

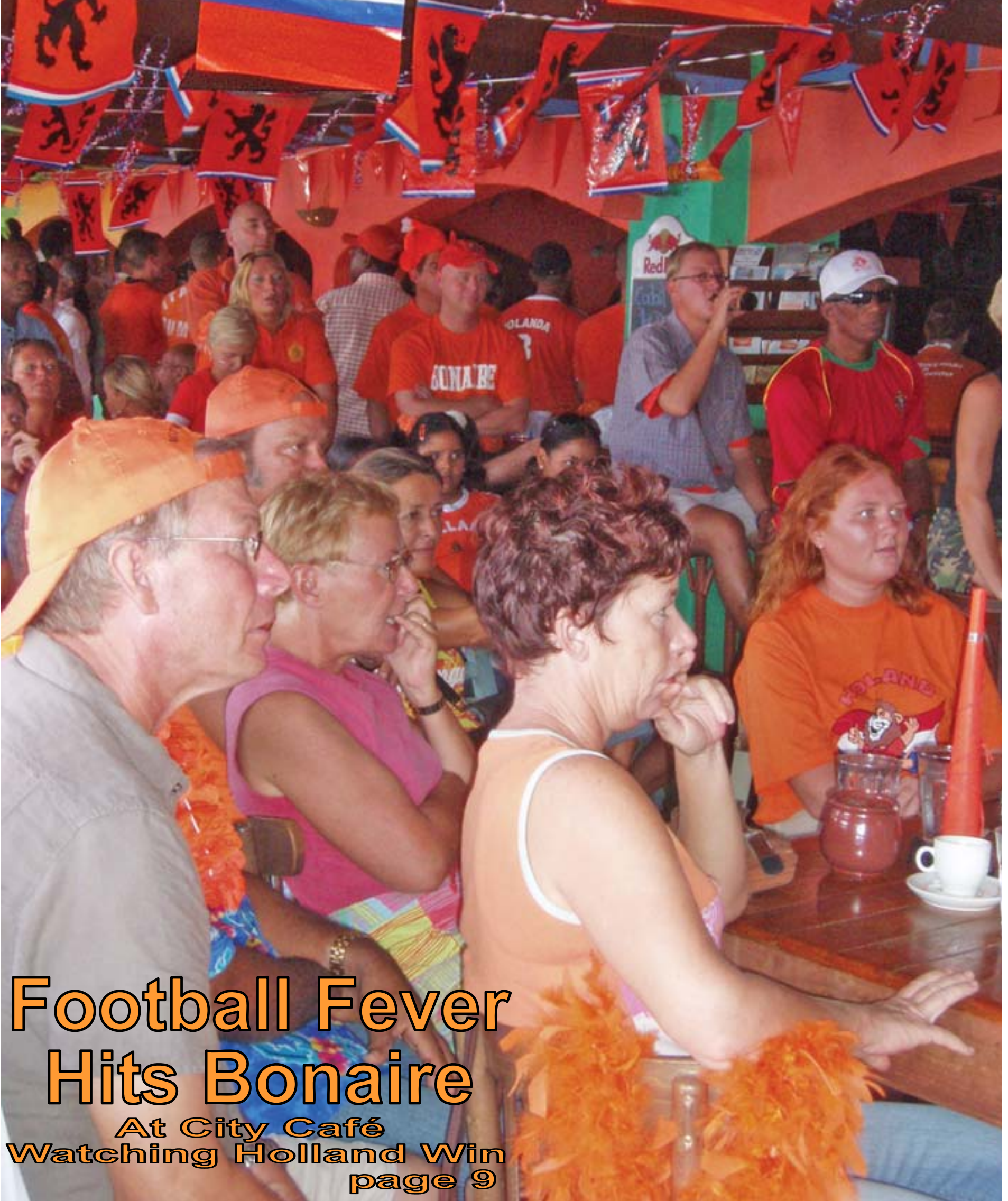
**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

June 16 to June 23, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 24

The REPORTER

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



Football Fever Hits Bonaire

At City Café
Watching Holland Win
page 9

Flotsam and Jetsam



Amigoe photo

The first plane of the new Curaçao airline, Insel Air, which has ambitious plans for regional flights, landed at Curaçao's Hato Airport last week. In the photo Transport Minister Kenneth Gijsbertha "inspects" the 19-seat Embraer Bandeirantes, as Insel Air director, Edward Heerenveen, looks on.

► Continental Airlines reported a May consolidated (mainline plus regional) load factor of 81%, 1.9 points above last year's May consolidated load factor. In addition, the airline had an international mainline load factor of 78%, the same as in May, 2005. **The load factor for Bonaire-Houston flights is reportedly 88%.**

► **Political agreement has been reached** between Commissioners of Constitutional Affairs Mike Franco of Curaçao and Sarah Wescot-Williams of St. Maarten **on a dual Central Bank under a common authority and single currency for the two islands** after they obtain their desired country status within

the Dutch Kingdom. The breakup of the Antilles, scheduled for July, 2007, would then leave the door open for the smaller Antillean islands – Bonaire, Saba and Statia - to move off the Antillean guilders as a local currency. Local experts believe the euro would be selected based on the smaller islands' desire to establish closer ties with The Netherlands.

► The Central Government's Preventative Health Department is urging **residents who plan to travel to Europe to make certain that they are immunized against measles**, in light of recent measles outbreaks reported in Germany and other European countries. Measles outbreaks have also been reported in Denmark, Spain, Sweden, Greece and the Ukraine.

► Flush with cash and oil, **Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is buying \$2.7 billion worth of arms** from Spain, Brazil and Russia, including 48 speedboats, four coastal patrol ships and four corvettes, 12 CASA military transport aircraft, 11 Mi-17 series multi-role helicopters and 100,000 high-tech Kalashnikov AK-103 assault rifles. Chavez is also buying Russian Sukhoi Su-30 and Su-35 fighter jets to replace US-built F-16s which the Bush administration has refused to upgrade. Chavez has created 2.8 million-strong armed militias reporting directly to the president, in addition to a 34,000-strong army, sparking fears of regional ambitions.



ABVO Photo

► **Last week 25 persons were naturalized as Dutch citizens on Bonaire.** The ceremony at Bonaire's Island Council building, the Pasangrahan, was led by Bonaire's Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé.

► While *The Bonaire Reporter* no longer focuses on yachting news as the number of pleasure vessels visiting Bonaire has declined, we received news that Pierre Roelens and his wife, Marie -- owners of the boatyard **PR Yacht Services in Venezuela -- were shot and killed in Puerto La Cruz Monday morning, June 12.** They had been to the bank and were followed to the boatyard gate where several bullets were fired into the windscreen of their car, according to Ellen Sanpere, a cruiser and contributor to the megayacht monthly, *Triton*. Roelens, a 60-year resident of the country, started the Clasico Regatta in 2004 to promote sportsmanship and the country's cruising grounds.

► **The Netherlands is willing to relieve the debt of the islands** up to the so-called 'interest charge standard.' The

interest charge standard is set to 5%, which means that the government's total interest payments (on loans) are maximum 5% of the average government revenue of the last three years.

For comparison: the part of the tax proceeds that has to be appropriated for payments of the total interest of the current joint Antillean governments is approximately one quarter, namely 23% in 2005, leaving a gap of 18%.

This is the first concrete proposal from the Netherlands to relieve the indebtedness of the "status apart" islands of Curaçao and St. Maarten and of the "kingdom-islands" of Bonaire, Statia and Saba. The Dutch proposal is outlined in the "Partners in the Kingdom" document that Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende handed last week to Antilles Prime Minister, Emily de Jongh-Elhage.

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2)



Tested Iguana, Pogona barbata iguana. Bonaire's species of iguana are Iguana iguana

► A recent report (2-2-2006) in the respected weekly science journal, *Nature*, reported that, in contrast to former evidence that only advanced snakes and only two species of lizard possessed **venom systems, that iguanas and monitor lizards also have them.** They have toxin secreting glands in their mouths. The monitor lizard's venom can be deadly because it drops blood pressure and clotting ability in its victim. The effects of iguana venom were not reported. Iguanas are a traditional food source on Bonaire. Although people have been bitten, we have never heard of a fatality from an iguana bite.

► In past surveys of Bonaire visitors the cleanliness of the island was rated near the top of the things they appreciated about Bonaire. In a Monday press release **SELIBON, the island's waste management company, promised to crack down on the sanitation surrounding Bonaire's snacks and restau-**



► **Young Italian chef students here for three weeks as part of a student exchange program** had a real Italian dinner at **Croccantino Restaurant** on Tuesday. Pictured with them are Croccantino owner Elisabeth Wigny, chef-translator Moreno Binelli, teacher-chef Fabio Zecchetti, coordinator Natalia Bedeschi and Sara Matera, who made the whole exchange idea happen. The students are: Fabrizio Pizzetti, Sheryn Arasula, Manuel Volta, Vanessa Magri and Giulia Prandini. The hotel school in Italy has hosted Bonaire students for three years.

rants. Owners of the establishments are being informed of the standards by letter. Enforcement will be done by the Environmental Police. This is based on an existing law: *Artikulo 31 di 'Eilandsverordening Afvalstoffen Bonaire,* which makes the food service operator responsible for the cleanliness of the area within 25 meters of his shop.

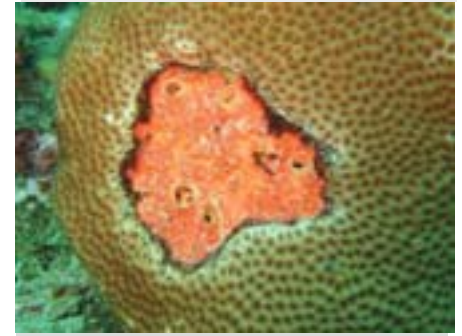
Another SELIBON initiative announced at the same time **targets messy construction sites,** long a thorn in environmentalists' side, with massive spillings of concrete and building sites littered with steelwork, paper and plastic

trash. Contractors are being informed of their responsibilities and enforcement will be done by the Environmental Police. Reports of offending construction sites should be given to SELIBON, telephone 717-8159.

A third SELIBON initiative is a campaign to **collect glass for recycling.** You may have seen the yellow plastic garbage containers that are located at restaurants, bars and hotels. And now, everyone, individuals and/or homeowners, is encouraged to collect and drop off their bottles, jars and other glass items into these containers as well. It's an island-wide effort

coral glimpses

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



This **starlet coral head** has several colonies of **red boring sponge** emerging through its surface. The boring sponge may have worked its way from the inside of the coral head through to the living surface. The coral polyps are trying to hold their territory. Only time will tell if they're strong enough to succeed.

and a great beginning to a full recycling program.

► The Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS), reporting results from the budget survey conducted in 2004-2005, said **an average household in Bonaire spends almost NAf44.000 per year.** Living expenses, the largest category, make up more than 25% of the total spending. It includes home mortgage/taxes or rent and water and electricity. Almost 23% (about NAf10.000) of the total household budget is used on transportation and

(Continued on page 4)



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.

Bonaire's Seaport

A continuing bright spot in Bonaire's economy and an economic indicator is its seaport activity centering on the Harbor Office. Bonaire has three prime ports: Kralendijk Harbor for Roll-On/Roll-Off (containers) and bulk cargo, The Salt Pier and the BOPEC oil terminal. Fuel for the island also arrives at the WEB pier in Kralendijk Bay.

In 2005 there was an increase in the use of tugboats. Tugboats are used to assist tankers tying up at the BOPEC terminal, which means that there have been more tankers visiting BOPEC (18 more than in 2004). These tankers are also bigger, and gross tonnage increased significantly in 2005 compared to 2004. In 2005, 12 ULCCs (Ultra Large Crude Carriers) of about 160,000 Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) docked at BOPEC while the average tanker visiting BOPEC is of 56,000 GRT.

The number of freighters declined, but the tonnage increased because ships that did visit were bigger and included car carriers, cargo ships and bulk carriers. In 2005, at least two big car carriers of around 50,000 GRT, visited the island almost every month.

The number of cruise ships increased with 13 more cruise ships in 2005 compared to the previous year though the gross tonnage of these ships is smaller than in 2004. This increase in number is due to the frequent visit of the *Free-winds* (100 passengers), which came to Bonaire 42 times in 2005, and the *Polynesia* (90 passengers), with 24 visits in 2005.

Bigger tankers and the larger car carriers result in higher pilot charges since larger ships pay higher dues. As a result, pilot dues increased 9% in 2005. All ships of 50 GRT or more that make use of pilot services pay pilot dues. Though port dues also depend on the GRT of ships, they decreased by 7% as they only include ships mooring at the government piers, not at the BOPEC piers. The mooring fee represents the use of the pilot boat to embark and disembark the pilot and a line boat to help with the mooring and unmooring of the ships. Bigger cruise ships, cargo ships and car carriers mainly use these services.

With the decline in the number of big



Cruise ships photo by Chaley Anthony

cruise ships, cargo ships, and also freight ships, the income from mooring fees dropped by 23% in 2005. On the other hand, the "retainer fee" has almost doubled, +92%, due to the calls of ULCCs at BOPEC. The retainer fee represents a 20% surcharge on the pilot dues for every extra half hour of pilot services. Bigger ships take more time to tie up and pay higher pilot dues and thus are charged higher retainer fees.

There has been more cargo registered in 2005 than in previous years: more containers, cars, buses and trucks and a considerable amount of loose cargo in 2005. This loose-cargo ton represents mainly sand and cement for construction. (See a previous story in *The Bonaire Reporter* about the spike in commercial construction). The sand is imported from Curaçao and the cement from Venezuela. In 2005, Bonaire imported 18,760 metric tons of sand and 11,894 metric tons of cement for construction on the island (That's about 172 metric tons for every resident of Bonaire... this requires about four times more tonnage of crushed stone to make this into concrete which is normally derived on-island. *Ed.*). About 610 metric tons of steel was imported for the BOPEC terminal. The remainder of cargo represents local freight and also fruits and vegetables brought in by the Venezuelan boats.

To conclude, all the income generated at the harbor such as the pilot and port dues as well as the ports rights and retributions have been increasing gradually as there is more economic activity taking place at Bonaire's ports. *DEZA Report*

(*Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3*) communication. Compared with past years, the expenses for communication and transportation have increased the most.

► In April 2006 consumers' price index rate for Bonaire remained unaltered with respect to February 2006. The index for the alcohol and smoke products sector rose by 1.6%. The subgroup, "personal care," was up 0.6%. Price increases were in toilet articles and skin care. **Compared to last year at this time, the price index is up 1.2%.**



Commissioner Dortalina

► Members of the **Bonaire Island Commissioners and the Lt. Governor were granted a 25% salary increase by the Central Government this month.** The commissioners' new gross monthly salary is NAf8,300 (\$4,689). One of the problems was that department heads who reported to the commissioners used to have higher salaries than their bosses. "The salary increase has corrected years of distorted proportions," said Commis-

sioner Reginald Dortalina of the UPB (green) party.

► Last week a weak tropical wave passed south of the ABC islands bringing the first rain showers of the dry season to Bonaire and heavier rain, flooding and wind to Curaçao. According to the Antilles Weather Office, between 20 and 30 millimeters of precipitation fell during the daytime hours.

► **Tropical Storm Alberto**, the first named storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, developed last Sunday from a poorly organized tropical depression in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Alberto is dumping watery relief on the drought-weary southeast United States as we go to press. Rainfall measuring from 2 to 4 inches as recorded in Central Florida and Georgia -- along with wind gusts of up to 40 mph.

► In past issues of *The Reporter* we've mentioned the names of the managers and rangers of **STINAPA**, the Marine and Land Park Authority of Bonaire. But **behind the scenes are others who help keep the Parks running smoothly.** They include: **Elsmarie Beukenboom**, Director (see "Born on Bonaire..." this week on page 17); Accounting Manager **Kerenza Rannou**; Receptionist/Administrative Assistant **July-Ann Frans**; Education Coordinator **Crisanta Martha**; and Communication Coordinator **Karen van Dijk** who provided us this information.

(Continued on page 5)



► Floating around Bonaire are a few officially unannounced items. However, they are based on reliable sources. They include:

- The **Xavier Medical School** that left Bonaire for Aruba last year is establishing a second campus back here, possibly by September. Xavier's business plan calls for a campus on each of the ABC islands.
- **Indiana University** will establish a biological residence/study center at the site of the former Lizard Inn on Kaya Grandi. Students and staff will be resident on Bonaire.
- **NOAA**, the US Government's Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration, is expected to set up a facility on Bonaire. The TWR site is being considered.
- With the success of its Houston-Bonaire service proven, **Continental Airlines** will begin flights from the NY City area via its Newark (EWR) hub.
- **Air Jamaica**, battling competition from US airlines, is evaluating additional flights to Bonaire from its Montego Bay hub.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)



Valatric Stimpson photo

► **Girl's 10 and under swim relay team: Diane Werdath, Yasmin Esser, Kaile Finies, Tirzah Richard are a few of the up and coming Bonaire Barracuda swimmers. Look for them on the list of winners next season. In an early June trip to Curaçao they scored very well.**

► **Volunteers... Make a Dive That Counts!** Throughout the month of July, divers and snorkelers will dive our reefs

to survey fish for the Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC). Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) coordinates the GAFC along with support from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries Program.

The GAFC began in 1992 when a small group of recreational divers and marine biologists conducted a visual fish count in the Channel Islands National Park. The effort was modeled after the Audubon's Christmas Bird Count and has grown into an international event. For more information contact our local sponsor, Dive Friends/Yellow Submarine, or Linda Ridley, the local contact, tel. 791-4262.

► Every week we print 1,500 copies of *The Bonaire Reporter* which are distributed around the island. Printing, transportation and production costs are high, but we've still managed to keep it free. So, **when you are through with your copy of *The Reporter*, could you please pass it on to someone else?** In this way,



Letter To The Editor

THE NEW LODGING/TOURIST TAX-A PUBLIC RELATIONS DISASTER



Dear Editor:

Together with our politicians the on-island TCB office has managed to convert, all on its own, a good idea into a PR disaster that has already hurt the island's image in a devastating way. With tourist arrivals already declining it is something we can't afford.

For many years the Private Sector has requested a (lodging/tourist) tax system that would capture the majority of the unpaid taxes from illegal room rentals that is going on. And, although the basics of the present proposal are good, the local TCB office showed itself to be incapable of resisting politicians' ignorance and stubbornness:

Ignorance, because the elected officials don't seem to understand that consumers and distribution channels must be presented with clear, well-motivated plans and procedures. Having blank spots in such an important system change creates more questions than answers and thus unrest. Unrest is never good in the hospitality business.

Stubbornness, because despite the requests – close to begging – by the on-and off-island Private Sector, they insisted it be implemented in their own way and in their own time frame.

This entire PR disaster could have been prevented. Even if a solution is offered in the next week(s) the damage is done. A friend told me once, "Perception is reality because that is what you believe."

The increase in the Marine Park Tag fee, the Energy Surcharge implemented by some resorts and now a new Departure/Island Tax confirms this statement. We are hurting ourselves. Not necessarily because Bonaire is an expensive destination, but more because the decision makers and communicators on the island have created the **perception** that Bonaire is expensive. Remember; it doesn't have to be reality, but it becomes that since consumers believe it.

Well done, beloved politicians!! Let's remember that democracy provides the amazing opportunity to correct our own mistakes every four years.

C. Mardinsuuri

The TCB maintains a web site for posting the latest developments on the Lodging/Tourist Tax- <http://www.infobonaire.com/taxinfo.html>

everyone wins: more people will be able to read it and we can continue to say, "It's Still Free!" And be sure to tell our advertisers, "***The Reporter* sent me.**"
G./L.D.



DONKEY PARADISE SAFARI PARK OPENS!

After two years of preparation by Donkeys Help Foundation, the **Donkey Paradise Safari Park** is now open and receiving visitors. Instead of walking, visitors can now tour the acres of natural environment from the comfort of their cars, stop and interact with over 300 donkeys living there, have a picnic in breezy, sheltered areas with beautiful views, watch flamingos at an adjoining salt pond, and even help feed the donkeys at their new spacious "cafeteria." To keep track of activities at the Safari Park when visitors are away, there is even a new web-cam at www.donkeycam.com, sponsored by Richard Mann, providing continuing images of the donkeys eating and drinking, the first donkey cam in the Caribbean.

The dream of an expanded donkey park became a reality as the result of a lot of hard work and generous donations. First the land next to the sanctuary had to be purchased in order to have sufficient space for Bonaire donkeys rescued from Hato, Belnem, Sorobon, Kralendijk, and the road to Rincon—so that they would no longer be hit by cars or abused and suffering. Donations by organizations (like Animal Protection Fund, PETA, The Donkey Sanctuary in England, Animal Care Venezuela) and individuals (like Sorobon Beach Resort, Dolf Huygens, the Hazewinkels, and Henny Huisman) provided the resources to acquire the land. Next the Safari Park had to be



designed not only to meet the basic needs of the donkeys (food, water, shelter) but also to make touring by visitors safe, convenient, and fun. Because the Bonairean government wanted to remove the donkeys from the roads, they provided the fencing and the labor to erect the fence. The infrastructure of the Safari Park, including all buildings, roads, wells, and picnic areas, was designed by chief engineer, Ed Koopman, assisted by Genaro Anthony and Alvin Thode, while Marina Melis coordinated the overall project, including fund-raising.

Because of the expense in feeding and caring for all the donkeys rescued, Donkeys Help Foundation could no longer be supported on donations alone. Considering that it costs NAf3.000 a week to feed the donkeys hay and horse fodder twice a day, a small fee must now be charged to tour the Safari Park. In addition the fee makes it possible to pay for veterinary care to keep the donkeys healthy. And volunteers and interns from schools and colleges in Holland and the US (i.e. H.A. S. DEN BOSCH, AOC Friesland, and Illinois Math and Science Academy) have all found the donkeys in the sanctuary to be in optimal health.

The new Donkey Paradise Safari Park has a number of interesting features: an African-style round house to accommo-

date student volunteers, a state-of-the-art feeding and drinking station, and spacious, sheltered picnic "hofis." Beginning in August all visitors will be able to take along a cassette-player to listen to a guided tour describing the history of the donkeys and the flora, fauna, and ecology of Bonaire in four languages: English, Dutch, Spanish, and Papiamentu. And even more good news is that the Bonairean government has reconstructed the road to the Safari Park to eliminate potholes, cracks, and crevices, so visitors will no longer have to worry about damaging their cars.

Donkey Paradise Safari Park is now open seven days a week, from 10 am to 4 pm with feeding of the donkeys at 4 pm for those visitors who want to help. Adoptions of donkeys are still needed. For more information or to vol-



unteer or donate, go to the web-site (www.donkeyshelp.com) or phone 560-7607.

Story by Pauline Kayes, photos by Marina Melis



Dive Into Adventure Now--June 17 to 24

DIVE INTO ADVENTURE BONAIRE 2006 is here this weekend. It promises to be a special time not only for our island visitors but also for island residents. Several key events are open to all, beginning with the "Taste of Bonaire" opening event on Sunday night, the 18th when many of the island's restaurants will be on hand at Wilhelmina Park to offer their specialties at NAf5 a plate.



Bonaire's caves are beautiful and should only be visited with a certified guide.



Get the turtle to smile and you might win the photo contest.
Catherine Salisbury photo of Albert Bianculli

Daily activities will include diving, windsurfing, kayaking, kite surfing, snorkeling, caving and hiking and more outdoor activities.

There will be a photo contest open to participants to judge their under and above-water photos of the week with over \$2,000 in prizes. The contest is organized by Fish-Eye Photo, School for Underwater Photography, run by Tim Peters and Jim Platz. For more information or questions, call 011-599-717-2001 or email info@fishyeyephoto.com or platzja@aol.com. You can also log on to

www.fish-eyephoto.com. On Wednesday night, beginning at 6 pm, Kralendijk Stadium will be the site for the "It's a Knockout" premiere for competition between teams of DIAB participants



Dive something different? Try the "Wildside" with Larry and company.

reinforced by some well-known local faces in the community. Through a selection of fun games focusing on culture and traditions, visitors will learn more about Bonaire and will mix with locals. There will be music, dancing, food and drinks for sale there at reasonable prices. ESPN will be televising some of the activities.

In addition every evening will feature workshops, talks and parties relating to the event including a talk, sure to be entertaining, by dive pioneer, Capt. Don Stewart called "Rings of Memories" on

Thursday at 6:30 pm in the conference room at Capt. Don's Habitat resort. Bonaire residents who want to take part in ALL the events and contests can sign up for \$100 during the "Taste of Bonaire" or see Rico Martis at the TCB Office. There's lots of information available on the www.diveintoadventurebonaire.com website as well. You can also drop in the office or contact the TCB at 717-8322.

For the complete schedule of DIAB look below. See you at DIAB-2006.

Dive Into Adventure Schedule

Saturday June 17th Sign-up Day

Date from	to	Name of Bonaire Star/Event	Location
Sunday June 18th			
9:00	12:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
9:00	12:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
9:00	12:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
12:00	16:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
13:00	17:00	Photography competition Sign up	Fisheye at Sand Dollar
18:00	22:30	Opening Event, "Taste of Bonaire"	Wilhelmina Park
19:30	20:00	Gov. Domacasse, Capt. Don, Ronella Croes Welcome Speech	Wilhelmina Park
Monday June 19th			
9:00	12:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
9:00	12:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
9:00	12:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
9:00	11:00	Dee Scarr - Lecture and Dive Reef Caretaking	Capt. Dons's Habitat
9:00	12:00	Dos Winkel Lecture & Dive U/W Photo Skills	Sand Dollar
12:00	16:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
12:00	16:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
14:00	15:00	Ramon Leon & Fernando Simal STINAPA land and marine mgrs	Plaza Resort Bonaire
16:00	17:00	Bill & Alice Miller - Lecture/Slide Show So You Want To Take U/W Photos	Capt. Don's Habitat
17:30	18:00	Larry Baillie - Lecture Wildside, Wildman or Pussycat	Golden Reef Inn
18:30	19:15	Dos Winkel, Talking pictures	Golden Reef Inn
19:00	20:00	Evening Party + Book signing by Dos Mariachi Band and Drinks	Golden Reef Inn
20:00	22:00	Evening Party, Krioyo Buffet	Golden Reef Inn
20:00	22:00	Dine Around Options- Island-Wide	Plaza, Habitat, Sand Dollar
Tuesday June 20th			
9:00	12:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
9:00	12:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
9:00	12:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
12:00	16:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
14:00	16:00	Dive Explore with Philippe Cousteau	Capt. Don's Habitat
16:00	17:00	Charles Mazel, Ph D Marine Biology The Psychedelic Art of U/W Fluorescence	Capt. Don's Habitat
17:30	18:00	Hendrik Wuyts The Power of Visible Impression	Port Bonaire
18:30	19:15	TBA Port Bonaire	Port Bonaire
19:30	21:00	Charles Mazel, Ph D Marine Biology Guided Night Fluorescence Dive	Capt. Don's Habitat
19:15	20:15	Evening Party Caribbean minstrels and Drinks	Port Bonaire
20:15	22:15	Evening Party, Taste of the World buffet	Port Bonaire
20:00	22:00	Dine Around Options - Island-Wide	Plaza, Habitat, Sand Dollar

Wednesday June 21st

9:00	12:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
9:00	12:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
9:00	12:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
9:00	12:00	Dos Winkel Lecture & Dive U/W Photo Skills	Sand Dollar
12:00	16:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
12:00	16:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
14:00	15:00	Ramon Leon & Fernando Simal STINAPA marine and land Mgrs	Plaza Resort Bonaire
14:00	15:00	Jerry Ligon Guided snorkel	Bonaire Dive & Adventure at Sand Dollar
15:00	16:00	Jerry Ligon Guided snorkel	Bonaire Dive & Adventure at Sand Dollar
16:00	17:00	Mabel Nava - STCB Turtle Presentation	Plaza Resort Bonaire
16:00	17:00	Bill & Alice Miller - Lecture/Slide Show So You Want To Take U/W Photos	Capt. Don's Habitat
18:30	22:30	Fun Team Event "It's a Knockout"	National Stadium
19:30	21:00	Charles Mazel, Ph D Marine Biology Guided Night Fluorescence Dive	Capt. Don's Habitat
20:00	21:00	Barbeque	National Stadium
Thursday June 22nd			
9:00	12:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
9:00	12:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
9:00	12:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
12:00	16:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
14:00	16:00	Dive Explore with Philippe Cousteau	Capt. Don's Habitat
14:00	16:00	TBA Photography workshop	Capt. Don's Habitat
16:00	17:00	Charles Mazel, Ph D Marine Biology The Psychedelic Art of U/W Fluorescence	Capt. Don's Habitat
17:30	18:00	Benji Schaub - Doing it Right	Capt. Don's Habitat
18:00	18:30	Walt Stark III Bonaire Technical Divers Paradise	Capt. Don's Habitat
18:30	19:15	Captain Don - Rings of Memory	Capt. Don's Habitat
19:15	20:15	Evening party Moogie Music and Drinks	Capt Don's Deco Stop Bar
19:30	21:00	Charles Mazel, Ph D Marine Biology Guided Night Fluorescence Dive	Capt. Don's Habitat
20:15	22:15	Evening Party	Capt Don's Habitat - Rum Runners
20:00	22:00	Dine around options - Island Wide	Plaza Resort Bonaire, Capt. Don's Habitat, Sand Dollar

Friday June 23rd

9:00	12:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
9:00	12:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
9:00	12:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	General Island Diving	Your preferred dive shop
12:00	16:00	Specialized Dive Activity Schedule	Varied
12:00	16:00	Topside Adventure Schedule	Varied
14:00	16:00	Captain Don's Show and tell by participants	Plaza Resort Bonaire
17:30	18:00	Caren Eckrich - LectSex on the Reef !!!	Plaza Resort Bonaire
18:00	19:00	Philippe Cousteau - LectEarths Final Frontier	Plaza Resort Bonaire
19:00	19:15	Photo Contest Prizes	Plaza Resort Bonaire
19:15	19:20	Harlton "Onnie" Emerenciana - Com. of Tourism	Plaza Resort Bonaire
19:20	20:20	Farewell Evening party	Plaza Resort Bonaire
20:20	22:20	Farewell Evening party	Plaza Resort Bonaire - Topsy Seagull
20:20	22:20	Dine around options - Island Wide	Plaza Resort Bonaire, Capt. Don's Habitat, Sand Dollar

Program subject to change. Please note that all "free" activities mentioned above only relate to those who have paid the \$75 event fee and who stay at an official host hotel.

Bonaire's Newest Wall Mural

Check out Bonaire's newest wall mural. The mural was created by Janice Huckaby of JanArt. It's at the Golden Reef Inn on Kaya Den Haag, one of the participating resorts in DIAB 2006. The mural features a relaxing iguana, grey angel, green turtle and moray eel, along with a snorkeling flamingo and the ONLY shark in captivity on Bonaire!

It measures approximately 12 meters long and 2.5 meters high. It took Jan and her crew, Megan, Renee and GRI owner Liz approximately two weeks to complete. Feel free to stop by and take a look! *Liz Ginocchio/GRI photo*





Bondy On The Ball

The world's most popular sport

FIFA World Cup-2006

From the Publisher: "As an American, until recently, I was blissfully ignorant of what the rest of the world calls football. I only had to spend one Sunday a year watching the Super Bowl- American football's championship. Not a month, like what's happening now in most of the world, including our dot of an island. Bonaire is going all out, with lots of Dutch fans supporting Holland, but the many Latin Americans have their favorites and their teams, especially Brazil, are strong. The morning hours of the games telecast are filling the island's multi-TV-equipped bars at breakfast and lunch time... but there's more beer than orange juice consumed these days.

For the next month the 32 teams will compete in Germany for the world championship in a game that unites, and likewise divides, countries. Our football writer, Tony Bond, will be bringing Reporter readers his perspective on the games until the championship is decided. Here are the first reports:"

For me and millions of people from all over the world, the waiting is over as we sit down together in our various time zones to watch the opening ceremony for **World Cup 2006**. The beautiful game went hand in hand with a beautiful woman as **Claudia Shiffer** walked onto the pitch with **Pele** who carried the World Cup Trophy. Amazingly, there were many empty seats in the stadium during the ceremony. However, the people who were there, and an estimated 1.5 billion worldwide, enjoyed singing and dancing from Salsa to Hip Hop. With traditional German precision, as the festivities came to a close the pitch was emptied within minutes to facilitate the start of the first game, **Germany vs. Costa Rica**.

Germany were in high spirits following a 3-0 win over **Colombia** in their final warm up game, but, this was the real thing. If anyone was in any doubt as to how exciting the first match would be, they needn't have been. Germany put on a stylish and impressive display that should put a shudder through the other teams watching. It took six minutes for the hosts to get on the score sheet with a stunner from distance by Philip Lahm. However, 6 minutes later, Paulo Wanchope evened things up with an equaliser despite shouts of offside. Barely 5 minutes passed when Germany took the lead again, courtesy of a close range effort from Miroslav Klose. In the second half, we had to wait until the 61st minute to see Klose double his tally and see Germany pull into a 3-1 lead. Costa Rica were persistent though and once again, Paulo Wanchope gave them a glimmer of hope. The goal of the match for me came from Torsten Frings who blasted home from 30 yards out. So, 4-2 the score and Germany looked worth the result. Despite being on the losing side, Paulo Wanchope was my man of the match. He showed the weakness of the German team who, although were superb in going forward, were very disorganised at the back. Still, a new record was made today as never have so many goals been scored in an opening match!

The second game of the day was **Poland vs. Ecuador**. A stunned Polish side were dismissed by a top notch display from Ecuador. Goals from Tenorio and Delgado gave them a well deserved 2-0 victory.

Of course, the highlight of my weekend was always going to be **England vs. Paraguay**. Anyone who saw me at City Café on Saturday morning will have been under no doubt who I was supporting. However, my expectations were not met. England's display was woeful despite their victory; the game was made all the worse by appalling refereeing. Peter Crouch looked out of his depth and Gerard looked well below par. England's goal came in the third minute from set play. A superb Beckham delivery cut



Holland Scores!

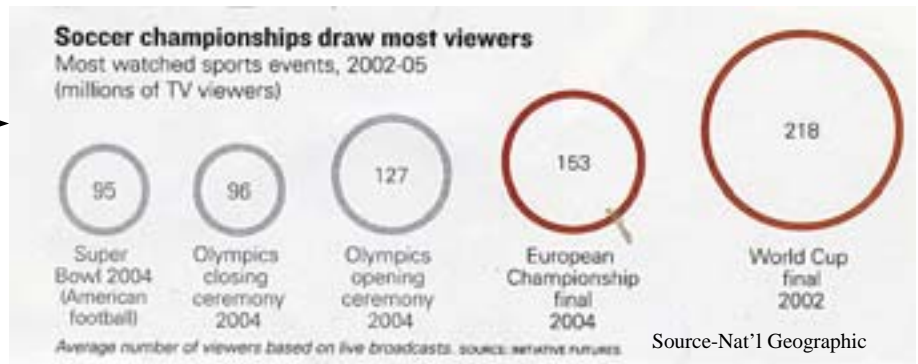
through the defence where it glanced off the head of Paraguay's Gammara for an own goal. If England is going to progress, they need to be a lot better. Final score England 1-0 Paraguay.

Saturday brought us another two matches. First out, **Trinidad & Tobago** took on **Sweden** in Dortmund. The Swedes would have expected this to be a forgone conclusion; T&T had other ideas. Sweden bossed the game and enjoyed the lion's share of possession, even when T&T went down to 10 men, Sweden still couldn't unlock the defence. Keeper, Chaka Hislop, played the game of his life. Well done to the islanders, a deserved 0-0 draw.



Crespos of Argentina celebrates

The final match was the mighty **Argentina vs. Ivory Coast**, a routine day at the office, surely. The Ivorians turned out to be worthy opponents with a frenetic opening spell. Boka, Zokora and Akale opened up the Argentine defence at will, however, sloppy finishing was their downfall. Argentina soon got into their stride with Riquelme bossing the midfield and Crespo constantly threatening up front. After an earlier threat from a set piece, the Ivorians should have learnt something, they didn't! Crespo opened the tally in the 24th minute from an in swinging cross into the box. Despite chances for the lively Drogba, the Ivorians couldn't finish and once again they were punished in the 38th minute by some well timed running and



silky finishing by Saviola, 2-0 Argentina. In the second half, the Argentines were happy to sit back and push the ball around. However, the introduction of substitute Kone for Ivory Coast opened the game up. It was his pace and cross that found Drogba who scored 8 minutes from the end. A nery flurry followed to the end but Argentina held on. Argentina 2-1 over Ivory Coast. Holland plays the Ivory Coast this Friday at noon.



Arjen Robben, Holland's man of the match

Our final report this week is **Holland vs. Serbia - Montenegro**. Holland were still smarting a little after a disappointing 1-1 draw with Australia in their final friendly. However, the fact that Ruud van Nistleroy is continuing to score would have given them some heart as they went into this match. With their tried and tested 4-3-3 formation, Holland kicked-off against Serbia and Montenegro in Leipzig. The sun beat down on the players, illuminating the sea of orange in the stands. Holland is lively from the start but the S&M defence is solid. Arjen Robben is looking the player most likely to and is full of running. Sure enough, after just 17 minutes, van Persie finds Robben with an exquisite pass; Robben returns the compliment with a cool finish as he slots it below a rushing keeper, 1-0 Holland. The Dutch are oozing confidence and are allowed too much space. Serbia's only chances coming from Milosevic who

can't find his range or power. Once again, Robben finds space and nearly doubles his tally in the 37th minute; he is the star of the first half. Serbia upped the pace in the second half, but the Dutch were bossing the game. Excellent performances from Sneijder, van Persie and Robben outshone. Van der Sar had only a little to do but was always ready when called upon. A few late chances went wide for the boys in orange, the final score belying their overall dominance. 1-0 Holland.



Dutch Fan at City

So, what have we learnt? **Germany** is good value going forward, but they will have to tidy their defence up before they get to the later stages, they will be going through, no problem. **Columbia** has proven a surprise and may well join Germany as group qualifiers. **Poland** has work to do; they underestimated **Ecuador** and paid the price. **England's** sorry performance against **Paraguay** was simply not good enough. They will probably qualify due to default following **Sweden's** 0-0 draw. If they don't organise themselves, they will be out in the next rounds. **Argentina** are always good value, but their cockiness on sitting on their lead nearly came back to bite them. **Ivory Coast** was excellent and I would love to see them in the next stages. Sweden played well enough against **Trinidad & Tobago**, but the islanders were resilient. They are my tip to go through with England. **Holland** have shone for me some good individual performances and a great team spirit. I won't be surprised if they finish top of their group.

Next week I will be reporting from England, until then, 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.

Where to watch-

Two Reporter advertisers have announced they have facilities to see all the great World Cup action that started 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** watch in the comfort of the thatched roof bar by the pool and sample their huge selection of beers. (the boss won't find you there). *L.D.*

SEE YOU AT CITY

Sponsored by

GREAT ESCAPE

Bar Hotel Restaurant

Watch the World Cup!

Your boss won't catch you here!

Windsurfing Report

May was a stellar month for windsurfing. Winds ramping into the mid 20s was the day-to-day scene in Sorobon. Spring visitors were treated to some of the best sailing seen in months. The bay was filled with visitors ripping across the pristine waters. But where were the pros?

Come May all the Bonaire pros headed off "across the pond" to Europe. **Tonky** and **Taty Frans** were in Austria at the PWA event. While the wind wasn't wonderful, the parties were memorable and the guys had a blast. **Kiri Thode** attended the Surf Show held in the north of Germany, in Wulfen on the Island of Fehmarn, in the Baltic Sea. He was joined by his cousin Taty who put on a fantastic freestyle show at this fun event. **Elvis Martinus** was on hand as the windsurf ambassador of Bonaire. Elvis is also in Europe meeting with management teams discussing the 2007 windsurf season in Bonaire. Word is he and his fellow committee members are planning a new event.

This month **Clay Finies** left Bonaire to attend the European Freestyle Pro Tours (EFPT) in Greece. Clay, sponsored by Quattro and Dakine, is excited about his first Pro Tour. After years of training in his back yard, Lac Bay, Clay is ready to meet up with his fellow team mate, **Ruben Petrisie**, as part of the Team Bonaire experience. Their first stop is Mykonos, then Rhodes. The last EFPT



Kiri Thode

event, June 30, will be in Turkey. Then both head to Professional Windsurfing Association (PWA) tour starting in Fuertaventura.

Another rider new to the Pro Tour will be **Evertson "Choko" Frans** who joins the PWA tour. It's going to be a freestyle history maker having three brothers on the PWA tour. Go Team Frans.

Each year our island pros expand their horizons, heading into foreign countries that many only dream to see. It's incredible the talent pool found on Bonaire. Their success is largely attributed to their personal drive but also the love and support of their families and the island community. *Story and photo by Ann Phelan*

Pro Kids World Finals Gearing Up.

The members of the Pro Kids Freestyle World Planning Committee are busy preparing for the hot world finals to be held in Lac Bay, August 3 to 6. Three qualifiers were held so far in Holland, Germany and Canada. **Dieter Van der Eycken**, 14, won the freestyle event held in Holland earlier in May. He and his family arrive in Bonaire late July to train and prepare for the event. **Max Droege**, 15, won the freestyle title at the Surf Show in Wulfen, Germany. He is excited about his upcoming trip to Bonaire. The winner of the Starboard International Trident Sports Windsurfing Canada held at the Rondeau Yacht Club was **Vincent Tremblay**. He will represent North America at the Pro Kids event. Locally the Bonaire Team members are training hard to show off their stuff in their home waters this coming June. Taty, Kiri and Clay have reported they will return in time for this huge event. *Ann Phelan*



Max Droege Internet photo

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know... Fireworms eat coral?

Bearded Fireworms, *Hermodice carunculata*, are segmented bristleworms with individuals ranging in color from light green to bright orange/red. Lining their bodies they have bundles of bristles that are filled with venom.

When a Bearded Fireworm is disturbed, the worm 'bristles' to prepare itself for an attack. You can see a Fireworm protrude its bristles if you softly wave your hand near the worm. Careful you don't dislodge it and send it spiraling into the water column! Fireworms scavenge and eat living corals and anemones. They'll even feed on Fire Coral! If you see a Staghorn Coral with each of its tips missing, the culprit was probably a Bearded Fireworm. The worm will move from tip to tip, engulfing the coral as far as its throat will allow in order to digest the coral tissue.

Caren Eckrich



Fireworm feeding

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 for more information.



Picture Yourself with The Reporter Slot Doddendael, Ewijk, near Nijmegen, The Netherlands



Jan Willem 't Hooft, the General Manager of Buddy Dive Resort Bonaire, sent us this picture of his wife, Fabienne, and himself with *The Bonaire Reporter* during their recent vacation in Holland. The picture is taken in front of Slot Doddendael (castle) in Ewijk, a small town near Nijmegen.

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

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

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

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

FREE FREE FREE FREE

Commercial Ads only NAf0.80 per word, per week.
Free adds run for 2 weeks.

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

JANART GALLERY

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

MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Also interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-9332.

BONAIRENET

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

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

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

LUNCH TO GO

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

JELLASTONE PETPARK

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

Bonaire Images

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

Put your as here

Commercial ads at low cost
Personal ads free

For Sale

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

Ford Escort LX, 1995, new transmission and many other parts. Drives great. NAF5.800. Call 786-0372.

FOR SALE - LEAVING ISLAND 2000 **Toyota Yaris Verso.** Air conditioning. 5 doors. Good condition. NAF8,750 obo. Call: 786-9638 or 786-5291

FOR SALE: Furniture - sofa, chairs, bookshelves, etc. Call 717-8989 to view.

Off to Italy



Miguel Saragoza just left for Italy to do his summer stage (trainee) project in Emilia Romagna. He will work at Il Girasole outside Riccione, a Michelin Star Restaurant, with the blessings from SGB teachers Ann Leong, Nolly Oleana and Vernon Martijn, The Culinary Bonaire Foundation's Ruud Vermeulen and KLM ticket sponsor Maarten Maartense are all saying their goodbyes. Miguel's mom flew over from Curaçao to give her support to her son also. Sara Matera

DO YOU SUDOKU?

Sudoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. 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. For a tutorial visit the web site www.sudokushack.com. Molly Kearney (who has to solve the puzzles)

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

Babysitter

Summer Mother's Helper/Babysitter
Available -Weekly or Monthly Care offered by a mature, reliable and outgoing young woman. Island references available. Please call 786-3066

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.



The Snack Bar Detectives

Their Mission: *To seek out the mysteries that lie behind the doors of Bonaire's snacks*



In the Four Faces of Woman dialogue we review the journey of women through time. The four faces represent the four main phases of that journey. The **Eternal Face** represents the child in all of us, symbolizing innocence, purity, spontaneity and freedom. The child lives on forever, but for most of us, who are unaware of it, it remains latent and asleep. In the **Traditional Face** we look at the rules and laws society sets up to protect our innocence and purity. The protective laws prevented us from being free, so we became stifled and limited. We believed what they said we are, rather than what we really are. We then look at the **Modern woman** who recognizes that she is not what they say she is but much more than that. Modern woman decides to break the laws of tradition and create new laws for herself. Yet because she does not know who she is and where she is coming from, she obviously does not know where she is going. She is lost. Most of us women are familiar with the traditional and modern phases of our journey. But for most women the question, "Who am I," remains unknown. So how can they find their lighthouse? During the program, we will introduce the **Eternal Face** (Who am I?) and also the **Shakti Face** - the highest potential in a woman; where I am going. These presentations will be done during the panel sessions and the workshops. It is our hope that by empowering women we are in fact empowering the entire family since women play a key role. We hope you will join us. It will definitely be both an informative, inspirational and empowering day spent in the company of like-minded people. *Sister Devki Ram-sahai*



This week: Nadia Snack Kaya A. Emerenciana 6

It's been a funny old week. Big D was on another case so I was breaking in a new partner, Napper. He was a novice at this game and I was worried that he may go to pieces under pressure and blow our cover. I didn't need to worry; he came through with flying colors.

As we walked through the doors of Nadia Snack, we were met by the smiling face of Nadia herself. For nearly 20 years, she has been serving her customers with hearty meals from a wide menu. As one would expect, the meals

are well priced, some as low as NAf7,50.

We had a further challenge this week. Two of our meals needed to be vegetarian. As it turned out, this was no problem. We chose a vegetable Chow Mien and vegetable Fried Rice. Napper likes something to get his teeth into; mere vegetables were of no use to him! American steak caught his eye. Without hesitation and as cool as a cucumber, he ordered it with fries and rice. I gave him a knowing wink; I couldn't help but be impressed. Being something of a creature of habit, I reverted to type and ordered Beef Curry. I explained as best I could that it needed to be hot, she didn't disappoint.

As we sipped a few ice cold Polars and watched Benny Hill on the TV, our food arrived. A mountain of takeaway boxes obscured Nadia as she handed us the check. Four meals, side orders and a few beers came to just NAf60. We weren't complaining.

We loaded up our bounty into the pick-up truck. Big D would be back next week, but Napper had been a sterling replacement. Nadia Snack disappeared through the rear view mirror as we drove into the night. I had a feeling that we would be back very soon. Big D has tipped me off as to where our next mission will be. He is returning with vim and vigor, so beware..... *A.B.*

Pet of the Week

Bonaire Animal Shelter staff member, Marlis Tiepel is posing with "Charlotte," one of the cutest adoptees at the Shelter right now. Even though Charlotte is a small pup – and one who will stay small – she's very feisty and self assured. She'd make a great watch dog; in fact she's fearless. She was found abandoned on the street a couple of months ago and now she's acclimated, happy and ready to go. As are all the other adoptees at the Shelter Charlotte is healthy and social. She'll be sterilized when she's old enough. All that is included in the adoption fee.



Marlis with "Charlotte"

Marlis is modeling one of the Shelter tee shirts designed by super creative resident artist Henk Roozendaal. The sale of these tee shirts helps keep our Shelter open. They come in tanks and tees and children's sizes too – from \$8 to \$12. Wear one and show you care! They're sold at the Shelter, at Carib Inn, Dive Inn, Coco Palm Gardens and at manager's cocktail parties at Capt. Don's Habitat and Buddy Dive.

Good news is that the funny pair, "Laila" and "Ronald" who were shown as Pets of the Week two weeks ago have been adopted. Congratulations to them and to their new families. We wish them many years of good times together.

The Shelter on the Lagoen Road has **new opening hours: Monday through Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm.** Telephone 717-4989. Pay a visit sometime. You'll enjoy yourself and be welcomed heartily by all the pets who'll appreciate your visit.

L.D.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
6-16	4:19	1.8FT.	83
6-17	5:27	1.6FT.	73
6-18	2:27	1.3FT.	64
6-19	4:11	1.2FT.	57
6-20	5:37	1.0FT.	56
6-21	6:40	0.9FT.	61
6-22	7:48	0.8FT.	70
6-23	8:39	0.7FT.	78

Do You SuDoku?

And
the
solution
is:

(puzzle and
directions
on page 12)

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)
Tsotsi (Oscar Winner Best Foreign Movie)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
The Sentinel

Kaya Prinses Marie Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400
Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

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

SATURDAY 4 PM
The Wild

THIS WEEK

World Cup Soccer Until Sunday, July 9 – see page 9.

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

Friday, June 16 & Saturday, June 17 – DJ Dance Nights, DJ Paco from Mambo Beach, Curaçao, 10:30 pm, City Café

Sunday, June 18- Final Bonaire Culinary Team Dinner — see this page.

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

COMING

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 13

Saturday, July 1 – Kaminata (walk) sponsored by Jong Bonaire, 4:30 pm, 9.16 km. NAf7,50. Call 717-4303 or 785-0767

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.

July 17-19 -Diva Women Windsurf Clinic at Bonaire Windsurf Place. Three free local scholarships available. For details or to register call Ann Phelan at 786-3134.

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@goldenreefinn.com

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

- **Open Mike Night** with Moogie, 7 to 9 pm, Cactus Blue
- **Live music by Flamingo Rockers Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar 5-6:30 pm**
- **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.

Last Dinner with the Dream Team This Week



The Chef-Bartender team with Henny Kolenbrander and SGB wait staff, Glendeline Stroop and Joshebed Martis. Team Manager Floris van Loo (Rum Runners), Egbert de Vries (Le Flamboyant), Isidoor van Riemsdijk (Rum Runners), Waldi Gijsbertha (City Café), Bartender Jane Coffie (Divi Flamingo)

This Sunday, June 18, will be the last opportunity to have a three-course gourmet competition dinner put on by Bonaire's Culinary Team as they practice for the “Taste of the Caribbean” culinary Olympics in Miami at the end of the month. Our team will be competing with top teams from restaurants and hotels from all over the Caribbean. The chefs must come up with a three-course menu for 35 persons from a mystery basket of ingredients. Our bartender, Jane Coffie (Divi Flamingo) must create a rum, a vodka and a non-alcoholic drink. The competition is fierce, but Bonaire's team has been practicing with fundraising dinners such as these for the last few months. Last Sunday, the team had a special coach who spent the afternoon giving them tips, super chef Henny Kolenbrander of Curaçao and Ft. Lauderdale. Chef Kolenbrander will be one of the chef judges at the “Taste” event.

You may be a part of it, support our team and enjoy a gastronomically magical evening at Chez Nous at 7 pm this Sunday, June 18. For a donation of \$25 you'll have a three-course meal, cocktails and wine. 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.
AI-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

Born on Bonaire

Elsmarie Beukenboom

I was born February 26th 1956, a very peculiar day it was because the doctor who was going to deliver me was participating in a fishing tournament. I was already born when he arrived, strongly smelling of fish. He picked me up and examined me and... that's why I love the sea so much, my mom says!

My father was Charles Beukenboom, a teacher at St. Dominicus elementary school and also a politician with his own party, PPBU, and for a short while the deputy governor. My mother is Angelina 'Sjonlina' Rijna, a business woman who owned the Mona Lisa Bar/Restaurant. They had four children: Anneline, Robbie, me and Charlotte.

I had a great childhood. We lived in the heart of Kralendijk and my grandparents, Ramona and Sjon 'Wachi' Rijna, lived where the Bonaire Gift shop sits now. As my mom worked at the Mona Lisa, most of the time we spent with my grandmother; that was very cozy. We had a very big playground because the whole seaside was open and quiet with big tamarind trees. My grandparents were business people. My granddad imported chicks; before he'd sell them we'd always tell him, 'Oh how sweet!' and then we could keep one. They also rented rooms to officials. It started with three rooms and when it went well they built 'Pension Rijna.' Every day we went swimming and I was always saving for a dive mask because the rubber would dry out very fast. So when I had the money I'd go to Heitkonig and buy myself a new one.

I started diving when I was 10. One of my uncles had come from Curaçao to catch fish to sell for aquariums in Curaçao. Without anybody knowing I took one of his aqualungs, wrapped some weight around me, and took off towards the town pier. I didn't know anything, not how it worked or how much air there was left, but I did it!

After finishing MAVO I didn't have a clue what to do. My parents built Hotel Rochaline and we were living there. One day I was reading a book about Cornell University and that it had the best hotel school, and I thought: hey, hotel! I went to my dad and told him I wanted to do the hotel school, but he disapproved and said it was not for girls. A study like that would take too long and I was going to marry anyway. Well, one shouldn't say things like that to me! Cornell had opened a branch in Puerto Rico, and I was 17 when I left. It was immense! I was a young girl in a pretty much male dominated society; I don't know how I got out alive!

I think there are things out there in the world for which your parents can never prepare you. You have to save yourself. Social life there was Latino culture, and that means for girls: make-up, nice hairdo, well-dressed - a society pressure I was never confronted with on Bonaire. I was confused, but I started observing and found out about the ins and outs. I had to choose: to belong or to stay 'Elsmarie with her sneakers, her jeans and her pony tail' - and not to belong. I chose the golden mean. When I had a date I would transform myself as by magic into a girl the boy wouldn't even recognize as his date! That gave me the nickname, 'Cinderella.'

"...when I was 10 ...Without anybody knowing I took one of his aqualungs, wrapped some weight around me and took off towards the town pier. I didn't know anything, not how it worked or how much air there was left, but I did it!"

The text books were in English, but the teachers taught in Spanish. Nevertheless it was easy because here we'd had a very high level of basic education and we, the Antilleans, were tutoring our peers! Then I went to Ithaca, New York, and the real thing started. Cornell is one of the best universities in the States and you won't get your diploma before they've squeezed the last drop out of you. After four years I got my Bachelor of Science. It was the hardest thing I've done in my life. But it has been the cornerstone for all the successes too. The upbringing my parents gave me and the Cornell experience made me who I am now: someone with a big drive, but also someone who puts her heart into everything.

My kick is to see an organization change for the better, to see it grow. I want to see results." *Elsmarie Beukenboom (50) is a tough person, but her sense of humor makes up for her toughness. Also she's direct and that makes it very easy to communicate with her.* "I was 21 when I came back to Bonaire and I worked for a short while for my mom in Hotel Rochaline, but I'd expanded my horizons to fit in Puerto Rico and in New York and suddenly it seemed that everything on Bonaire had become too limited for me.

Then I met this young man, very cute

and sweet, and I married him when I was 25. We had two children, two very sweet and good children who never gave me any problems: Aad-Jan, who's 23 now and working with the Antillean and Aruba Coast Guard, and Naomi, 21. She just finished HAVO in Aruba and is planning on going to Holland to study to become a vet.

I like to do everything according to plan, and when I met their father we'd planned to have two kids and I would be a stay-at-home mom as long as necessary, and that's how we did it. We lived in Curaçao, Aruba and St. Martin. All in all I was away from Bonaire for 17 years. Of course, we came for vacations and we saw the way the island was developing and my husband would always say that there were possibilities here for

us, but I never paid attention to it. I was asked many times to stay as I was one of the few people who had a high level of education, but it didn't appeal to me. Then my husband persuaded me to move to Bonaire. I didn't feel like it, and to tell you the truth, I was afraid. I'd been living almost 20 years with him, I'd molded myself to him and I was afraid to come back to Bonaire and meet the true Elsmarie. My ex couldn't understand it because he never knew me as being anything else but his wife, but I knew myself differently. On Bonaire I immediately became my old self again and I couldn't explain it to my husband. We separated and he went back to Aruba while I stayed here with the children.

I became the manager at Sunset Beach Hotel, but it was already decided that I'd be doing an upgrading course for TCB, for people who were working in the tourist sector. It was European Union funded, so when the project finally came through, TCB founded the Bonaire Tourism Training Center, and I was the project manager and Chantal Newton was the trainer. In three and a half years we trained thousands of people here on Bonaire. By the time the project ended there were some problems in the TCB management. The director, Ronnie Pieters, called me and asked me if I wanted to become the new director. I accepted and stayed there for three years. It is unrewarding work. You never can do anything right. That's as far as the island is concerned because inter-



Elsmarie Beukenboom

nationally at the fairs we were very productive.

Because TCB has a chair on the board of STINAPA I was also a board member. In 2000 they started reorganizing the foundation and were looking for a director and for a manager for both the Parks. I thought, 'That sounds great to me!' I applied and I was hired. I've got a great team and I'm sure that we'll have enough work to improve and upgrade the Parks so that I can stay here 15 more years until I am retired!

My professional passion for Bonaire is to continue with the vision of the Pourier Report: sustainable development preserving Bonaire's nature and culture. That makes a lot of sense to me. It frequently requires thinking out of the box because you can't handle the matter traditionally and that can be difficult for the authorities as it requires planning and people who stick to the planning. So far it hasn't happened and I think we have to go back to the drawing board to put everything on track again and, if necessary, we have to ask the people once more for their opinion. As for me, I am very happy with myself and I am proud that I can do something for the island. I am from Bonaire and that's why it means a lot to me."

Story and photo by Greta Kooistra.



DIVING with DEE Longspined Urchins

When I first visited Bonaire, I knew that if I wrote anything about my trip, the title would be “Bonaire: the Spiny Island:” spiny land with cactus, century plants, thorny trees, and grass stickers, and spiny underwater with urchins, especially longspined urchins.

That was in 1980. Back then, every once in a while someone went over to the shore entry at Karpata and cleared the longspined urchins from the entry path with a pitchfork so that divers could get in and out unscathed (as long as they stayed in the narrow channel thus created). Every rocky shoreline on Bonaire was black from the hundreds of longspined urchins in the rocks.

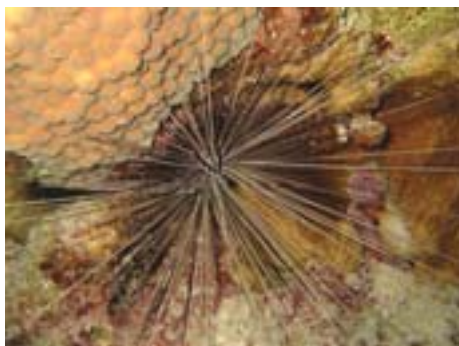
In 1981, a woman unused to sea creatures, blithely jumped into the sea off a dock at Flamingo Beach – a dock that was made with big rocks piled up and paved over. Lots of longspined urchins lived on and between those rocks. I don’t know what happened to the *urchins* as a result of this woman’s jump, but *she* had to visit the hospital. She returned with bandages wrapping both feet and plenty of internal pain killers, and spent the remainder of her vacation in a wheelchair.

If this woman had made the same jump two years later, she’d only have bruised her feet. There would have been no longspined urchins in the rocks only two years after her accident, because darn near all of them died in 1983 from what was apparently a virus that spread throughout the Atlantic/Caribbean area from as far north as Georgia to as far south as Brazil.

When the virus hit Bonaire, we didn’t know anything about what it was, but we sure knew something was happening. Suddenly urchins had silt on their spines, where before (and now) their spines had always been clean. Instead of being wedged into crevices in the reef, urchins were out on the sand in the middle of the day, sort of stumbling around. Bristleworms were already attacking some of these zombie urchins, actually *on* the urchins as they staggered around. In less than one week it was tough to find a single living long-

spined urchin, -- but if you ran your fingers into the sand they’d get stabbed by the spines from the urchins who had succumbed.

Only in the last few years have the longspined urchins begun to reappear.



A young longspined urchin near the Something Special dive site.

Urchins are *Echinoderms* (spiny-skinned), in the same phylum as the brittlestars, sea stars, and sea cucumbers – but the urchins are obviously the winners in the “spiny” contest. Longspined urchins (*Diadema antillarum*, “Crown of the Antilles”) are primarily algae-eaters, but as they scrape algae from dead coral they also scrape away minute layers of the coral rock; the undersides of coral heads are often undercut by urchins scraping the rock.

It’s tough to believe that an animal as well-protected as a longspined urchin could be vulnerable, but some fish -- triggerfish, for example, and big hogfish -- can actually manipulate an urchin by its spines until they expose the underside, which has shorter, blunter spines. Then the urchin predator chomps through the short spines and the urchin’s thin shell (correctly called the *test*), to get at the (reputedly delicious, by some human cultures and most marine ones) morsels inside. The threat of predators is real enough to keep urchins barricaded in the daytime, but lessens at night; as the sun sets the urchins leave their crevices to forage on the sand and the reef top.

Every so often longspined urchins emerge from their crevices a little earlier than usual and seem to be a little

busier than usual. The last time I noticed this I saw urchins spawning within an hour. Dusk is a good time for spawning because many of the fishes who would eat the eggs have already retired for the evening.

Have you ever wondered how creatures who are covered with spines get together for reproduction? Porcupines had to solve the problem of getting together, but urchins bypass it: they don’t make contact to spawn. Like the stony corals, they’re “broadcast spawners.” When it’s time (with corals the time relates to the time of year and the moon cycle; it’s probably similar for urchins), individual male and female urchins squirt sperm and eggs out of a pore on the top of their



A Nimble spray crab gains protection under the spines of this urchin.

test. The squirt takes a second or so and is repeated several times. The ejected reproductive cells drift randomly; any eggs that happen to meet sperm are fertilized. Obviously, the likelihood of the eggs of densely-packed urchins being fertilized is much greater than the chances of the eggs of urchins even a few feet apart. The more urchins there are, and the more dense their gatherings, the more successful their spawnings will be, and the more urchins there will be.

Urchin eggs float to the surface and drift until the lucky ones who don’t get eaten, hatch. Ultimately they settle to the bottom and begin to look and behave like tiny versions of the longspined urchins we know.

Story and photos by Dee Scarr

Dee Scarr conducts “Touch the Sea” dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her slide show “Touch the Sea” at Capt. Don’s Habitat, Mondays, 8:30 pm.





THE STARS HAVE IT

Saturday, June 10, to Friday, June 16, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You really can't do anything to change matters this week. You have so much to offer; open up and let your thoughts be known. You may need the space, but you need the extra cash more. You can raise your standard of living if you pick up some freelance work on the side. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You won't have much time for your mate this week. You can enjoy doing things that include children. Dig deep, ferret out any hidden concerns before you sign your life away. Spend some quality time with your lover. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You could find yourself left with someone's dirty laundry. Make creative changes to your living quarters. You can make favorable real estate offers this week. Deception may cause disputes you can do without. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't let your emotions interfere with moneymaking deals. You should consider getting into self improvement endeavors. Take care of your own responsibilities before you help others. Your goals will be in reach if you direct your energy wisely. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will inspire confidence in others. Your persuasive nature will win the heart of someone you've had your eye on. You must not make unnecessary changes this week. You can beautify your surroundings by renovating or redecorating. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Changes in your residence will be favorable in the long haul. Don't involve yourself in the emotional problems of those you work with. Take a second look; difficulties with appliances, water, or electricity in your home may be evident. Business trips might prove unproductive. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Short trips may be tiring but rewarding. Travel should be on your agenda. You may have a tendency to put on weight. Try to be considerate in your personal obligations. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Make sure any presentation you have is ready. Family get-togethers will be interesting. Don't let your boss make you feel guilty enough to take work home with you. A little volleyball or other outdoor sports should be on your agenda. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may find yourself changing plans for some form of entertainment. You will be in the doghouse if you are being. Stay mellow. Your generous nature could be taken advantage of. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try to keep your cool; you may be a tad frazzled by all the rushing around. Get out and about. Be careful signing important contracts this week. You can meet new and exciting friends who will provide mental stimulation. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will have a productive day if you organize yourself well at work. Take your time before making personal decisions. You are better off visiting friends or relatives than entertaining at home. Don't let your partner start any arguments. Passion should be redirected positively. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Find an outlet for any mounting frustration. Consider a creative hobby. Do not allow colleagues to hinder your ambitions. Be sure to look into travel opportunities that will provide you with mental stimulation. Put your thoughts on paper. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up



Saturn and Mars

A couple of weeks ago I asked you to start watching the red planet **Mars** and the ringed planet **Saturn** as they slowly approach each other night after night in preparation for a super close meeting this weekend, Saturday and Sunday the 17th and 18th. And it's been super exciting. But in case you're getting in on this a little late, there's still time to watch these two every night this week in preparation for the big meeting this weekend.

This past Sunday June 11th at dusk, facing west, you would have seen three bright lights, the closest to the horizon, tiny 3,000-mile-wide **Mercury**, which has been steadily climbing higher and higher in the direction of 4,000-mile-wide Mars and 75,000-mile-wide Saturn, which on Sunday were only three degrees apart. Or if you'd like to think of it this way, since a full **Moon** is half a degree wide, three degrees apart means that we could fit six full Moons, side by side, between the two.

But this week is super week because they'll move dramatically closer to each other every single night. On Monday the 12th they were only $2\frac{3}{4}$ degrees apart, which means we could slip only $4\frac{1}{2}$ full Moons between them. But on Tuesday the 13th they were little more than two degrees apart or four full Moons could fit between them. On Wednesday the 14th, $1\frac{3}{4}$ degrees apart, or a little more than three full Moons separates the two. And then on Thursday, less than $1\frac{1}{3}$ degrees, or a little less than three full Moons apart. On Friday, only one day away from when they're at their closest, they'll be less than one degree apart, which means not quite two full Moons could fit between them. But the big night and the one night you definitely don't want to miss is **this Saturday when just after dark they'll be at their absolute closest - little more than one half of one degree apart** which means that only one full Moon could fit between them.

Don't miss this please! Mark this Saturday June 17th as the night when the red planet Mars and the ringed planet Saturn almost slam into each other, visually. Although in reality Mars will be 200 million miles away, while Saturn will be 900 million miles away, over four times farther away than Mars. So if you haven't been watching already, start your Mars and Saturn watch right now. *Jack Horkheimer*