

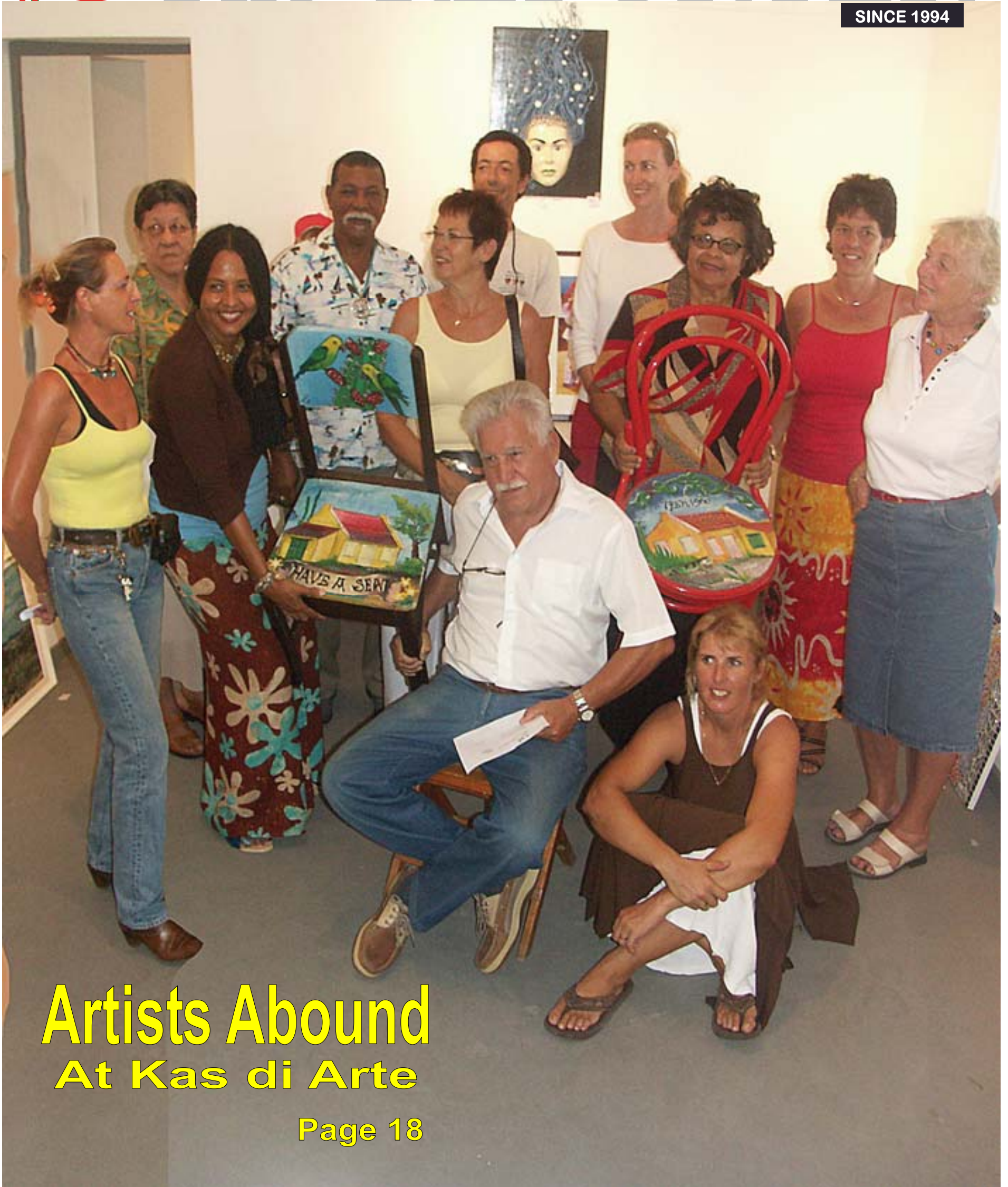
IT'S
STILL
FREE

BONAIRE

August 18-25, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 32

The REPORTER

SINCE 1994



Artists Abound
At Kas di Arte

Page 18

Flotsam and Jetsam



There's something exciting planned for November on the Bonaire musical scene. The Bonaire Entertainment Foundation is planning to put on several music festivals on Bonaire and the first will be "Back to Rock 'n Roll." The tentative venue for the show is the Plaza Resort. Headliners are Rene Schuman and Angel-Eye. Rene has had long experience in R&R, dating back to his performances as an Elvis imitator on the Dutch TV Play Back Show and has performed with some of the top names like Phil Everly of the Everly Brothers.

In 2001 he teamed up with Angel-Eye. They started their new career together with a remake of the Elvis Hit, *Don't Be Cruel*, which also became a hit in Holland. This year he had another hit in Europe, a song called *Magic Ride*. This song was adopted by

the Tour de France and was played every day, in a different city, when the *peleton* started.

Right now the organizers are looking for a few more sponsors to help take care of lodging, food, drinks, a car, stage, lights etc. To find out more call Bert Poyck at 717-2749.

► **British and American security agencies have imposed stricter limits on carry-on items in the wake of a foiled terror plot on aircraft from Britain to the US.** Continental and Air Jamaica have implemented the following measures on all their flights from Bonaire:

No liquids, including alcohol, gels, shampoo, suntan lotion, toothpaste, and items of similar consistency are allowed in carry-on luggage.

Passengers are being advised to pack these restricted items in their checked luggage

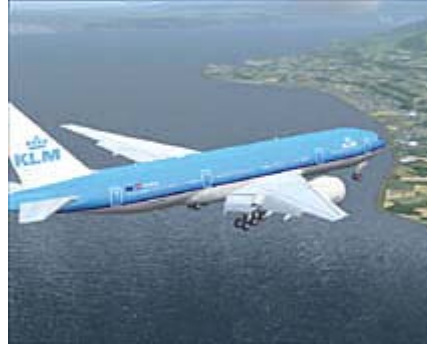
Passengers are being encouraged to travel light to expedite the screening process.

The following items are allowed on board the aircraft:

- Baby formula, breast milk, or juice if a baby or small child is traveling.
- Prescription medicine with a name that matches the passenger's ticket.
- Insulin and essential other non-prescription items.

With the additional security measures passengers will undergo more extensive screenings and are required to be at the airport for check-in three hours before departure.

All of Bonaire's flights have been operating as scheduled up to this time. Alert levels are being lowered as we go to press so be sure to monitor the media and airline websites before flying.



► It is expected that the daily **KLM flight to Lima, Peru, will no longer stop for refueling/replenishment on Bonaire effective with the KLM winter schedule** soon to be announced. Some seats on that flight are usually available for Bonaire-bound passengers, and Peru/Amsterdam-bound passengers can stretch their legs in Bonaire's departure lounge. A Boeing 777 will replace the MD-11 jet currently used on the route.

The Amsterdam-Ecuador flight will continue to stop in Bonaire because the Quito airport runway is too short for the 777 aircraft. However, its frequency may be upped from five times

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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a week to daily.

Bonaire will also be served by another MD-11 that will fly twice a week, AMS-AUA-BON-AMS, and perhaps an Amsterdam- Panama flight will be scheduled for refueling in Bonaire.

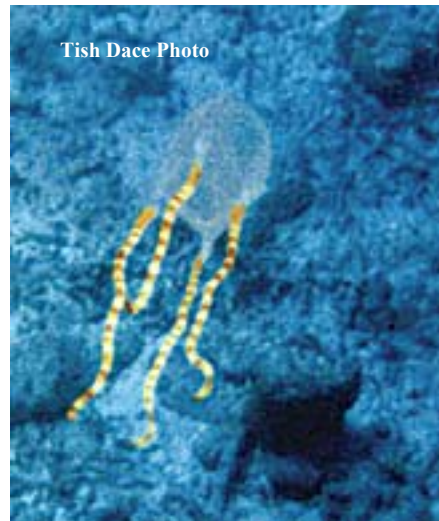


► Cuba's ailing **Fidel Castro** got a bedside visit from his main ally, Venezuelan President **Hugo Chavez**, the Communist Party newspaper *Granma* said Monday. The daily said Castro, who temporarily ceded power to his younger brother, Raul Castro, on July 31 due to surgery for intestinal bleeding, spent more than three hours with Chavez on Sunday in what it called "An Unforgettable Afternoon Among Brothers." Photos were on the *Granma* website. *Granma* said the leaders shared gifts, anecdotes, laughter and a frugal snack as they marked Castro's 80th birthday.

► **The sixth annual swim to Klein Bonaire is set for October 8th.** The popular event has been a fundraiser for Jong Bonaire for six consecutive years. This year it will coincide with the Bonaire Regatta and be held on October 8th starting



from Eden Beach. Last year there were over 300 entrants. You may get tickets at Jong Bonaire. Start training now. For more information call Jong Bonaire at 717-4303.



► There have been a number of incidents recently of individuals being stung in the water by the normally very rare Bonairean Banded Box Jellyfish. It's recommended that the victims seek immediate medical attention as the stings are highly toxic.

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...Flamingo Tongue Snails eat corals?

One of my favorite pastimes is looking into gorgonian corals in search of Slender Filefish, seahorses, juvenile Trumpetfish, Sharpnose Puffers and Flamingo Tongue Snails. Sporting an attractive pattern of orange spots, Flamingo Tongue Snails are about an inch long and are in direct contact with gorgonian corals. Gorgonians are corals with flexible, horny skeletons and include Sea Whips, Sea Plumes, Sea Rods and Sea Fans. Flamingo Tongue Snails are parasites that glide along a gorgonian and slowly digest the coral's living tissue. I've observed the same individual on the same gorgonian year after year, so although they are harming the coral, they normally don't kill it. I've heard that divers used to collect these gorgeous snails in hopes of bringing home a beautiful shell, only to realize that the beautiful spotted pattern is part of the snail's mantle and, once dead, falls off to reveal a rather plain white shell. Serves them right! □ *Story & photo by Caren 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.



► House fires are a rarity on Bonaire, but a **big one devastated a two-story house in Hato** early last Saturday morning. The fire department arrived at around 2:15 am to find the blaze well underway. It was brought under control by 5:30 am. The occupants of the house escaped without injury. Our thoughts are with them. On Monday Bonaire police announced that they had detained two men in connection with the fire. They did not provide more details.

Continued on page 4.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)

► In response to soaring fuel prices, last week **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines increased its fuel surcharge by 5 Euro (more or less NAf11) to 62 Euro per stretch** on all intercontinental flights. This increase will therefore also be applicable on tickets issued in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

The increase, imposed on tickets issued as of August 10, 2006, will be withdrawn as soon as the barrel price drops below \$70 for more than 30 consecutive days. For more information contact KLM's Hugo Baas, tel. 0031-20- 649-4545



► **The new Curaçao airline, Insel Air, received its flight permit last Friday. Flights will start on August 15.** It will operate with a 19-passenger prop plane between the ABC islands and other "close" destinations. The permit for the MD-80/82 jet that the company wants to use for medium-range routes remains in the future. The airline is led by former Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA) executive, Edward Heerenveen. DCA used to fly MD-80s to Port-au-Prince, Caracas, the Dominican Republic, Port of Spain and Miami.

► The Venezuelan charter airline, **Transaven, opened an office in Bonaire.** The contact person is Melushkalin Thomas at bonaire@transaven.com. Transaven flies three times a week between Caracas and Valencia to Bonaire.

Caracas/Valencia/Bonaire: Tuesday, Friday at 18:30. Sunday direct flight to Bonaire at 13:00.

Bonaire/Valencia/Caracas: Monday, Wednesday at 06:30. Friday direct flight to Caracas at 14:30.

► Curaçao's Head of Economic Affairs, Ramon Chong, is **advocating the island use the US dollar as its currency after the Netherlands Antilles are broken up.** He said, "First, dollarization improves the investment climate, which would lead to more foreign capital, lower interest and inflation, and

more investments. It leads to a better development of the economy and higher economic growth. As currency, the guilder has worked properly since 1971, but it has no extra growth or has not produced progress."



► Around noon on Monday police were called to Jose Reina's kunuku on the Seru Grandi road to investigate the **killing of seven goats and maiming of two more by at least two marauding dogs.** The owner(s) of the dogs are unknown. Farmer Reina said his losses amounted to NAf1.490.

► Last Wednesday, the **Curaçao Executive Council approved Otrobanda** (near the present St. Elisabeth Hospital) **as the location for a new hospital,** announced Public Health Commissioner, Gimena van der Gen. They also agreed that St. Elisabeth Hospital (SEHOS) will operate the new hospital. In an unrelated development Aruba's Minister of Immigration, Public Health and the Environment, Candelario "Booshi" Wever, said **the building of a new hospital in Aruba is a 90% fact.**

► Get ready for the **15th edition of Bonaire's Local Fishing Tournament.** It's one of the great island events that celebrates Bonaire's traditions. You have to fish from a Bonaire registered boat, but all nationalities can enter. Families especially are encouraged. The tournament will take place on Sunday, September 3rd with prizes awarded on the feast day of the patron saint of fishermen, The Virgin of the Valley, on Friday, September 8th.



Last year at the weighing scales



► **Janie Coffie (center) - Divi Flamingo's Gold Medal Bartender winner in Miami in June at the CHA's (Caribbean Hotel Association) Caribbean-wide Bartender Competition** - related the story of her experience and words of advice to the team of bartenders and waiters at Divi Flamingo. She received two framed photos and a beautiful scrap book from Maarten van Wijk and the Divi Corporate Office in North Carolina, US. The gifts were presented to Janie by her mentor, Ibi Thomas (right), a 25-year plus veteran and Bar Manager at Divi Flamingo. Needless to say the staff and management are all very proud of their Janie! Carroll Ann Soliano at left.

► Sjoerd Vanderbrug reports that he and his friends "have started up a new **Bonaire Weblog** - a beautiful instrument for communicating all your ideas, comments, just a nice story, or one of your frustrations! It is not the authors' intention to use this Blog for negative input. However, you may be critical;

you may post one of your 'eye openers', as long as it is in the interest of our community and Island. Send an e-mail to: blog@bonairebonaire.com for any idea about category or a special subject."

Continued on page 5.



► We've received confirmed reports of a **parrot's nest inside an elephant**. According to Sam Williams and Rowan Martin, the scientists currently studying the Bonaire parrot, the Lora, remains of a nest were discovered in the termite chewed interior of a wooden carved elephant that was in the vacant home of a prominent Bonairean businessman. □ G./L. D.

LETTERS

To the Editors:

This is an open letter to all the common folk and the governing bodies of Bonaire

Before the topic of unsightly billboards gets swept into the la-la land of bureaucratic quagmire and stuffed into a corner of schedules and agendas, please, may we offer this proposal?

(Item 1)

Let us, as a whole, concede that we have made a misjudgment relating to acceptable advertising placards (billboards) currently disfiguring the landscape.

No political finger pointing, no opposition, "told you so".

No governmental shrug "I'll get back to you on that - I certainly oppose"

No "We'll check with the office that grants the permits for signs"

No wishy-washy "Don't know who fell asleep at the switch"

(Item 2)

Let's quit giving this lip service and get on a productive road to resolving the mess.

A) I will volunteer to coordinate, facilitate and sponsor removal of all free-standing billboards with dimensions exceeding 1 square meter on the entire island of Bonaire.

B) The ground upon which the billboard structure was erected shall be rehabilitated to pristine conditions (leaving no footings or other unnatural conditions at the site).

C) Any salvageable materials available following demolition of the billboards will be delivered (free of charge) to any charitable group that may have use for the material.

D) A specific time schedule will be developed and submitted to *The Reporter* and *èxtra* periodicals identifying the sites to be cleaned and the dates on which it will be done.

E) The effort will be conducted at no cost to the Government offices or the constituents of same.

(Item 3)

A) The Government must approve the



program (shouldn't be a big effort).

B) The companies that have paid to post these obnoxious totems are to agree to have same removed.

C) Specific regulations with moratorium of future freestanding signage will be incorporated into code policy.

I really think the program is straight forward.

Please, let's not trifle with who didn't do what, what should have been done, or who was on the watch, let's just fix it and move on.

Here's a program with benefits to the charitable groups that can use the materials, no cost to the government, no cost to the taxpayers.

Let's take care of this problem now, while the opportunity still exists.

You'll note that we have not addressed the problem of private persons that have given their perimeter walls over to the likes of DIGICEL and in so doing have cheapened their neighborhood and the general appeal of the island.

To those shameless few, we can offer a bucket of paint and assistance (if needed) to paint out the graffiti currently adorning their walls.

In a final note, addressing the letter you received from a local sign shop owner, a question: Given the opportunity of choice, would he prefer gazing out his breakfast window at a flowering landscape or an obtrusive sign promoting the latest foot powder on the market?

Even our Governor can't appreciate the environment the billboards are creating Now is the time.

Let's fix the problem... now.

Brian M^cCarley

The Snack Bar Detectives

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



This week: El Fogon Latino
Kaya Nikiboko Zuid



As another week slips by unnoticed, my attention turns to our ongoing mission. A little place on Kaya Nikiboko Zuid opened its doors about a year ago. As the months have passed, it has gathered something of a reputation for great food, good prices and convivial surroundings.

After visiting a few of our favourite watering holes we made a move. It was 8.30pm when we arrived and the place was packed inside and out, always a good sign! As there were no available tables we sidled up to the bar. As it happened, this was a bonus as we had the chance to meet the staff. Our hostess for the evening was Ry-anne, a local girl who was seven hours into her shift on her first day at El Fogon! Despite this, she chatted, smiled and entertained us throughout the evening, a credit to her new employers.

Although there were many people to serve, our meal arrived quickly enough. Fresh Red Snapper, caught that morning, was the first dish. I decided on the whole roast chicken. All served with fries, salad and a selection of condiments. It was a clear case of eyes being bigger than stomach, and, with the size of my stomach, that really is saying something! After drinking for three hours previously, I thought that I could probably eat a horse; however, the whole chicken (which came ready portioned) was too much for me. My dog, however, became the benefi-



Juan of El Fogon

ary of what was left.

Strangely enough, despite being full to the brim, I still managed to force down some more Polars, for research purposes of course! As El Fogon started to empty a little, we sat and chatted with Ry-anne who did her best to make the evening even better. We elected to leave so that the hard working staff could get home to their families.

Another location, another success. Surely our luck has to run out soon!

Maybe next week we won't be so lucky. Somehow, I doubt it. □ *Photos & story by SBD*

Trade Mission to the Netherlands

Kralendijk AKIB, Bonaire's association of commerce and industry, is organizing a trade mission to the Netherlands in September to stimulate economic activities between Bonaire and the rest of the world.

The trade mission is not only for the trade and industry, but also for interest groups, foundations, organizations that do voluntary work and other companies. This trade mission offers room for a broader look in the future and so we do not have to start all over again.

The trade mission takes place in The Hague from September 18th till 22nd. The program is as follows: several visits to Dutch enterprises; some business-to-business encounters; three business evenings and match makings. Other countries, including Aruba, Surinam, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Colombia, will also participate.

The trade mission is an initiative of Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, the Dutch ex-Minister of Economic Affairs. VNO-NCW, the biggest enterprise organization in the Netherlands and KvK Rotterdam and The Hague support the trade mission in the Netherlands. The Agency for International Business and Cooperation (EVD) is part of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. Its mission is to promote and encourage international business and international cooperation. As a State agency and a partner to businesses and public-sector organizations, the EVD aims to help them achieve success in their international operations. A growing network of organizations, government

stitutions and companies has come to rely on the EVD for information about foreign markets, governments and trade and industry. With its wide-ranging knowledge, the EVD is able to develop products and services that meet the needs of its customers and clients. It obtains its information from its network of Dutch and international organizations, which include international financing organizations, the European Commission, embassies, Chambers of Commerce, local business support offices, trade representative associations and, needless to say, trade and industry.

Companies that want to participate have to fill out a questionnaire indicating the sector in which they are active and which companies they want to get in contact with in the Netherlands. They have till August 18th to apply. With the application, they need to include a description of the organization and the reason why they want to take part. They will be asked to confirm their participation. AKIB coordinates the trade mission. Participation fee is approximately NAf2.800 per person, including hotel, ticket BON-AMS-BON and breakfast (for BONHATA members). To register contact us at: 786-2953 and 560-2578 or e-mail akibbonaire@gmail.com. □



Sidney Manuel,
President of AKIB

Picture Yourself with The Reporter

Beruit, Lebanon

Here are Bonaire residents Marion and Yaser Ghazzouli (De Kapper hair salon) with *The Bonaire Reporter* in Beyrut, (Beruit), Lebanon, in more peaceful times. They are at the Riyad Al Solh Square, previously named Al Sour (wall) Square as it constituted the entrance to old Beirut. The statue of the first president of the council of ministers, Riyad Al Solh, is in the square. □



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.) □



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

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

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|---|---|--|
| <p>Car Rental Agencies:
At the Airport</p> <p>Airlines:
Aboard Divi Divi Air</p> <p>Banks:
MCB (Playa & Hato branches),
RBTT</p> <p>Restaurants:
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Cactus Blue
Capriccio
City Café
Crocantino
Lost Penguin
Lover's Ice Cream
Pasa Bon Pizza</p> <p>Dive Shops:
Yellow Submarine
WannaDive
Carib Inn</p> <p>Shops:
Benetton
Best Buddies & Pearls
Bonaire Gift Shop
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City Shop
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INPO</p> | <p>Larry's Bakery
Last Bite Bakery
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Caribbean Court
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Harbourtown
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08/11/06

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The ABC Project (Action in Behalf of Coral)

Creating Awareness of Coral's Uniqueness

Sometime in 2004, it registered to me (*Bonaire's veteran underwater naturalist, Dee Scarr*) that many divers don't understand how coral grows and why coral is so endangered by a diver's contact. The more I looked into it, the more I realized I had stumbled across a gaping hole in the education of scuba divers.

The problem contact I'm addressing isn't the out-of-control-diver-crashing-into-coral because those divers KNOW they're having difficulty and work to correct it. The problem is the light contacts, often made by experienced divers with good buoyancy control. These are the contacts that drive caring dive masters crazy, because it sure looks as if the person doesn't care at all about the coral.

Maybe the diver rests on a living coral head while taking a few photos, then adds air to move away. The coral looks pretty much the same before and after the encounter, and the diver hasn't the education to understand that many of the individual coral animals that he or she has rested upon have, as a result, been sliced to death against their own

skeleton. I believe that once divers understand what their contact does to coral they will be much more careful around coral.

I checked through scuba texts, and there was little information about coral and no illustrations. Coral-related information could be added to dive orientations, but people just aren't interested in learning biology before the first dive on their vacation.

Also, coral doesn't grow like anything else on the planet, so it can't be explained with short, easy comparisons.

To help divers learn about coral, I've created Action in Behalf of Coral, the ABC Project. So far, the ABC Project has three elements to help educate divers:

1. The first will be the creation of a sticker around 6 inches square. On top of the sticker will be a cross-section of coral polyps showing the relationship between the sharp coral skeleton and the fragile coral tissue that secretes it and rests upon it. The ABC Project was incredibly fortunate to find professional biological illustrator, Gary Carlson, (www.gcarlson.com) who has offered to create our artwork free of charge; he's working on it now. The text is ready.

Ramon de Leon, Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park, is looking



Individual coral animals are called polyps. The above illustration shows how the fragile tissue of each polyp rests upon the sharp skeleton it secretes. The polyp on the left is extended, feeding. The center coral polyp is withdrawn. The polyp on the right shows the damage a diver would cause by brushing against it.

A coral head is a colony of thousands of interconnected polyps which are clones of each other. A coral head the size of a hawksbill turtle began as a single polyp, a century before humans began using dive gear. It takes millions of coral polyps and hundreds of years to build a reef.

Let's respect coral so our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy living reefs too!

forward to using the stickers on dive boats, around dive lockers and in other places where divers have time to read them. The Marine Sanctuary program in the US also expressed interest in the sticker when I communicated with them.

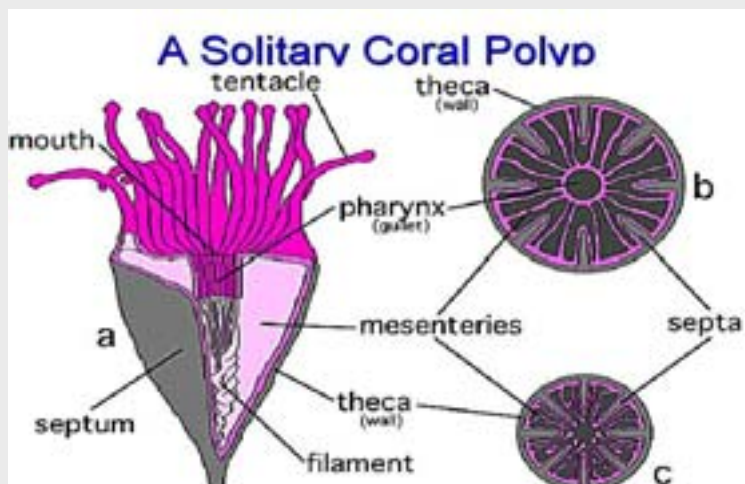
2. The second is helping divers to learn about coral in a gentle drizzle of information, rather than the drop or two presented by the sticker(s), or the flood of information that would be presented in a full-length article. Element Two, which we call "Coral Glimpses,"

(Continued on page 9)

consists of presenting little pieces of information as often as possible, about coral and diving around coral. Examples are:

coral glimpses

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



We use the word “coral” for three things: the individual coral animal, called the *polyp*; the polyps and the skeleton they’ve secreted, also called a *coral head*, and the skeleton without its living polyps, also called *coral rock*. The first two of these are alive, the last is not alive, which leaves a great deal of room for confusion. □



Any diver who is doing anything more than sightseeing – including taking photos or video, doing fish surveys, taking scientific measurements, training or supervising training, etc. – is more likely to injure living coral than that diver would be without the activity because their attention is split. We must remember to be extra protective of coral when we’re extra busy. □

The Bonaire Reporter publishes one Coral Glimpse in every issue. I’ve approached *Undercurrent* about using them (no decision yet). SSI’s quarterly instructor publication has agreed to include some. I’ve not yet approached other publications.

3. The third element of the ABC Project relates to diver training. We must persuade certifying agencies to include information about coral and divers in their introductory courses. We must see that the information included is accurate and clearly stated. And we must convince the agencies to initiate Divers and Coral specialty courses. □ Dee Scarr

Dee Scarr conducts “Touch the Sea” dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529.



Fund Raising for the ABC Project

One of the ironies of scuba diving is that damage is being done to coral by divers. These divers are not hurting coral deliberately. The problem is they don’t know they’re hurting the coral at all. I created the Action in Behalf of Coral (ABC) Project in 2005 to help protect coral reefs by educating scuba divers.

My original dream was to create a decal showing the relationship between fragile coral tissue and the sharp skeleton it secretes and rests upon. The decal can be posted on dive vessels, dive lockers and in other areas where divers will have time to read it.

The decal dream is becoming reality thanks to the incredible artwork of Gary Carlson (www.gcarlson.com). We have the art; we have the text; we have the Bonaire National Marine Park ready to implement the project.

All we need is (you knew this was coming) \$2,000, which will buy 1,500 decals plus the set up etc. charges. There are two ways to raise the funds we need: support from a single sponsor or from several sponsors. A single sponsor is of course the simplest solution. If you’d like to provide \$2,000 to sponsor the stickers or know a person or group who would like to, please let me know! With single sponsorship you get that warm fuzzy feeling of having done a good deed, plus 50 stickers, plus a David Batalsky cheesecake. Other possibilities for sponsorship include:

An educational and entertaining alternative: Buy a set of all three of my books (*Touch the Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral’s Reef*) in support of the ABC Project. The total cost is \$47.50, of which \$42 will go toward the stickers and \$5.50 for shipping. Even if you already have the books, wouldn’t you like a signed set to display, or loan out or give to the local library? Every set of books and every cheesecake will include 5 stickers from this initial printing. You can be the first in your neighborhood, dive club, school, or business to display an Action in Behalf of Coral decal.

A tasty alternative for sponsorship is: David Batalsky cheesecakes. Some of you heard about my husband David’s cheesecakes, and some of you participated in his Cheesecakes for Katrina Relief; David’s energy and his baking and your support earned more than \$1,700 for Salvation Army efforts. David offered to bake up to 20 of his scrumptious cheesecakes. The minimum bid for cheesecakes is \$100, all of which goes to Action in Behalf of Coral’s decal project. Cheesecakes will be FedEx’d with dry ice and will arrive by the middle of November in plenty of time for the holidays. (Since it costs about \$50 to ship a cheesecake, every bid will cost \$50 over the bid amount or will need a FedEx number from the bidder.) If more than 20 bids arrive for cheesecakes, the 20 highest bidders will be chosen; if there are still more than 20 bidders, selection will be by earliest arrival date of the bids.

If you’ve got any ideas for the ABC Project in general, or any ideas for funding the ABC Project decals, or if you have a bid or order, I’m looking forward to hearing from you! Please e-mail me at dee@touchthesea.com, or phone me (in Colorado) at 303-816-1727.

It would really help if all orders and bids arrived on or before Wednesday, the 23rd of August. That way we’ll be able to distribute the decals in plenty of time for the holiday season. □



Sponges coexist with coral

Dee Scarr

Windsurf Report

2006 Samsung European Freestyle Jam -Belgium



Ruben flying a Flaka in rough seas

Reported by Ruben Petrisie

After the European freestyle event in Turkey, I talked with some of my sponsors and we decided that I should stay for awhile to practice my freestyle level and focus on my top 10 position on the European Tour. The good thing was I got time to really train and arrange some new deals for 2007. The sad thing was I knew all my friends from Bonaire would be at the World Cup in Fuerte. But anyway, I had a wonderful stay at the Alacati Surf Paradise Windsurf Club. Warm sunny and windy for 95% of the time I was there.

On the 30th of August I arrived in Brussels three days before the event after a three-hour flight from Izmir, Turkey, to Brussels, Belgium. I stayed with the event organizer and *Wind and Surf magazine* manager, Sven Fransen. I had some time to practice and get used to the slightly colder and wavy conditions, knowing that some of my competitors were coming directly from the windy and flat Fuerteventura.

Day 1

A big tropical depression brought grey skies and really windy conditions here on the North Sea: Cloudy with 80% coverage; Temperature, 22° C; Water temperature, around 18° C; Wind, 32-38 knots; Waves, 1-2 meters.

The early heats began with some amazing freestyle wave combinations. I started after getting a free round and

automatically qualifying to the next round to face a Slovenian freestyler who surprisingly kicked me out.

The day continued with heavy action from the other riders. Again we had some newcomers from Belgium who really did their best and even got through some heats here at their local spot.

Results after the 1st single elimination:

1. Norman Günzlein G-186 (JP/NP)
2. Andre Paskowski G-2 (F2/North Sails)
3. Andreas Olanderson SWE-66 (JP/NP)
4. Matteo Guazzoni IT-711 (RRD/Simmer Style)
5. Remko De Weerd H-23 (Fanatic/Gaastra)
9. **Ruben Petrisie NB-50 (Exocet/Loft)**

Day 2

The tropical depression continued. There were blowing, crazy, gusty winds at night. The second day the wind shifted and was even stronger than the day before. Wind was from 35-45 knots straight onshore with waves from 2-3 meters high which makes it almost impossible for the sailors to go out and compete.

After a discussion between the judges and the riders, Tour Manager Harry Schaffrian decided to put the competition on hold until the wind shifted. We waited until late afternoon, but unfortunately the wind didn't change.

During the afternoon we chilled out at the Twins Club here in Bredene. There was a big autograph session with all the



Ruben performing an Eslide

pro riders. It was cool to see all the kids in a big line waiting for an autograph from their favorite riders.

The weather forecast predicted lighter winds and smaller waves for the next day.

Day 3

At 11 am after the wind shifted more onshore the judges decided to start the second round of the double elimination. I was in the first heat against a French freestyler, Mereaud. The French guy was not such a good technical sailor so I knew I had a better heat. I advanced to the next round where I met Italian freestyle champion Filippo Burati who broke his sail just before the heat started. He returned to the beach to use another sail from his friend. Knowing that he was not used to that sail I knew he was going to struggle with some moves.

I played the game safe and advanced to the next round, facing another Italian freestyler, Federico La Croce. It was a close call but I managed to have more switch-stance combinations and advanced to the next round facing Italy's most experienced freestyler, Andrea Rosatti. He had a massive back loop and a lucky day. I unfortunately didn't have enough moves and lost my heat. Rosatti moved on to the semi quarter finals, leaving me in 6th position.

Andreas Olanderson from Sweden fought his way up and made it to the finals where he met with German trickster, Norman Günzlein. It was a heat full of heavy action and again Günzlein showed the European riders that he is the strongest freestyler.

The final results of the 2nd double elimination:

1. Norman Günzlein (JP/NP)
2. Andreas Olanderson (JP/NP)

3. Andre Paskowski (F2/North Sails)
4. Andrea Rosati (RRD / NP)
5. Matteo Guazzoni (RRD / Simmer)
6. **Ruben Petrisie (Exocet / The Loft)**
7. Fede La Croce (Naish / Naish)
7. Remko de Weerd (Fanatic / Gaastra)

Day 4

The wind was not that strong to begin the 3rd single elimination. We were on hold until the afternoon.

I had an interview with TMF, Belgium's biggest commercial music broadcasting channel, well known in the Benelux area (Germany, Belgium and Holland). Afterwards we had a nice dinner at the Twins Club Bredene, followed by the closing ceremony party presented by Land Rover, Quiksilver, Samsung mobile, and *Swell* magazine.

Now I have a one-week break before my next destination, one of the biggest events of the European Freestyle Tour: Switzerland, St. Moritz, Lake Sylaplana.

I send greetings from Holland to my happy family and friends in Bonaire.

Thumbs up for the boys who put the show down at Fuerte'. □ Ruben Petrisie



Bonaire Scores in Flying Dutchman Class



Rob Taal hiking out

Bonaire youngsters aren't the only ones who are making news on the water. Rob and Sonja Taal of Lagoen Hill traveled to the Netherlands and Austria to compete in the Flying Dutchman Class Open Dutch Championship and the Open European Championship. The crew was Henry Koning, from Hoorn, The Netherlands.

In early July they competed in the open

Dutch Championship, finishing 2nd after nine races. Two weeks in the Open European Regatta they scored another 2nd over 25 participants from all over the world.

This achievement shows that sailing skill, consistency and experience can sometimes beat youth and strength. □

Story & photos provided by R. Taal



Receiving the prize for 2nd place

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)

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

Complete solution on page 14.

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.

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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

Bonaire Images

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

LUNCH TO GO

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

JELLASTONE PETPARK

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

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

New MCtronics MB-830 1GB MP3 Player, USB 2.0, runs on AAA batteries, supports MP3 files, voice recording, ID3 tag for song/artist identification, 6-band equalizer, including earphone. Price is NAf120.00. If interested, please call 525-8766.

Moped, Peugeot Fox de Luxe, 50cc. Naf 1650. -Tel. 786-0816.

Plantronics PC Speaker headset switch. New & Unused. Allows you to use headphones or speakers without having to unplug each time.

NAf26 Call 717-8819 8 am to 5pm

For sale: Dinghy, AB Marine RIB Ventus 9VL, Hypalon (UV-resistant !) 2.90 meter, 48 kg. As new, Used once only, April 2006, Price: USD \$2,300. contact42@gmail.com

Epson Printer Cartridges for Epson Stylus printers, Model numbers: C64 / C66 / C84 / C86 / CX

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
8-18	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
8-21	8:08	0.8FT.	23:09	2.0FT.					69
8-22	8:36	0.9FT.	23:50	1.9FT.					74
8-23	0:19	1.8FT.	9:05	0.9FT.					78
8-24	0:53	1.7FT.	9:26	1.0FT.					79
8-25	1:24	1.5FT.	9:32	1.1FT.	16:09	1.3FT.	17:09	1.3FT.	78

4600 / CX 6400 / CX 6600. Color 3-pack has never been opened. The black cartridge was opened, never used, and tightly re-sealed. NAf50 for everything. You can have the Epson printer if you would like to use it for spare parts, or as a small boat anchor. Please call after 18:00 (6 pm): 717-6537

Digital Camera for Sale: Olympus C-5050Z, 5 megapixel digital camera for \$150. Call 717-7814 (afternoon) or e-mail ellen@flamingotv.net.

Cars For Sale



BMW 520i – 4-door sedan, 1991, white, excellent condition. NAf8,000- Call 785-9041

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

Wanted

Washington Park needs a donation of two first stages from old regulators (or new) with a BCD inflator hose only. This is in order to be able to assist the people with flat tires inside the park. Contact Fernando Si-

mal, Park Manager, at 717-8444 or 788-9015 -email: washington-park@stinapa.org

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

Vacation Rental

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

BONAIRE The REPORTER

LOOKING FOR A PARTNER

We're looking for a partner to help grow *The Bonaire Reporter*. If interested call:

011 599 717-8988

or email:

partner@bonairereporter.com.

sign up now Tour Guide Course



Tour Guide Class Fall 2002

Do you: Love Bonaire? Want to share it with others?
Want to learn more about your island home? Have free
time and want to earn some extra cash?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, then you should
attend the **Bonaire "In-depth" Guiding Skills Course.**

To prepare for the coming cruise and
tourist high season, Achie Tours
and Transport NV is again offering its
well-known tour guide course, coordi-

nated by Sue Felix. The classes cover
many topics about Bonaire, such as his-
tory, government, education, health, so-
cial customs, nature, real estate, industry,

STCB Turtle Tracking Update



Last month the female hawksbill turtle, 'Heit,' was tagged with a tracking transceiver. She's spent her time since then in the local waters, perhaps even laying more eggs. This is the first report of her progress since she left the immediate area.

"It looks like 'Heit' finally is on the move. For four days she has been moving in a south easterly direction. The signals are not very strong, but we feel confident that the tracks are correct.

She is now close to Islas Los Roques. She's swimming relatively slowly. She is now approximately 160 km from Klein Bonaire. We'll keep you posted. □ Tony Kool

STINAPA, diving and other activities. Guiding skills will be taught and practiced. In addition to the night classes, there will be several daytime tours.

Although the course was originally designed to train tour guides, the course has been popular with dive shop employees, hotel personnel and the general public. Although everyone is welcome to take the course, preference will be given to those who desire to qualify to work as guides.

The classes will begin on Thursday evening, 24 August and continue until the

beginning of November. They will be held on Monday and Thursdays from 7 to 9:30 pm.

For more information or to register, please contact:

Achie Tours and Transport NV,
Kaya Nord Nikiboko #33
Phone: 717-8630; Fax: 717-8630
email: sfelix@bonairelive.com.

□ Sue Felix.

Pet of the Week

“Tuxedo” cats such as “Donald” are always very popular and some of their black and white fur configurations can be quite unique. In Donald’s case he has this interesting white triangle on his head which rather mimics the shape of his ears. And check out his snow white front paws. What a handsome fellow. He and his sister Dorothy (the grey tabby cat shown snoozing in a bag in the July 28 edition of Pet of the Week) were brought into the Shelter after they’d been found abandoned near the Harbour Village tennis courts. Both cats are delightful and social. They’re about seven months old and in great health. You may see them and all the other cats and dogs up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.



“Donald”

If you ever think that maybe sterilization of cats isn’t that important here are some figures that may astound you. **One unsterilized female cat and her unsterilized offspring can produce 400,000 kittens in seven years.** The question is: where do you find people to adopt all these kittens? □L.D.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

Click

(Adam Sandler)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

The Fast and The Furious: Tokyo Drift

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, August 17—Admirals Hour happy hour at Vespucci's, Harbour Village Marina, organized by yachtsmen/women 5 to 7. Everyone welcome, cruisers and non-cruisers alike. Support for Maria Hoppner home for boys 4 to 15. Bring donations (clothes, towels, shorts, socks, pens) to happy hour.

Tuesday, August 22 – Artists who submitted their work to Kas di Arte may collect their pieces at Kas di Arte, 6-9 pm – see page 18

Thursday, August 24 - Tour Guide course starts, 7-9:30 pm – see page 13

COMING

Saturday, August 26—End of the month Flea Market at Parke Publico— 3 to 8 pm – General info call Vicky 786-1592. Booth info call Elisabeth 717-6907/565-5225

Sundays August 27, September 3—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.

Sunday, September 3— Bonaire Fishing Tournament – see page 4

Wednesday, September 6 - Bonaire Day in the bario of Amboina

Saturday, September 16 -Quarterly underwater cleanup. All welcome-divers and non-divers alike. Meet at Yellow Submarine at 1 pm.

Sunday, October 8 - Klein Bonaire Swim Fundraiser – sponsored by Jong Bonaire. See page 3.s

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 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.
- Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Great wines - NAf2,50 a glass.

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
- 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 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 .
- 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.na

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, 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
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

SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BAKERIES The Last Bite Bakery—Now in town next to Xerox. Fresh baked specials every day. Make it a regular stop.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BEAUTY PARLOR Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.</p> <p>FITNESS Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>PHOTO FINISHING Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . Full digital services.</p> <p>REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management. 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.</p>	<p>REPAIRS Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345</p> <p>RESORTS & ACTIVITIES Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.</p> <p>RETAIL Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children. Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.</p> <p>SECURITY Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.</p> <p>SHIPPING Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. FedEx agent.</p> <p>WATER TAXI Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the <i>Kantika di Amor</i> or <i>Skiffy</i>. Hotel pickup.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN: Put your ad in The Bonaire Reporter. Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518</p> <p>Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for weekly advertisers?</p>
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Born On Bonaire

Gaby Mercera

“My father was Antonio Mercera, a chef at Hotel Bonaire. He didn’t talk much. He was a famous billiard player and he set up the competitions on Bonaire. My mother is Antonia Mercera-Ignacio. She and my dad had seven children: six boys and one girl. Ten years ago between December 20th and 28th, both my second and third brothers died. One was already sick, but the other one went to sleep and never woke up. It was a double funeral and since that day we’ve never had a real Christmas. Exactly one year later my father passed away, but my mother is still alive.

My parents were very strict. I am the eldest so they had to figure it out, starting with me. We grew up with father, mother, grandmother and another relative in the house, and all those eyes were watching us! You had to wear a tie, you had to have a neat haircut and you had to strive for respect and discipline. I went to St. Dominicus School. After that I was supposed to go to MULO high school, but all my friends were going to LTS, Lower Technical School, so I didn’t do my best on purpose to make sure my grades were low so I could go there too. I started studying metal working. In 1972 I tried to go to Aruba for the fourth year of LTS to study car mechanics, not because I was so interested in cars but because some friends of mine had formed a band on Aruba. However, before I could leave I had to start working at the telephone exchange service to financially support my parents as my siblings were still growing up. I stayed there for four years and when I was 21 years old I was transferred to the fire brigade. In 2000 I was transferred to SKAL (foundation for culture and literature) and I hope from here I’ll go home or to the cemetery.”

Gaby Mercera (51) is a great musician and a good-natured man with a beautiful smile and attitude. “I remember from the time I was very little, the time of the bolero, the cha-cha-cha and the mambo, I was always listening to Cuban music. When I was eight I started playing the drums with the friars. On Queen’s Day I performed for the first time in public. I had this black drum, made out of bronze and catgut and goatskin and the sticks were very thick, but I played well; I was the best in the group. At the time we’d never seen a drum set on the island, but with instruments made by Friar Desiderius himself, like an electric guitar, we started with a band called ‘The Diamonds.’ From then on I went on playing different styles - The Beatles, Carlos Santana and soul music like Isaac Hayes - and I started listening to jazz and Afro-Cuban music. I played in combos and for 17 years I played folkloristic music in

‘Tipico Bonairiano.’

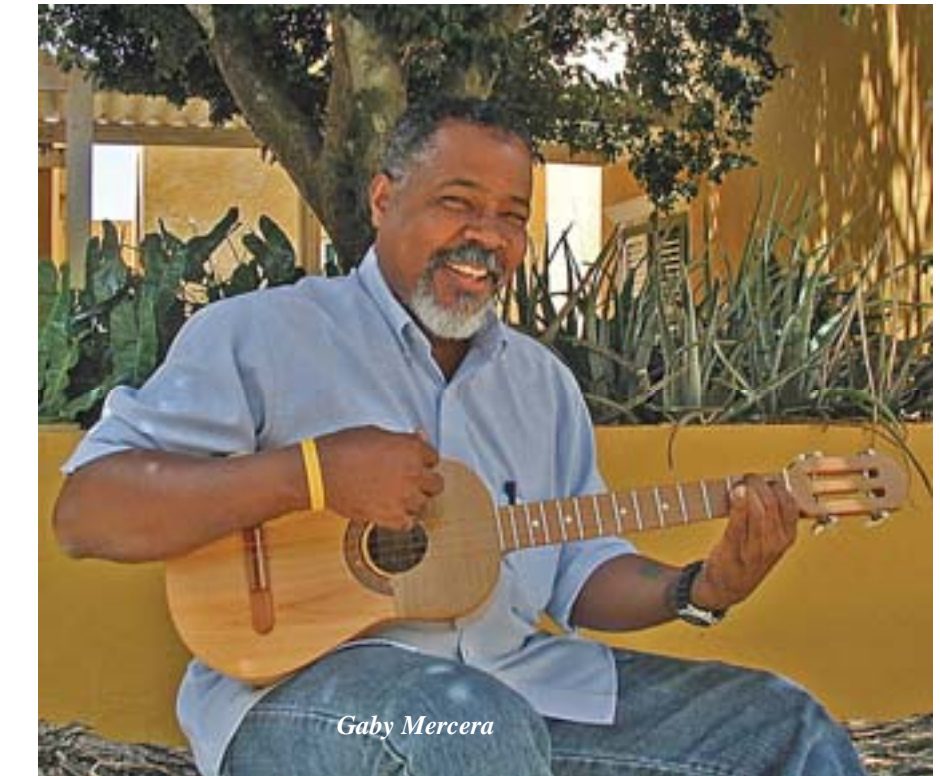
In 1991 I applied for a grant from a foundation called OKSNA, and I took a three-month drum course in New York. I could play before I went there, but in New York I got knowledge of what I was doing. I learned about all different styles of music and where they came from, and I became very motivated. There are so many aspects of music that you have to learn. To play the drums is like driving a car I always say. You need coordination between two hands and two feet, you’ve got to be able to listen well, you have to pay attention and you have to be aware of what you’re doing.

One of my greatest experiences was with ‘Tipico Bonairiano.’ We traveled a lot and I learned a lot. We were Hotel Bonaire’s house band until the very end of what was then Sunset Beach Hotel. However, I wanted more: I wanted to really play the drums. Together with some other people we left ‘Tipico Bonairiano’ and set up a band called ‘Ayayay’ – sort of a funny name when you think about it – but it went well. It didn’t last long though because it caused some trouble with ‘Tipico Bonairiano.’ I didn’t want that, so we quit and went back with ‘Tipico Bonairiano.’

“The strange thing I found out about children of today is that when you give them an instrument they immediately say, ‘I can’t!’ But if you give them a telephone they can do everything with it.”

In 1995 I fired myself, left the group and we started a band called ‘Dikazz.’ That was the beginning of the Jazz Club on Bonaire at Kontiki. It lasted three years. In the beginning it was good and lots of fun and I am happy that we were the ones who introduced jazz on the island because it wasn’t so well known. But in the end, things didn’t work out the way we planned. I left and the whole thing crumpled up.

Now I’m a freelance musician, but from that time on I’ve learned to look differently at our own folkloristic music. I played it for 17 years, but I never felt it in my heart. When I started with the jazz I began to appreciate our music and it became something that belonged to me. Our music you find only on Bonaire, but it has some similarities to other cultures. For instance, our Simadan resembles



Gaby Mercera

somewhat the Calypso from Trinidad, and in the Baijon music from Brazil you also hear similarities. In Venezuela they have various rhythms that are a lot like ours. But overall I find that our music is one of a kind. Everywhere we performed in the world it always made a big impact. During a festival in Holland in 1988 where 17 countries participated, three groups got a standing ovation from the public: South Korea, Russia and Bonaire (with ‘Tipico Bonairiano’ and the dance group ‘Kibrahacha’).

When I’m not working I spend my time making instruments. I also perform frequently with the *Freewinds* Band. I never played for such a large audience as we did in May this year during the St. Lucia Jazz Festival.

My transfer from the fire brigade to SKAL was to enable me to guide the elementary school teachers with music lessons. I teach music at the Watapana School and at Collegio Reina Beatrix, and finally after six years the Catholic school board is also interested. I teach the children, but in reality I’m learning every day. I take three children at a time and sit with them under a tree, outside in the fresh air. You feel it and they feel it too! And if I don’t show up they ask me, ‘Why didn’t you come; where were you?’ Also because of the children I started playing melody instruments like the kuarta - not so difficult, but I’d never done it before.

The strange thing I found out about children of today is that when you give them an instrument they immediately say, ‘I can’t!’ But if you give them a telephone they can do everything with it. Maybe it’s a lack of stimulus, but my first priority is to change this attitude. It’s a pity because children nowadays have all the opportunities. When I was little I

wanted so much to touch a drum, but I wasn’t allowed to. I also think it’s a Bonairean problem because in the nearby countries the children are interested in playing an instrument. Maybe, to start with, music lessons should be compulsory at school. I have one son, Christopher Maldonado, who’s 17, and he grew up with music. Everything I listened to, he listened to, and I tried to explain where it originated from and how it developed. I think this is something parents should do. Christopher just went to Aruba to study electrical engineering and from there he wants to do sound engineering. We’ve played several times together, he at the drum set and me percussion, but most of the things he can do he learned himself because he never had real drum lessons. For 26 years I’ve been married to Jeannette Damascus. She’s not Christopher’s mother, but she loves him so much that when he went to Aruba she was more worried about him than Chris’s mom or me.

I’ve traveled a lot in my life, but I will never leave here. When you go someplace else and you see the way people live in the various countries you realize what a good life we have here. There is no poverty on Bonaire. The poverty we have here is a lack of education and upbringing. We still have a lot to learn. I was a child when I started with the friars. Now I’m in their place and I hope that later on someone will come to take my place and will teach the children how to make music. And for myself I know: I’m a musician and I’ll keep on playing as long as I can!” □
Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



Artists Abound

It was a success story just waiting to happen. Kas di Arte issued an invitation to all artists and sculptors working and/or living on Bonaire to submit their art to be judged to go into an exhibit, 'Homage to the Bonairean Artist,' to be held from November 8 to 30. The word got out via newspapers and radio. No posters were put around town.

The response was so overwhelming that the Kas di Arte board was flabbergasted. There was a total of 140 different pieces submitted by about 60 artists. There were paintings, sculpture, stained glass, crafts – so much diversity. One painting, submitted by Frans Booi, was the work of his late mother, Elizabeth Apolinia Booi. The board admitted that because of the high quality of the pieces it was going to be very hard to decide which pieces should be shown in the November exhibit.

The gallery was packed! The public had caught the fever, and between 5 and 9 pm more than 150 people came through the doors to view the art – all ages from grandparents to small children. During the opening the public



Renata van der Byl's Donkeys

was invited to vote for their choice of 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The board reports that there were 116 voters.

Opening the November exhibit will



Yenny Rijna with one of her whimsical chairs



Elisabeth "Elis" Saragoza with her crocheted scorpion

be Queen Beatrix who is expected to be on a royal visit to the island at that time. L.D.

Note to all those artists who submitted work for this exhibit. You may pick up your piece(s) at Kas di Arte Tuesday, August 22, from 6 to 9 pm.



Fish painting by Christel Cosijn



Face sculpture by Josephine Ebing



"Techno Cactus" by Wilna Groenenboom



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

A Predawn Planet Cluster Awaits You Next Week

Next week, just before sunrise, you'll be able to watch **Mercury and Saturn** dramatically change their positions relative to each other from morning to morning.

On Monday morning, August 21st about 30 minutes before sunrise, look just slightly north of east and you will see an exquisite 27-day-old **Moon** which appears as an extremely slender sliver of a crescent, hovering just above brilliant planet #2 out from the **Sun**, 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**. And just below it, planet #6, but not nearly as bright as Venus, 75,000-mile-wide ringed **Saturn**.

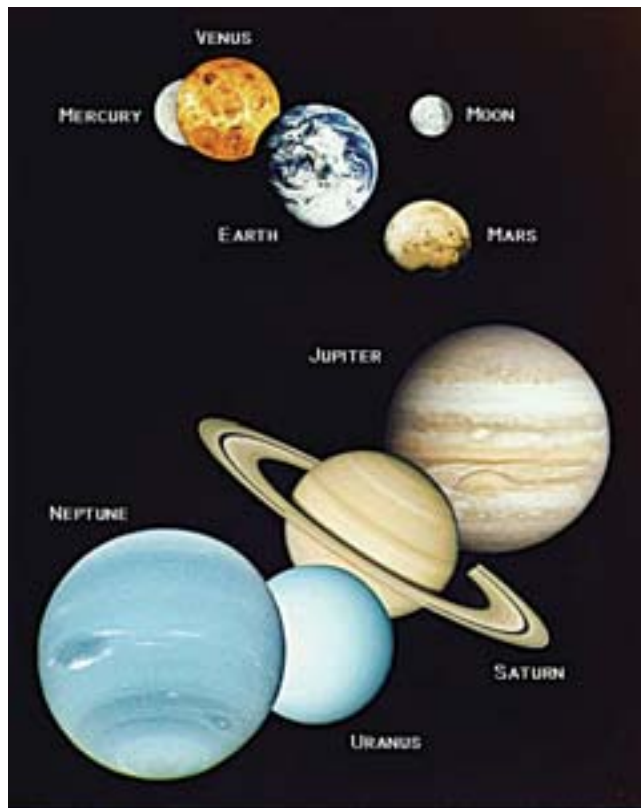
And just below it only one degree away, which is the width of only 2 full Moons, planet #1 from the Sun, 3,000-mile-wide **Mercury**. Now you regular planet watchers know that all the planets change their positions in the sky every single day. But when they're clustered close together these changes look very dramatic.

For instance if you had gone out the previous morning, Sunday, August 20th, you would have seen that Mercury and Saturn's positions were reversed because on Sunday Mercury was 1 degree above Saturn. So in only 24 hours Mercury changed its position relative to Saturn by 2 degrees because on Monday it is 1 degree below Saturn.

But the prettiest day for viewing is on Tuesday, which is a must-see morning, because on the 22nd an extremely, almost thin as you'll ever see it, 28-day-old crescent Moon will be parked just to the left and almost half-way between Mercury and Saturn. And you'll notice that Mercury has moved closer to Saturn, only 5 degrees away, which is 10 full Moon widths. But an even more dramatic change will occur the next morning when Mercury and Saturn will be only 4 degrees apart or 8 full Moon widths away from each other. On Thursday they'll be 3 degrees or 6 full Moons apart and on Friday less than 2 degrees or only 4 full Moons apart. But then ta da! On Saturday and Sunday August 26th and 27th Saturn and Mercury will be at their absolute closest to each other when less than one full Moon would barely fit between them.

Once again Sunday the 20th, Mercury is one degree above Saturn. Monday the 21st, Mercury is one degree below it. Tuesday Mercury is zeroing in on Saturn and forms an exquisite picture with a 28-day-old Moon.

Now because you'll be watching during twilight, which always makes the planets less bright than when it's dark out, I strongly recommend you use a pair of binoculars. You know sometimes it's good to get up with the chickens. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



The planets



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, August 13 to
Saturday, August 19, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. There are ways of making extra cash if you put your mind to it. You may overspend if you travel this week; however, the trip will be one to remember. Your mind is on moneymaking ventures. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Make plans to do something special with the one you love. You can make professional decisions this week that will affect your position. You will do well in social settings, and new and interesting individuals may spark a romantic curiosity. Don't count on your friends to be loyal when it comes to doing things. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You'll find it easy to upgrade your environment by redecorating or changing your residence. Opportunities to meet new lovers will come through pleasure trips or social events. Friends may not be completely honest with you. Hassles with your boss are sure to erupt if you speak your mind. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You may be thinking of starting your own business. Confusion at an emotional level will cause you to make wrong decisions concerning your personal life. Think before you act. Deal with the needs of children and get into groups that deal with self awareness. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) They will not be in the right frame of mind to put up with tactless comments. You will be in the mood for entertainment. Extravagance and overindulgence are not a cure if you're feeling sorry for yourself. You can enjoy social events and meet new potential mates; however, avoid being lavish. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Knowledge can be acquired if you listen. You need some rest. Don't let your anger consume you and don't allow important matters to go unattended to. Your reputation may be at stake if you partake in gossip. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Some time spent with that special someone should be your intent. Don't let your mate force you into making a decision that you aren't ready to make. Don't overspend or give too freely to others. Your lover may not understand your needs so you must figure out a way to communicate them. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't be afraid to confront situations concerning loved ones in order to solve any problems that may exist. Residential moves will also be advantageous for all concerned. Don't offer to pay for others. If you take on too much, you will find your self in martyrdom. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't jump as quickly as you usually do. There will be hidden matters that you may find disturbing. You can't live your life for others. Your mate may not be too sure about your intentions. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You'll be able to break bad habits if you put your mind to it. You need some help this week. Someone you work with could have a personal interest in you. You need to keep the peace and you will have to bend in order to do so. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Travel may be confusing. Think twice before you pursue an unrealistic endeavor. You'll be prone to tears if your mate is harsh with you this week. Lighten up your serious attitude. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Take the time to close deals that have been up in the air. You will find that friends or relatives may not understand your needs. New friendships will develop through group events. Try to be precise in your communications. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □