time, told me: ‘Angelique, you’re always talking about food; healthy nutrition is something so big for you, why don’t you become a dietitian?’ I wonder where she is now. I would love to see her again.”

Angelique Salsbach (34) is very cute and very serious at the same time. She’s well-balanced and very much focused, but most of all she’s an intense person. “Until my

friend told me I’d never realized how much I was involved in food, nutrition and health, but apparently it was always obvious! I was 19 or 20 and I what I really needed was a professional education. I didn’t finish VWO because with HAVO I could do HBO (higher professional education) and I wanted to start as soon as possible.

I moved to Amstelveen, Holland, where I lived in this huge student complex called ‘Uilenstede’ while I was studying at de ‘Hoge School’ from Amsterdam. Before we started school, all the Antillean *beursalen*’ (students with a scholarship) had to take a course in all the aspects of living

“I could have stayed in Holland and worked for a higher salary than I get here, but how about the quality of life? ... There is more to work and coming home. Here family and friends are always close; everything is nearby; and that gives you time for yourself.”

and studying in Holland. When I have to enter unknown territory, whatever it is, I always prepare myself very well. This time I was prepared for the worst. I thought I would never see the sun again! However, when I arrived in Holland and I did see the sun, I thought, ‘Oh, this isn’t so bad!’ As a teenager I’d been a real go getter. So when I went to Holland, when I’d finally made my decision to become a dietitian, I knew why I was there, and somehow everything went well, including my studies. My darling brother was living in the same complex, one minute from where I was, and that helped a lot too.

I stayed in Holland for four and a half years, finished my studies and did a post-HBO course in sports nutrition. I met a lot of people, and without losing my culture or traditions, I learned to adjust in a harmonic way. That was very important because it made me grow and develop a wider view. I’ve always been very grateful for my scholarship.

In November ’97 I came back to Bonaire. It was always my plan to come back and to contribute to the island. Before I left there was one dietitian on Bonaire, Sharine Loozen, and now she is my colleague. One of my goals here was to set up a prevention and educational project about healthy nutrition for the elementary



Angelique Salsbach

schools and special education on the island. That’s what I have been doing for six years now and the results are definitely showing! People should realize that nutrition is part of education because food is what keeps you going. If you give your children healthy food they will do better.

Sharine and I also conduct yearly campaigns about healthy nutrition and the importance of exercising. Together we have a radio program at Bon FM, every Tuesday from 9 to 9.30 am. My job is very diverse. For the most part I’m busy with clients who were sent to me by their doctor. Also I have clients who come on their own initiative. I work at the schools; I do the campaigns and sometimes I fill in for my colleague at the hospital. So, I’m busy with intervention and prevention. It’s great to be able to do both!

I can get bored easily, but my work is never boring! I love to be around people, just like my dad. I’m also a person who sees good qualities in people, and for me that’s the balance – not being focused on the bad things, but instead seeing the good things. I could have stayed in Holland and worked for a higher salary than I get here, but how about the quality of life? My income is important to me but so is my quality of life. There is more to work and coming home. Here family and friends are always close; everything is nearby; and that gives you time for yourself. Bonaire’s nature is very beautiful, and I know many secret places, so amazing, so virgin, so pure... so typically Bonairean... This island is so special; it has such a pure strength. And our clean waters... I am so proud of our sea. I always brag about it when I am abroad.

The only thing I miss here is the opportunity to upgrade myself through courses or studies. But that’s because I am still

young, I guess. Just a couple of weeks ago Benito Dirksz, two other partners and I opened Top Health Bonaire, a fitness and health center based on the holistic philosophy. Not only do we work on a healthy body but also on a healthy mind. It’s not only about beauty and looking good; your complete well-being is essential. I am someone who is very alternative minded and this is a new challenge.

It’s funny, when I’ve achieved my goals, something I’d been looking forward to for such a long time, I don’t feel what I’d expected to feel. Something was still missing. The simplicity of Bonaire can teach you a lot. I’ve read many spiritual books; I took spiritual courses; I learned how to meditate; I did yoga; and now I see life differently. For me two things are important: You have to take care of your body, by living as healthily as possible. And you have to take care of your soul, your spirit, your true self, by minimizing negative and waste thoughts, to make space for positive thoughts that will influence your attitude and inner peace. I am not ready to die yet, because Angelique Salsbach has to learn a lot more in this life! Ever since I discovered this beautiful aspect of life I found strength in myself and it stimulates me and helps me grow. We all have values like love and respect in our selves, but because of difficult situations in life those values sometimes go to sleep. It feels like they’re not there anymore, but sure they are! You have to wake them up and for me that is the only way to find happiness.” □

Story & photo by
Greta Kooistra



PORTRAITS OF BONAIRE

The Journalist

One day when I was 17 -- I had written a few small articles for the regional newspaper -- I was asked by Thomas Vos, the editor of that paper, to baby sit his children. The evening was uneventful but, as usually happens, when the parents returned home we had an interesting conversation.

"Guus," Thomas told me, "If you want to work for a newspaper, you have to become a good reporter first. If you see smoke coming from under a sewer lid, lift it up to see what's going on; if the canal's on fire, call me; if you hear a police or ambulance siren: go right after it! News can be everywhere. Being nosy and writing well, that's what it takes. We'll talk later about what defines a good journalist."

When I read the 12 January 2006 issue of *Extra*, the biggest Bonairean newspaper, I was reminded of that evening. I read the daily column '2 Palabra' (A couple of words) by chief editor Bòi Antoin.

He described the feeling of being interviewed, what it's like to be the one having to answer questions instead of asking them, the usual role of a journalist. As comedian Jürgen Raymann in his Auntie Essie persona pressingly would have asked, "Who is your father? Who is your mother?"

The things Henk and I discussed with him for the purpose of this article were mentioned, and between the lines it became obvious that he thought the experience intriguing. He felt really probed and prodded: his column is appropriately titled 'Interogashon.' And being a professional journalist, Bòi Antoin builds a good story around this experience.

Bòi (Franklin Dominico) Antoin was born in Antriol on Bonaire when his father, grandson of a liberated African slave from Nort di Salina, was already 60 years of age. His mother was from Antriol, the illegitimate child of a plantation owner. She was 43 when Bòi, her seventh child, was born.

"It may sound French, Antoin, but it isn't really. My great-grandfather's master was called Felix Anthony and it was common among liberated slaves to take on names that resembled those of their previ-



Bòi Antoin

ous masters. It should be pronounced 'Antween', but no-one's ever said that to me."

Hearing Bòi tell this, I'm suddenly struck by how close this age of slavery is. Just three generations ago, yesterday really, our island had been a slave colony!

"I went to a Dutch Catholic school, at St Dominic's, like a lot of children in those days. If you had the nerve to speak Papiamentu in the schoolyard, you were clipped round the ear! But my Dutch was fine, and it got even better when I served in the military in Aruba. I drove a large truck, and since I was supposed to be a true Antillean -- they're always late, as you know -- I sometimes drove an extra few laps just to be late, even though I'm quite punctual myself. It was a great time, I learned a lot. I thought in Dutch and dreamed in Papiamentu."

Back on his island of Bonaire, he entered a phase which would determine the rest of his life. He discovered his ability to work with pen and paper.

"I worked as a technician at the Dutch Radio World Service, which played an important part in the development of our island. I controlled the relays of Dutch broadcasts to our shores. On the side, I started writing for the local newspaper, the *Extra*. That took a larger and larger part of my time. I found I did it well and I liked it, because there was little in the way of entertainment in Bonaire in those days. The next step was quite logical: to be-

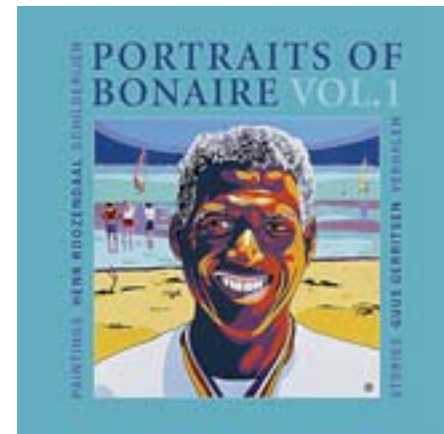
come Head of Press Relations for the entire Antilles. You have to be able to write well and always have a little speech ready. After a couple of years, though, I found I could not combine this official function, voicing the government's interests, with serving Free Speech through my writing in the newspaper. It just wouldn't work. I had a hard time with it, but then I wrote something nice about the opposition and I couldn't reconcile the two any longer. I quit my job with the government and focused exclusively on the newspaper."

He did so from 1983, with panache and conviction. Bòi uncovered scandals and miscarriages of justice, voiced warnings to leaders trying to mislead the people and was not afraid to give his opinion when required to.

"As a journalist, you're always in the opposition, because you have to be critical towards the powers that be. It means there are some people who can't stand the sight of me, but I consider it to be my duty, I can't do it otherwise."

When Bòi's father was in his 80s he unwittingly played an important role in his son's writing career. "I'd never seen him work, but in his 80s he suddenly started to talk about his life as a sailor, burning coal on Klein Bonaire, making soup from coral stone, adding sweet spices. Countless stories he told; he had a good long-term memory, like a lot of older people. I took it all in, becoming more and more fascinated by the history, nature and culture of this island. I started writing about it too, obviously in the papers, but I wrote some books as well. I became a bit of an historian from it all. The TV show *Herensia* (Heritage) is a product of that, and some talks for radio. Even to this day, the past and my natural surroundings are of greater interest to me than the future. I feel happy walking with a stick through Washington Park; you get the feeling you can meet your ancestors there."

I wondered cautiously if perhaps he didn't look back to much. "I do look at the present," he said. "And if I see something I don't like, I will talk about that. If there are any plans threatening to damage the island, like this unholy idea to build hotels near Lac Bay even though nobody knows what to do with the sewage water, I'm on the barricades. But everybody can learn from the past, and it certainly feels enriching to me. I'm happy every time I've discovered something new, and hopefully my



audience is too. For instance, read what I've discovered about various religious groups on the island by systematically checking a Protestant cemetery. You have freemasons, Protestants and Adventists, all lying side by side! Coincidentally, I'm interested in the Adventists, because one of their rules is No Smoking. Take the hint, guys!"

Bòi Antoin was given a Royal Order in 2001 and a Silver Carnation in 2003, awarded to him by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands personally, for all the work he did to preserve Bonairean nature and culture, and to propagate awareness. He accepted this great honor with his typical modesty, amongst friends and family in the Royal Palace on Dam square in Amsterdam.

"Oh, it's alright, an award like that, but I would like it much better if the people here in Bonaire would take more interest in their past. I notice much more interest in Curaçao and Aruba; I'm often asked to give lectures there. Not here, though!"

A prophet is never recognized in his own country, or so it seems.

But the journalistic Wunderkind -- reporter, journalist, editor, commentator, radio and TV presenter, writer and publisher -- does have something to celebrate this year. The *Extra*, his newspaper for 29 years, had its 30th birthday. For that occasion, Bòi Antoin has handed over his personal files to the community of Bonaire, through a foundation called *Fundashon Históricu Kultural Boneriano* that was founded by him and a few friends. He would like to call the archives '*Memoria di Boneiru*,' or Conscience of Bonaire.

That name befits a man who keeps that conscience alive each and every day -- until a police siren disrupts his work or the Caribbean Seas start burning... Because apart from being a man of conscience, he is still the reporter going out after every little news item. News can be everywhere! □ Reprinted from *Portraits of Bonaire, Vol II - Story by Guus Gerritsen, Illustration by Henk Roozendaal*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

The Moon Pays a Visit to the Brightest and Dimmest of the Naked Eye Planets!

Mark two dates on your calendar for two special cosmic must-sees.

Sunday, May 21st, a beautiful last quarter **Moon** will visit the dimmest naked-eye planet and three days later on **Wednesday, May 24th**, it will visit the brightest of the naked-eye planets.

This Sunday, May 21st, an hour before sunrise, face east where the two brightest things you'll see will be #1, **Venus** the brightest of all the planets and which is always so bright it is often mistaken for a UFO, and # 2, an exquisite just-past-last-quarter Moon will be up and to the right of Venus. And if you're really far away from all city lights and have clear cloudless skies, parked just above and to the left of the Moon, you'll see planet # 7, 32,000-mile-wide **Uranus**, which is so huge we could line 16 Moons up across its middle. Now if you're viewing from a town area, where it never gets completely dark out, all you need to see the 7th planet is a pair of binoculars. It will look like a tiny blue green point of light, and it is indeed the dimmest of all the naked eye planets. The reason is that it is so far away from the **Sun**, on average almost 2 billion miles away.



Moon

Uranus is a very peculiar planet because, unlike all the other planets, it circles the Sun tilted on its side. So for 42 years its north pole gets sunlight, and the other 42 years its south pole gets sunlight, thus its nickname, "the sideways planet." So don't miss the Moon and the dimmest naked-eye planet on Sunday. Then on Monday and Tuesday watch the Moon as it advances closer and closer to the brightest naked-eye planet.

On Monday, the 22nd, the Moon will be almost half way between Uranus and Venus, and on Tuesday, two thirds of the way. Plus if you pay close attention you will notice that the lighted portion of the Moon is getting smaller and smaller and turning into an exquisite slender crescent. But the big day and the one day you cannot miss for a super Moon-Venus picture is - ta da! - Wednesday, May 24th, when a magnificent slender crescent, almost as skinny as it gets, will be parked only 4 1/2 degrees away from Venus, which will make a spectacular naked-eye picture, no binoculars needed.

To understand just how close 4 1/2 degrees is, simply remember that a full Moon is half a degree wide. So 4 1/2 degrees is 9 full Moons wide, which means we could fit only 9 full Moons between Venus and the Moon. Now although Venus is much smaller than Uranus, 8,000 miles wide, the same size as our Earth, the reason it is so brilliant is because it is so incredibly close, only 85 million miles away the morning of the 24th.

So once again on Sunday morning, the 21st, the Moon parks right next to Uranus for which you'll need your binoculars and on Wednesday, the 24th, the Moon makes an exquisite naked eye duo with the planet named for the goddess of love. Don't miss these two! □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: May 7 to 13, to 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Think about starting your own small business, You will have to check your cash flow before you decide to indulge in hobbies or entertainment that may be beyond your budget. Do not blow situations out of proportion. Get involved in groups that will help you meet established individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Difficulties at an emotional level may be likely. Your involvement in groups will be favorable for meeting new and exciting individuals. Get back to basics and reevaluate what is important in life. Discuss your objectives with partners or peers. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Overindulgence could cause problems for you with your loved ones. Take care when dealing with older relatives. Investments are best left alone this week. Love could develop at social events that are work related. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You are exceptional at presenting your ideas. You may find that depression is causing you to feel lonely and insecure. Family outings or a quiet stroll through the park will lead to stimulating conversation and a closer bond. Expect to experience a sudden reversal of fortune. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You can expect to have a passionate time if you go out with someone you are romantically interested in. Romance will develop through work related activities. Make sure that you have all the pertinent facts before taking action. Children may cause limitations. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Physical activity will help defuse your frustration. Opportunities for travel and communication are evident. You will do best to entertain those you wish to close deals with. Discord could be unnerving. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Problems with skin, bones, or teeth may mess up your schedule. Time to deal with institutional environments, government agencies, and matters of a private nature this week. Friends may not understand your situation. You may be torn between two possibilities. This has left you in a confused and uncertain state. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Residential moves look hectic and sudden changes in your life are likely. Your self esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the lime light. You could be cornered, so be prepared to tell the truth. You'll have problems with authority figures if you don't play by the rules. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative. Visitors are likely to drop by and chances are, they may even stay a little longer than you want them to. Don't overreact if your partner has a poor attitude. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You're eager to learn. Spend a quiet day with the one you love. Social evenings at your place will be highly successful. Do not lend money to friends, or contribute more than necessary to groups unworthy of your cash. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You should be setting up interviews or sending out your resume this week. If you've taken on a lot of work, be sure to leave some time for yourself and family. You should follow through on educational endeavors you have wanted to pursue for some time. Communication will be the source of your knowledge and you must be sure to spend time with those who have more experience. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Channel your energy into passionate interludes with your lover. Question your mate if you must. Take your time before making personal decisions. Use your added discipline to get what you want. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. □