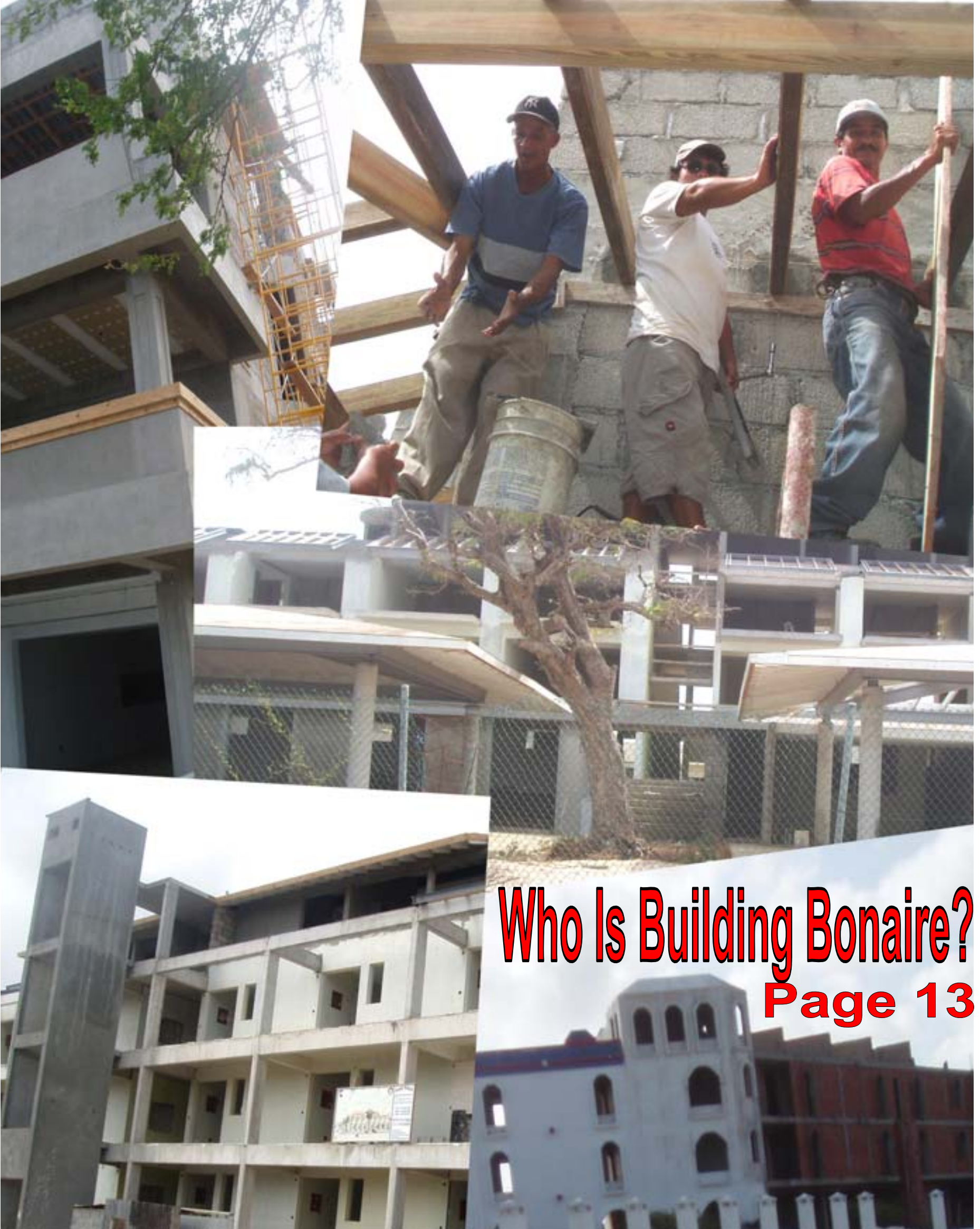


**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

August 4 to August 11, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 30

The **REPORTER**



Who Is Building Bonaire?

Page 13

Flotsam and Jetsam



Internet photo

One of the KLM MD-11s that regularly makes a fuel stop in Bonaire en route to South America developed a **major engine problem and was grounded** at Flamingo Airport last week until KLM could fly in a new engine aboard a 747 "Combi" (part freight/part passengers). It was successfully installed and tested in Bonaire by local personnel and the team of technicians flown in with the engine.



Internet photo

► ArkeFly, a Dutch air charter company, will begin flying a Boeing 767-300ER **from Holland every Saturday starting this winter season.** A nine-day holiday to Bonaire including flight, accommodations and transfers begins at €499. With the two Continental flights, ArkeFly, KLM and regional traffic, it should be very busy at the airport on Saturdays.

► The **Curaçao Executive Council** decided recently to **raise its airport tax to \$32.** Curaçao Airport Partners (CAP) wanted to raise the airport tax to cover expenses associated with the new airport

terminal which opened over the weekend. International departure tax in Bonaire is \$20. There is a \$2 "transit tax" if you have to connect to an overseas flight from Curaçao. Fly overseas from Bonaire, save \$10. The new terminal cost \$44 million and is meant to serve the growing tourist industry in Curaçao. The airport handled 1.1 million passengers last year. The new terminal is expected to serve 1.6 million people by 2014 and 2.5 million by 2031.

► **Air Jamaica's losses are now placed at \$85 million** as of the end of June, *The Caribbean Business Report* wrote last week. Reports from sources within Air Jamaica say that in 2005 the company lost \$136 million. The airline has cut most of the value-added services which distinguished it from other carriers, like the flying chef and regular meals on all routes. It has been bedeviled by lateness and growing dissatisfaction by passengers with its service. These factors have served to compound its problems. With jet fuel set to go up further and a reduction in the number of routes and flying time, a loss of \$175 million in 2006 seems to be a distinct probability. Air Jamaica still continues to fly to Bonaire every Saturday.

► A group of parents told the Bonairean **student grants foundation, FINEB,** that the students had a safe trip and arrived in the Netherlands last week. Similar to other years, a big group of students left the island this year to continue



BVO photphoto

Two recent high school graduates, Christopher Frans and Janie Rombley, speak with Governor Domacassé before leaving for school in The Netherlands

their education elsewhere. Some of them went to Aruba and Curaçao, but the majority went to the Netherlands, where they spent the first night in the Schiphol A4 Hotel. The next day they continued their journey to the city where they are going to continue their education.



Stinapa photo

► **STINAPA** is continuing with its **Junior Ranger Program.** Five of their new junior rangers got their open water

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) diver certification at Buddy Dive Resort. Buddy Dive said they were happy to train them and introduce them to our beloved underwater world. In the picture are the two new certified junior rangers. The other three were certified the week before, together with Krisanta Martha, who is in charge of the Junior Ranger Program for STINAPA. Also in the photo are Marco, the Buddy Dive instructor who trained them, and Augusto, Dive Operations Manager at Buddys.



► Well known Bonairean artist **Nochi Coffie** is shown working on his mammoth, 9-meter-high painting in Nijverdal, Holland. The painting is on the wall of one of the biggest dive shops in the world owned by Dick Lucas who not only is an avid diver but a passionate lover of Bonaire. Knowing he wanted

something special on one of the walls in his 4,000 square meter shop, Lucas contacted the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), asking that they recommend an artist. Nochi Coffie was chosen and on July 19 the 48-year-old artist flew off to Holland, his first trip by air. In Nijverdal he set to work, painting an underwater scene from the Bonaire Marine Park of the wreck of the Hilma Hooker as well as typical Bonaire birds and reptiles. The work of artist Coffie will now be known in Holland as well as Bonaire, reports the TCB!

At this moment Nochi Coffie has 35 pieces of religious art being shown in Rincon. Congratulations, Nochi. What a wonderful accomplishment.

► BNMP, STCB and the *Freewinds* are organizing a quick **Clean Up at Klein Bonaire's No Name Beach** this coming Sunday, August 6. Clean up day for Klein Bonaire is on the agenda for September but Park Manager Ramon DeLeon doesn't think this particular area can wait that long. Therefore, he invites all the interested volunteers to participate. If you are interested please confirm by e-mail to marinepark@stinapa.org

The visiting Scientologist cruise ship *Freewinds* will contribute 15 people and provide drinks and sandwiches.

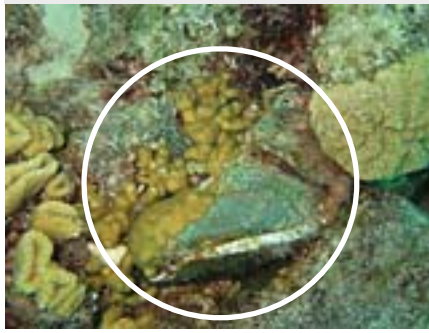
If you need transportation, departure time is at 7 am from Harbor Village Marina. We hope to see you there and **Do Not Forget Your Gloves!** Sunblock and a waterbottle are good too.

► Last Friday night at 11 pm there was a **very bad accident at the inter-**

(Continued on page 8)

coral glimpses

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



Sure, you know that's healthy brain coral to the right, some flower coral to the left, and a fuzzy pencil coral or similar type next to the flower coral. But can you identify what the pencil coral is beginning to grow upon, visible between itself and the brain coral?

It's an old shoe that the pencil coral is beginning to encrust. That's why it's so important for divers on cleanups to make sure there's nothing growing upon or within trash before moving it. □ photo by Dee Scarr

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know... You can help coral reefs by taking shorter showers?

Climatologists world-wide are now agreeing that humans are causing changes in the Earth's atmosphere and are warning of catastrophic climate changes due to the burning of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels, including gas, oil, propane, and coal, are used to power electric plants and many modes of transportation in today's society. Coral reefs are already dying due to over-fishing, nutrient influx and pollution. Now their biggest threat is climate change. This year, climatologists are predicting that hurricanes will be more severe and more frequent. Last year, coral bleaching took its toll on northern Caribbean reefs.

Bonaire's fresh water is all a result of a very costly desalinization process that burns great amounts of fuel oil. By taking short showers (get wet, turn off the tap, soap up, rinse) and using as little fresh water as possible, you're helping the coral reefs. Remembering to shut off the air conditioners, lights, and fans when you're not using them also helps! □ Carin Eckrich



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. You may call her at 717-5322.



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)



section of Kaya Korona and Kaminda Lagun. Apparently one of the vehicles was coming from Playa at high speed when the driver lost control at the intersection and hit another vehicle nearly head-on. The first vehicle turned over in the ditch by the side of the road. That driver complained of pain in his left elbow and chest. Amazingly the driver of the other vehicle didn't suffer any personal injury. Please drive carefully. *The Reporter* needs every reader.

► There's action at the Divi Flamingo. **Free wireless Internet access** is now available throughout the entire Divi property. Additionally, Divi Dive Bonaire is now fully operational for technical diving, offering gear rental, the complete

Technical Diving International (TDI) instruction program and guided technical dives. For more information call 1-800-367-3484 or visit <http://www.diviflamingo.com>.



► Two weeks ago a new attraction was introduced at Buddy Dive. **They now have a three-person "tube" which gets towed behind the parasail boat.** The guests love it! Tubing at Buddy Dive - try it out... 15 minutes only \$15. Make your reservation at 717-5080 ext. 525.



► On July 1 a **new charter yacht began operating on Bonaire.** The luxury sailing yacht *Bowalie* is a comfortable and well equipped 40-footer ideal for cruising or racing. The yacht is available for small groups only (maximum eight

guests) and offers full and half day charters and sunset cruises for sailing and snorkeling. For more information call 786-7619, email info@bowalie.com or visit <http://www.bowalie.com>.



► **Salsa on the waterfront, Bonaire's most spectacular restaurant,** is now open for lunch and dinner with an exciting new menu. Stop in for a drink or a meal and enjoy the awesome view of the harbor from an exotic, two-story thatched roof "palapa" style restaurant. Salsa is across from City Café. See their ad on page 13.

► **Seven soon-to-be-moms** are shown with their certificates of completion of a six-week baby care course given by SEBIKI. The ladies and their partners were very pleased with the



course and will be putting what they learned into effect soon! SEBIKI is the organization that offers education and assistance to children and their families, pre-birth to six years.

► Customs Officer **Nolly Wilsoe**, one of Bonaire's walkers in the 90th *Vierdaagse* (Four Days Walk) in Holland, reports that although the weather was

extremely warm it was **no deterrent to the Bonaire walkers.** "We could have finished," Wilsoe said. "It was too bad they had to cancel it after the first day." "We didn't get our money back, but we hope they'll apply it to next year's race, which I for sure want to attend." This year there were 48,854 people who registered to walk. Another Bonaire Customs officer, **Dennis Lensink**, also participated in the walk as part of a Customs team. Due to the high temperatures two persons in the walk died.



Nolly Wilsoe



Dennis Lensink
Serphos photo

► STINAPA reports that advertising flyers were left on cars in the affluent SABEDECO neighborhood seeking investors in a new development called the **Sorobon 'Mangrove Village Resort.'** It wasn't a prank because an investment group was recently granted a long lease to build in the Lac Bay conservation zone. However, no building permits have been issued.

Lac is an internationally recognized "Ramsar Site." These sites are named after the Iranian city where an agreement was signed protecting wetlands around the world. **Construction at Lac**, unless very special precautions were employed would be **disastrous to the marine nurseries of Bonaire.** □ *G.L.D.*

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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BILLBOARDS PLAGUE BONAIRE

MORE COMMENTS ABOUT BILLBOARDS FROM OUR READERS

The Reporter has been receiving lots of correspondence and comments about our article two weeks ago, "Billboards Plague Bonaire." The story was reprinted in the Papiamentu language newspaper, *èxtra*, which also reported that the Governor of Bonaire had charged the island's legal department, JAZ, to investigate regulatory legislation.

If you have an opinion, send your letter to *The Reporter* (email: reporter@bonairenews.com) and/or to Governor Domacassé (email: gezag@bonairelive.com).

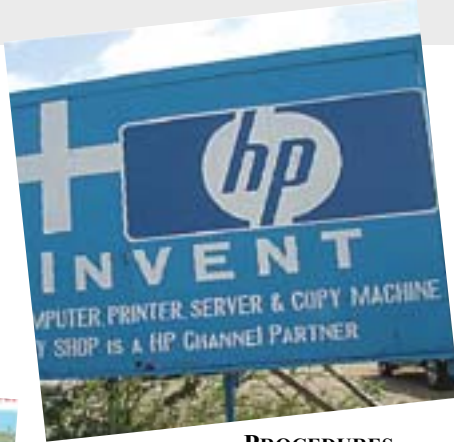
Below are some more reactions:

UGLY, UGLY!

Dear Editor:

I am glad to see that many more people hate these ugly billboards spoiling our island more and more. In one week there were three huge boards placed at the airport area. What a shame! I thought there were some strict regulations for this matter but apparently that is history. Let us hope someone from the island government wakes up and has the decency to remove these awful billboards so we can enjoy an unspoiled landscape again.

M. Reichert



PROCEDURES IN THE PAST

I remember when one had to pay to put up a sign. It had to be measured and a yearly fee was charged. People from DOW (now DROB) and OGEM (now WEB) would come and check it



out and recommend the exact spot and height for the sign to be placed. There is nothing wrong with people being creative and advertising their thing, but it is getting way out of hand. The "mine is bigger and better" concept is taking over.

Name withheld

ing cellular phones, cleaning services, lotteries, etc. Kaya Korona is starting to look like the I-95 corridor in the States. Would the government institute size and placement limits? Our island is special because of its natural beauty, under and ABOVE the water.

Mel McCombie (part time resident and professor in art history)

VISUAL POLLUTION

Dear Editor,

By and large, your article on the visual pollution wrought by the size and number of billboards brought up an important issue that Bonaire must address now. I would make a distinction between signage for businesses, particularly those catering to tourists, and those big roadside visual beasts tout-



LETTERS

COVER PAGE PRAISE

Dear Editor:

Wonderful front page to last week's *Bonaire Reporter*. We are going to Australia and Papua New Guinea in October and we were planning to once again bring a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with us. Now I don't think we'll even take a camera.

Andrew J Uhr (*Andy Uhr is a two-time past winner of "Best Picture" with The Bonaire Reporter.*)



CHAINED 24/7

Dear Editor:

The sounds of nature are divine...birds singing, the gentle trade winds and then, it is all disturbed by the yelping and crying of your neighbor's dog. The dog is not barking nor is he greeting his owner. He is in misery because he is chained to a tree or if he is lucky, his wooden prison. The dog's owner has a nice fenced in yard but has chosen to imprison this beast.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week he is chained. He is not allowed a walk or a break to run and exercise. Each day the torment continues for the dog. My question is how can anyone treat their animal this way? If you do have an intruder he is chained and cannot intervene. In Bonaire we preserve the environment and protect the sea creatures but those on land are in misery. My peaceful Sunday was disturbed by the sad reminder that my neighbor has two lovely dogs on chains, with no shelter aside from a tree. They cannot frolic and play.

I retreated inside to avoid hearing the pitiful cries of the two animals. *Ann Phelan*

Visit <http://www.unchainyourdog.org/> for more information on what you can do. *Ed.*



OPINION

AFRICAN DUST EFFECTS

A beautiful, bright-red sunset seen from Caribbean beaches could be a cause for alarm rather than for delighted contemplation because it signals the annual arrival of dust from the Sahara desert, which could be harmful. Millions of tons of dust reach the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico and the southern US, brought across the Atlantic by the winds. The dust is suspected of containing pollutants and has been studied closely by the scientific community in the last few decades.

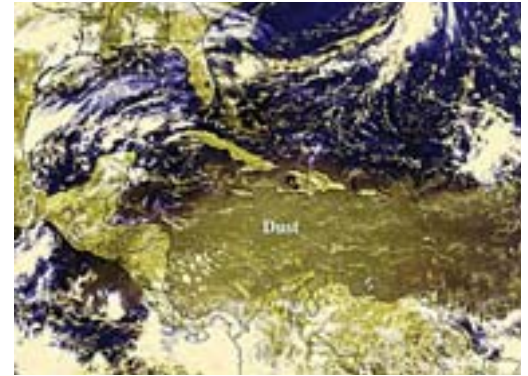
Ever since a continuing severe drought hit North Africa in 1970, there has been a dramatic increase in the dust clouds in that region, with especially high concentrations in 1973, 1983, 1987 and 2000. Experts agree that this natural phenomenon has been occurring for millions of years. According to Andrew Goudie, a geography professor at the University of Oxford, dust is one of the least understood components of the atmosphere and could have a greater influence on climate change than has been realized up until now.

Researchers warn that the dust's chemical and biological composition has a number of effects on human and animal health, oceans and their biodiversity, and the weather. Studies in the southern US, Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean suggest that there is a rise in illnesses such as asthma when the dust clouds arrive in the region.

The phenomenon has also been linked to the decline of coral reefs in the West Indies, which are suffering from several fungal diseases, and even to the occurrence of "red tides" or algal blooms, the rainfall cycle, and the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones. (Another recent discovery is that African Dust supposedly suppresses the formation of conditions that lead to hurricanes. *Ed.*)

The world's most active dust source is the Bodele depression in Chad, in Africa. Although other deserts, such as the Gobi desert in Asia, also contribute dust particles to the atmosphere, it is the Sahara desert that has direct impact on the Western hemisphere. The dust cloud takes approximately six days to cross the Atlantic and reaches the Caribbean region between June and October. □

Orlando Matos, Cuba News Service



African Dust covers the Caribbean

PORTRAITS OF BONAIRE

Working Together

“One traffic light changes, another changes back. In Almelo, of excitement there’s no lack,” said comedian Herman Finkers, as he put my birthplace on the map in an unexpected way.

Our island has no traffic lights, and yet there’s plenty of excitement. Today, it’s elections: you can vote green or red, not easy for them, but neither for people seeking nuance. I find myself full of doubt in the voting booth: red or green, stop or go, risk or safety? A little bit of both maybe, red and green working together? No way -- I have to choose!

Outside election time, when dozens of deep red or green flags hang from the houses, Bonaire has always been an island full of color. Nature offers an endless variety, from white beaches, pink flamingos, the azure of the ocean, through to the kaleidoscopic colors of the salt deserts and all the deep greens you can imagine in Washington Park.

The people on the island are equally colorful. Without a Ministry for Integration or any other way of governmental control, people of different origin, culture or skin color are living together harmoniously. There are some ‘mixed couples.’ These couples see each other’s different backgrounds and cultures as enriching, rather



Rian van Ballegooijen and Ben Oleana

than limiting and use the power of love to overcome any complications -- for as long as it will hold, of course.

“Are you alone?” he asked at Karetje’s Bar. His friend was standing behind him. She responded with a quizzical smile; she was having a happy-hour drink with her friend -- of course she wasn’t alone! But a few moments later, her friend stood up to leave. So he invited her to join him at the Disco Fantasy, where more than a few couples had danced their first dance. His friend accompanied them through the small alleyway connecting the bar with the dancing. She felt a bit awkward, a blonde Dutch woman being escorted by two strapping black men.

But their first dance turned out to be the prelude to a complicated tango, lasting for

months. For a single Dutch woman and a married Bonairean, the spark was there, but it would not be a carefree love affair.

“I am the great-great grandson of a slave wife in Bonaire. Her first name was Oleana.” As the slaves were liberated, the family of a slave wife had to take on her name, which was the usual procedure on the island. “I grew up in a family of nine; I used to be a bratty little kid. I always questioned ways and decisions, asking for the ‘why’s’. I got a lot of beatings for that, more than I care to remember. I wanted to leave the island when I was 16, so I moved to the Netherlands. There, I studied mechanical engineering at the Anthony Fokker School, but I had a lot of trouble with the Dutch language. I found a job anyway, and after some time I discovered what I really wanted to do: become a teacher, maybe even a principal in a Bonairean school. That became my goal.”

Benedicto Olympio (Ben) Oleana took a teaching course and practiced teaching in various schools, even in a Rotterdam ‘trouble school,’ but left for Curaçao six years later to work as an education consultant. He didn’t stay long, though. He was asked to come to Bonaire, to direct Selibon, the company keeping the streets of Bonaire clean. “*Tene Boneire Limpi*,” as it said on the side of the vans.

During the same period, Maria Pieternella (Rian) van Ballegooijen, a long-time practicing naturalist, traveled to Bonaire in reply to an ad in a naturalists’ magazine. She would build a new future at the Sorobon Beach Resort, a heavenly place for naturalists on the east coast of the

Story by Guus Gerritsen; portrait by Henk Roozendaal.
From the upcoming book, Portraits of Bonaire, Vol. II.

island.

“I needed to rearrange my life at that point. I had been married before and had been trying all sorts of jobs here and there, from being a cook on a private yacht in Greece to being a nanny in Switzerland. I had always wanted to live in a warm climate, though. That might have been triggered by the stories of my first boyfriend, who was of Indonesian descent. Zwijndrecht, where I was born, saw the first repatriates from Indonesia. When I was small, I came into contact with them, learning to appreciate and prepare *nasi goreng*, for instance.

“In Bonaire, I was immediately taken up by my job as interim manager for the resort. After three months, I was the only manager. I’ve been doing it for 10 years now, and I still love this job.”

Ben Oleana took on his new job full of enthusiasm. He reorganized and updated the Selibon organization. Rian van Ballegooijen did the same thing with Sorobon, in the way every newcomer seemed to do: as in the Dutch proverb, ‘New brooms sweep the cleanest.’ It might have been a coincidence, or maybe a sign, but the first hotel Selibon signed a contract with for garbage collecting was the Sorobon Beach Resort. ‘Contract #1’ bore the names and signatures of Mr. Oleana and Mrs. Van Ballegooijen, business partners.

“Our paths had crossed numerous times,” Rian continued. “We have shown each other all the places, here and in the
(Continued on page 9)

(Portraits. Continued from page 8)

Netherlands, where, as it turned out, we must have been both at roughly the same time. Our trains arrived on opposite platforms, but had never waited for each other before. I feel they may have been good omens, signs of predestination. But do not assume it was an easy relationship once we did meet! On a small island such as this, word gets around. For Ben, it was even more difficult: a married man having an affair with a white woman -- that is just asking for trouble."

Indeed, Ben Oleana had a difficult period then. He explained, "It was certainly not easy. My family did not approve, and some of my friends made unkind remarks. They called me, only half-jokingly, 'black makamba' (*makamaba* being a derogatory term for a white Dutchman). But you know, to love is to share, in good and in bad times -- and we did share the burdens then. When I was asked to step down from my function, Rian gave me full support. Six years later, I had to leave Selibon due to political machinations. Again, she supported me. These days, I have my own coaching agency. I've reorganized Paramaribo's garbage collecting system by making some amendments to the waste disposal laws and setting up business and execution plans. I'm doing the same for the island of St Maarten now. I've also turned my attention to Rincon, the oldest village on Bonaire, because there's a lot of room for improvement there. The people of Rincon haven't been given the attention they deserve by the island government."

For Rian, life wasn't a bed of roses either. Just before her son Noah's first birthday, doctors discovered a malignant tumor in her head. "In the days before the operation, I was very depressed. I was 40,

we just had our son Noah, and then something like this comes along. We went to St Maarten on holiday, and afterwards I always carried a photograph of the three of us with me because I wasn't sure I would survive. After the operation, one side of my face was paralyzed. I looked a mess. When Ben saw me for the first time, six weeks after -- we didn't live together back then -- he reacted calmly; no fear, no amazement. That was a big relief for me. From that moment on, I knew we would be together and I knew we would be alright. It brought us closer together and taught me what the really important things in life are."

Noah comes in. He spent the afternoon after school with grandma Oleana.

"Sometimes people think it was easier for me to be accepted by the locals because my partner is from the Antilles. But that isn't the case. Ben and I each have our own circles of friends, our own jobs. Children mingle though, at an early age: that does work well. At the Pelikaan, Noah and Jason's school, the only school where Dutch is taught in the first years, there are children from Bonaire, the Netherlands, Venezuela and the United States. They learn about each other's background, and learn to value those differences."

I hope this will be so tomorrow. Marjolein and Jason, Ben's children from his first marriage, will come to stay in their house in Lac Bay for the first time. They will sleep in one room with Noah, they'll play and have fun.

If that goes well, their parents will be satisfied. And maybe later, they will say it was an important moment for them. Working together, sharing experiences; it seems like the only way to go. □ **Guus Gerritsen, portrait by Henk Roozendaal.**

The Snack Bar Detectives

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



The Snack Detectives don't work Sundays. We like to keep the Sabbath in our own way. It was early Sunday evening and I was out driving with "she that should be obeyed." Just then, I saw a sign "Jos, Sundays Only." A slave to my instincts I thought, "Dare I go it alone, without Big D?" We followed the little signs that took us on a dust trail into the *mondi*.



Just as we were convinced that we were on a wild goose chase, there it was, an oasis in the wilderness. We parked the truck and gingerly ventured through the door. The interior was a whacky warehouse of the weird and wonderful. Lights made from paint cans, old mobile phones hanging next to Christmas lights and advertising memorabilia from days gone by.

Behind the bar stands Jos, a resident of some 10 years. Standing there in his straw hat, he greets us with a cheery hello. A well stocked bar offers ice cold beer and spirits. Jos' own Rum Punch has to be tried. Make sure that you have a designated driver though! The music is varied with everything from Andre Hazes to Elvis Presley. As Jos' wife, Astrid, mixes the music, people sing along.

On the menu: one thing, Sate! So no decision making tonight. Herman presides over the Grill, a jolly guy with a smile for everyone. Dinner is served: three sticks of Chicken Sate in a delicious sauce, French bread, potato chips and sauerkraut. At NAf 12.50, I wasn't complaining.

As night falls, everywhere lights up and a surge of heat fills the air. A bonfire is lit behind us and everyone looks on as sparks shoot into the evening sky. I sat with my good lady and we take another drink. Looking around, I think to myself, "Could this place happen anywhere but Bonaire?" I don't think so.

If Big D forgives me for flying solo, someone else will be getting a visit from, "The Snack Bar Detectives" very soon. □ *Story & Photo by SBD*

Feature Story

Bonaire Honors Its Ambassadors

Bonaire has an Ambassador's Corps- visitors who promote Bonaire by their frequent trips to the island and the kind words they offer to all willing to listen. Several years ago, at the suggestion of then TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) Marketing Director, Delno Tromp, the island's ambassadors became official Ambassadors.

Gold Medalists



Irwin and Pat Nejadi

Tourism Corporation Bonaire recently honored two special visitors, Pat and Irwin Nejadi. Pat and Irwin have been visiting for the last 20 years and describe their feelings every time they land on the island as, "a peaceful and serene one."

Pat and Irwin further describe their love for Bonaire: "Once again, as for the past 20 years, Bonaire invites us to enjoy the beauty of surrounding nature and the beauty of friendships new and old." Over the years they have enjoyed the island of Bonaire with friends from the Chicago Scubaneer Dive Club and with three generations of family.

Pat and Irwin love the diving and have introduced diving to their families who have been instructed at Divi Flamingo, the hotel they visit every year. Among their memorable moments on the island are the dives they have shared with their loved ones.

What they appreciate about Bonaire, besides the diving, are the plants, colorful flowers, the warm people, hence the whole atmosphere that is brought to life when they are on island. They say, "For us Bonaire is about the past, the present and the future." □

Divi's Ambassador Brigade

It was a great pleasure honoring a very enthusiastic group of people who have a deep love for Bonaire with seven gold, 10 silver and three bronze medals!

Among this group there were two youngsters who began visiting Bonaire



The Brubaker family, the Lynch family, Mrs. Schmitt, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Pfaff, the Parker family, the Clifford family, Mrs. and Miss Sheppard, the Daniels family and the Kiracofe family.

There are three levels based on the number of years the Ambassador has been visiting Bonaire: Bronze, 10 years; Silver, 15; and Gold, 20.

When a visitor has accumulated the visits the operator of the resort where he or she is a guest, notifies the TCB who, in a brief ceremony, presents the new Ambassador with a medal of appropriate level, a certificate and a small gift.

There has been a flurry of new Ambassadors recently, some of whom are recognized in the following paragraphs:

when they were two years and six months old. Among the 19 ambassadors was also a couple who celebrated their honeymoon on Bonaire.

They come here for the diving. Although there are other nice diving places in the world, Bonaire has something special. Everybody has his own definition of what is special about Bonaire. Some of them say it's the people, the relaxed atmosphere. Others explain that it is safe to walk around, the island is child friendly and there is no mass tourism like on most of the other Caribbean islands. Someone made a nice remark about the friendliness: "When we are driving or walking around the island everybody honks, waves and says 'Bon Dia' to us even they don't know us personally. That makes a very special impression on me and my family!" □

German, but speaking Papiamentu

Marina and Reinhard Kowalke come from Berlin and have been visiting Bonaire since 1992. They too were recently honored as Bonaire Ambassadors by the TCB.

They say they love the friendly and helpful people from Bonaire and the fantastic reefs on the west side. When returning to Berlin in 1992, they were so impressed that they told a lot of members of their dive club, Duc Berlin, about Bonaire. Since then more than 10 other couples have visited Bonaire for diving and relaxation.

Since 2004 they have been staying at Tropicana Apartments after meeting Bob and Annemieke and are happy with the accommodation. Marina has also learned the Papiamentu language and can even speak and understand it.

It is a pleasure for TCB to recognize Marina and Reinhard as Bonaire Ambassadors. We thank them for their visits, the love they share for the island and are happy to see them year after year. □



Marina and Reinhard Kowalke

Silver Winners

TCB would like to congratulate Mr. David Graham and his two sons, Zachary and Taylor, with their silver ambassador medals for the island of Bonaire. Dr. Graham, his wife and two sons started traveling with the US Scuba Center Group 17 years ago. Then their third son, Taylor, was born. Taylor was six months old on his first trip to Bonaire. So it is Taylor's 15th consecutive year traveling to Bonaire.

They love the friendly people of Bonaire, the tranquility and the spectacular diving. The three Graham children have always referred to the Divi Flamingo as their "Bonaire Home" because they love the swimming pools and the friendly Divi Flamingo staff.

Everyone in the Graham family scuba dives. They know that the best diving in the Caribbean is in Bonaire.

It is a pleasure to honor the Graham family with the Silver Ambassador medal. We hope to see them back year after year. □



Mr. David Graham and his two sons, Zachary and Taylor

(Continued on page 11)

(Bonaire Ambassadors. Continued from page 10)

Second Home

Ricky Lesser: "Bonaire has been like a second home to me and my family for quite sometime now. The diving is exceptional; the weather is great, but most importantly the people are wonderful. If it were not for the people who have been so welcoming I sincerely doubt we would have returned. Bonaire has now claimed a special place in my heart and I can't wait to go back." □



Ricky Lesser, center, was awarded a Bronze medal with his family.

"Family" Visit

Congratulations to Dennis and Rosie Jarboe for their bronze medal award. This is their 11th consecutive year visiting our island and, according to them, there will be many more. Dennis and Rosie have continued and will continue to visit Bonaire for the wonderful diving, beautiful reefs and friendly atmosphere. While Bonaire is not the easiest place to get to, they say it is worth the effort. They have seen many changes over the years and they hope that all the new construction doesn't result in damage to the reef environment. "Coming to Bonaire and staying at Happy Holiday Homes is like visiting our extended family," say the couple. □



The Jarboes

shapes. Colorful corals and sea anemones grow on the broken former piers



Ralf and Charlotte, Silver Medalists

and docks."

This is their 16th Bonaire vacation and they hope to be able to come for many more.

Ralf and Charlotte thank the people of Bonaire and give a very special and heartfelt "Danki" to all the Sand Dollar people who took such good care of them for so many years and have made them feel at home. "They are wonderful," they say. □

Bronze for All

This group met 10 years ago at the Sorobon resort and has remained friends since then. They've decided to

visit Bonaire on a yearly basis at the same time and stay at Sorobon each year. They have even made yellow t-shirts with the words "Sorobon Reunion" and the various years on it. It has become a tradition for them to wear them when they are having their daily game of *petanque* (bolas) and happy hour drinks at the bar of Sorobon afterwards.



From left to right: Ambassadors Ed and Joan from New Jersey, Rian (Sorobon Beach), Ambassadors Larry and Dee from North Carolina, Joanny(TCB), and Ambassadors Neil and Sandra from the United Kingdom. They all celebrated their 10th visit to Bonaire at Sorobon Beach this year.

Ed and Larry are divers, the ladies enjoy the beach, and Neil and Ed are also fanatic kites and bring a new spectacular kite every year. They leave the kites when their vacation is over to the children of one of the employee's of Sorobon. □

TCB -All TCB photos

Picture Yourself with The Reporter

Montclair, New Jersey, USA

Richard Swanson, the son of Brad and Sandra Swanson, longtime Bonaire residents of TWR-Bonaire, recently returned from their son's wedding. On Saturday, July 15, Richard married Nancy Banghart in Montclair, New Jersey. They had this photo taken at their wedding reception with *The Bonaire Reporter*.

Richard grew up in Bonaire and attended high school and college overseas. □



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.) □

Divi Employees' Anniversaries – Celebration



Last week a number of Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino employees were honored for their years of dedication and good service. The event was at the Balashi Bar and was enjoyed by the employees, their colleagues and management and a rousing group of return visitors. They're shown above with General Manager Sara Matera and "Mama" Marrelva Soliano of Human Resources. Congratulations to all the awardees.

A Special Accolade should also go to Divi Flamingo which has managed to run an operation throughout the years where so many employees choose to remain working there. They must be doing something right!

5-year Awards to: Virginia Pietersz, Operations; Selimah Agostien, Front Office; Juan Janzen, Maintenance

10-year Awards to: Derrel dePalm, Housekeeping; Marlon Mercera, Houseman

15-year Awards to Carlo Winklaar, Accounting; Radilla Martines, Assistant Manager, Front Office

20-Year Award to Paulino Cicilia, Maintenance

25-year Award to Enrique Molina, Dive Master and Boat Captain. □

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)

Complete solution on page 14.

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

Keep it

FREE

Pass on your REPORTER to someone.

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.

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

SUPPORT BONAIRE

The Island you love could use your help! Support Bonaire, Inc. provides support to Bonaire's non-profits. To learn more about making a US tax deductible donation visit www.supportbonaire.org and help make a difference!

GUIDED TOURS

Would you like to visit Bonaire's beautiful caves with a professional guide? Night tours and snorkeling also available. Please call: 540-0389

For Sale

Carib Inn has new dive tanks available once again. Contact Carib Inn at 717-8819 or stop by, 8 am to 5 pm.

For sale: large modern mirror, square Plexiglas (you can look through it) with a triangle-shaped mirror in the middle, NAf50, tel. 786-5591

FOR SALE: Boat, Container, bottle cooler and freezer. Tel 786-0730

Your Ad can go here...
And it's still free

For Sale: Wooden five-drawer desk, pecan finish, in very good condition, NAf 200.00; Top Quality Wooden Two-Drawer Filing Cabinet (made by Kimball), very good condition NAf 100.00; Chest of drawers with five drawers, wood, good condition, great for storing spare parts, etc., NAf 85.00 ; Ceiling fans with four-light units, white, various size downrods, 220 v, NAf 90 each, or NAf 500.00 for all six.; 3 different TV/VCR stands available, all wooden finishes, one is NAf 40.00, one is NAf 50.00, and one is NAf 60.00 - If you are interested in any of these items, please call 717-2848.

Cars For Sale

For Sale: BMW 520i – 4-door sedan, white, excellent condition. NAf8,000- Call 785-9041

1998 Toyota Camry, Black, Fully equipped. In good condition. NAf 12,500. Call 786-6550

For Sale: 2000 Nissan Sentra, 4 door, auto/ac, NAf7,000 email- LadyLarson@Hughes.net

LADA NIVA (jeep) for sale 1991-4X4 drive 1.6 lt.; 95.000km NAf1,800 717-2844 or 786-2844

Wanted

Who would like to take one of my beloved cats? I leave the island and can not take them with me. The cats are between 2 and 3 years old. They are all special. Call 786-3015.

WANTED: VHS video recorder/player for use in Lora (parrot) research. Call 09-510-4021

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

Property

House for Sale – Nicest and prettiest house in Antriol, good neighborhood, swimming pool, 2 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms +/- 3.000 sq. meters. Place for another house. Was \$450,000, now \$375,000. 717-7362 / 6605



August 5, 9 am to 4 pm, #7 Lighthouse Beach Resort, Portable gas barbeque, 16ft. ladder, tools, stereo, HP color printer, household goods, Chinese bicycles - email- LadyLarson@Hughes.net



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. The Reporter continues to pass on information from this report.

Part 7

Work Permits

There were more initial work permit requests in 2005 than in 2004: 236 in 2005 compared to 196 in 2004. These work permits are granted most of all to construction workers from abroad, 53 in total. The trend is continuing in 2006 with many work permit petitions for new construction projects because there is not enough local manpower available.

In 2005, many first work permit requests were granted to live-ins (20) and teachers (17). The number of work permit requests has increased in general even though, since 2005, foreign nationality business owners with a director's license do not need to request a work permit.

In 2005, most of the first permit requests for short term were granted to the HORECA sector while in 2004 they were mainly granted to construction workers for specific projects.

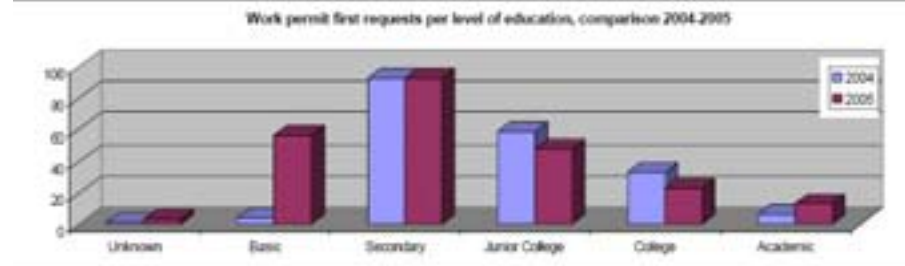
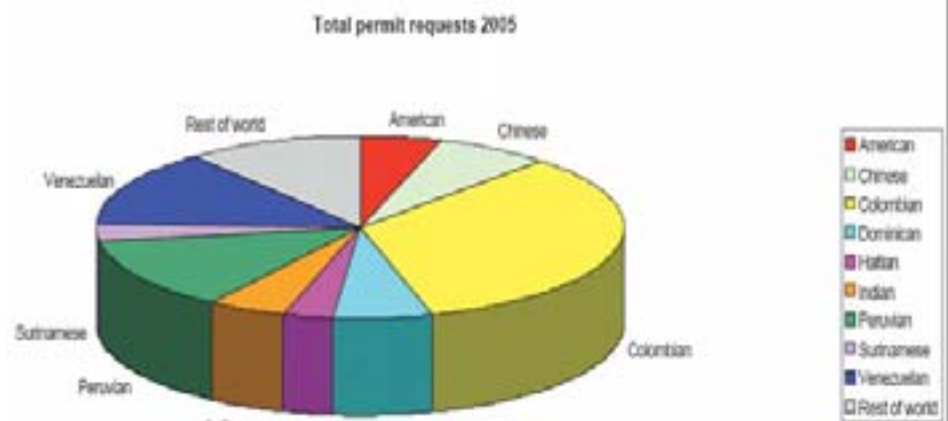
Beginning in 2005 a new procedure was put in place with respect to hiring staff from abroad. Employers need to list their vacancy at DEZA to check whether there is any local worker available in DEZA's database of job seekers. Employers also need to publish their vacancy in the local newspaper to see if

there is any suitable local candidate. Only after completing this procedure can they apply for a work permit for a foreign worker. This explains why there were fewer work permits denied in 2005 than in 2004, as people became more aware of the procedure to follow and only enter a request after all attempts to find a suitable local candidate have been unsuccessful.

Work permit requests are shelved when the documentation requested has not been provided within six weeks or when the petition has been abandoned.

In August 2005 there was a record number of work permits approved (84 in total), mainly for construction workers.

The majority of first work permit requests as well as changes and renewals are for workers of **Colombian** nationality. In 2005 they represented 38% of the first requests and 28% of changes. These Colombians are mainly construction workers and employees of the HORECA sector such as waiters and cooks, but also live-ins and gardeners. The second leading nationality is **Peruvians** with 13% of first work permit requests and 12% of renewals. A majority is employed in the construction sector and some as live-in housekeepers. The third leading nationality for changes and renewals is for **Venezuelans** already living on the island with



15% of work permit renewals covering all sectors of the economy but mainly construction and the HORECA sectors.

Those **Chinese** requesting a work permit are mainly cooks. **Dominicans** represent mainly live-ins, and work permit requests for **Americans** are for the HORECA sector.

In 2005, 39% of all work permit requests were for employees with a secondary education in the technical field, that is to say construction, and in the field of personal and social care, which covers the HORECA sector, but also live-ins and hairdressers. The second highest category of work permit requests, repre-

senting 24% of all permit requests, is for workers with a basic education, primarily in the HORECA sector. Work permit requests for employees in the technical field with a junior college level of education represent electricians, car mechanics and air conditioning technicians. Those with a similar level of education in the field of personal and social care represent employees of the HORECA sector. Work permit requests for employees with a college degree (10% of all requests) represent teachers, medical assistants and business managers. Those with an academic level (6%) represent teachers of the medical school. □ DEZA

Windsurfing Report

Pro Kids Freestyle This Week

The long awaited Pro Kids Freestyle event is less than a week away and the excitement is building. Bonairean kids are registering in record numbers for the August 3-6 freestyle competition. At press time it appears that more than 77 kids will be competing, plus there will be teams coming from the other ABC islands and beyond.

The popular Baby class has over 15 little ones registered, including a few two-year-olds. Beth Powell Winkler, a windsurf school owner who now resides on island, is on the water training local kids how to compete and run heats. The trick is to do as many moves possible in five to six minutes.

Wind conditions are important, and the combination of time and Mother Nature's cooperation can make or break a heat or time slot. With double ladder eliminations, competitors each have two attempts to score and move up the ladder. Tinho and Susie Dornellas are flying in from their school, Calema, to run the heats and the event.

Who will be the pro kids this year? Only time will tell. Exciting news is that Pro Kids will have live streaming of the event on the Internet courtesy of Telbo and Bits Bonaire. Aaron Balentien has worked hard with the Telbo Bits Team to provide this wonderful opportunity. Go to www.prokidsfreestyle.com for the live broadcasts set to commence August 4th.

By day the excitement will be on the water but, commencing August 3, the night time windsurf scene is non-stop. Bonaire Windsurf Place is hosting a BBQ on August 3, at 7 pm. The public is welcome to purchase tickets to this stellar event.

Unlimited Dancers will be putting on a dance show. Friday night the action is at the Hulan-des Patio. Tickets will be available at the door. Saturday night is a free night to dine in town and listen to local music. It all comes to an end for the weekend finals and closing party at Sorobon on August 6.



The Finies brothers, Endro and Clay, between training sessions Ann Phelan photo



Andrea Simal, a Bonairean teen training for Pro Kids Marguerite Rose Wynter photo

□ Ann Phelan

DO YOU SUDOKU?

And the solution is:
(puzzle and directions on page 12)

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Superman Returns
(Brandon Routh)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

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
Garfield 2

THIS WEEK

Thursday-Sunday, August 3-6 – Pro Kids Event Windsurfing Championship, Sorobon Beach.

Saturday, August 5—Big Monthly Rincon Marshé—Now a Bonairean tradition – stands selling gifts, fruits and vegetables, candles, drinks, BBQ, local foods and sweets, music, friendly people, 6 am to 2 pm. In the center of Rincon. Info: www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

Saturday, August 5 – Artists are invited to submit up to three pieces of art between 9 am and noon for the “Homage to the Bonairean Artist” to be held in November. Artists may sign up at the Bonaire Museum, Kaya J.C. van der Ree. Telephone 717-8868. Questions? Call Jackie Bernabela of SKAL (same address as the Museum), 786-6333.

► **Sunday, August 6—Clean up at Klein Bonaire**, organized by BNMP, STCB, Freewinds.. Meet at 7 pm at Harbour Village. Confirm by e-mail to marinepark@stinapa.org. Drinks & sandwiches provided by Freewinds. See page 3.

Sunday August 6—Bonairean Night at Divi Flamingo's Calabash Restaurant with all the local specialties and more. Live Music. \$20-total. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

Friday, August 11 – Pre-exposition at Kas di Arte of all works submitted for the November exposition, “Homage to the Bonairean Artist” - 5 to 9 pm at Kas di Arte.

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 Sun.) 5 to 7 pm,
- 2 for 1 appetizer with 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 Marshé 1st Saturday of the month.**

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

Sundays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers**, 5-7 pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine**, 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Buy a Bucket of Beer & get free chicken wings**, 5 to 7 pm, **Cactus Blue**
- **Caribbean Gas Training free** “Beyond Gravity – An Evening with DIR,” 6 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure 786-5073.

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 **“Admiral’s Hour”** for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7 pm..

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

Pet of the Week

“Lassie” is a special needs pet at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. She’s so shy that she needs someone who can give her a lot of attention. In her past she was left alone a lot and consequently she became an introvert. But despite that she’s proved to be a really nice dog with a good character, and being so small she’s perfect as a lap dog. She just needs some TLC to bring out her best qualities – those that are just under the surface. Lassie is between eight months and a year and at the time the photo was taken she was in heat. As soon as that’s over she’ll be sterilized and ready to go. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm. Telephone 717-4989.

This year, 2006, is the Year of the Dog in the Chinese calendar. Other dog years are 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982 and 1994. People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people’s confidence because they know how to keep secrets. Doesn’t that sound like the traits of a good dog too? *L.D.*



“Lassie”

week

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- “Discover Our Diversity” slide show-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 .

Monday- Dee Scarr’s “Touch the Sea” slide show at Capt. Don’s Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8290.

Wednesday (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation (STCB) Slide Show by Bruce Brabec. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm, 717-8819.

Wednesday –Buddy Dive Cocktail Video Show by Martin Cecilia, pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 7 pm, 717-5080

BONAIRE’S TRADITIONS

Kas Kriyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire’s past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from “The King’s Storehouse.” Learn about Bonaire’s culture . Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors’ Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

Sunday at Cai- Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire’s popular musicians.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every **Wednesday**; Phone 717-6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.

Al-Anon meetings - every **Monday** evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

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

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Forma 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 Zeezicht Restaurant. 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; Valarie@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

Reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cell. 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 Breakfasts Only	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Breakfast Buffet 7:30-10 am every day Happy hours 5 to 7 daily.
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 made from scratch.
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
Salsa On the Waterfront across from City Café Downtown... but miles away in atmosphere 717-3558	Moderate Open for Lunch and Dinner	Fantastic food in a fantastic setting. Varied menu. Special Fish by Weight menu on Thursdays. Best views of the harbor.
The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all.	Low-Moderate Open from 10-6 pm daily, Wednesday night BBQ at 7 pm	A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service BBQ night a specialty

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air. Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances. Fast service and in-store financing too.

BAKERIES

The Last Bite Bakery—Now in town next to Xerox. Fresh baked specials every day. Make it a regular stop.

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 monthly cleanup dives and BBQ.

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

FITNESS

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

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

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

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

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

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

HOTELS

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

METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

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

Nature Exploration

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/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.**

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. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Tuesday-Saturday 9 am—12 noon.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:

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

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

Feliciano da Silva-Piloto

“We left Madeira, Portugal, because we were suffering under the dictatorship. Everybody wanted to flee the country, especially those who had sons who, at age 18, had to fight in the colonies. My father and his brother managed to get permits for Curaçao and Bonaire. At the time they didn’t know anything about their destination. If my dad ever saw the name Bonaire on his papers he probably thought it was a place in Curaçao. So his brother went to Curaçao and my dad came to work for the Joubert family as a gardener at the Santa Barbara plantation. Two years later my mom came over with us five children. I was 10 years old and the eldest.

As Papiamentu comes from Portuguese, the first thing I noticed when I arrived was the way people spoke. It was like a child’s language and I thought, ‘these people are so childlike; it’s as if they’re just learning to speak.’ I didn’t understand why at school there was this one language (Dutch) and in the street another one (Papiamentu). I went to the third grade at St. Dominicus School with Mr. Raimundo Josephia. I was completely miserable because the Dutch language was so alien to me. However, I did speak a little French and so did Mr. Josephia, and that’s how we sort of managed.

I’d come from a village and I went to a village, but the mentalities were very different, and I remember saying immediately, ‘I’m not from here,’ and that’s how I feel up until today. I think if it had been up to me I’d have said, ‘I’m going back.’ Both places were small villages and I thought, ‘Why should I stay here?’ Something that wasn’t different was that everyone talks to everyone else, and you’re greeted in the streets at least 10 times a day. That was similar to the ways of Madeira. But I’m not from here and I will never be from here. When my brother and sisters (the family who all still living here, except for my mother who passed away three years ago) are together they speak Papiamentu amongst themselves, but when I join them they switch to Portuguese! I am Portuguese, but here is the problem. I don’t feel that I am from here, but I also don’t feel that I am from there – that’s the problem of the immigrant... you don’t have a country of which you can say, ‘This is where I am from.’

Well, I finished MAVO and then started working at the only gas station, filling up cars. I did that for a couple of months, then I went to work at Karl Mayer’s garage and I was also driving tourists around. Then I went to work for an insurance company, then to Radio

Netherlands World Broadcasting, and in 1975 I started with Radio Hoyer III.

I remember when I was 15 and we lived at Tera Kora; I’d always been fascinated by radio, by communication – so I made a transmitter in a cigar box and put it at home next to my record player. I’d put a record on to play, then I’d go out on my bicycle, listening to my portable radio to see how far it would reach!

In 1980, when I was 23, I bought Radio Hoyer III. I didn’t have a plan, but I had to do something because radio was my life! Around that time Horacio Hoyer, the owner of the station, had his leg amputated. He lived on Curaçao and only had one daughter. When he started talking about selling the station I was afraid that they’d kick me out, so a friend and I went to Curaçao and told Mr. Hoyer that we wanted to buy the station. He told us we were absolutely crazy because you couldn’t make any money with a radio station on Bonaire.

We went back to Bonaire, pretty sure that it wouldn’t work out, but after a few

“I didn’t understand why at school there was this one language and in the street another one.”

days Mr. Hoyer phoned me and said, ‘You have to go to MCB Bank because I arranged everything and you’re going to get a loan of NAf35.000... but to be honest, you’re not buying anything really because I’ll keep the building and the equipment is no good, but if you want to do it, this is the way it has to go!’ He called it ‘goodwill’ - a word I’d never heard of in my life. We went to MCB Bank and talked to Mr. Piar. It turned out that everything had been arranged – the only thing I needed was my passport and I had to sign a contract to rent the building. I did it! Why? I don’t know! In 1982 we moved to where we’re now; later on I got another loan and I built what is now the Voz di Bonaire building..

We always had lots of people doing radio shows, and many kids would come straight to the station from high school to make music. I remember Gino Saleh, Dwight Leoneta, Robert Sanchez, Erwin Albertus, Betty Francees and a couple of other kids. I miss it because nowadays kids don’t seem interested anymore. We didn’t have many advertisers – but you didn’t need a whole lot of money to keep a radio station on the air. Bonaire Trading was our biggest support in the beginning,



Feliciano da Silva-Piloto

and MCB Bank supported us too, probably so we could pay off our loan!

In the beginning it went slow, but then it went better with a high peak in the early 90s when we renovated and switched to an automatic computer system, something new for the Antilles. Only Radio Korsou had it, then we bought it and people from Aruba and Trans World Radio came to see how it worked. Radio Korsou was the first one to broadcast via Internet, but we were the second! My vision was that radio was a way to inform the people, to teach them new things, to teach them to speak up for themselves – something that didn’t work out so well because people here don’t like to come out for their opinion in public. It scares them.”

Feliciano da Silva-Piloto (50) is a special guy with a great sense of truth and a wonderful sense of humor and it makes it that he can say a lot without offending people.

“I like informative programs, but I don’t have the time for them and I can’t find people who know how to do them. We have three radio stations: Voz di Bonaire, 94.7 in Papiamentu; Alpha FM, 93.1 in Spanish; and Mega FM, 101.1 in Dutch. The competition doesn’t bother me. They’ve all started here and they’re doing it differently and that’s good. I can be at the station 24 hours per day – it still doesn’t feel like a job – it’s a hobby and I can make money with it. I like to be here and when I don’t have to be here, I’ll make something up so that I can be here.

In 1985 I married a girl from Antriol, Merugia Saragosa. We have three boys: Jadyr, 21, Jaid, 16, and Jaryd, 11. Jadyr works for a computer business in Playa and Jaid just left for Holland to study

nursing. His mother and his youngest brother went with him for six months to help him settle in. I didn’t want him to go alone. We’ve raised our children in a protective way - not that they’re better than other children - but they don’t know about Bonaire’s street life. When I’m not at home I’m at the station.

It can be boring on Bonaire if you don’t make your own life, but I don’t want to leave – I won’t go – I’ll stay here. From time to time you have to get off the island. It’s not easy because I don’t like airplanes, but it makes you aware of the fact that the world doesn’t end at Klein Bonaire.

I watch a lot of informative programs on the Portuguese channel, the Spanish channel, Dutch TV and the BBC. I don’t watch CNN because that’s all Bush’s propaganda. Sometimes I hear Americans saying, ‘Hey, how cute!’ I think they say it to please the local people, but the local people should not try to imitate the US. Here they don’t think of their own people first, they think of the tourist as number 1 and that’s not normal! You create much more respect with the tourists when you do your own thing; that’s what they come here for!

What I like about Bonaire? Nothing! But I wouldn’t want to live in another country! Look! I come from Madeira, an island they named ‘flower island,’ and those are things you don’t see here. I don’t enjoy the beauty of Bonaire with my eyes, Bonaire’s beauty is more abstract – you don’t see it but you feel it inside.”

□
story and photo by
Greta Kooistra



The Bonaire Gardner

Mealybugs ("Pies-Pies")

FOR FOLIAR AND SYSTEMIC INSECT CONTROL ON
ORNAMENTALS, FRUIT AND NUT,
VEGETABLE PLANTS IN GREENHOUSES,
NURSERIES, AND INTERIOR PLANTSCAPES

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

Imidacloprid, 1-[(6-Chloro-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-N-nitro-2-imidazolidinimine . . . 21.4%

OTHER INGREDIENTS:

78.6%
100.0%

MARATHON® II

Contains 2 pounds of imidacloprid per gallon
SHAKE WELL BEFORE USING

I hope everyone is as pleased as I am with last week's rains. We sure needed it. Everything was very dry and most of the plants have been looking bad these last weeks. Also, along with the drought we had some very strong winds. You will see how fast everything will recover with these latest nice rains. It is not yet a good time to judge whether certain plants that look bad will recover from last week's rain. But we still need to be very diligent in watering the plants. Inspect your irrigation system on a regular basis and make sure that hand-watered plants get enough water too. This rain helps, especially for the kunuku, but for planted plants you still have to be alert. As I've written many times before, it is better to water a little on a regular basis rather than a lot all at one time!

Also, with the drought during these last months certain plants are much more vulnerable to diseases. As I've said so many times, the Mealybugs, locally called Pies-Pies, are becoming more and more of a threat. In January I wrote it was my personal goal to try to find a solution for this. We still don't want to spray a lot, so maybe we've found an answer to this problem.

As Bonaire is trying to be the eco-island everybody loves, we try to use as few chemicals as possible. In my last container from Florida, we brought in a new systemic granulate called Marathon. We've had it before, but now with all the plants that can possibly be and are already infected with the mealybug, we decided to try it again. We did some tests and the results are very hopeful. First we will have to test it on a number of different plants to see if any damage is done to the plants themselves, but so far we haven't seen one. Marathon is a granulate that you can put on the ground near the roots so the plants can absorb this systemic treatment. And it will work for three to four months! That is what they promise. I don't know about the last part yet, but I sure know that if this is true it will save us from a lot of nasty spraying. You only have to use a little bit each time. The stuff is very expensive but it is very well worth it.

We always mix it with a good fertilizer like the Peters or Miracle Grow. They will help the plant absorb the treatment better. But don't think you can just put some Marathon on the ground when you see the mealybug. You have to take the whole package: Prune off the infected parts, get rid of all infected leaves, rake and loosen the soil surrounding the plant and make sure there is a water source nearby, either a dripper or the hose. Then use the chemical with the fertilizer and water it in a bit.

If you have a gardener, they might not be familiar with this system, but you can tell or teach him, the same way as we have to teach our workers. Because I think it is so important, we can also offer this service everybody. You may come by our shop and we can set up a treatment for the whole garden because that is what is very important. You have to do all the infected plants otherwise the results might be disappointing. We do not have a large stock of Marathon yet. First I want to make sure it works in a proper way before taking people's money.

Let's hope this is a start to get rid of these nasty bugs! I will keep you informed. □ *Ap van Eldik*

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

ROSITA'S FITNESS FACTS

Benefits of Good Posture



Good posture:
Waldo and Dawn-Teacher and Student

Are you aware of your posture? Most of us are usually unaware that we have poor posture. More startling is that we show little concern or interest in having good posture.

In the past, strong emphasis was placed on analysis and exercises to correct posture. Posture should be of great concern. Why? Good posture is important to health. When our posture is good, our muscles are basically in balance and our body is symmetrical. Posture can determine the outcome of your performance and well being. It affects how you walk, run, jump, lift weights and perform other skills. Good posture is also needed to keep the organs in place and to allow them to work efficiently and effectively. For example, in case of a swayback, the intestines press against the floor of the abdominal cavity instead of being held in place. This interferes with their normal work.

If you have rounded shoulders and an excessively rounded upper back, there is constriction in the chest cage. It will become impossible to completely fill the lungs with air, which is vital in fitness activities. Also in walking or running your arms may be slightly in front of your body instead of hanging alongside your body. As a result, instead of lifting the arms sideways directly overhead, you are lifting them up and in front of the body. This changes the muscular movement and the movement pathway.

When there is a deviation in posture, it is usually due to a lack of strength of particular muscles to hold the body in the needed position. For example weak muscles of the lower back are the main culprits in not being able to maintain an erect trunk in standing and walking or in maintaining proper back posture when lifting weights. If you cannot hold your trunk erect during running, you will not have an effective push-off or knee drive for a long stride length. And in walking, if your feet or thighs are excessively rotated outward, greater stress will be placed on the hip and knee joints. And if walking in this manner is carried on for a long period of time, injuries to these joints can occur.



To find out if you have good posture, stand with your back against a wall. Your heels, backs of the calves, buttocks, upper back and head should comfortably touch the wall. If not, you need to work on your posture. Till next time. □ *Rosita*

Owner-operator of Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort, Rosita Paiman, a physical fitness instructor, personal trainer and nutritionist, offers classes, a weight/exercise room and a staff to guide you in reaching your ideal physical fitness level.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

See the Two Planets Closest to the Sun Side by Side



Mercury and Venus shortly after sunset this week

Greetings, greetings fellow star gazers. Almost every one knows that our **Earth**, sometimes called "The third rock from the **Sun**," is the third planet out from the Sun in distance. But do you recall the names of the planets closer to the Sun than Earth, planets #1 and 2? Well planet #1 is **Mercury** and planet #2 is **Venus**. And this week and next you'll be able to see them side by side if you get up with the chickens.

In the middle of this week, Thursday August 3rd, about 45 minutes before sunrise, face northeast where the brightest thing you'll see in the sky will be planet #2 from the Sun, 8,000-mile-wide Venus, which is often called Earth's twin because it is almost exactly the same size. Then, shining not so brightly, 5 degrees below it which is about the width of 10 full **Moons** lined up end by end, is tiny pinkish 3,000-mile-wide Mercury. Now I recommend that you wait until next week to look for them because by Wednesday, August 9th, they'll be much closer, in fact only 2 degrees apart, which means they'll be only 4 full Moon widths away from each other and thus much easier to find. In fact they'll also be about 2 degrees away from each other on Thursday the 10th, Friday the 11th, Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th.

But to see them you must have a clear, unobstructed horizon. And you have to look during twilight because they won't be high enough above the horizon to see while it's still dark out. Now because Mercury is planet #1 and Venus is #2 from the Sun it would stand to reason that Mercury would be farther away from us than Venus, but, aha! Such is not always the case and here's why. If we could go out into space and look down at our Sun, Mercury, Venus and Earth, all lined up in a row in their proper order from the Sun we would see that Mercury's distance from us is 57 million miles, while Venus' distance from us is 26 million miles.

But we rarely ever see the planets like this in such an idealized situation because they are always moving in their orbits around the Sun.

So this week and next, Mercury and Venus are in much different places in their orbits relative to the Sun and Earth. Mercury, instead of being farther away from us than Venus, is 82 million miles away, whereas Venus, on the far side of its orbit from us, is a whopping 145 million miles away from us. Yet here on Earth they appear perfectly lined up, one above the other, all due to our perspective.

So sometime this week and next get outside and look for the first and second rocks from the Sun, from the third rock from the Sun. It's as simple as 1,2, 3! □

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, July 30 to Saturday, August 5, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You may want to pull out some of those unfinished projects you've got tucked away. Travel should be on your agenda. Do not react too harshly when dealing with partners. Stop telling others about your problems. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Give everyone in the house a physical chore that will help burn off some of the excess energy. You may find yourself in an opportune position if you are willing to take a bit of a risk. Do not invest in ventures that only appear to be lucrative. Avoid functions that will bring you in contact with those you find difficult to get along with. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your high energy and discipline will enable you to complete any seemingly insurmountable tasks. You will do extremely well if you get involved in competitive activities this week. Check your project over carefully if you were not the only one contributing to the end result. Concentrate on spending quality time with children. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will be able to communicate well this week. Your high enthusiasm will be sure to inspire anybody around you. Don't rely on others to handle the workload. Good friends will give you honest answers. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is a great day to beautify your living quarters or to entertain at home. You can come into money; however, perhaps not under the best circumstances. Go to the top if you're being harassed or held back. You will be popular and will easily attract members of the opposite sex. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You should get out and meet new people this week. Changes involving your domestic scene may be unpleasant. Don't be critical or overly opinionated with dislikes; it could cause disapproval and unwanted opposition. This is a wonderful time to look into courses or hobbies that interest you. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements. Residential moves are evident. Don't bother getting even; they'll make themselves look bad. Refuse to get involved in idle chatter; it will only make you look bad. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't jump too quickly if someone tries to make you join in on their crusade. Don't bother trying to make someone you live with see your point of view. You will be highly sensitive to comments made by your lover. Make amends if you can. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You need to concentrate on your business ventures more than on your relationship this week. Do your own thing without drawing attention to it. The knowledge you have will enhance your reputation. Spend some time with the one you love. Pleasure trips will be satisfying. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22.- Jan. 20) You may find that your plans will cost a little more than you had expected. Stop telling others about your problems. Do not sign contracts or get involved in any uncertain financial deals. You need to fulfill your needs and present your talents. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try to keep to yourself; work diligently on domestic chores and responsibilities. Anger might lead to carelessness and minor injuries. You must not let fellow workers take advantage of your fine talents. Talking to those you trust and respect will help you sort out any problems. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Drastic changes regarding your personal attitude are evident. Take a look at yourself and prepare to make those changes you've been contemplating. Sit tight. Things aren't as bad as they appear. You'll look guilty if you don't lay your cards on the table. Your lucky day this week is Thursday. □

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
8-04	6:50	0.8FT.	21:05	2.0FT.					40
8-05	7:25	0.8FT.	21:43	2.1FT.					49
8-06	7:57	0.8FT.	22:20	2.1FT.					62
8-07	8:25	0.8FT.	23:02	2.1FT.					75
8-08	8:56	0.8FT.	23:53	2.1FT.					86
8-09	0:34	2.0FT.	9:29	0.9FT.					95
8-10	1:24	1.9FT.	9:53	0.9FT.	14:49	1.1FT.	16:28	1.1FT.	101
8-11	2:19	1.7FT.	10:13	1.0FT.	15:40	1.3FT.	18:23	1.2FT.	102
8-12	3:27	1.5FT.	10:28	1.1FT.	16:20	1.4FT.	21:02	1.2FT.	99
8-13	0:03	1.2FT.	4:42	1.4FT.	10:32	1.1FT.	17:15	1.5FT.	92
8-14	2:07	1.1FT.	6:40	1.2FT.	10:06	1.2FT.	18:05	1.7FT.	82
8-15	3:27	0.9FT.	18:52	1.8FT.					70
8-16	4:25	0.8FT.	19:43	1.9FT.					59
8-17	5:21	0.8FT.	20:25	2.0FT.					52
8-18	6:08	0.7FT.	21:12	2.1FT.					50
8-19	6:49	0.7FT.	21:54	2.1FT.					55
8-20	7:34	0.8FT.	22:31	2.0FT.					62