

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

June 9 to June 16, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 23

The REPORTER

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More Pages
FIFA coverage



**Genies Perform
at MCB Fest**

Page 17

Flotsam and Jetsam

It's been agreed that the **Round Table Conference, a required step toward the reorganization of The Netherlands Antilles, can take place** at the beginning of July, provided two weeks before the start of the conference. The Netherlands and the Antilles reach consensus on how to handle financial issues and the maintenance of law and order. Agreement was reached last Thursday when Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage met with Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende in The Hague.

► The American low-cost airline, **JetBlue, said it plans to start daily flights from JFK airport in New York to Aruba, effective September 15**, using the Airbus A320 with about 150 seats. Local authorities hope the competitive pricing of JetBlue will reduce airfare from the US to the island in general.

► In the 2006/2007 winter season onward, **Martinair will be introducing a regular service twice a week between Curaçao and Amsterdam.** The first flight will leave on Sunday, October 29. This weekly Sunday flight will leave Amsterdam and make a stop-over in Barbados. The weekly non-stop flight on Wednesday will be taking off from December 13 onward. With the difficulty of obtaining a seat on the

KLM flights to Bonaire, Martinair offers a low cost alternative. Flights can be booked through Martinair reservations, telephone number: +31-(0)-20-6011767.

► **Dutch Minister Rita Verdonk, champion of the tough Antillean Admission Law, lost her bid to lead the VVD liberal party** and possibly the country on Wednesday as support seemed to fade over her handling of Somali-born Ayaan Hirsi Ali. The hardliner, dubbed "Iron Rita" for her tough stance on foreigners in The Netherlands, has also introduced tough new citizenship tests, demanded the expulsion of 26,000 unsuccessful asylum seekers and recently rejected fast-track Dutch citizenship for Ivorian footballer Salomon Kalou to allow him to play in the soccer World Cup. (Reuters).

► The Central Government's Security Corps is providing the **Consul-General of Venezuela in Curaçao, Lorenzo Angiolillo, with personal protection after a shooting incident at his official residence.** The Intelligence Agency of the Netherlands Antilles has started an investigation into the possible motives, while police are looking for the perpetrators and conducting additional patrols.

► When representatives from TCB New York, TCB South America, TCB Bonaire and local businessmen met, on their final evening they enjoyed a **casual dinner at Cactus Blue.** The Cactus Blue restaurant is doing its part to promote Bonaire. This month they are mentioned in the *US Sport Diver* magazine in a six-page article on Bonaire and have a small write up in the June issue of the *UK Sport Diver* magazine.



► **Alan Garcia, a former Peruvian president, beat a fiery ex-army nationalist in Peru's run-off election Sunday,** staging a political comeback after his 1980s government ended in economic ruin, rebel violence and accusations of rights abuses. The result is a **blow for Hugo Chavez, the president of Venezuela,** who sparked a diplomatic spat with Peru after trying to take advantage of a populist anti-US tide in Latin America by supporting Ollanta Humala, a former army commander who promised to redistribute the country's wealth.



Many Peruvians voted for Garcia - dubbed "Latin America's Kennedy" when he was first elected at the age of 35 - seeing him as the lesser of two evils and less hostile to business. Mr.

García, now 57, sounded a note of contrition during a spellbinding victory speech before a throng of supporters.

► The legendary blind Bonaire singer, **Nemencio Winklaar,** many years ago composed a song imploring Queen Wilhelmina to give him sight to use a gun to defend against Venezuelan incursions. **Operation Caribbean Lion,** the military exercise now underway, is presenting a similar message.

► **The Mounties will try to get their man even in the Caribbean.** A Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officer visited the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis last month to look at the programs and services that its Police Force provides and to make recommendations to enhance the service. Jamaica enlisted Scotland Yard detectives two years ago, while St Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago recently announced

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2) that it will hire seven and 39 British cops, respectively.

The Antilles regularly use expertise from Holland to assist in criminal matters.



► The traditional yearly event “Dia Di Arte” will take place for the 14th year at Wilhelmina Park on Sunday, July 9, from 10 am to 10 pm. Artists from all walks of life will be there to share their talents. They include painters, writers, musicians, dancers, cooks and more. Every year a new type of art is introduced in some form or another. One of the exhibitors, JanArt, will be accepting works of art for the yearly “JanArt Contest.” You may stop at her booth and make a picture for the contest or bring one that you have made at home. Art supplies will be available at no charge at her booth. There will be five different categories for prizes – Best Picture, Best Animal, Best Flower, Best Underwater Scene, and Best Landscape. Different age categories will also receive prizes.

Artists who are interested in getting a booth should contact Edwin Martijn at 786-8400 or Desiree Silberic at 790-2807 by June 15. (Janice Huckaby, JanArt) G./L.D.

Letter



Jessie Armacost photo

MORE BABIES

Dear Editor:

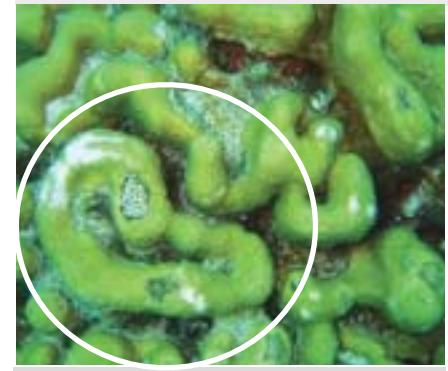
I loved the article in your latest issue by Dee Scarr about baby fish. During my recent visit to Bonaire I was pleased to find the reef very full of baby fish. That is a great indicator of a healthy fish population. Particularly important to me was the presence of several baby Tiger Groupers. These little fish look very different as juveniles, more like intermediate Bluehead Wrasse, and were present on almost every dive. Tiger Groupers only spawn in the winter, unlike most fish that spawn regularly, so finding the juveniles is a rare treat. Also Grouper is a valuable commercial fish whose presence on the reef is highly desirable by both fishermen and divers. Presence of baby Tiger Groupers means Bonaire has spawning action somewhere nearby in the winter. Since Groupers are particularly vulnerable when they are spawning this is a good reason why this species should be protected during that time of year.

I was able to get a picture of a baby Tiger Grouper with a Bluehead Wrasse. The Tiger Grouper is the lower little yellow fish. The upper little yellow fish is a Bluehead Wrasse.

Jessie Armacost

coral glimpses

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



Viewing from above we're looking straight down on a colony of lobed star coral.

Look at the shoe-shaped lobe on the lower left. The bright white marks on its upper left and on its "sole" (and on the lobe to the upper right) are fresh scrapes, probably parrotfish bites. They may be a clue as to what killed the deeper dead spot on this lobe since there's no visible texture. The rest of the lobe has grown up around this area so it died long ago.

The dead spot next to the white marks on the sole of the boot has been dead long enough to support flourishing algae. Above it, on the dead spot in the shoelace area of the boot, the little circles (remnants of the "cups" the individual coral polyps sit in) are still visible, so whatever killed those coral polyps did not affect the skeleton below.

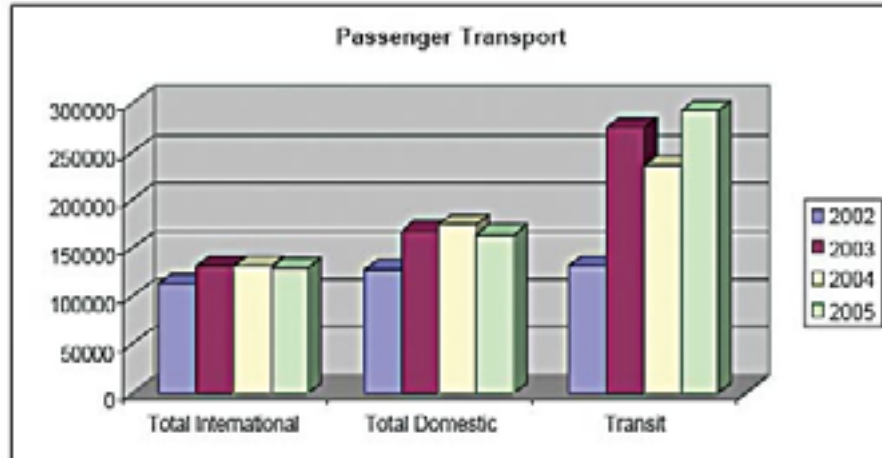
The threats to coral aren't new, and there sure are plenty of them. D.S.



Bonaire Economic Report

DEZA, Bonaire's Department of Economic and Labor Affairs, has issued its comprehensive report for 2005. It describes all aspects of the economy.

In the next weeks The Reporter will be passing on information from this report. This week the data for Flamingo Airport, the gateway for Bonaire's tourist economy, is described.



	2005	2004	2003	2002	2005	2004	2003	2002
	ARR	ARR	ARR	ARR	DEP	DEP	DEP	DEP
International	43,49%	42,60%	44,41%	51,12%	44,46%	43,32%	43,57%	43,76%
Domestic	56,51%	57,40%	55,59%	48,88%	55,54%	56,68%	56,43%	56,24%

Flamingo Airport

In 2005, Bonaire's only airport registered a small growth in passenger transport of about 3% because transit passengers increased by 13%. Transit passengers for the most part are traveling between Ecuador/Peru and The Netherlands and spend about an hour at the airport waiting for their plane to refuel. The more transit passengers translates into fewer seats available for Bonaire-destination passengers.

Total international traffic as well as domestic traffic showed a decrease of respectively around 2.5% and 6.5%. Financial problems at Air Jamaica caused a cut in flights to Bonaire to once a week. American Eagle added flights but uses smaller aircraft. KLM reduced its frequency to five flights per week in 2005.

Domestic air traffic decreased since DCA stopped flying in the summer of 2004. Dutch Antilles Express (DAE, formerly BonairExel), stabilizing after some internal reorganization, offers the most seats between the ABC islands. Divi Divi Airlines, registered as an Air Taxi (9 seats), increased its frequency to eight flights per day. As a result, the total commercial air transport in 2005 remains more or less the same compared to 2004. There are a bit fewer total passengers because smaller aircraft are used.

Airfreight volume is low. Only high value goods and perishables arrive by air. In any case, there is very little cargo space available on KLM flights to and from South America.

The year 2006 presents itself as stable with some positive perspectives. Continental Airlines, currently flying to Bonaire once a week since December 17, 2005, may add another flight by the end of 2006. On the domestic market, small carriers like Tiara Air are beginning to extend their inter-insular routes to Bonaire.

A possible plus for Bonaire is that JetBlue has announced that it will be offering low-cost flights between JFK in New York and Aruba. Divi-Divi, which provides the most reliable service between Curaçao and Bonaire, has recently extended its service to Aruba. DEZA and G.D.



Aid Money Again Available



Youngsters involved in the Stichting Project, an AMFO approved NGO, succeeded in their exams for an Open Water Dive certificate.

After a nine-month freeze, AMFO (Antillean Co-Financing Organization), the organization that provided Dutch funds for needy projects, last week released a list of projects deemed eligible for funding. It will soon transfer funds to those NGOs for projects that have already been approved.

The Dutch government stopped the funding of AMFO in October 2005 when accountants' reports of 2004 showed that the financial management of AMFO as well as of the NGO Platforms appeared to be deficient.

The plan is to have a new framework and basic conditions for the organization ready by the end of this month. Afterwards, AMFO will be internally organized. AMFO estimates that will take the remainder of 2006.

In order to support island needs, the Dutch government decided to make some funding available for AMFO immediately. These funds are intended only for projects that have already been approved by AMFO and that comply with the definition of acute poverty reduction.

In the table at right are the Bonaire NGOs entitled to receive further financing between June 1st and July 1st. NGOs with projects that will be financed may contact AMFO, telephone number 717-7776, fax number 717-7779 or email address info-bon@samfo.org. AMFO release

Approved NGOs

- Bonaire Judo Bond
- FESBO
- Fund. Sentro di Info. Aktivitat I Kwido
- B Fundashon 60+ Flor di Orkidia
- O Fundashon J.O.N.A.
- N Fundashon Kwido I Bienestar di Grandinan
- E Fundashon SEBIKI
- I Fundashon Stapnan chikitu pa Hesus
- R Obra Filantropiko Y Asistencia Social Ad
- U Stichting Bonairaanse Jeugdorg
- Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire
- Stichting Project

Opinions



Hurricane Katrina-2005

EVEN IN BONAIRE -BE PREPARED

In the words of the late great actress Bette Davis, "Fasten your seatbelts. It's going to be a bumpy night." Or a bumpy few months for the Caribbean, if 2006 hurricane predictions are accurate. The Atlantic hurricane season started on June 1, and American Hurricane Center meteorologists are predicting up to 16 named storms — four to six of them major hurricanes — in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.

While Bonaire is south of the hurricane belt it can be affected, primarily by large sea swells generated by the storms.

The 2005 storm season shattered long-standing records, chief among them the record number of named storms, 27, which obliterated the old record of 21 in 1933.

Fifteen of the named storms were hurricanes, breaking the old record of 12 set in 1969.

The three Category 5 hurricanes — Katrina, Rita and Wilma — set a record. Wilma became the strongest hurricane on record in the Atlantic Basin with a pressure of 882 millibars. That broke the old record set by Gilbert (888 mb) in 1988. Five 2005 names were retired because of their severity: Dennis, Rita, Katrina, Stan and Wilma.

The 2005 season began early with Tropical Storm Arlene forming June 9 from a tropical depression in the southwest Caribbean Sea. Tropical Storm Bret also formed in June, making it only the 13th time since 1851 that two tropical storms are known to have formed in June.

A record July followed, with five named storms (Cindy, Dennis, Emily, Franklin and Gert). The previous record for the number of named storms in July was four.

Another five named storms formed in August, two of them hurricanes (including Katrina), bringing the seasonal total to 12 named storms and four hurricanes.

In September, five more hurricanes formed (including Category 5 Rita), leading to a seasonal total nearly double the June-September average number of named storms. In only one other year (1933) had this many storms (17) formed by the end of September.

Six named storms formed during October, leading to an extension of the naming system to include the Greek alphabet.

Hurricane Vince made landfall in Spain as a tropical depression. It is the first known instance of a tropical cyclone making landfall in Spain.

Epsilon survived into December, becoming the 14th hurricane of the 2005 Atlantic season. Epsilon became the longest lasting December hurricane in the Atlantic. It is rare to have a hurricane in December, with only six hurricanes on record since

1851. Zeta, the 27th named tropical storm, formed in the Atlantic on December 30. It tied Alice #2 (1954) as the latest tropical storm to form in December in the Atlantic Basin and beat Alice #2 as the longest-lived cyclone to develop in December and continue into the next year. Also, it became the longest-lasting January tropical cyclone. (Statistics source: Reuters)

TOURISM PERSPECTIVE

Following last week's story on the lackluster figures on tourist visits to Bonaire, I've gathered some statistics on overall Caribbean tourism to give perspective. Data for the winter season from the Caribbean Tourism Organization is showing an early forecast of a 5% or greater increase over 2005. And, in 2005, the 22.5 million overnight tourists was a 3.6% increase over 2004.

Tourism in the Dutch Caribbean Islands in 2005, including Aruba and Curaçao, grew by nearly 2% while Bonaire showed a 1% loss. Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands had gains of about 3%.

The increase in January 2006 arrivals ranged from a 3.8% jump in Barbados to a 110% increase in the Cayman Islands. Anguilla, Aruba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Puerto Rico also registered increases in January. The Dominican Republic received 3.7 million visitors for a 7% increase in tourists, while Cuba, which is officially off-limits to most US citizens, had 2.3 million tourists - a 13% increase.

The number of tourists visiting the Caribbean rose last year, but the pace of growth was half that of the previous two years, a trade group said. Caribbean tourism dropped following the September 11, 2001, attacks in the US but has steadily recovered - with the number of tourists growing by about 7% in 2004 and 2003. Last year, the region received nearly 20 million cruise ship passengers and 22.5 million other visitors. The cruise ship total is 2% lower than the previous year because of route changes and other factors, the organization said.

J.T.



Letter

WHALES AND SOCCER

Dear Editor,

In reference to last week's article about whales: this is a somewhat uncertain sort of thing. It is good to see your concern for naval sonar threats to whales (though the actual levels of danger or injury *from that source* are yet to be *proven*) but I almost get a feeling of approval for resumed whaling. Maybe that is my own resolve against it combined with your relaying a seemingly sympathetic news release verbatim. I guess I would have liked to see overt disapproval of resumed whaling, especially because of the buying of votes by the whaling countries.

Now, about the enthusiastic young soccer fan on page 9. His enthusiasm is wonderful to see until a close look at his hand reveals that he is giving 'the finger' to someone. I am too old and conservative (with a lower case 'c') to enjoy seeing that at his age. Or in *The Bonaire Reporter* at any age.

Keep up your good work.

Glen Reem



Be an Angel -
Pass on The Reporter to a Friend

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 (who has to solve the puzzles)*

Solution on page 18.

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

Pet of the Week

See “Rosa” climb. This sweet black kitten is full of energy and insisted on showing her gymnastic ability when she saw the camera. Some might call her a showoff, but we think she just wanted to get her personality across to that certain someone who would be a perfect owner. Rosa is just three months old and already she’s demonstrating her abilities. See the intelligence in those sparkling golden eyes! And what ears! She’s in robust good health, has had her tests, worming and shots. When she’s old enough she’ll be sterilized. All this is included in the NA\$75 adoption fee. Now that’s a bargain!

You can always be assured of a healthy and social animal when you adopt from the Bonaire Animal Shelter. These pets have all been screened and tested and proven to get along with people. Stop by and see for yourself. You’ll find a lot of really happy animals. The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. L.D.



Black climbing cat – “Rosa”

Countdown to Dive Into Adventure

8 Days To Go

June 17 to 24



It's almost time for DIAB-Dive Into Adventure Bonaire 2006- to begin. One thing that's on everyone's mind happens on Wednesday night June 21st. "It's a Knockout" event will pit teams of Bonaireans combined with DIAB participants against each other in traditional Bonairean games. Show up at 6:30 pm at the Stadium in Playa to watch or take part. Sponsors, STINAPA, Ennia, Kooyman, RBTT, MIO, Playa Trading and Balashi, have agreed to sponsor the various groups. For more information call the TCB at 717-8322.



Land sailing is one of Bonaire's newest activities for DIAB

The week-long event is open to divers, snorkelers, nature lovers and adventurers from on island and around the world. Building on the successes of the past seven Bonaire Dive Festivals it showcases Bonaire not only as a dive destination but also as an eco-adventure destination. The event focuses on Bonaire's natural treasures above and below the sea and will be enhanced with a number of adventure events.

Bonaire's top local "stars" and international celebrities like **Philippe Cousteau** will lead specialized dive, dive-related adventure and land and water-based adventure activities throughout the week. Philippe Cousteau and his sister Alexandra are the third generation of Cousteaus to dedicate their lives to exploring and explaining the natural world. Philippe continues the work of his late father, Philippe Sr., and grandfather, Jacques-Yves, by working to unite the pursuit of science, the conservation of nature, and the education of a public eager to learn about the world around us. He founded EarthEcho International with his sister and his mother, Jan Cousteau, to work towards these goals, with a particular focus on young people as the future caretakers of the planet. He serves as President of EarthEcho and is responsible for directing and managing its extensive worldwide operations.



Philippe Cousteau at the Bonaire exhibit at last year's DEMA show

Philippe has performed scholarly field research in Papua New Guinea with Dr. Eugenie Clark and in Bonaire in the Antilles with Dr. George Buckley. He has authored articles for numerous magazines, including *National Geographic*, *Sport Diver Magazine*, *Dive Trade International*, *Capture Life*, and *Caribbean Adventure*, among others. He has lectured at Harvard University, Miami Dade College, Truckee College and numerous other institutions, and has appeared on television and radio programs. But most of all he is a true friend of Bonaire.

The DIAB schedule, in addition to daily diving, includes land and water based adventure activities like kayaking, windsurfing, kite-boarding, land sailing and mountain biking. Every morning and afternoon participants will also have the option of participating in a host of dive-related adventure activities like digital photography workshops, technical diving, underwater videography and free diving.

Each evening of the Dive Into Adventure Bonaire event participants will come together for parties and presentations by featured speakers. The week-long event kicks off with a "Taste of Bonaire," open to the entire island, and featuring great food by Bonaire's best restaurants, drinks and music and presentations by local dignitaries.

Local people wishing to fully participate can sign up at the TCB office for \$100.

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.

Picture Yourself with The Reporter

Formosa, Argentina

Peter Benekendorf, the man with the healing hands at the Pedisa Spa, gave us this photo of himself with the *Bonaire Reporter* taken in Formosa, Argentina. Peter last lived in Paraguay but comes from Germany where he acquired the skills he uses on Bonaire.



WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2005 photos are eligible.)

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
6-09	9:21	0.8FT. 23:09	2.0FT. 65
6-10	10:02	0.7FT. 23:47	2.1FT. 75
6-11	0:19	2.2FT. 10:37	0.7FT. 85
6-12	0:59	2.2FT. 11:17	0.6FT. 91
6-13	1:43	2.1FT. 11:54	0.6FT. 95
6-14	2:31	2.0FT. 12:24	0.7FT. 94
6-15	3:26	1.9FT. 12:53	0.7FT. 0
6-16	4:19	1.8FT. 13:19	0.8FT. 83

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Dirty Diving

Scuba divers could inadvertently be carrying coral disease from one reef to another, say scientists who have shown that bugs stick to wetsuits like glue. But a quick rinse in disinfectant can stop the spread.

Around 60% of the world's corals are thought to be under threat from warming seas, overfishing, pollution and coral diseases. Researchers have wondered whether ocean-hopping divers are playing a part by shipping disease-causing bacteria from an infected spot to a pristine one.

Diver and microbiologist Kay Marano-Briggs of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, decided to investigate. She and her colleagues snipped swatches of material from wetsuits and bathed them in dilute solutions of bacteria for 30 minutes, the length of a typical dive. They then looked to see how many bugs had stuck.

The bacteria latch onto the wetsuits, the researchers found. This was true for *Serratia marcescens* and *Vibrio carchariae*, which are both thought to cause types of coral disease. The human pathogen, *Staphylococcus aureus*, proved equally tenacious. The researchers studied it because of reports that surfers were passing around the bugs from shared wetsuits. "I wouldn't want it on me," Marano-Briggs says.

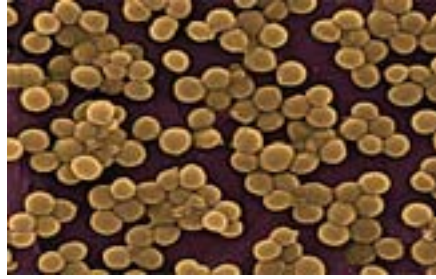
The team then tested whether divers were likely to transport these bacteria from one dive to the next. After a dive most divers leave their gear to dry out or give it a brief rinse in fresh water, so Marano-Briggs and colleagues mimicked this.

Vibrio carchariae actually multiplied after one hour's drying — the time it might take to travel by boat between dive sites. Drying for 18 hours or washing in tap water removed some, but not all of the bugs: rinsing cut the levels of *S. marcescens*, for example, by about 75%.

The good news is that the researchers found simple disinfection — as is done by some diving equipment rental shops — did kill the stubborn bacteria. A 5% solution of bleach wiped out almost all of them, as did a 7% solution of the household cleaner Lysol. The researchers presented their results at the meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Orlando, Florida.

Marano-Briggs and her colleagues say that they still need to carry out more tests. They want to determine whether wetsuits really do pick up bacteria in the sea, for example, and whether the amount they collect is enough to cause a coral infection.

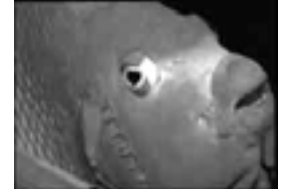
The results might make the case that areas infected with coral disease should be closed to divers, the researchers say. Perhaps "it would be reasonable to quarantine the area," Marano-Briggs suggests. At the very least the scientists plan to come up with some guidelines for cleaning wetsuits. These could be promoted as best practice to divers, who are already taught not to touch or damage coral. *Helen Pearson-Thanks to David Colvard, M. D. and Genady Filkovsky for bringing this story to our attention.*



This scanning electron micrograph of Staphylococcus aureus bacteria shows them at about 9,500 times their normal size. These are a bit special and known by scientists as methicillin-resistant (antibiotic resistant).



However stylish, wetsuits can be trouble



*Be an Angel -
Pass on The Reporter to a Friend*

Lady of the Night Blooms



On May 15, I took some night time photos of this beautiful cactus flower locally called, "*La Dama de la Noche*", The Lady of the Night. She started to open up around 7 pm, was com-

pletely open by midnight, then she closed slowly by 9 the next morning.

It was very exciting to watch for the first time in my life this wonder of nature .

Marlis Seelos Schmid



Bondy On The Ball

Here we are again with just one day to go to the kick off of football's greatest competition, World Cup 2006. This week we will look at all the group tables, check out kick off times and catch up with the last minute team news. So have a look at these tables:

First Phase Groups			
Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
A1 - Germany	B1 - England	C1 - Argentina	D1 - Mexico
A2 - Costa Rica	B2 - Paraguay	C2 - Ivory Coast	D2 - Iran
A3 - Poland	B3 - Trinidad & Tobago	C3 - Serbia & Montenegro	D3 - Angola
A4 - Ecuador	B4 - Sweden	C4 - Netherlands	D4 - Portugal
Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
E1 - Italy	F1 - Brazil	G1 - France	H1 - Spain
E2 - Ghana	F2 - Croatia	G2 - Switzerland	H2 - Ukraine
E3 - USA	F3 - Australia	G3 - South Korea	H3 - Tunisia
E4 - Czech Republic	F4 - Japan	G4 - Togo	H4 - Saudi Arabia

Now for some trivia:

- Did you know that **South American and European countries have won the World Cup nine times and eight times respectively?** There has been no other continent which has produced a World Cup Champion.
- **Shirt swapping was once officially prohibited** in 1986 because FIFA did not want players to 'bare their chests' on the field.
- Who says there is no such thing as home advantage? Out of the 17 World Cups so far, **six have been won by the host country.**
- The most common score in a World Cup finals **match is 1-0.**
- **No European team** has won a World Cup played outside of Europe.
- The only person to have played both World Cup Football and World Cup Cricket is **Viv Richards** - Antigua at football and West Indies at cricket.

Well, there you have it, all the info that you need to indulge yourself in the biggest sporting event of the year. My must sees are of course, the two England matches. Holland plays their first match on Sunday so there is no excuse to miss that. Brazil vs Croatia will be a cracker and is going to be my match of the week. So if you see me crying in a corner this week, you will know that England has lost. Until next time, let's keep the game beautiful! *Tony 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.



The World Cup is the world's biggest event for the world's most popular sport. When your team wins, you can feel great; when your team loses, you can feel terrible. It's what makes soccer exciting -- some years your team does great, other years it may be a real struggle. If soccer is your source of happiness, then your life can go up and down.

The Cup can even affect everyday life. A Bangladesh university has postponed exams until after the World Cup finals after hundreds of students laid siege to the vice-chancellor's office. Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology had earlier rejected students' calls to postpone exams scheduled for June 3-29.

"The classes will remain suspended until July 14," an official at the university in the capital said Monday. Bangladesh failed to qualify for the World Cup finals, which will be hosted by Germany from June 9 to July 9.

For those of you not wanting to miss a kick, check out the local bars and restaurants to see who is showing what. Here is a list of kick off times for the coming week, all are local Bonaire time.

2006 World Cup Schedule			
Date Played	Local Kick Off Time	Groups, Teams & Scheduled Match	Match Venue
Fri 9 June	12:00	Group A1 Germany v Group A2 Costa Rica	Munich
Fri 9 June	15:00	Group A3 Poland v Group A4 Ecuador	Gelsenkirchen
Sat 10 June	09:00	Group B1 England v Group B2 Paraguay	Frankfurt
Sat 10 June	12:00	Group B3 Trinidad & Tobago v Group B4 Sweden	Dortmund
Sat 10 June	18:00	Group C1 Argentina v Group C2 Cote de Ivore	Hamburg
Sun 11 June	09:00	Group C3 Serbia & Montenegro v Group C4 Netherlands	Leipzig
Sun 11 June	12:00	Group D1 Mexico v Group D2 Iran	Nuremberg
Sun 11 June	15:00	Group D3 Angola v Group D4 Portugal	Cologne
Mon 12 June	15:00	Group E1 Italy v Group E2 Ghana	Hanover
Mon 12 June	12:00	Group E3 USA v Group E4 Czech Rep.	Gelsenkirchen
Mon 12 June	09:00	Group F3 Australia v Group F4 Japan	Kaiserslautern
Tues 13 June	15:00	Group F1 Brazil v Group F2 Croatia	Berlin
Tue 13 June	12:00	Group G1 France v Group G2 Switzerland	Stuttgart
Tue 13 June	09:00	Group G3 Korea Rep. v Group G4 Togo	Frankfurt
Wed 14 June	09:00	Group H1 Spain v Group H2 Ukraine	Leipzig
Wed 14 June	12:00	Group H3 Tunisia v Group H4 Saudi Arabia	Munich
Wed 14 June	15:00	Group A1 Germany v Group A3 Poland	Dortmund
Thu 15 June	09:00	Group A4 Ecuador v Group A2 Costa Rica	Hamburg
Thu 15 June	12:00	Group B1 England v Group B3 Trinidad & Tobago	Nuremberg
Thu 15 June	15:00	Group B4 Sweden v Group B2 Paraguay	Berlin



Where to watch-

Three Reporter advertisers have announced they have facilities to see all the great World Cup action that starts on Friday, June 9.

At **City Café** there will be eight (8!) TVs set up including a huge 50-inch flat screen. In the mornings City will offer a breakfast buffet for NA\$10,50. In the afternoons they have a special lunch buffet for NA\$12,50.



At **The Great Escape** you can watch in the comfort of the thatched roof bar by the pool and sample their huge selection of beers.



At the **Plaza Resort** an indoor "stadium" has been set up near the Casique Conference Room. *L.D.*

The Bonaire Gardener

Planting in Holes and Pots

In my last article I wrote about planting plants in your garden or in pots and what soils to use. We get questions all the time about whether you can plant trees or palms in big holes drilled into the clip. Because on Bonaire so many houses are built on rock there's often no space or soil for trees.

Adding soil to all the area around your house might be a little bit expensive, so some people choose to plant trees into big holes drilled into the clip (limestone). This is a good solution but only for palms. Trees like the Flamboyant, Black Olive, Kenepa or Mango grow a very wide root system and will soon be growing beyond the hole. But if there is some diabaas surrounding the plant hole, then it is okay. The roots will find their way into the clip.

But for palms, mostly high growing varieties like the Washingtonia, Cocos palm or Queen palm, there is no problem in planting them in big holes. They will grow fine for years. Use some good diabaas mixed with all the organic material you can find and make sure the hole is big enough, around one square meter of soil is enough for a not-too-big tree or palm. The only thing you have to be aware of is that within a couple of years the roots will fill the hole and push the palm above a little bit so the top roots come above the soil. This is not so good, because then the roots will dry out much easier. But the



Flamboyant



Setting in a plant

solution is easy. Just add more soil to the base of the palm, mound the dirt into a wall around it to make sure the water will stay in properly. This is becoming more and more important now with the dry season torturing our plants!

When planting plants in pots you have to be more careful. Because the soil in the pot is the only thing your plant gets its feedings and water from, it better be good! There is no use using only potting soil. That's too expensive and it will dry out much sooner. Also there is no sense in using only diabaas or en-

riched soils. Just make a good mix of potting soil with some good diabaas without too many stones. The more delicate your plant is, the more potting soil should be in the mix. It takes too long to describe all those delicate plants, but your gardener or garden center can tell you what they are. Also it is very important that after a few months you start fertilizing every three weeks with some good fertilizer like Miracle Grow or Peters. Like I said, the potting soil is the only soil they get, so they use up their fertilizers much quicker than do plants in the open ground.

Next time I will write some more about the quality of potting soils and what is available on Bonaire. *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.**

Bubbles from the Biologist



Did You Know...Brittle Stars are extremely fond of sponges?

Brittle stars are related to sea stars, but instead of five fat arms, brittle stars have five skinny arms. When a predator grabs one of its arms, the brittle star breaks it off and runs for cover. The brittle star regenerates its arm over the next few weeks. Have you ever seen a Spanish Hogfish swimming around with a couple of long legs hanging out of its mouth? It's feasting on a crunchy brittle star. Many species of brittle stars hide under stones or coral heads during the day and come out at night to feed on algae and detritus. Other species live wrapped around sponges during the day.

Sponges are animals that pump and filter water. They come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Some species have nasty toxins in their tissues while others have glass spines throughout their bodies. If a Spanish Hogfish or a Bluehead Wrasse tried to take a bite out of a sponge-hugging brittle star it would probably get a mouthful of sponge at the same time – Blah! *Caren Eckrich*



Brittle star on sponge

Biologist Caren Eckrich founded and runs Sea and Discover, Bonaire's marine education center specializing in guided dives and snorkels for adults and adventure programs for kids. Call 717-5322



"Curaire" Swimmers Wow St. Maarten

The Carib Swim Team of St. Maarten hosted the 1st Sint Maarten/St. Martin SXM Championship Open Swim Meet to promote its local swimmers on May 27 and 28 at the club's 25-meter pool in Cole Bay. Three swim clubs from the island participated as well as teams from St. Barths, Bonaire and Curaçao. The Bonaire Barracudas were represented by Samson V. Evertsz (Boys 10 years and under), Olivier Wagemakers (Boys 10 years and under) and Rooske Wagemakers (Girls 13 and under).

The first challenge of the weekend was finding the right swimming pool on Saturday morning, but after several false leads the Bonaire swimmers arrived just in time for the opening ceremony. Once at the pool the Barracudas joined forces with the two swimmers from the Curaçao SITHOC Swim Team, making this competition a real battle of the Windward versus the Leeward Islands. Iwan Loth, President of the Netherlands Antilles Swimming Federation, was also on hand for the competition.

All events were "open" meaning that swimmers of any age could participate. Swimmers ranged in age from 7 to 40 years and were assigned to heats based on their seed times. The Bonaire-Curaçao coalition soon got accustomed to swimming next to athletes many years their senior. Prizes were awarded based on age categories.

Bonaire dominated the Boys 10 years and younger category. Samson V. Evertsz participated in 8 individual events and won gold in each and every one of them.

Samson's events and times (Short Course Meters) were:

Event	Time	Boys 10 & Under	Rank	All Male Swimmers
50 meter Butterfly	0:40.31	1st	14th	
200 meter Individual Medley	3:15.66	1st	12th	
50 meter Backstroke	0:43.34	1st	13th	
100 meter Freestyle	1:19.43	1st	18th	
50 meter Freestyle	0:34.40	1st	18th	
100 meter Individual Medley	1:32.80	1st	15th	
50 meter Breaststroke	0:45.81	1st	12th	
200 meter Freestyle	2:53.12	1st	12th	



Samson Evertsz, wearing his 8 gold medals, with teammates Olivier and Rooske Wagemakers

In the final event of the competition the Bonaire-Curaçao combined team (nicknamed "Curaire"), with an average age of 10.75 years, swam an exhibition 4 x 100 meter relay event in which they finished a respectable 3rd against teams of much older swimmers.

At the end of the meet Carib Swim Team officials announced that they plan to make their island championship an annual event to be held each May and a verbal invitation was extended to Bonaire for 2007.

Following the Sunday afternoon session it was a quick island tour by car, highlighted by the raising of the drawbridge, and then on to the airport for the late night flight back home to Bonaire by way of Curaçao. Story & Photo by Valarie Stimpson

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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>

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Bonaire Images

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

LUNCH TO GO

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

For Sale

For Sale- 20 years of National Geographic Magazine. All issues 1985-2005 complete. Make a reasonable offer. Call 717-8989.

For Sale: 18 arm ceiling chandelier; New Cherry wood dining table, 4 chairs; Cherry wood saloon table, 1 x 1 meter; 2 fauteuils (arm chairs) with round wood antique table. Come and see, make an offer. Tel. 717-6605

Office Desk - 5 drawers. Very good condition NAF 195. Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

For sale: Sky kennel for large dog, KLM-approved, size F, NAf300, tel. 786-5582.

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

Wanted

Seeking a Pen Pal: Mr Renis Morian; Address; 263 Blue Berry Hill, Wismar Linden, Guyana; profession; Disaster Management Consultant ; email ; moriman53@yahoo.com; friends between ages 35 and 60. All friends accepted

I am looking for a stay home job. I have a computer. Bring your work to my house and I will do it for you. email: inst632001@yahoo.com

Property

For rent: Furnished house with one bedroom, NAf 900 per month including cable TV. For more information contact Amanda at Harbortown Real Estate, 717-5539.

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Owned property. Was \$450,000. Now \$375,000. Call 717-7362 or 717-6605

Apartment for Rent as of June 10-2 bedrooms, fully furnished, Nikiboko. 785-3456

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

Found

Found: Air tank for scuba diving, marked "DB" on the valve. Contact Jan Brouwer, digitalis@flamingotv.net.

Chat 'n' Browse – More than just a shop



At Chat 'n' Browse: Violette, Michael Gaynor and Shari - at your service

You can't miss it. It's just north of the roundabout near the northern hotel row at the Sand Dollar Shopping Center. Owned and operated by Michael Gaynor, Chat 'n' Browse is a meeting spot, a place for service (Internet access, email: keep-in-touch-with-home convenience) and where you may find nearly everything to enhance your lifestyle – or if you're a tourist – your visit to Bonaire. There's nearly always someone sitting at the outside tables, communicating with their laptops – day or night - or chatting with owner Michael Gaynor.

Inside the shop is crammed with fascinating items: local art, unique greeting cards, Ecuadorian hammocks, backpacks and balsa wood animals, computers, computer parts, hand made dolls, Reef sandals and shorts, cigars from all over the world, finger covers, non-Bonairean tee shirts, telephone cards, cell phone rentals, books, film, batteries, wireless internet 24 hours a day, clothes from Brunotti, vacation wear like men's and women's shirts and shorts, jewelry, copy center, laptop rentals, coffee mugs, sunglasses, puzzles...and even more!

"If I get asked twice for something then I try to stock it," Michael declares. "This shop keeps on changing; we're always adding new things. Every time you come in you'll see a new look!"

Loquacious and helpful, Michael, who's been on the island for 20 years, is a fountain of local information, and he doesn't mind sharing it with interested persons. The man has never ending patience! Someone needs to make a quick call to the US? Mike says, "Use my toll free phone." He's always doing little favors. Laughing about going into business on the island to make a lot of money, Michael advises, "Want to become a millionaire on Bonaire? Then start as a multimillionaire!"

Drop in and check it out. We can honestly say there's something in there for everyone! And be sure to say hi to the owner and his friendly staff. They're open seven days a week – even holidays. Monday-Friday: 8:30 am to 8 pm, Saturday and Sunday: 8:30 am to 6 pm. Holidays until 6 pm. 717-2281 fax 717-2258. email: info@chatnbrowse.com, www.chatnbrowse.com L.D.

PORTRAITS OF BONAIRE

Jellastone Pet Park

It's only after a while that I notice the garden around our new home in Bonaire. It was carefully planted by the previous owner but has since fallen into a state of disrepair. Through the palm trees and aloes offer a gorgeous view over the ocean, but large shrubs that I can't put a name to grow wildly around the house, shading the porch and obscuring our view more than we like. Since we both probably lack the experience to create something wonderful from the wilderness, we run the risk of cutting away some valuable plants. So we decide to get in touch with a gardener through the previous owner.

One day a pick-up truck pulls up in front of our house. A powerful blonde woman steps out, wearing dungarees and gardening shears which hang from her belt. A rake, pickaxe, machete, spade and a couple of buckets in the back of the truck complete the image of the professional gardener. She looks impressively determined. In a couple of hours, she manages to do an initial foray across the garden, taking away a large amount of excess material -- some of it far too beautiful in my eyes -- to the landfill.

We talk about the various shrubs and plants, their names, how much water they need and when they flower. Our lady gardener knows it all, but I forget the names and particulars instantly.

In leaving, she tells us about a dramatic accident a few years back, which involved her small dog. She had left home when the dog jumped the fence, but unfortunately it got its collar stuck on one of the spikes. Coming home, she found the poor animal had choked and hanged itself; but at least it turned out it hadn't suffered long.

Our powerful gardener becomes quiet; I see tears welling up in her eyes. Brave Jella shows an intense sadness. We feel sorry for her and wish her luck.

Graziella van Berkum grew up in a 'foster family' in the Netherlands. Her father was a social worker, her mother a nurse -- but that didn't guarantee a happy childhood and successful education, as you might suspect. On the contrary, there were years of upheaval, sadness and strife, but peppered with occasional bouts of joy.

When her parents filed for divorce, she had trouble staying on the 'straight and narrow' path as a teenager. After years of straying off the line, she was apprehended for some actions which are frowned upon in 'polite' society.

This situation caused a major turnaround in her life. Graziella decided to study horticulture and, following this, began working with flower growers. After having saved enough money, she went on her first ever holiday; the destination, Bonaire.

"That was in 1990. I picked this island out of an atlas. It looked like a big enough tropical island, not too many people, with the language even being Dutch. That came in handy, because I



Graziella "Jella" van Berkum

wasn't too fluent in English at the time. I arrived in torrential rains, though.

"I stayed at the Sunset Beach Hotel for three weeks. Even though I made only one trip across the island -- I didn't have my driver's license then -- I really enjoyed it. A year later, I returned to Bonaire to see if I could put my knowledge of plants and trees to good use; that looked promising."

Coming back to Holland from her second trip, she fell in love. In due course, she married a man who did have his driver's license. The young couple went on honeymoon to... Bonaire!

"I started working at a small horticultural firm, he at a local supermarket. My first job didn't work out well, however, so I ended up at an optometrist's, selling and repairing glasses. Well, you know I'm really an outdoorsy person, so that didn't last long. But our marriage also came into some rough water. We spent way too much time at the local boozier, drinking more than a healthy person can, and should. I found it troubling and one day I quit completely. I didn't want to continue, my life was empty like that. But my husband didn't feel the same way; he was perfectly happy with his pint morning, noon and night. He didn't want to quit, and so I was left with only one choice: I left him and found a place for myself. I hated it, but I knew it had to be so. Shortly after that we divorced. Those were tough times," she says softly, under her breath.

This separation became the second major turning point in Jella van Berkum's life. She moved into a little kunuku house, Mon Repos, at Lagoen. With six months of financial backing from her mother, she set up as a small business owner. It doesn't take her long, with help of friends and acquaintances, among whom is our/her neighbor, Captain Don, to secure maintenance of many of the gardens in Bonaire.

"After a little under a year, I received so many requests, I couldn't handle them all myself, so Milton Gordillo became my first employee. But even for the two of us things got out of hand. I was totally stressed out, running around. I decided to quit doing the gardens and handed all of them to Milton.

"At that point, I was living in my little kunuku house and I rented a small plot of land, a little way to the sea. That seemed like a good place to grow plants and trees. I installed a large container and drew up a plan with a friend of mine to turn it into a nice little home, expanding it with a little kitchen and shower, a large porch running along it... The container is now surrounded by greenhouses and plots for over a hundred plants and shrubs. I've lived there for almost eight years now."

The road through the entrance gates to Jellastone Park has become difficult due to the torrential rainfall of the last few weeks. Between the hills small lakes have formed that force us to zigzag our way to our destination, as if in an African rally.

Jella's 'resort' is situated in between the hills of Guatemala; there is electricity thanks to solar panels, and there is water in large containers, filled in wintertime by rainfall and in the summer by tankers from the local energy company, WEB. The furniture is simple but efficient; the closets are painted in bright colours. The porch overlooks the valley where Jella wants to grow tropical fruit trees. The silence is only punctuated by the sound of birds and the whistling wind; no telephones or car noises disrupt this pocket of peace.

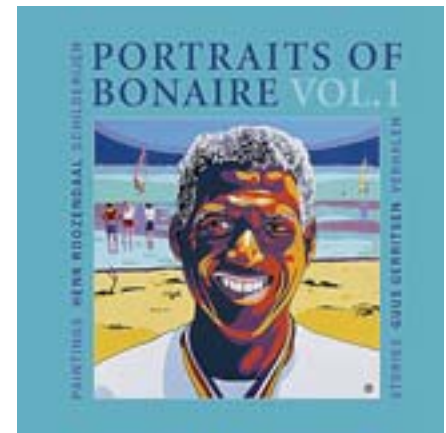
"I'm never afraid here. There isn't anything worth stealing here; I don't have much anyway, which makes my life simple and clear. Lonely? Yes, sometimes. It's a strange feeling, you want to talk to someone but no one is there. I usually pat one of the dogs, speak my doggie gibberish to them and then I feel better. If that doesn't take, I crawl into my hammock and think, 'Why am I doing this anyway?'"

"Not a lot of friends visit me, this is kind of an out-of-the-way place... or maybe there's another reason why they won't come. I, myself, hardly go out in the evenings; I've lost interest because it's always bars and booze, and I'm done with that. I feel at ease, balanced out, stress-free when I'm alone -- that's OK for me.

"Sleeping until you wake up and selling some plants when your wallet gets too thin... It's a simple life, but it makes me feel good. If somebody comes to stay for awhile, like you have now, I usually stop working altogether. Customers also suddenly stop appearing, that's funny isn't it? Apparently it disrupts my system -- but that's over as soon as I'm alone again. I sometimes wish I had TV, but I listen to the radio four times a day, so I keep up with the news."

She speaks softly, in low tones, looking far less like the powerful gardener she was when I first met her. The panchache has faded, she seems more mel-low, philosophical, and also less sure of her existence.

"I've decided to put a little less time into the growing. I have to work too hard for it, but also the water supply limits the size of business you can make here. I want to expand, without having to leave this place here. So then I came up with the idea of opening a pet hotel, the Jellastone Park Pet Hotel! I've always



wanted to become a vet, and you know I love cats and dogs... I own seven dogs and five cats already, so I think I can manage!"

Between the plots of shrubs and plants are comfortable kennels with lots of space to move in. This is where the animals that come to stay with Jella live. The pet hotel seems like a good idea because the average Bonairean family has three dogs. And even Bonaireans want to go on holiday without having to take their dogs with them!

"That's true, but what it means is that I, myself, haven't had a vacation in years. Where are my pets supposed to go to, who will keep my business running? I haven't even been to Curaçao in 10 years; I just take life as it is given to me here on Bonaire: simple, with limited choice in the shops -- but it's OK for me!

"And Holland has lost its appeal for me, that's a thing of the past now. Five years ago I was there to visit my mother, and when I returned I was exhausted with all the stress and fuss. This is where I belong, this island and its lifestyle give me peace and quiet. I'm trouble-free, because I've made my life so simple."

There's a good atmosphere at Jella's; we're enjoying a cup of coffee, the dogs lie around us. Jella exudes an air of warmth and peace. Not a bad place to stay! Maybe she could be a host to stressed-out managers, setting up a couple of shacks around the container, where they could find their inner peace again. A retreat in Bonaire, surrounded by the luscious woods of the kunuku and the quiet of Lagoen -- rather than the obligatory Tuscan retreats that well-to-do business types always fawn over. In the background Frank Boeyen, her favorite pop singer, sings about The Shadow of Love. The song seems to suit her, although I can't say why exactly.

The time comes to do the photo shoot that Henk needs to paint a portrait. Followed by the dogs, we walk towards a nice, sunny spot between the plants. Jella puts a leash on her favorite dog, leaving the others to roam free. She seats herself in a chair, with the dog on her lap, smiling and looking relaxed and satisfied. I notice the leash on the dog and think back to the accident with her other dog, a couple of years back. It shook her so badly then.

But Jella is smiling now, no sign of tears; she's a powerful woman, and all the hardship has only made her stronger.

*From Portraits of Bonaire, Vol II.
Story by Guus Gerritsen; illustration by
Henk Roozendaal*

MCB FEST



MCB head Lionel (Chicu) Capriles (right) and Evert Piar (center), Managing Director of MCB Bonaire, present a NAf25.000 check to Dr. Giovanni Frans, head of the Mariadal Foundation responsible for Bonaire's San Francisco Hospital.



MCB Board Chairman Lionel (Lio) Capriles gets in some dancing with The Genies.



Bonaire Renaissance man and entertainer, Milton Kochs L.D.

A festive cocktail party last week at Harbour Village celebrated the Maduro Curiels Bank Group Board Meeting held in Bonaire. The Board, led by Chairman Lionel (Lio) Capriles, is an international one, with members coming from the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, the Bahamas islands, Canada and the US. And they were all in attendance that night.

As are the always popular MCB parties this one was sparked by interesting people, relaxing ambience, great food and drink (by Eddy's Goumandaise and his staff of young attentive waiters and waitresses), music by Milton Kochs and the Silver Bullet Band and dancing and entertainment by The Genies.

MCB Bonaire, always at the top of

the list of givers to the community, took the opportunity during the evening to present a check for NAf25.000 to Dr. Giovanni Frans, as head of the Mariadal Foundation responsible for Bonaire's San Francisco Hospital. The money is earmarked for a center for the elderly.

Maduro & Curiels Bank Bonaire was opened here on September 8, 1962.



Members of the international MCB Board on hand for the event: From left to right standing: Eduardo de Veer (Aruba), Bill Fabro, Anthony (Tony) Allen (Bahamas), Frank Kunneman, Minna Israel (Bahamas), Lionel (Lio) Capriles, Nicole Henriquez, Claude Norfolk (Toronto, Canada), Jaime Saleh, Evert Piar (managing director MCB Bonaire, not board member) Lionel (Chicu) Capriles. From left to right (kneeling in front): Eugene Holiday (Sint Maarten), Jose Alvares Correa (New York, US), Pat Minicucci (Toronto, Canada) and Ron Gomes Casseres. Other Board Members are from Curaçao. caption credit: Roxanne Timp

Do You SuDoku?

**And
the
solution
is:**

(puzzle and
directions
on page 6)

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

**Ice Age:
The Meltdown**
(Ray Romano)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
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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

World Cup Soccer Friday, June 9 to Sunday, July 9 – see page 11

Friday, June 9 & Saturday, June 10 – DJ Dance Nights, DJ Paco from Mambo Beach, Curaçao, 10:30 pm, City Café

Sunday, June 11—Bonaire Culinary Team Dinner. Support the team and enjoy a gourmet competition dinner, 7 pm Chez Nous. \$25 donation for a 3-course meal with cocktails and wine. Call Floris 786-1508 or Sara 786-9299 or to reserve. See more above right.

COMING

June 17-24—Dive Into Adventure Bonaire (DIAB). See more on page 7

Friday, June 16 – DJ Dance Night, 10:30 pm, City Café

Saturday, June 17 – DJ Dance Night 10:30 pm, City Café

Sunday, June 18—Father's Day

Sunday, June 18 – “Taste of Bonaire” at Wilhelmina Park – Official opening of Dive Into Adventure – stands selling food from Bonaire's best restaurants, music, entertainment, from 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 24—Women's Conference: The Four Faces of Woman. Free entrance, 9 am–4:30 pm, Sport Hall. In English with Papiamentu translation. 717-8855 or 09-515-0804 See page 6

Sunday, July 9—Dia di Arte, Wilhelmina Park—art, music, food, entertainment. Artists must sign up by June 15. Call Emma 786-6420 or Edwin 786-8400. See page 3

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** \$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, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, 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 ambiance 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@goldenreeffinn.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
- **Beach BBQ 7-10 pm & Live music by Flamingo Rockers** -The Windsurf Place at Sorobon
- **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.

DINE WITH THE DREAM TEAM

Bonaire's Chef-Bartender team takes a break at Fort Oranje: Team Manager Floris van Loo (Rum Runners), Coach Vernon “Nonchi” Martijn (SGB hotel school), Bartender Jane Coffie (Divi Flamingo), Egbert de Vries (Le Flamboyant), Waldi Gijsbertha (City Café), Isidoor van Riemsdijk (Rum Runners)



Only two more opportunities to enjoy a fabulous three-course “competition” dinner and support Bonaire's star chef-bartender team at practices on Sundays at 7 pm at SGB's Chez Nous. Bonaire's team will compete in the “Taste of the Caribbean” Culinary Olympics at the end of June in Miami.

For their competition practices the team must come up with a three-course menu for 35 persons from a mystery basket of ingredients. In Miami they'll compete against top chef-bartender teams from all over the Caribbean in a “live kitchen” environment.

High level competitions such as this, which has raised the bar on quality and performance on the part of our chefs, has resulted in Bonaire's position as one of gastronomical excellence.

Be a part of it and support Bonaire's team. The next dinner is on Sunday, June 10, at 7 pm at **Chez Nous**. For a donation of \$25 you'll enjoy a three-course meal, cocktails and wines. For reservations call Floris at 786-1508 or Sara at 786-9299.

L.D.

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 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 4 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!**

INVESTMENTS

Zambezi Lodge, Bonaire a Nick Davies Project, is looking for investors. "A little piece of Africa in the Caribbean."

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 to sell fast.

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.**

TOURIST SERVICES/ INTERNET

Make **Chat 'n' Browse** your headquarters for phone service, Internet connection, great clothes, footwear and gifts. In the Sand Dollar Mall.

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

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Born on Bonaire

Shirley Martis

I grew up in Antriol Pabou, then we moved to Playa Pariba. Later on my parents built their house on Kaya Playa Lechi in Playa Pabou. We were seven children and I was the eldest. My dad was very strict, especially with me because I was his first child, and they had to figure out how it worked. Later on I heard from my siblings that it hadn't been too bad for them.

Nevertheless I am very grateful for the good upbringing they gave me, and I followed their teachings when I had my own children. My dad, Piet Martis, worked with the government as the head of finance and also as the deputy secretary of the island territory. He passed away 20 years ago. My mother, Ines Thode, was a homemaker. She's still alive and 71 years old.

When I was young I spent a lot of time babysitting for many Dutch families and also for the hotels. I was crazy about children and I still am! After I got my MAVO diploma I was planning to go to Holland to study to become a pediatric nurse. Everything was prepared and arranged; my father, mother and a couple of my brothers and sisters came with me to Holland to see me off. The plan was that I'd move into a boarding school, but just before my family was to leave for Bonaire I started to cry and said, 'I'm not going to stay behind all by myself!' She grins: "I was a little bit spoiled, especially by my dad. My mother got very angry and said, 'You already said goodbye to everyone and now you want to come back again?' But my father told me, 'If you want to come back, you come back.' He stayed on my side and I loved him even more. So, we all came back! My friends were very happy to see me again, but mom said, 'You go look for a job because you're not going to stay at home!' I began to work for Moon Era, a souvenir shop next to the Maduro Bank in Playa. It belonged to Frans Booi's parents who owned the Bata shop too. But the urge, the desire, to become a nurse never left me.

I became more and more independent and when I was 19 I went back to Holland. I stayed three months, but I was so homesick I had to come back to Bonaire! I went on with my studies - by correspondence this time - until I had to work as an intern at the hospital in Curaçao. Everything went well. I worked in all the different wards, except for the old people's ward. I didn't like that at all; it was something I absolutely didn't want to do! I loved babies; I wanted to be a pediatric nurse! Well, the grand finale came for me when they transferred me to the morgue.

I fainted and immediately after I went home, and that was the end of my career! In Bonaire I took an administrative course and started to work at Inpo NV in the office and I stayed there for 20 years.

Meanwhile on December 26th 1977, Bòi Antoin and I got married. He was handsome, had a very nice voice and worked for Radio Netherlands World broadcasting, but he also worked for the government in the press release department and he'd just started as an enthusiastic volunteer with *èxtra* newspaper. We were both 22."

"Well, the grand finale came for me when they transferred me to the morgue. I fainted and immediately after I went home, and that was the end of my career!"

Shirley Martis (51) is a thoughtful lady, strong but not carefree. She's a responsible, reliable person with a lot of energy. "At the beginning of the marriage before the children were born I was constantly busy helping the 60 Plus clubs, the scouts and being an emcee for shows, events and ceremonies, and I organized public events for the government and for the Volunteer Corps Bonaire. They still ask me to be their emcee, but I don't do it as often anymore; I've become selective. I did it spontaneously and voluntarily; it was a hobby of mine and it was a lot of fun. I also had radio shows Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights, from 7 to 9 pm at Voz di Boneiru and Sundays from 2 to 6. I picked up everything from foreign TV and radio stations, translated it in my own way for the people here and they liked it a lot! When the children came I slowed down quite a bit. I kept on doing the radio show, but only on Sundays.

We have two sons, Franklin, 27, and Danielson, 14. When Franklin was six, two foster children, sisters Jasmin and Maria, came to live with us. They were six and eight years old. Seven years later when Danielson was born they mothered him; he was their own little brother. Jasmin, now 30, and Maria, 28, both live in Boston where they work and study. We're still in touch and the beautiful



Shirley Martis

thing is that they still call us mama and papa. I'm very proud of that. I'm happy and grateful that we were able to give them a good life because they lived through some real hard times before they came to us.

By the time the children arrived Bòi had taken over *èxtra*, and in 1996 he asked me to come and work for him. I was already helping him out, so the work wasn't new for me. I did the reception, telephone, the cleaning, the advertisements, was invoice clerk and I also arranged his appointments. In the beginning I was the only one working there. Papi, Bòi's brother, would come after his work at the harbor master's office and we had some volunteers, but that was it. Bòi did the paper and I did everything else. Our son Franklin also started writing, doing the press releases, and he has his own column every Wednesday, *Kos pa awe* (Things for Today).

At the end of 1996 Bòi and I separated. It was tough, very, very tough, but I kept on working; I had to. Nobody can imagine how hard it was, but I prayed a lot and that's how I managed. I started reading the Bible and went to church more often - and that was a big comfort to me.

It took me five years and then I started to live again. I was still young and suddenly I saw everything in perspective. For five years I hadn't done much, but then I started my own radio show again, all about gospel music this time. Now I also organize 'Alabansa,' religious groups from Curaçao and Bonaire that play music and talk about God, also for the radio, Voz di Bonaire, Monday through Friday from 5-7 am.

When our son Franklin was 14 he started taking flying lessons after school. After finishing high school in Curaçao he got his license in the States. Then he took

police training in Curaçao and came back to Bonaire to work as a police officer and also to fly the air ambulance. Since this January he's been a pilot with DAE. I've always told my children, 'ask God to stand by you to give you courage to go on, and it worked out very well. Danielson is in MAVO, 2d grade and he would like to be a pilot but only part time because what he really wants is to become a lawyer. Both my sons are still living with me; we do a lot of things together. I even fly the flight simulator on the computer with them! It's great fun!

A couple of months ago I started working for Divi Divi on Sunday afternoons, checking in the passengers and boarding them. It's a volunteer job and I like it because Sundays it can be very lonely. I still work at *èxtra*, but now I have an assistant. We had to hire more people because we couldn't do it by ourselves any longer.

I see life very bright; it's beautiful. I've become a different person. I wasn't patient, but now I am, and nowadays I like it quiet. I'm no longer afraid of dying because I think we'll have a better life than we have now. I've already written my obituary, and it made my mother angry, but... if you can make a list for a birthday party why not for something like that? Another thing is that many people come to me for advice on many different matters and somehow I always find a word to help them. It makes me feel special and I'm grateful. I feel I'm lucky; I'm a privileged person." *Story and photo by Greta Kooistra*



Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Kas di Hadrey
Rooi Lamoenchi

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage

by Wilna Groenenboom



Most people have heard about it, but not everybody has visited it - Rooi Lamoenchi - lying on the rough east side of Bonaire between Washikemba and Lac Cai.

It was the plantation kunuku house of the Herrera family. Here they raised cows, goats and sheep, and they grew sorghum (*maishi chikitu*), many different kinds of melons and aloe. When the animals were big and fat enough they were brought to the main house of the Herrera family in Kralendijk. They stayed there over night in a stable behind the house, from where they were either put live on a boat to Curaçao or were slaughtered for the local market of Bonaire.

On the right side of the house is the base from the old aloe cooking place. After the aloe syrup was brought in from the land in metal cans to the house, it was cooked. They cooked it so long that it became a kind of 'black rock' which was easy to transport in boxes to America and England, where it was used for medicine. It was a very important trade product.

The first Herrera was Jose Altagracia Rosa Herrera of Spanish descent and who came to Bonaire via the Dominican Republic and Curaçao. It was he who built the Rooi Lamoenchi house in 1890. The family itself never lived here. It was the house for the vito, the caretaker, who lived there without his family. Today, Ellen Cochrane-Herrera, the great granddaughter, is taking care of the plantation.

But the Herreras were not the first to live here. In the middle right photo we can see the foundation of a house that has to be more than 200 years old. It was probably a *Kas di Bara* (house of mud and wood) with a stone foundation. It was probably here the vito lived, taking care of the agriculture, plowing and dairy farming slaves. These slaves helped to produce the food for those slaves harvesting the salt.

Because there are no documents to give us the correct date we must look for objects that can give us clues. The bottom of this cup (photo at right), which was found near the house, shows that it was made in 1836 in Maastricht. Also discovered are pieces of bottles (shards) which date back to more than 200 years ago.



The Rooi Lamoenchi house has had two *Hadreys* in front, one behind the other. The first is now open and has become a kind of open porch where in the past visitors were received. From there they could enter the *sala* (living room). The doors and windows are all in straight line so that the wind can flow freely through the house. In the old days the bedrooms were on the east side so as to give natural ventilation at night.

The kitchen was always on the west side. And, like the house of Rose Marie Anne Heitkönig-Rigaud (from two weeks ago) it has its complete oven on the outside so the smell of cooking and smoke from the fire went straight up the chimney or out the windows and didn't go through the house. The house is made of big thick stones found in

the area. This thickness keeps the house cool.

Originally the house had wooden shutters (photo above left), but because nature is very hard on this windward coast, making it very difficult to keep the house in good condition, it was decided to replace them with aluminum windows and doors.

Ellen Herrera is putting a lot of time and energy in this kunuku house and the plantation, and only for one reason. She wants to give us, the youth, locals, and tourists, the opportunity to go back in time, to show us the real old cultural and traditional Bonaire way of life. This life was hard and difficult. Even today it is very difficult to maintain and improve the plantation.

Recently The Foundation Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku-Park has been helped by the Prins Bernard Culture Foundation which made it possible to repair some old roads on the plantation. So in the future Ellen will show us more of this beautiful area with a third tour. If you not only want to see but also feel the special atmosphere of the Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park, Ellen Herrera would be happy to guide you. For more information and reservation please call 540-9800 or 717-8489.

An artist and photographer, Wilna Groenenboom teaches art at the SGB high school

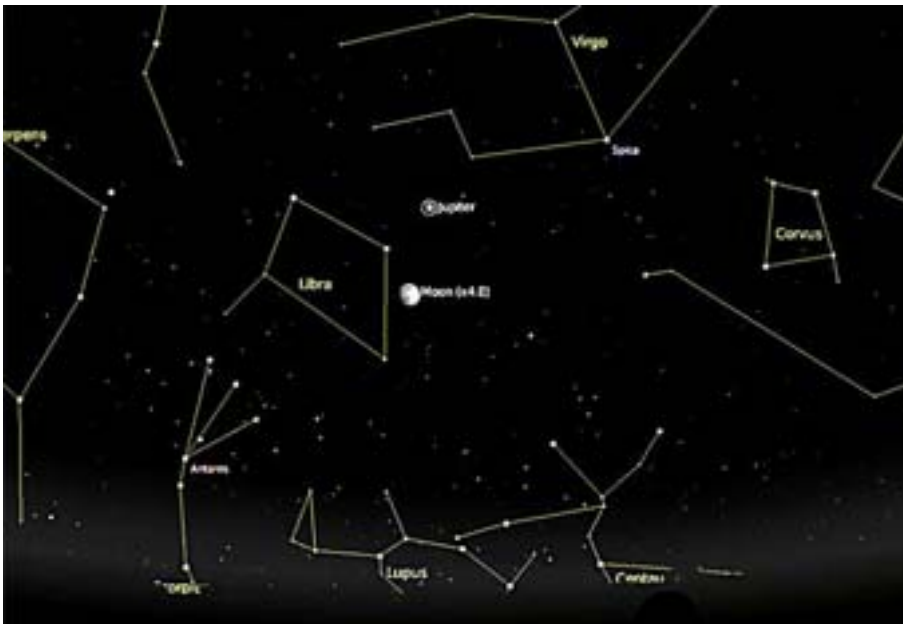




BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

The June Sky



Look for the Moon and Jupiter close to the constellation Scorpius just after the Sun sets

Here's a summary of Sky Park activity remaining this month:
The **Moon** - Lunar phases: New Moon on the 13th at 3:03 pm; First Quarter at 2:13 pm on the 20th; Full Moon at 5:37 pm on the 28th.

The Planets:

Mercury - Mercury makes an appearance in our western evening skies this month. The tiny planet will just peek above the horizon right at sunset. On the evening of June 17th, you should be able to see it right at sunset.

Venus - Venus continues to shine brightly in the east all during June. Just look to the east just before sunrise and the planet's bright light will be very easy to spot. In the morning of June 22nd, Venus will be very close to a slim old Moon just before dawn.

Mars - Mars pairs with Saturn in the western evening skies for an interesting "dance" during June. The two planets begin the month some distance apart and then move closer together until, on the evening of June 17th, they are just a degree or so apart just after sunset.

Jupiter - Jupiter is visible in the southeastern skies right after sunset every evening during June. On the evening of June 8th, Jupiter and the Moon make a very nice pair just after sunset.

Saturn - Saturn begins June somewhat above Mars in the western sky at dusk. As the month goes on the ringed planet moves closer and closer to Mars until the evening of June 17th, when the two planets will be extremely close together right after sunset. After that, Saturn begins to drop below Mars for the rest of the month.

Uranus - Uranus is not very well positioned for us to see it this month.

Neptune - Neptune is not very well positioned for us to see it this month.

Pluto - Pluto is very dim and is a target for large telescopes in very dark skies.

Deep Sky:

Looking overhead at 9:30 pm at mid-month you may see the **Milky Way** just above the eastern horizon. Not quite at zenith is the bright star **Arcturus** in **Bootes**. To the south, near Mars, is **Spica** in **Virgo**, and to the west we see **Regulus** in **Leo**. Another triangle of bright stars runs from **Arcturus** to the southeast, where we find the bright red **Antares** in the constellation **Scorpio**, then to the northeast to blue-white **Vega** in **Lyra**. **M51 (the Whirlpool)** is a face-on spiral galaxy near the end of the handle of the **Big Dipper**. It's high to the north and a good binocular target for the first half of the month before competition from moonlight makes it harder to see. Another good binocular event is available on the 12th, when Venus passes just north of the **Beehive Cluster (M44)**. The cluster is hard to pick out but Venus will make finding it an easy task. *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday June 4 to Saturday June 10, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You are best to work at home if you can. You should sit down with someone you trust and work out a budget that will enable you to save a little extra. Don't let your personal dilemmas interfere with your goals. Now is a good time to ask for favors. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You may find yourself in the midst of a pretty good deal. Organize your days well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do. Entertainment should include sports events or physical activities. Attend trade shows that will allow you to look at new products. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Disharmony in your relationship may cause minor ailments. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. Don't be afraid to pursue unfamiliar grounds. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Career changes may not be your choice right now, but in the long run they will be to your advantage. Be prepared to overcome frustrations and obstacles at work. Curb the impulse to make lavish purchases and maybe spend some time with good friends. Family get-togethers will be interesting. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Try not to use emotional blackmail; it will only make matters worse. You will be relentless when it comes to getting yourself back into shape. Stress coupled with diet will add to stomach problems. Enjoy a quiet dinner for two and discuss some of the plans you have for the future. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Money problems will get worse if your partner hasn't been playing by the rules. Take time to catch up on overdue correspondence. You may have the opportunity to get involved in some interesting conversations. Your ideas will be well received. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can develop your creative talents if you take the time to practice your art. You need to be active and spend time with friends you enjoy. Your dynamic, determined approach will win favors as well as a helping hand. Your lover may not understand your needs so you must figure out a way to communicate them. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can accomplish a lot if you direct your thoughts toward starting your own small business on the side. Keep your mind on your work and stay away from situations that could ruin your reputation. Your persuasive nature will win the heart of someone you've had your eye on. Be sure that you have all the facts before you take action. Your lucky day this week is Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't count your chickens before they hatch. Relatives may not be telling you the whole truth about a family situation. Don't put your professional reputation on the line. You should channel your efforts into getting rid of bad habits. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) An older member of the family may need assistance. Be careful when dealing with female members of your family. Don't get intimately involved with a coworker. Help elders get their personal papers in order. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Underhandedness regarding legal matters or contracts must be counteracted. Difficulties with your mate may lead to estrangement. Use your energy wisely. You can pick up some overtime this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You may want to take a serious look at your goals and objectives. Don't let your health suffer because of worry. Talk to someone you trust. Make sure to arrange in advance to spend quality time together. Older family members may try to make demands that are impossible for you to handle. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.