

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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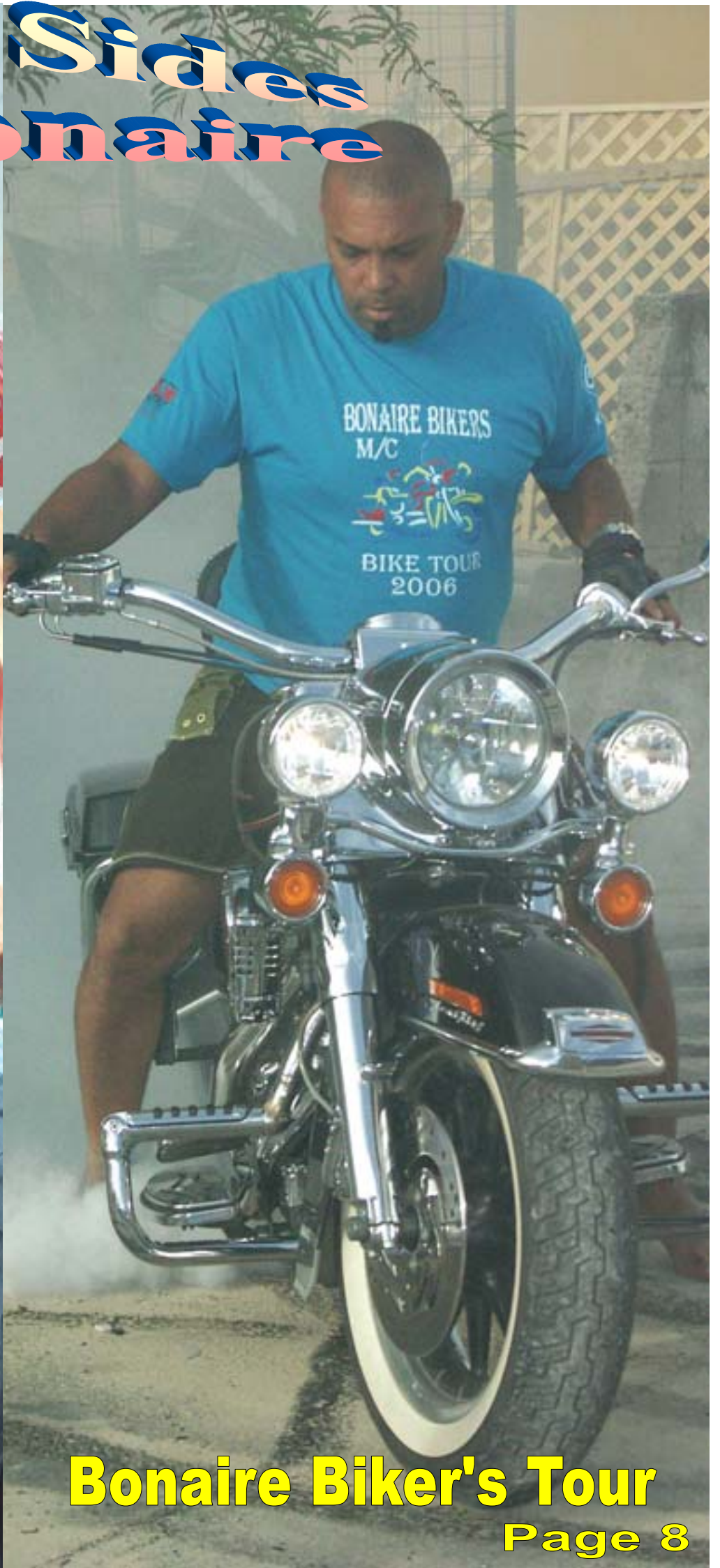
SINCE 1994

Two Sides of Bonaire



Local Fishing Tournament

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Bonaire Biker's Tour

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Flotsam and Jetsam

BONAIRE The REPORTER

Marion Walthie photo



KLM announced that winter service for 2006-07, which goes into effect in the last week of October, will have **few changes compared to last winter's schedule**. Bonaire will keep its 12 MD-11 flights every week with daily flights to Peru and five weekly flights to Ecuador.

KLM will adjust its product and services between Amsterdam and the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba over the coming year in response to changing market conditions. From summer 2007, all flights to the Antilles and Aruba will be flown by MD-11s. The MD-11 fleet will be radically modernized in the coming

months. This will bring the MD-11 product in line with KLM's World Business Class and Economy Class standards already provided on KLM's new Boeing 777 and Airbus A330 fleet. Seven Business Class seats will be taken out to make space for 19 Economy Class seats. All seats will be replaced and equipped with video-on-demand systems. Standardizing the service using a single aircraft type and offering an improved product is intended to increase customer satisfaction and improve the flexibility and efficiency of flight operations.

Beginning in the summer of 2007 KLM will fly five times a week to Bonaire as part of the onward flight to Ecuador and twice more as part of a roundtrip in combination with Aruba (AMS-AUA-BON-AMS). The daily Peru stopover in Bonaire will be discontinued.

► **DAE said it will stop flying its prop-jets twice a day between Curaçao and St. Maarten this Thursday since newcomer Insel Air was granted permission to fly the same route four-times a week with an old Surinam Airlines MD-82 jet.**

DAE management (Nick Sandmann and Floris van Pallandt) are upset that they had to jump through hoops for months to get an OK to fly, but that Curaçao-based Insel Air got an almost immediate approval from Traffic and



Transportation Minister Kenneth Gijsbertha, even though they are under-capitalized and inexperienced.

DAE said its Bonaire flights will be unaffected.

Presently Insel Air flies twice a day between Curaçao and Aruba. Last Friday it flew its first (charter) flight to Bonaire. Its only plane is an Embraer EMB-110 Bandeirante with 19 seats. Insel Air director Edward Heerenveen told *The St. Maarten Daily Herald*, "As soon as DAE's flight service (to St. Maarten) is interrupted, Insel Air will start to fly five times a week.

When things get stabilized we will go to daily flights," he said.

► Last week a protocol was signed that **permits more intense cooperation between the Netherlands Antilles and the Netherlands police forces**. The agreement makes it possible for a personnel exchange between the Dutch and Netherlands Antilles police.

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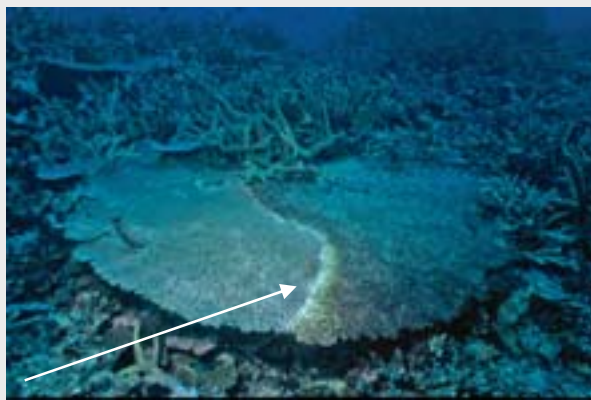


► Keep on the lookout for new street and traffic signs. They will start getting installed next Monday. In the photo Commissioner Dortalina (center) and members of DROB's (Highway Department) technical department show some of the new items. BVO photo

coral glimpses

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

Life and death: the most basic of yin and yang? The branching and other corals in this photo are perfectly healthy except for the table coral colony in the center. The right side of that colony is dead. The white line delineating the live/dead interface is where the coral animals have just died, exposing their white skeletons. Very quickly, however, the bare skeletons will be colonized by other organisms, mostly algae. As the disease moves to the left, the colonizers follow. This photo was taken in Tonga in 1996. □Photo by Dee Scarr



► Thanks to the Josan Builders the three shade huts at Bachelor's Beach have been reconstructed with new concrete benches, seats and beautiful thatched roofs. The company had just completed well-known Dutch architect Piet Boon's



New Bachelor's Beach Shelters

house adjacent to the beach, when Boon suggested they re-do the huts.

The company agreed and decided to donate their work to the island of Bonaire, free of charge. At an informal ceremony last Friday, Commissioner of Public Works, Jonchi Dortalina, and DROB head, Mingel Martis, accepted the gift with pleasure. Josan is a construction company started years ago by the Sanchez brothers, who immigrated from Peru, and is now one of Bonaire's most respected building contractors.



Josan Crew with Bonaire officials



(Continued on page 6)

LETTERS



Site of proposed Mangrove Village outlined in white

WHERE HAVE ALL THE MANGROVES GONE?...MANGROVE VILLAGE

Dear Editor

Interesting to read in the last *Reporter* that there is permission to build the "Mangrove Village." It's a pity to know that after the "Hotel School" got a negative reply to build in that same area, Mangrove Village found a way to remove all the negative advice standing in the environmental report, "*Milieu Effecten Rapportage*" (MER), and get a positive answer. They got a permit to build an "Eco" resort so I hope the word Eco will not be the only Eco thing in the "Village" and they really do some ecological things and respect the area.

I read somewhere that Bonaire (via Holland) signed the Ramsar Treaty and that must be a step in the direction of being part of the World Heritage List. One of

the most vulnerable parts of our ecology is Lac. So building at the border of the protected area is making a joke of the treaty and makes it more difficult to be part of the World Heritage list. The list makes it attractive for tourists to come (compare it with the Galapagos). This is where the snake bites his own tail. A resort to attract tourists in the short term can become a "black spot" in the long term.

Blaming discrimination of local developers in the letter is to ignore environmental rules that give us an opportunity for sustainable development. Now already we know the next step— another resort in the same area (the land is cheap). Later, cut some mangrove trees to better view Lac, cut some more to diminish the mosquitoes in the area, etc.

All over Bonaire you see the same thing.

Build the "Hotel school" in the Karpata region above Radio Nederland and in 20 years there is nothing left of the quietness around the tourist road. At the same time a new industrial zone built in the Marine Park makes that area developed?

So my point is you can't stop things because you are against the development of Bonaire, but the end result is that the development will be artificial and you have slaughtered the goose with the golden eggs and you're living on a sort of second Aruba. We want to have quality tourism; that is our strong point. The Galapagos have an entrance fee of \$100 a person and still many tourists are coming and they are coming for the unspoiled islands.

Remember that we also want to have quality jobs on Bonaire for the next generation and not 1,000 people working in poorly paid, hotel related service jobs (although I respect the work).

So take serious steps for a master plan of Bonaire. Save some beautiful spots (no industry near Goto Lake, etc.) Save spots for the local people (no yacht harbor at Donkey Beach). Remember there will always be people calling for 1,000 more hotel beds and there will always be people who want to have more than one SUV. Silent places will be worth more in 20 years so don't spoil them with bogus development. In 20 years you still can decide to build on some of the places but then the land will be worth a lot more.

Herman



Gibi Bomba

'BORN ON BONAIRE' STORY -25 AUGUST REPORTER

Dear Features Editor:

My husband and I have been coming to Bonaire for over 10 years. We always stay at Sorobon and during our stay we met Gibi (Bomba). He was such a pleasure to be around. The article that you wrote about him (*Bonaire Reporter* "Born on the Island, August 25-September 1, 2006) was wonderful to read. He carved us beautiful things that we got to bring home to the US. We missed him this year at Sorobon but heard him play at the Windsurfing Place next door.

Gibi sure did make our stays on Bonaire so much happier. As long as we can travel we will always come back to Bonaire, God willing.

If you should see him please say hello for us and tell him how much we enjoyed the article.

Ed and Joan Hussey

**“WAKE UP AND
SMELL THE COFFEE”**
TCB MARKETING CONFERENCE 2006

This coming week Bonaire’s private sector and government leaders will meet for three days to discuss the past, present and future of the island’s major industry—tourism. In comparison with a decade ago Bonaire’s tourism growth is lackluster, accommodation numbers are stagnant and its Internet web image, once exemplary, has grown musty.

In the first six months of this year 32,266 persons visited the island compared to 34,272 in 2005. That’s a decline of 2,006 persons or about 6%.

The present building boom and interest in investing in new facilities on Bonaire by Hyatt and Divi seem to indicate that the situation has bottomed out. Participants in this year’s TCB (Tourism Conference Bonaire) are challenged to capitalize on the upswing.

At the recent Caribbean Hotel Industry Conference (CHIC) in Miami hoteliers from other Caribbean locations were treated to some rather startling facts. Bonaire might benefit from them as well.

In a group session titled, “**Winds of Change Impact Caribbean Travel Plans**,” experts provided insights into these changes and the crucial positioning of the Caribbean Market. Peter Yesawich, chairman and CEO of consulting group YPB&R, led the panel discussion and focused on four forces reshaping tourism:

Revolution (with emphasis on the e for electronic marketing) - as to how people have embraced the Internet;

Social Values – in which family has become more important than ever in travel planning;

Demography -- with its shifting to an aging and traveling population; and

Competition – from brand destinations around the world.

Revolution - “We are telling our member (Caribbean) nations to reorganize their offices around the **Internet as it is the single most important revolution since the jet airplane**,” said Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, the impressively intelligent Secretary General of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO). “People have **refocused on price rather than brands** and the Internet has allowed them to do that while allowing us to **shut down offices, stopping the printing and distribution of costly brochures and reallocating resources** where it is now needed,” he said. “Don’t hold onto the old days; those days won’t come back.”

Hudson Husbands, Chairman of the Barbados Tourism Authority, added, “We need to **speed serious decisions that will impact the future** or we will lose market share. **High-speed Internet access is like the air conditioner was 20 years ago** – some people thought we didn’t need it for our guests, but they were wrong.”

“We are going to be late if we don’t hurry up because **people want to feel in charge of what they do for themselves** and we can’t be spectators to that change,” said Dr. the Hon. Ewart Brown, Minister of Tourism and Transport for Bermuda.



2006 CHIC Conference—“Winds of Change:” Ewart Brown, Hudson Husbands, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Frank Vanderpost, Peter Yesawich

“**Web sites have to be easy to navigate and must make it easy to book**,” said Frank Vanderpost, Senior VP of Dubai-based Jumierah Hotels and Resorts. What we are now looking at is **flexible pricing** with higher rates than traditional rack rates in season and lower rates as needed in the soft periods.”

Yesawich said **that travel agents were not disappearing and that they were maintaining their share of the market** and were now doing business on the Internet as well.

Vanderpool-Wallace also noted **that travel agents based in the Caribbean may be a vacationer’s best resource** because they know the local destination better than anyone else and now that anyone can book from anywhere using the Internet, there will be a growth of use of local Caribbean agents booking inbound travel to their own destinations.

Changing Social Values and Demography – “I think that the consumer was always smarter than we realize and **you have to provide choices for them to experience**,” said Dr. Brown, adding, “It’s not our business to change people’s habits.”

Vanderpost said, “I notice that **the Caribbean is still not attuned to the single traveler**.”

“Traditional vacationers to the Caribbean were couples, but we have seen **family travel grow** and hotels adding family programs and facilities,” Husbands said.

Vanderpool-Wallace added, “**We need to collect data and make sure we are spending our money in the most effective way. The number you need to grow is the ‘intent to recommend,’** and it remains very important in the Caribbean to promote the diversity because vacationers will go to one island after another to experience the differences.”

Competition – “The missing element is that there is **no vision from the top politicians embracing tourism** while in growing destinations like Dubai the head of the country also serves as Tourism Minister,” said Husbands. Despite his broad experience, Bonaire’s Tourism

Commissioner is not from the hospitality sector.

Yesawich research showed that **three out of four people want to go somewhere new**; 17% still indicate they plan to vacation in the Caribbean, but 62% want to vacation in Europe and 20% want to go to Australia.

Vanderpool-Wallace continued, “**Dubai is challenging the Caribbean for the European visitor**. The climate is similar to that of the Caribbean; it offers a high quality product, a ‘power destination,’ although it’s the peak of contrived entertainment.”

Bonaire offers the opposite of contrived entertainment. It offers genuine tranquility and opportunities for relaxation unparalleled elsewhere in the region. At the same time its underwater and terrestrial environment flourishes because of low population and tourist density. Activities that exploit those qualities already abound. How to preserve that unique character while attracting visitors who appreciate Bonaire’s attractions and at the same time improve the quality of life for our islanders, is the challenge. □ CHA/L.D./G.D.

(Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 3)

► **China Southern Airlines has plans to fly regularly to Curaçao.** During a trade trip to China, the Antillean Minister of Economics and Tourism, Gerrit Schotte, reported that the airline is seeking this connection to satisfy the travel plans of its new affluent class. China Southern Airlines is the largest airline in China. At present Los Angeles is its only destination in the American continent. It also flies from Guangzhou, Beijing and Shanghai to Amsterdam. "So, how many Chinese know how to Scuba dive?" asked a Bonairean dive shop operator.

► Reginald "Jonchi" Dortalina, Bonaire's Commissioner for Constitutional Affairs, issued a press release that stated that



"Jonchi" Dortalina

The Netherlands would help Bonaire seek solutions for its financial, social and economic problems, following the scheduled mini-conference in October. He said direct ties with the Netherlands would have a "sui generis" status for Bonaire, that is a **unique structure tailor made** for the island.

"Bonaire has more possibilities now, perhaps becoming a Dutch province, municipality, or an ultra-peripheral territory," said the commissioner. He added that local and international experts were working on the interpretation of the referendum choice Bonaire made to have "direct ties with the Netherlands."

At the end of September, the Dutch Council of State is expected to announce a plan for restructuring the three less populated islands of the Antilles: Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Following that their decision will be debated in the Bonaire Island Council, in a citizen's group and finally public meetings. Then The Netherlands must approve the final decision.

Dortalina commented that Bonaire would be better off becoming a municipality but not one identical to a Dutch municipality because of differences in distance, character, culture and identity.

Dortalina said the island had to have a good hospital, schools, and a modern port, airport and fire department that comply with international standards.

► The Central Government hopes that **better education will solve problems many youngsters have been encountering,** by guiding them on a proper path. During a working visit in the Netherlands, Education Minister Omayra Leeflang said the school dropout rate was 10% each year, while the unemployment rate for teenagers was 44%.



Education Minister Omayra Leeflang photo by Serphos

The Minister wants to combat these problems with a "Delta Plan" to ensure

that parents will receive assistance in bringing up their children; raising the compulsory education age from 15 to 18 years; and revising the scholastic programs. "This mustn't be seen as just another plan. Solving the problems of these youngsters has the highest priority of the Central Government," she said.

► **PdVSA, the nationalized Venezuelan oil company, wants to partner with Curaçao's Isla Refinery (RdK).** It understands the need for investments in equipment, technical upgrades and environmental protection. According to published reports, PdVSA's vice-president, Alejandro Granado, during a visit to Curaçao, learned that an expenditure of between \$1.3 and \$1.5 billion was needed.

► **David van Delft will replace Ernst Wesselius as the Justice Officer/Public Prosecutor** on Bonaire this month. Currently the Justice Officer in Maastricht, The Netherlands, he previously worked in Curaçao. "Thus he knows the island and

speaks the language," said the departing Prosecutor in approval. Ernst Wesselius turned 60 in May and must take mandatory retirement. However, he will stay on in Bonaire as Security Officer for the Government, perhaps staying in that position through 2008.

► **Presiding Judge Luis de Lannoy of the Common Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba will take early retirement next year,** the same year he celebrates his 50th anniversary in the position. He is held in great respect by all who deal with his court.

A successor must be appointed before the end of this year. There are 28 judges working in the court system. The current proportion between Antillean-born and Dutch-born judges is 1 to 3. There is already



Judge Luis de Lannoy
Amigoe photo

some speculation that the local judge, Liesbeth Hoefdraad, who is also working as press judge, is going to be the next presiding judge. If that's the case, she will be the first female presiding judge of the Court in the Antilles. The kingdom government ultimately appoints the new Presiding Judge.

► **Beginning September 1, the Bonaire Government implemented the new Central Government work permit law which sets stricter guidelines for foreign workers.** Fundamentally it means that work permits, which are issued annually for specific jobs, can normally be extended for only two more years and in exceptional cases for two additional years. More burden is placed on the work provider to implement the regulations.

The government recognizes the invaluable contribution of immigrants to the island which gives it a diverse and multicultural atmosphere but realizes the load imposed on the social, financial, medical and educational infrastructure. For more



► It won't be too much longer that the **detour near Mentor** on Kaya Caribe won't be necessary. Last week the new prefabricated road bed was lifted in place to make a new bridge. BVO photo

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 6)

information about the complex rules of the new law, contact the economics Department, DEZA, at 717-5330, X-236.

► **The Bonaire Recycling Foundation is looking for a partner.** Bonaire's waste management company, SELIBON, and the company, Diftar BV, are looking for a Dutch partner for help in setting up a trash separation project. The first phase will **scavenge junked vehicles for usable parts**. Later the scope of the activity will expand. For more information call Peter de Graaf of Diftar BV at 030-789-00-20 or email graaf@diftar.nl.

► The sixth **tropical depression** of the Atlantic hurricane season is likely to become **Tropical Storm Florence**. Its predicted course will take it north of the Caribbean islands. Hurricane forecasters this week said that they expect this year to have fewer hurricanes than normal.

► It's been four years since Elly

Albers, author of *The Reporter's* popular Animal Answers series, conducted a **dog training class**. Now she's scheduled a **new session**. Call before the 15th of September to enroll; by email: elly@mangrovecenter.com or by phone: 786-5161. Classes will be held Thursday nights at the Bonaire Super Store parking lot.

► **The location of the new Hyatt Hotel will most likely be at Point Vierkant.** Hyatt purchased the large estate originally built by Toon Abraham that was subsequently purchased by a Middle-east Sheik. The last owner of the property, which is much larger than just the house site, was an American.

► **The Princess Wilhelmina Funds Foundation (Stichting Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds Bonaire) has named September as its fund raising month.** This foundation helps patients with cancer. They have done very good work for years as part of a national foundation that is

active in Holland as well in Curaçao and the other islands. Look for their collection boxes around town or make a contribution directly to their MCB Bonaire account 1.011.916.02. Be generous.

More information can be obtained from president Morela Wanner, tel: 717-4267.

► **Six Realtors in Bonaire are advertising in the Bonaire Reporter this week:** Bonaire Homes-RE/MAX, Bonaire Partners, Bonaire Realty, Caribbean Homes Bonaire, Harbourtown Real Estate and Sunbelt Realty. **If you are searching for a new home or want to sell your present one look first in the pages of The Bonaire Reporter.** *The Bonaire Reporter* is the number one place to look for Bonaire properties.

► **Yacht cruisers are holding a boat jumble sale at Vespucci Restaurant in the Harbour Village Marina** next Saturday, 9th September, from 8:30 to 11:30 am. All are welcome to come and part with excess boat items, books, DVDs, CDs and swap! Charitable foundations are invited to participate.

► **Prestige Property Management** is a new company offering complete property **management for absentee owners**. Founded by Sebastiano (Bas) Peluso, a long time employee of Run Runners at Habitat, its purpose is to make absentee-owning of property on Bonaire stress-free. His services include the day-to-day running and upkeep of all types of properties as well as managing household staff. If you need management services contact Bas. He can be reached at 528-1304 and soon will have his website www.ppmbonaire.com up and running.



► A group of US veterans will visit Bonaire at the end of October as part of **"The Wounded Warrior" Disabled Sports Program**. Most of the members are disabled because of injuries suffered while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. Organized by "Disabled Sports USA" and with support of the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA), they will be given a series of specific diving courses at Captain Don's Habitat October 14-21. For more information see www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

► **The Wind and Surf Beach Bar in Sorobon at the Windsurfing Place** reports that their very popular and delicious **Wednesday night BBQ will be suspended** during the months of September and October and will return in November. (Can we bear this? It's such a fun event). However, the Wind and Surf Beach Bar will still be open for lunch and refreshments every day from 10 am to 6 pm. Don't miss a visit to this place. They treat you like good friends. □ G./L. D.

► Last Friday the new **board of Directors of Bonaire's Red Cross** visited the island's Governor, **Herbert Domacassé**.

The new board consists of President Johnny Wever, Secretary Carmen Muller, Treasurer Harold Kurban (not pictured), Vice President Feliz Nicholas, Second Secretary Edsel deJongh, Second Treasurer, Eddy Frans (not pictured), members Pedro Wever and Robert de Palm.



The Red Cross of Bonaire is quite active with disaster planning, community service and education programs. Governor Domacassé expressed satisfaction with its operation.



► Graduates of a course required to conform to the **International Ship & Port Security (ISPS) code** from **Special Security Services (SSS)** and the government's **Servisio Sentral di Vigilansia (SSV)** pose with their diplomas.

COVER STORY

Bikers on Bonaire



Touring by Hilltop

The blast began on Thursday night when the first of the almost 300 entrants met for a warm-up at the Bonaire Biker's Motorcycle Club (BBMC) HQ. Because of bad weather the motorcycles of the Aruba riders did not arrive, but nevertheless some of the riders did and were accommodated with local rides.

Friday night was sign up night with drinks and conviviality at the Garden Bar of Croccantino. As she has in past years, Croccantino's Elisabeth Wigny donated the Croccantino restaurant garden and bar to the bikers. Later on the bikers gathered at City Café to hear the CHISPA Band.



Signup at Croccantino

On Saturday there was a group ride from Habitat to the marshé at Rincon. In the evening, following a sunset ride, the bikers assembled at Wilhelmina Park for an evening of dinner, bike games, music and a big fireworks show.

Sunday began with a downtown breakfast at Rent-O-Fun and the official BBMC Tour with a lunch stop at the famous Rose Inn in Rincon. More bike games at City Café followed. From what we observed it was an awesome time. □ G.D.



Breakfast with The Bonaire Reporter at the Lost Penguin



Curaçao riders signing up happy



A lineup at Habitat



Buuuurnnnnnnnout!



Harley David with his mom, Joy, and an admirer

COVER STORY 2006 Local Fishing Tournament



An early catch, circa 1960s. Heit-Konig photo

Hundreds of participants and spectators were on hand last Sunday at Dui Diaz's house for the final hours of this year's "Local Fishing Tournament." The tournament's name is always referred to by its English language title, never its Papiamentu translation. Why? We don't know, but perhaps it's just the charm of Bonaire's multicultural society appearing unexpectedly again.

By late afternoon lots of big and heavy catches, several over 50 kilos, had already been brought in. Our unofficial count had 59 boats registered, one more than last year, and four were *boto grandi*, boats over 18 ft. long. Top prizes are given for the heaviest catch per boat, the heaviest fish and the greatest number of fish caught. Reef fish, sharks, rays and tarpon are excluded from the competition. The heaviest fish caught were wahoo, some tuna and deep-depth groupers.

Official results will be announced at the prize-giving ceremony on Friday, September 8th, the feast day of the patron saint of fishermen the Virgen del Valle.

However, our unofficial tally in the *boto grandi* class had the boat *Jordano*, captained by Jan Emerenciana, with the heaviest catch of fish, 81 kilos total, as well as the class' heaviest fish at 14 kilos (a record). Last year the winning boat brought in only 72 kg. The boats *Jayrimka* and *Porfin* tied for the greatest number of fish per boat, 61.

In the *boto chikitu* class (under 18 ft.) *Natania III* scored the heaviest load at 59½ kilos. Papy Cicilia's *Culturita* caught the heaviest fish of the tournament at 16 kilos. *Trupial*, and *Speed* caught 40 fish each to take the quantity title.

The "Local Fishing Tournament" once again proved that Bonaire's fishermen, using sustainable fishing techniques, can feed their families, provide fish to restaurants and markets while preserving their culture for future generations. In all 1,347¼ kilos and 835 fish were caught. □

G.D.



MCB's Press Appreciation Day



September 1 was Press Appreciation Day. *The Bonaire Reporter* received several messages wishing us well. Thank you. We value them. The MCB Bank-Bonaire has a special awareness of the press' work and never forgets to say thank you to the Bonaire press corps every year. This year they invited us all to an informal get-together at the Divi Flamingo's Balashi Bar. Press were from all media - print, radio and TV - *Extra Bonaire*, *Amigoe*, Radio Digital, Bon FM, Voz di Bonaire, Mega FM, TeleKorant, *Antilliaans Dagblad*, *Nobo* and of course, *The Bonaire Reporter*. Thanks MCB. □L.D.

Tene Bonaire Limpi Revival

Tene Bonaire Limpi – The Keep Bonaire Clean Foundation— has a new life and a new board. Last week they had a “meet the press” session at Don Paranda to introduce themselves. The new board consists of:

Dyrichemar “Rico” Martis, President; Raimy Thomas, Vice President; Jose “Junny” Janga, Treasurer; Zaira Antonia Second Treasurer; Elize Craane, Secretary. Board Members are Lilian Soliana, Sylvana “Ilva” Sint Jago, Edwin “Din” Domacasse, and Gerald Kowsoleea. If you have ideas for TBL projects call Rico Martis at 717-8322.

During Dia di Boneiru TBL will air a number of radio spots about TBL – for public awareness. During Regatta TBL will have a big project all over the island. During the Clean up the World period there will be banners on Kaya Grandi. More ideas are in the works. When polled, Bonaire visitors said that the cleanliness of the island is noticed and appreciated. □ L.D.



Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know... Sea Cucumbers Spawn Standing Up?

Sea cucumbers look like overstuffed sausages lying on the bottom and move so slowly that people often don't realize that they are animals. They're sometimes

called the vacuum cleaners of the sea because they ingest dirty sand, digest all the organics, and poop out clean sand. I once saw a sea cucumber spawn and it was an impressive display. The creature had most of his body upright and very erect and he was shooting out gametes at an alarming rate. After about five minutes I started to worry about the poor creature, but he finally finished his business.

This behavior is rarely observed, so if you see a sea cucumber spawning, please let me know. Call 717-5322.

To add to a previous *Did You Know*, I received a phone call last week – Jan van Groenewoud observed a 4 meter-long line of lobsters marching in formation in the fall of 1970 near Bachelor's Beach. Perhaps, if a no-fishing



Donkey dung sea cucumber
Eckrich Photo

zone is implemented, we'll all have the chance to see one of these lobster parades! □ C.E.

Biologist Caren Eckrich founded and runs *Sea & 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.



Final Group of SGB Student Chefs Off To Italy

Last Friday evening at Divi Flamingo this year's group of four student chefs met with their parents and sponsors, Sara Matera and Maarten Maartense, to get some last minute information before they leave for Italy next month. As in the past these students are our cultural ambassadors from Bonaire.

This program of sending Bonaire students to Italy for three weeks of culinary education began in 2000. This year, unless there is another contract and funding, it will be the last. This program has changed the lives of some young student chefs. They go to Italy as young people, 16 and 17, with shyness and trepidation, and return as self confident near adults, recognizing their own value. Some have returned to Italy for further training and to work in top rated hotels and restaurants. One of them, Vladimir Gilsbertha, now works as a chef in Bonaire and was on the professional Chef Team that went to "Taste of the Caribbean" Culinary Olympics in Miami this year.

The group this year will come back to continue their culinary education at a higher level at the SGB (high school) and work as trainees in Bonaire's hotels and restaurants.

As ex-Governor Richard Hart stated after seeing the high gastronomical quality put out by these students, "Bonaire is becoming an island of exporting top chefs."

Yes, but we need to have them here as well. □ L.D.



Roderick Serberie.

Grensley Pieter



Yoshebed Martis

Varenia Richards



Italy bound students with their teacher/chaperone, Vernon Martijn, and sponsor Notaris Maarten Maartense

Rotary Helps Bonaire's Elderly



Greetings from Ka'I Mimina

On August 23, the Rotary Club of Bonaire visited Ka'I Mimina, the home for the elderly in Tera Cora. Sister Swinda, the compassionate leader of Ka'I Mimina, honored members of the Rotary Club Bonaire by giving them a complete tour of the facility—the plant growing area, sleeping rooms - as well as the traditional handicrafts made by the visitors. Rotary Members were pleasantly entertained with songs and a dance organized by some of the center's visitors. Afterwards, Rotary members transported and treated the elderly to a delicious lunch at Maiky Snack.

The Rotary Club of Bonaire not only provided the lunch but that day's prizes from the weekly raffle by Rotary members. The grand prize was a radio-CD player.

President of the Rotary Club, Marisela Croes, also donated the materials to build a greenhouse on the parcel of land Ka'I Mimina just received in long lease from the Government. They plan to build a recreation area, a playground for the grandchildren, a meditation area and a greenhouse. The greenhouse will be used to grow all kinds of vegetables and fruits for Ka'I Mimina's own use, as is now done on a small scale.

Story & photo - Rotary Press Release



Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Cas di Hadrey

Delia Alberto-Semeleer

by Wilna Groenenboom



Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage

Driving through Nord di Salina we can see all kinds of antique living house styles - from the simple Cas di Bara, to the more posh Cas di Porchi – and everything in between. Not all of them are big, but they are beauties.

Delia Alberto-Semeleer lives here. She gave birth to nine children of which seven are still living today. She is 65 and sometimes is helped by her 70-year-old sister, Selma Thode-Semeleer.

Martines Alberto, Delia Alberto-Semeleer's husband, who passed away seven years ago, worked at WEB his whole life.

Delia inherited the house from her grandmother's brother, Francisco Paula Thomas (born in 1879) and his wife, Eugenia Anna Nicolaas (born in 1874) who had no children. See them in the photo on the right.

There are more or less three types of buildings here. The smallest building (photo bottom middle) is the toilet (*w.c. or bestu*) on the right side of the main house. Having a toilet was not very common; most people just visited the *mondi* outside the gate.

Behind the main house, on the left, is what once was a Cas di Bara (photo top right). This Cas di Bara was not to live in, but has always been used as a barn or



Francisco Paula Thomas and his wife, Eugenia Anna Nicolaas

rancho. Originally they made the walls of *bara* (sticks) filled up with *lodo* (mud, grass and water). On the outside were coral stones. The house started out wide at the bottom, getting thinner towards the roof, giving it its special shape. With the inside walls made of *lodo* and the outside, coral stones, you get two for the price of one!

More than 60 years ago two of the walls came down and had to be repaired, using coral cement blocks. If you look carefully

you can see the coral pieces put into the cement blocks in the bottom left photo. When a Cas di Bara is made of stones it's called a Cas di Piedra. So this is probably half Cas di Bara, half Cas di Piedra. The roof was always, and still is, made of tin.

The main house is a Cas di Hadrey, with some extensions to make it bigger. If you are standing on the cistern stairs (photo top left) you can see this clearly. The house has one and a half chimneys, but neither are in use now. The more complete one doesn't even have its original fireplace any more.

The main house has two cisterns – one big, high one in the front of the house which we can reach by using the nearly-three-meter-high staircase on the left side. At the back is a little round cistern which we can reach by using only two steps.

In the past most people took their showers outside at night. The Alberto family had a sort of a shower place behind the house close to this little cistern. Both cisterns could hold a lot of (drinking) water. In the photo on the left are the pots for their drinking water. The biggest one was inside or outside the kitchen. The middle one was used inside the house for regular use. The water ladle was made of an empty calabash with a hole on top and

a stick attached - a self-made, natural spoon.

These three buildings on one property give us a lot of information about the history of Bonaire. Hopefully we can enjoy them for a long time. □ W.G.



Wilna Groenenboom is an artist and photographer who teaches art at the SGB high school.



ANNOUNCING...



Welcome to Miss Liannae van Eldik who joins her two brothers, Niels and Ruben. She's a bouncing baby girl with lots of curly red hair, just like her brothers'. Congratulations to her parents Agnes and Ap of Green Label Nurseries and Landscaping.

□ Greta Kooistra photo

Readers are invited to send their photos of their anniversaries, engagements or weddings to The Reporter. The photo and text will be printed free of charge.

Pet of the Week

Right now at the Bonaire Animal Shelter are four gorgeous kittens. Our "Pet" this week is just one of them. They were born on July 13 and they were brought in after they were weaned. The owners are keeping the mother who is being sterilized so she can live a better life and not be burdened with more unwanted litters. Like their special mother, these kittens are social, well adjusted, playful and beautiful. One has already been adopted. These pets won't last long, so hop down to the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.



One of four sweethearts

The NAf75 adoption fee for cats includes testing, exam by the vet, shots, worming and even sterilization when it's old enough. If you want a pet that is healthy in every way and social choose one from the Shelter. They can't be beat! □ L.D.

Get ready for the **Animal Shelter's Annual Dog Wash**. The Shelter board has announced that it will be in September, the date to be announced soon.



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

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

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

Commercial Ads only NAf0.80 per word, per week.
Free adds run for 2 weeks.
Call or fax 717-8988 or email ads@bonairereporter.com

JANART GALLERY

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

MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

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

BONAIRENET

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

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

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

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

JODY'S FASHION

European Fashion for men & women. Best quality for good prices! Open: Tu-We-Th-Fr-Sa 1-5 pm. www.jodysbonaire.com Lagoen Hill 18

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 all puzzles first)

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

Complete solution on page 18.

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
9-08	1:24	1.6FT.	7:52	1.1FT.	13:18	1.4FT.	18:40	1.1FT.	101
9-09	2:34	1.4FT.	7:52	1.2FT.	14:04	1.5FT.	20:40	1.1FT.	103
9-10	4:18	1.3FT.	7:25	1.2FT.	15:05	1.6FT.	22:55	1.1FT.	101
9-11	0:40	0.9FT.	16:04	1.7FT.					94
9-12	2:03	0.9FT.	17:08	1.8FT.					84
9-13	3:01	0.8FT.	18:06	1.9FT.					72
9-14	3:55	0.7FT.	19:02	2.0FT.					60
9-15	4:35	0.7FT.	19:53	2.0FT.					50

Fitness

Experienced fitness instructor trains you at home! Lose weight, gain strength, improve your posture while having fun doing it. Call 700-0422

For Sale

CITY BIKE FOR SALE- A Trek brand City-Bike in good condition. NAf500 Call: 786-5136

New Electrolux Commercial Dish-washer for sale. 220V/ 50 cycles. NAf7.000. -Tel: 786-0816

For Sale: large modern mirror, square-shape from Plexiglas with triangle-shaped mirror, very special. You have to see it! NAf50, tel. 786-5591.

Cars For Sale



BMW 520i – 4-door sedan, 1991, white, excellent condition. A CLASSIC! Call 785-9041

Sunzuki Samurai – 1995, good tires; runs good- NAf5.000 Call 717-8876

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

Wanted

Single, 33-year-old California woman coming to Bonaire to snorkel and meet that special someone. I'm extremely kind and have been to Bonaire twice and want to live on Bonaire. Email me at:

michelleme77@aol.com.

Pictures are available. Michelle.

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: sea-beans@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.

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Mt. Brandaris, Bonaire



We had to say good bye this week to Sam Williams, Bonaire parrot researcher. He's off to England to analyze the results of his past six-month study on Bonaire. But he'll return next year for more investigation into the lifestyle of Bonaire's Loras in hopes of keeping this endangered species from extermination. In this photo Sam holds *The Reporter* after riding his mountain bike up Mt Brandaris. □

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.) □

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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The Snack Bar Detectives

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



This week: **Ruben Snack.**
Kaya Mandolin.



Ruben Snack

It had been a while since Big D and I had driven around Tera Cora. We had a tip off about a little snack bar on the corner of Kaya Mandolin that was serving some good local food. Brightly painted in blue and white, it was easy to spot. We parked and made our way into Ruben Snack.

Now, this is not for the virgin snacker. Big D and I have been around a bit (but that's another story) so we know the ropes. English and Dutch languages are no good to you here. Despite what British people may think shouting doesn't make a strange language any more understandable either. Papiamentu is the language of choice, but Spanish is just as acceptable. When it comes down to small details, we find that pointing and miming works just as well.

Luckily, there is no confusion with our first request, Polar, of course. With the temperature soaring on Bonaire, there is only one thing better than an ice cold beer and that's two! I have started to get a taste for the local soups and was glad to see it on the menu: kabritu (goat) and vegetable soup at an unbelievable NAf5.

You couldn't make it for that! Big D decided to go for stew, Baka Stoba served with rice and bread.

It was nice to sit in a local neighbourhood; it has a certain atmosphere that you miss around town. People were walking in and out - guys just dropping in for a few beers and families for something to eat. A gentleman sat next to us, eating his evening meal, and bade us a *bon nochi*, hospitality that we had come to expect.

As our meals arrived we were impressed with the portions. The nice thing about the local snacks is that you get a real feel for the food; you just know that it is the same as you would get in a Bonairean kitchen. We sat and ate, talked a little and soaked up the atmosphere. The gentleman to our right gesticulated on how much he was enjoying his food, he wasn't the only one.

Our only surprise was to come when we left. Less than NAf25 for two meals and drinks! Take our advice, get out and about. There is more to Bonaire than meets the eye. □ *Story & Photo by the Snack Bar Detectives*

Chefs Dinner



Help keep Bonaire at the culinary pinnacle. Re-serve now for the Fund Raising Dinner prepared by Bonaire's star studded Culinary Team. The menu will be that which they served at the "Taste of the Caribbean Culinary Olympics in Miami in July. It's Friday, September 15, at the Plaza Hotel. The dinner is to raise funds to help the 2007 team practice and compete again against culinary teams from all over the Caribbean. Gold Medal winner bartender Jane Coffie will serve her drinks too.

Thanks to all the energy and hard work putting together winning dishes by our Bonaire Chef teams Bonaire is now considered a top island for fine dining. Support our team. It's a delicious way to do it! Seating is limited so reserve now. Tickets are NAf70 (\$40). For reservations call Margaret—717-2897 or Laura—786-6518.

The Menu

Starter: "Sorobon" - A marinated Conch Ceviche served with a yogurt-cucumber ice cream

Main: "Kunuku Cattle" - Herb stuffed leg of lamb, papaya stew, Colby cheese grantineed tutu, pork stew topped with Angostura cardamom chili glazed okra.

Dessert: "Bonaire Lighthouse" - Chocolate mousse mango jelly, ganache, cake, pastry, ginger caramel sauce. □*L.D.*



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

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

Car Rental Agencies:

At the Airport

Airlines:

Aboard Divi Divi Air

Banks:

MCB (Playa & Hato branches), RBTT

Restaurants:

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

Dive Shops:

Yellow Submarine, WannaDive, Carib Inn

Shops:

Benetton, Best Buddies & Pearls, Bonaire Gift Shop, Chat 'n' Browse, City Shop, DeFreewieler

Exito Bakery

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

Hotels:

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

Supermarkets:

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

Government:

Bestuurscollege, Customs

Parliament Office

BVO

Others:

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

Bookstores:

Bonaire Boekhandel, Flamingo Bookstore

Realty Offices:

Caribbean Homes, Harbourtown, Re/Max, Sunbelt

RINCON:

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

09/8/06

Still can't find a copy? Visit our office at Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6 or Call 717-8988

LET'S GO BACK INTO BONAIRE'S HISTORY ...BY BÒI ANTOIN

The first of a series about Bonaire's past written by historian/journalist Bòi Antoin and translated by Sue Felix.

Europeans Find Bonaire

In 1499, Amerigo Vespucci set foot on Bonairean soil - the first European to do so. At the start of the 16th Century the Spanish made many trips between Spain and the Caribbean Sea, between the islands and the mainland. The Spanish were looking for something; that is very clear. They were also looking for gold. Soon their booty included Indians which they sold as slaves in Spain.

Three brothers of the Guerra family, who lived close to Seville in southern Spain, liked to sail in the Caribbean Sea. One of them, Cristobal Guerra, sailed to the Caribbean for the second time with a certain Diego Rodrigues de Grajeda at the end of 1500. They set sail for Bonaire with two ships. When they landed they met with some of the Indians and Cristobal Guerra began to argue with them. It turned into a fight and some of the Bonairean Indians lost their lives. Guerra wanted to capture some of the Indians to put them on the ship. He succeeded and took some of them to Spain.

On the first of November 1501, they arrived in Spain. With much pride, they presented one of the Indian girls from Bonaire to Queen Isabella. The girl stayed some days at the palace in order for Queen Isabel to observe her.

In the meantime, Guerra began to sell the other Indians as slaves. Queen Isabella did not agree with this practice. On the 8th of December 1501, she made a decree which ordered that the Indians had to be taken back to Bonaire.

A certain Father Fernandez did everything possible to get the Indians in the southern part of Spain back in order to set them free and allow them to return to Bonaire. There are no documents to prove that, in fact, that they did return, but it is very possible.

Cristobal Guerra, the person who was responsible for taking the Indians to Spain, later lost his life near Cartagena. The Cartagena Indians shot him in the neck with an arrow. □ *Bòi Antoin, Translated by Sue Ellen Felix*



Amerigo Vespucci



Bòi Antoin

portrait by Henk Roozendaal

DO YOU SUDOKU?

And the solution is:
(puzzle and directions on page 14)

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Pirates Of The Caribbean:

Dead Man's Chest
(Johnny Depp)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Little Man

Kaya Prinses Marie

Behind Exito Bakery

Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

THURS THRU SUN

2 MOVIES 7 & 9PM

MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8PM

SATURDAY 4 PM September:

The Ant Bully

THIS WEEK

September 4 - 29 - Activities with Ned & Anna DeLoach at Buddy Dive. Call 717-5080 for schedule and more information.

September 7—October 15—Coral Spawning in Bonaire. See September 1st issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* for complete timetable.

Friday, September 8—Swimming lessons are continuing at Sorobon Beach every Friday from 13.00 for children 0 - 18.

Sunday, September 10-Youth Tennis Tournament—Opening Game, Harbour Village Tennis Center, 10 am. See page 22

Friday, September 15 - Bonaire Culinary Team Fundraiser Dinner. Tickets NAf70 (\$40) at the Plaza. Call Margaret 717-2897 or Laura 786-6518. See page 17.

COMING

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

Sunday, September 17—Pelikan School fundraising concert on the Freewinds. Tickets now available through the Pelikan school.

Sunday, October 8 - Jong Bonaire Klein Bonaire Swim.

October 8-16—Bonaire Regatta. For stands call/fax 717-8408

Sunday, October 15 - Rotary Club Bonaire Fundraising concert on the Freewinds

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) 5-7

- 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.
- 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, 6 am-2 pm.**
- **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 6-9 pm** while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 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

Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers**, 5-7 **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Wine & Cheese**/ \$1 glass of wine, 5-7, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Buy a Bucket of Beer & get free chicken wings**, 5-7, **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, 7-9, **Cactus Blue**.
- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **Movie Night** at **Buddy Dive**

Thursdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7
- "Admiral's Hour" for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

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

- **Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sorobon from 13.00, for children 0 - 18.
- **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.

Weekly Bonaire Talker 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

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 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Wilhelminaplein: Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English, Sundays, 10 am. In *Rincon*, Kaya C.D. Crestian: Services in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8.30 am. Rev. Kenneth Kross, 717-4009; 786-9020

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.
Crocantino 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.
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



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.

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

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.

GENERATORS

Island Generators has diesel powered generators for all your electrical needs. Order now and feel secure.

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

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.

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.

Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient.
FedEx agent.

TOURIST SERVICES / INTERNET

Make **Chat 'n' Browse** your headquarters for phone service, Internet connection, gifts, Brunotti and Reef featured... In the Sand Dollar Mall.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

WINDSURFING

The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. 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

On the Island Since ...

December 2, 1996

Ramon Torres

I am from the *Republica Dominicana*, land of the Merengue and the Bachata. You know where you were born, but you don't know where you're going to die. I was the first of seven children my parents had. Everything I am I owe to my father and I thank him for being strict with me because in life you find many obstacles, and depending on your upbringing you fail or you triumph. My father is still alive. He's 84. He has his own little farm and is still working the land. My mother died two years ago of Parkinson's disease; she was 67.

As a youth I was restless. When I was 18 I started learning upholstery at an upholstery business. I stayed there for three years, then I had to quit because they were not paying me well. So I went to a furniture factory where I was well paid. While I was working at the factory I took a night course to become a pharmaceutical products salesman and I got certified in April 1981. I got a job as a salesman and I liked it because I got a salary and a commission. I worked that job for three years, until 1983. In July of that year, during the Merengue Festival in Santo Domingo, I met Mr. Nil de Paula from Curaçao who was the PR manager of the refinery in Curaçao.

During those days I was also a taxi driver occasionally. I had my own car with air conditioning, one of the best cars in town, and I had good relations with the hotels. I met Mr. de Paula at the Sheraton. He was there with two other men and asked me if I was a taxi driver. I said, 'No, but if I can be of help...' and so I took him and his friends to the Naco Hotel. When we arrived his friends went inside, but Mr. de Paula was very sociable, and with one foot in the cab and one foot in the street he asked me how come we'd arrived at the hotel so quickly. I told him I'd taken a shortcut and he asked, 'How much do I owe you?' I answered, 'Give me whatever you feel like. I'm not a taxi driver and for me tourists have priorities.' He paid me \$35; it was a lot of money. That night I took him and his friends to a nightclub. I stayed with them until 2 am. Then I took them to the hotel and gave them my phone number. The next day Mr. de Paula called me at 8 in the morning at the lab where I was working and told me they wanted to go shopping. We made the appointment for 11 am. When they'd finished shopping I took him and his friends for lunch at my house. After lunch he felt so good being in my company that he gave me his private phone number and told me, 'You have done something that cannot be paid for, and I invite you to come and see the

Karnaval in Curaçao. You can stay at my house.'

In January 1984 he called me from Curaçao, 'What are you waiting for? Carnaval is coming!' In February 1984 I arrived in Curaçao for the first time. At the airport the immigration officer asked me in what hotel I was staying and I told her 'I am staying with a friend, Mr. Nil de Paula, and I gave her his business card. She called him and Mr. de Paula said, 'Hold him there! I am sending my chauffeur!' I went to his house, a beautiful house, and I met his wife and his three children, the rest of his family and friends, Richinel, Hermes and Mimi Bonifacio, and the Winstar family. Meeting all these people gave me the push to come and live in Curaçao.

As Mr. de Paula was working all the time I didn't want to be a bother, so out of respect for his wife I moved to a Dominican friend's house. In March I went back to Santo Domingo. In July I returned to Curaçao to look for a job. The reason I started thinking about leaving for Curaçao is that my wife and I had marital problems.

"Bonaire reminded me very much of my village where I was born and when I saw how peaceful it was I thought to myself how nice it would be to come back one day to live here."

In Curaçao I met Samir Bahrut and his father Omar, who owned a mattress and furniture factory. I asked them where they got their materials for the factory. They replied, 'in the States or Venezuela.' I answered, 'Why don't you come to Santo Domingo with me because I have contacts there and with the exchange rate it will be much cheaper.' Samir called me two days later. We both went and he bought two containers full of materials. When we were flying back to Curaçao he told me he'd try to get a job for me. We had a meeting with his father who had another business in Punda and he said, 'If you are an upholsterer, I will sign for you.' In those days it wasn't so complicated to get a permit. I was 32 and I didn't have to leave Curaçao anymore.

I am extremely grateful to the Antilles, for all I've gotten here." *Ramon Torres (54) is a vivid person but also very de-*



Ramon Torres

tailed and precise and he's a man who doesn't like to talk about his private life, because as he says: 'this story is about me!'

"Well, I worked for two years for Bahrut, then I left for personal reasons. I went to immigration and told them I wanted to stay. They were impressed with my honesty and gave me a stamp for three more months. I went to Mr. de Paula and told him what had happened. He said, 'Don't worry. Could you work for a construction company that works for the refinery?' I went to talk to Jozef Iron Constructions and they immediately gave me a job as a mechanic. I worked there from 1987 till 1994. The job was okay, but I couldn't stand the smell of the refinery; it nauseated me. During those years I always had my upholstery business at home where I worked during the weekends.

My children came to visit me regularly. Now my son, Franklin (27), and my daughter, Laura (24), and my three grandchildren live in Brooklyn, New York, and my son, Vladimir (18) lives in Holland where he just finished his studies.

In the beginning of 1995 I went back to Santo Domingo with the intention of staying for good, but in reality it didn't work out as everything had changed. I went to the US, to New York, to make my life there, but it was so hectic, so agitated and complicated. I didn't like the system and I didn't like the pressure. I stayed for three months and then I went back to Santo Domingo.

I'd been to Bonaire in 1992 when I came to play softball with a team from Curaçao. Bonaire reminded me very much of my village where I was born, and when I saw how peaceful it was I

thought to myself how nice it would be to come back one day to live here. So, when I was in Santo Domingo I started thinking 'Please, my God, what am I going to do? Give me direction...' I already had my Dutch passport and so I called Brigido Perdomo and Franco Caravallo on Bonaire whom I had met when I was here for the softball games. They said: 'Come over! A man like you can find a job anywhere!' I arrived December 2, 1996, and immediately I went to Casa Nena where I talked to Canaan and Canansito Bahrut, and they gave me a job repairing furniture. I stayed with them for a short while, then I applied for a permit to open my own upholstery business. In the meantime I started working for Benito Dirksz' Special Security Services as a guard. It took more than a year to get the permit, but I finished my contract with Benito first before I opened my business on Kaya Korona, next to the Red Party club house, in October 2001. It's going well and I thank the Bonairean community for accepting me and giving me their support.

I have a regular, stable life; I like my work and when I'm not working I play softball in Polo Mata's team and also I love to dance. The most important thing in my life was my mother. She isn't here anymore, and for whoever is reading this story: Take care of your mother, there's nothing greater than a mother... and... see the reality of life, of everything that comes along and get the best results from it because even if you're being criticized, you benefit from it..." □



Story and photo by Greta Kooistra

Youth Tennis

After a number of tense semi-final matches the final winners of the Youth Tennis Tournament were Daniel Carillo and Thammy Albertzs. Daniel won with 4-2;4-0.

The next RBTT youth tennis tournament for youngsters from 10 to 17 is coming up Sunday, September 10, at the Harbour Village Tennis Center. All Bonaire youngsters can register in one of the six categories: mini tennis-up to 8, 10, 12, 14 and 18 years old. There are separate categories for boys and girls. Each youth player plays several games to gain more playing experience. Sign-up cost is NAf15. RBTT Bank Bonaire, as a sponsor, makes t-shirts, and a BBQ available at low prices. The opening game is on Sunday, 10 September, at 10 o'clock in the morning. □ *Press Release story & photo*



Daniel Carillo and Thammy Albertzs

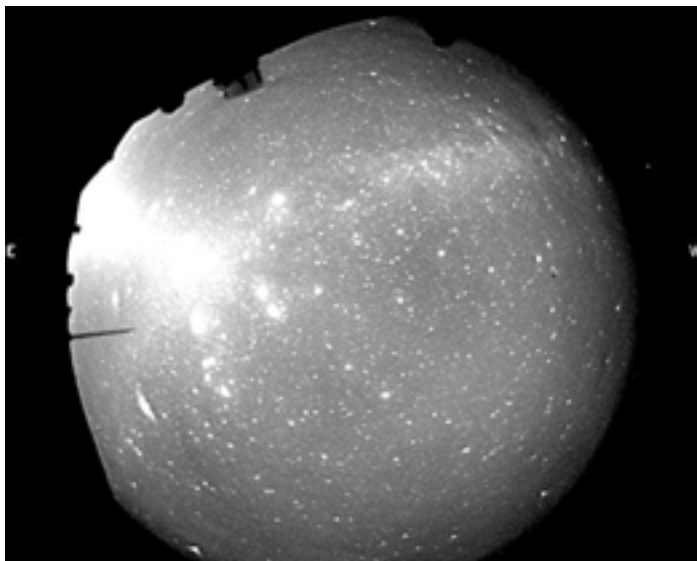


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

False Dawn

This column marks the return of what the Persian poet Omar Khayyam called the mysterious 'false dawn,' which can only be seen at a certain time of year. And although no one knew what this 'false dawn' was when Khayyam wrote his famous Rubaiyat almost 1,000 years ago, we today know its true nature, which is absolutely wonderful. Let me tell you all about it and how to find it.



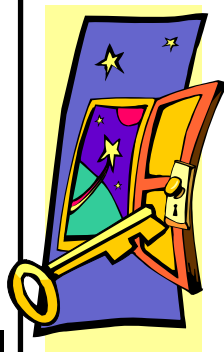
An unusual triangle of light will be particularly bright near the eastern horizon before sunrise during the next two months for observers in Earth's northern hemisphere. The triangle is clearly visible on the left of the above frame taken from Mauna Kea in Hawaii on August 30 by one of the developing global network of fisheye nighttime web cameras.

If we could go way out in space and look down on our solar system with superhuman vision, we would notice a faint, almost imperceptible vast cloud extending outward from the Sun in the plane of the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth and slightly beyond, an enormous cloud of cosmic dust. And while one would expect it would be impossible to see this super faint cloud from Earth, nevertheless in September when the plane of our Earth's orbit is almost vertical to the horizon, we can. And we now know it is the 'false dawn' that Omar Khayyam wrote about.

Now although the best time to see this 'false dawn' is every September, to see it, you absolutely must be far away from city lights when there is no moonlight to hide its faint glow. If you can see the Milky Way from where you live, then you'll also have a good chance of seeing this rare phenomenon. Look for this 'false dawn' in the east two hours before sunrise, before the real dawn. It will look like a wedge or cone-shaped dim patch of light about the same brightness as the Milky Way, and it will extend from the horizon almost half way up to the zenith about 40 degrees ... An ethereal, faintly glowing, rounded pyramid of light.

Now the scientific name of this phenomenon is the **zodiacal light**. It's caused by sunlight scattered off of all those trillions and trillions of dust particles in that great cosmic cloud, which extends from the Sun to our Earth. Now the best time to see the 'false dawn' this year is when there is no moonlight whatsoever in the hours before sunrise, which this year is the last week of September beginning at the time of the new Moon on the 22nd. So mark the last week of this month as the time to get far away from city lights to see the celestial phenomenon which captured the imagination of an ancient poet. I admit that it is quite elusive and difficult to find in this 21st century because you have to get really far away from all city lights, which for urban dwellers frequently requires a long drive out in the country. But once you've found it I think you'll know why it appeared in poetry centuries before it appeared in scientific writings. And if you want to pay Omar Khayyam a bit of homage on your journey to find his false dawn you just might want to take along "a jug of wine, a loaf of bread and thou beside me singing in the wilderness." □

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, September 3 to Saturday, September 9, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Travel will be fun and entertaining. Home improvement projects will run smoothly. Do not force your opinions on others the connections will be short lived. You need an outlet. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Self-deception is likely. Too many opportunities and too many changes going on. The distance may make you both appreciate each other more. You can make excellent career moves if you are open to the opportunities that exist. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You'll find it easy to upgrade your environment by redecorating or changing your residence. Sudden changes regarding colleagues may surprise you. You may want to take a look at courses offered at a local institute. It might be time to pick up the slack and do your share. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Do something that will be stimulating and creative. Take special care in any home improvement project you work on this week, you'll be glad you did. It might be time to shake a leg and do a personal makeover. This will not be the time to lend money to friends or family. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will feel the limitations if you have been overdoing it. Make those phone calls and pay your bills. Things aren't as they appear. Don't be too hard on your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Let your boss know your goals. Don't let children or elders put demands on your time. Look into any educational activities involving the whole family. Your time, not your cash, will do a lot more for your relationship. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Try looking into new ways to make extra money. Your partner could make you angry if they steal your thunder or embarrass you in front of others. Deception will play an important factor in relationships. Do not borrow or lend money or belongings to friends or relatives if you wish to avoid any hassles. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Relatives will not agree with the way you are dealing with your personal problems. You may want to pull out some of those unfinished project you've got tucked away. Old friends may not like your choices. Find out what they're up to, and see if you can pick up where you left off. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Interaction with colleagues will only be upsetting. Your efforts won't go unnoticed; however, someone you work with may get jealous. Try to include friends and relatives in your activities. Don't overspend on luxury items. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Go out with friends or family. Make changes that will heighten your appeal. Look into some personal changes. Be careful not to let friends or peers make you look bad. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Restrictions may be difficult for you to live with, but try to do things by the book. Residential moves should be considered carefully. Your mate will appreciate your honesty. You will meet new romantic partners through the company you keep. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Try to keep your opinions to yourself. Listen to the advice given by those with experience. Anger may cause you grief; control your temper and try to sit back and calm down. You can make money if you pursue your own business. Your lucky day this week will be Friday. □