

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

November 17- 24, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 44

The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Herman van Leeuwen photo

Royal Visit

Pages 3, 5 & 10

Above: Her Majesty, Queen Beatrix with Jackie Bernabela, Governor Domacassé and Minister President Emily de Jonge-el Hage



Windsurfing kids welcome the Queen

Wilna Groenenboom photo

Flotsam and Jetsam



An Air Jamaica plane was seized at Miami International Airport in Florida last Wednesday afternoon by creditors anxious to collect on a US\$7 million debt owed by the carrier. It was returned to the airline on Friday after reaching an agreement for the repayment of the debt owed by Jamaica's national carrier.

Airline industry sources told the *Jamaica Observer* that the plane was seized by International Lease Financing Corporation (ILFC) agents at about 4:30 pm in front of passengers who were to fly to Jamaica on what would have been JM024. ILFC is the international market leader in the leasing and remarketing of advanced technology commercial jet aircraft to airlines around the world. The company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of American International Group, Inc., owns a portfolio valued at more than \$40 billion, consisting of more than 800 jet aircraft.

Air Jamaica CEO Mike Conway confirmed the seizure but said that all passengers were accommodated at hotels and were flown to Jamaica the next day.

Just last week, the Government rejected a new business plan presented by Air Jamaica.

Air Jamaica losses last year were put

at \$136 million. The Jamaica government is insisting it can only provide US\$30 million this year. The Government has, however, given a commitment to keep the airline flying. **Air Jamaica flies to Bonaire every Saturday.**

► **Continental Airlines' load factor rose 2 percentage points** from a year ago to 79.3%, setting a record for October, the airline said. Continental said revenue per available seat mile increased between 4.5% and 5.5% for the month, as demand remained strong in the traditionally weak period for air travel. **Continental flies every Saturday to Bonaire from Houston and next month will begin Sunday flights from Newark.**

► **The Central Government has decided that it will spend only half of the 2007 budget**, in light of the target date of July 1, 2007, on which the islands of the Netherlands Antilles will break up into separate entities.

Finance Minister Ersilia de Lannooy said during Wednesday's press briefing that the instructions on using only half of the budget had been sent to all departments. The budget will be drawn up in December.

► **The excise import tax on perfume has been removed by the Antillean legislature, but the tax on packs**

of cigarettes was raised 20-30 cents as an offset. Customs currently levies a tax of 10.5% on the price of eau de cologne, eau de toilette and after shave. According to State Secretary Alex Rosaria (Finances) this decision makes the Antilles more competitive in the field of sale of perfume which is a big seller among international travelers.

► **Medical schools in the Netherlands Antilles have to seek accreditation if they want to guarantee their continued operation.** The Antillean Central Government has approached the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organization (NVAO) to help with the process of accrediting the medical schools in the Dutch islands.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently introduced more stringent requirements for off-shore medical schools. In addition, certain states in the US have imposed the requirement that a medical student who graduates in the Netherlands Antilles should be able to also practice in the Netherlands Antilles.

Last week the State Secretary of Finance Shamara Nicholson-Linzey said that the Netherlands Antilles doesn't yet comply with these requirements.

► Such is the concern about the future viability of the Great Barrier Reef that some audacious ideas are being floated in order to protect it. **Swathes of**

BONAIRE The REPORTER

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shade cloth floating on pontoons and cool water sprays are two proposals being considered by researchers to prevent future bleaching of the coral reef. Global warming is predicted to take a massive toll on the Great Barrier Reef, with some experts predicting almost complete coral bleaching within 50 years.

(Continued on page 3)

Royal Visit



Royal arrival



Young dancers entertain the Queen at Kas di Arte



The Queen charmed the people

Photos on this page by Wilna Groenenboom

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands ended a two-day visit to Bonaire early Friday morning. She had a busy program visiting numerous locations, with the highlight being a visit to Klein Bonaire (see DCNA Director Kalli De-Meyer's special report on page 5).

Everywhere Queen Beatrix went she was received with ceremony and protocol, but the Queen herself was unpretentious and charming. Usually there were children to greet her and bouquets of flowers and gifts presented.

Her Majesty arrived at Flamingo Airport Wednesday morning on her own plane, PH-KBX. (PH=Dutch International ID code. KBX=Queen Beatrix Xpress)

Bonaire's Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé addressed the royal delegation during the Queen's visit to the **Island Council**, asking Queen Beatrix to play a part in the new relationship with the Netherlands. "I hope the Queen can directly or indirectly play a part in the new collaboration with the Netherlands and that together we can build a future for Bonaire."

Following meetings with local government officials, the Queen paid a visit to the **Stichting Project, Kolegio Reina Beatrix, Klein Bonaire** and to a **reception at the home of the Lt. Governor**. On Thursday she was greeted in **Rincon at the famous Marshé**, visited **FORMA, the Kas di Arte, the Cruyff Court** and the **Windsurf Place** in Sorobon.

The trip to Sorobon and Bonaire's **Windsurfing Place** was high on the Queen's agenda. There she was treated to a spectacular freestyle show by champion Kiri Thode and other riders. She entered

through an "arch" of windsurf sails held by youngsters and was greeted by a smiling Elvis Martinus.

Queen Beatrix opened the "Cruyff Court" in Tera Kòrà, together with Holland's football icon, Johan Cruyff, whose foundation is behind the installation of first rate sports facilities in the Dutch Caribbean.

On her visit to Mick Smits **Stichting Project** in North Saliña (see write-up on page 4 of last week's *Reporter*) she learned how disadvantaged youngsters were being helped.

Perhaps the high point of Queen Beatrix's visit had to be the **trip to Klein Bonaire aboard the water taxi Kantika di Amor**. There the queen had a chance to walk barefoot in the sand.

At Klein Bonaire Imre Esser represented **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** and the **Foundation for the Preservation of Klein Bonaire (FPKB)**. After being introduced by **STINAPA's** Elsmarie Beukenboom he had three conversations with Queen Beatrix. He dis-

(Continued on page 10)

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT ON BONAIRE MUST DO –Part I (Part 2 next week)

Every person loving our island certainly agrees with the Guest Editorial “Of What Value is Growth?” (*The Reporter* November 3-10). Fortunately, in the case of Bonaire there is no necessity to build new resorts in order to create urgently needed jobs for the starving local population.

On the contrary, already now hundreds of workers, particularly from various Latin American countries, are needed to keep the local economy running. Without these workers some sectors, like the construction and hotel industry, would just collapse. Construction of any new building or house on the island would be impossible without foreign labor. When you decide to build a house, the contractor will probably be a Portuguese, a Venezuelan or a Peruvian, and the overwhelming majority of the employees will come from abroad. Only for a minority, including also workers from Curaçao, will Papiamentu be their mother tongue.

Years after completion of the construction of my house I am still dependent on foreigners for various repairs inside and outside the house – an electrician from Peru, a plumber from Chile, carpenters from Peru and Dominican Republic and a mechanic for garden pumps from Colombia. When my refrigerator breaks down, I call a Venezuelan, and another Venezuelan repairs my TV set. Practically without exception, all of them work fast and well.

The majority of the foreign workers came to our island because of a lack of job opportunity in their home countries. During my talks with these workers, I was very surprised to hear that some of them did not originally work in the field of construction but they have acquired all their knowledge and skill after coming to Bonaire, mostly from their fellow countrymen.

An obvious question comes to my mind: Why is it that our local young people, having the advantage of living in their own country and being certainly not less talented than the foreigners, not being trained in all these professions? Establishing Jong Bonaire, led by the dedicated Rene Hakkenberg and others, has been the first step in this effort. However, further steps must be taken by the government, for example the obligation of the employers on the island to train new local workers. In addition, it can also be ruled that a company on Bonaire may not employ more than a certain percentage of foreign labor. **Anyway, the government must do something soon in the urgent matter of training young people!** It is to hope that the upcoming direct relation with the Netherlands, favored by the majority of our people, will also bring an essential improvement in this important field.

Not only in order to preserve our unique nature, but also in order to diminish our dependence on foreign workers, the government must abandon its idea that the construction of new hotels would be beneficial for the people of Bonaire. One thing is sure, the con-

struction and operation of new resorts would need hundreds and later perhaps thousands of workers which cannot be recruited from the local population! (Aruba has had to import about 20,000 employees in direct and indirect connection with its absurd hotel development!)

I hope that it is not necessary to repeat again and again that the influx of foreign workers with their families would bring with it many unfavorable consequences, among them increase of crime, traffic jams, insufficient capacity of schools and medical facilities.

Aruba is a prime example. Everybody on the island must know it already. However, it seems that the government just does not care.

Jiri Lausman

Next week: The example of Aruba



LETTERS

DUTCH CARIBBEAN NATURE ALLIANCE (DCNA) UNOFFICIAL REPORT ON QUEEN BEATRIX'S TRIP TO KLEIN BONAIRE.

Dear Editor:

As friends and partners in DCNA I wanted to share with you our wonderful news about the royal visit to Bonaire. We were lucky enough to be able to accompany Queen Beatrix on a visit on Wednesday afternoon to Klein Bonaire. Everything went well and surprisingly smoothly thanks to lots of advanced planning and Elsmarie Beukenboom's outstanding work as host for the event. And we have some good news to share.

In addition to her personal household and military attaches we had Antilles Affairs Minister Atzo Nicolaï and Gea van Craaikamp, Director of Kingdom Relations, on board. Elsmarie and I had a private audience with Queen Beatrix during the boat journey to Klein Bonaire. She was very relaxed and obviously enjoying the outing. She was given a copy of the DCNA 2005 annual report in which she showed a great deal of interest. She was



Queen Beatrix returns a tagged turtle Hendrik Wuyts photo

particularly entranced with the photographs and commented that the annual report really brings to life the natural beauty of the islands.

On Klein Bonaire Elsmarie introduced STINAPA board members, staff and junior rangers. Members of the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire gave information on sea turtle conservation and Her Majesty saw a recently laid turtle nest and participated in tagging a turtle, wading into the sea to release it afterwards. She also made a donation to STCB which will pay for the purchase of a satellite tracking device and asked that the turtle be named "Eloise" after her eldest granddaughter.

On the boat journey back Elsmarie and I again had the opportunity to sit with the Queen and were able to give her information about the significance of the work which DCNA is doing, and the particular importance of our fund raising activities and the establishment of the Trust Fund. The Queen was told about the role of the Dutch Postcode Lottery in getting DCNA started by giving us our initial project funds. And also of the fact that we are about to embark on a 10-year contract with BZK. When she heard that the 'regeling' ("arrangement") for this had not yet been signed she asked Gea van Craaikamp to join us. The outcome is that we now have a promise, witnessed by Queen Beatrix herself, that the 'regeling' will be signed. The Queen even requested that she be informed once the signing had taken place! She expressed deep concern about proposed developments adjacent to protected areas on Bonaire and regretted the fact that we have been unable to be more proactive.

That same evening at a reception for the Queen, Elsmarie and I had the chance to spend some time with Mr Dolf Hogewoning, the Queen's Secretary. Amongst other things we spoke about the fragility and vulnerability of nature on the islands and the need for leadership in tackling development issues. Mr Hogewoning is clearly a nature lover and wants to return to Bonaire to stay at Slagbaai with his family.

Kalli DeMeyer

Wilna Groenenboom photo



Cruise ship Legacy

KUDOS FROM A CRUISE SHIP PASSENGER

Dear Editor:

We were in Bonaire for the Regatta aboard the Windjammer *Legacy* and it seemed like one great party all the time! The people on your island are so friendly and I truly enjoyed every minute. I was only sad that I didn't have enough time for visiting more in Washington Park. I loved the beautiful clear waters on Klein Bonaire, where we went snorkeling, the best.

However, I was deeply moved by the slave huts at the salt evaporation pools. The pools themselves were so interesting, as well. Please tell the people of Bonaire that I thank them for a lovely time. I will remember it all with great fondness!

Patsy Peoples, Dadeville, Alabama, USA

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

► A group of wildlife experts and industry officials joined the increasingly acrimonious battle over shark fishing last Thursday, **saying very few shark species were threatened with extinction as some activists charge.** Hitting back at what they said were misleading claims, they told Reuters that there was no targeted killing of sharks just for their fins—a Chinese delicacy—as most sharks are caught mainly for their meat. “We want to tell the real picture to the world,” said Charlie Lim, secretary of the Hong Kong-based Shark Fin and Marine Products Association.

Some wildlife groups say that many sharks are specifically targeted for their fins, which are hacked off and the sharks then thrown back into the sea to die a painful death. Lim disputed this as making no economic sense.

► **Captain Don tells us that his Reef Windows book will be published in Bonaire by Flamingo Communications.** The stories in the book are the original, longer, unabridged stories with photos, not the edited down versions for *The Bonaire Reporter*. There are 45 reef windows stories told in the book, out of 54 reef sites named by Don. “We expect another couple of months for the creative, editing, formatting, process...” said the Captain.

► Thanksgiving is next Thursday and Annette of Last Bite Bakery asks that you **get your Thanksgiving orders in now to avoid disappointment.** Among their other delectable delights they offer Pecan, Pumpkin or Apple Pies, Pumpkin cheesecake or other favorites. Call them at 717-3293. (See Last Bite Bakery’s ad on page 4) *G./L. D.*

SURINAM GET READY FOR SURINAM DAY

Bonaire’s Surinamese group, *Mietie Makandra, will be putting on another fun-filled day to celebrate Suriname’s 31st year of independence. It’s called a “Brasa Dey” (give a hug).

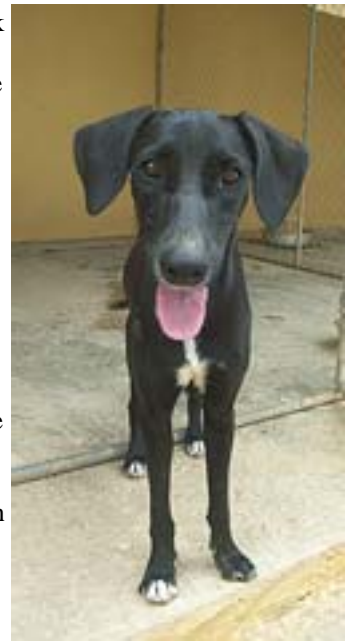
Every year the members of the group put on dances, entertainment, food and music – in their own traditional ways – with colorful costumes too. **Sunday, November 25**, this truly fun event will take place at the Sentro di Bario in Nord di Salina. At noon you’ll be able to find the place by your nose as the chefs prepare and sell authentic Surinamese food. Then the celebration begins around 4 pm and goes until ??

This group, representing about 320 Surinamese on Bonaire, always puts on great events, so if you’re on the island, don’t miss it. *L.D.*



Pet of the Week

You saw one of her puppies, “Jack,” last week in this column and now you can see the mom. This lovely, slender lady is “Moeke,” and she just finished raising four beautiful black pups. Moeke is about one and a half years old, and although she was found living on the street, she’s very sweet and gentle. She was found with her puppies when they were about a week old and they were brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. This family’s story has a happy ending.



“Moeke”

For another dog family the ending was not so happy. Along the dirt road between Hato and North Salina on Sunday we found a starving puppy curled up next to a bag reeking of a dead animal. When we tried to catch it ran into the *mondi*. We followed it and found another puppy, dead. Later, still trying to catch the pup, we found the mother, also dead. With the two of us we were able to catch one pup, perhaps not necessarily the one we were chasing as this one was lethargic and the other still seemed to have some life in it. We don’t know how many other pups there were. After giving it a little water we took it to the vet on Lagun Road who just happened to be there on Sunday morning. He examined it and said it was just too far gone and should be put down.

Earlier that same morning a reporter from *extra* newspaper encountered three pups at the same location. He also was unsuccessful in catching all the pups. His outrage at the abandonment appeared on the front page of *extra*’s Monday edition, “Abusu di Bestia,” with an article and photo inside.

So what should we do when we see abandoned dogs and puppies who are afraid of people and run away? Shelter Director Jurrie Mellema suggests putting out food and water to try and lure them. Then call the LVV (governmental agricultural department that’s in charge of the dog catcher) at 717-8836. Through putting a tranquilizer in the food the dog catcher can sedate the animals and take them to the Shelter where they can be examined and brought back to health if it’s possible.

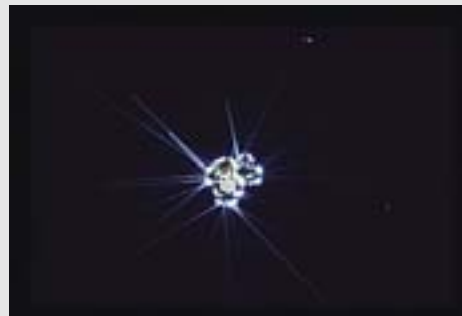
If you have or know of someone who has an unsterilized female or unwanted puppies encourage them to bring them to the Shelter where the adult can be sterilized and the puppies taken care of. Abandoning them somewhere where they have no food or water and where they will surely die a slow and lingering death is unspeakable, especially since it’s so easy to just drop them off at the Shelter, no questions asked.

As for any other puppies left on that road, if they’re not already dead, they soon will be. *L.D.*

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...
Phytoplankton produce about half of the oxygen on Earth?

The oceans cover about 71% of the Earth’s surface. In the top layer of the oceans are billions and billions of microscopic organisms called phytoplankton. By definition, plankton are organisms that drift with the currents. Some are plant-like (phytoplankton) and



Phytoplankton photo by Jim Brandon

some are animal-like (zooplankton) and others are just plain weird (bacterioplankton). The phytoplankton live in the upper reaches of the oceans (and ponds and lakes) and photosynthesize sunlight. They are the main primary producers of the oceans and form the base of the ocean food web. During photosynthesis, they produce oxygen.

Even though most phytoplankton are small, there are so many of them that they produce about half of the Earth’s oxygen.

They also consume greenhouse gases – those nasty gases that are responsible for the recent ‘Global Warming’ trend. So, if you didn’t know what phytoplankton were before, hopefully you know now, because these amazing organisms are responsible for maintaining life on Earth. Go phytoplankton!

Carin Eckrich

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.



Diabetes Day

As a fine and priceless service to the community the Bonaire Lions Club teamed up with the *Sosiedat Diabetico Boneriano* to put on a free-for-everyone "Day of Health" last Sunday. According to the Lion's Cub there were **217 adult attendees** who took advantage of this opportunity to get totally free exams for blood pressure, blood glucose level and more. Students from the St. James Medical School were there testing patients for blood pressure and blood sugar. Medical student Prathesh Jeyakanthan said he and his fellow students found at least five persons who had dangerously high blood pressure levels. "They would be considered 'pre-hypertension' patients," he said. Surprisingly, some patients told him it was the first time they'd ever even seen a doctor.

Attendees could have their feet and eyes examined by professionals. Physiotherapist and (Elektro) acupuncturist Mary Timmermans, who has a Holistic Health and Therapy Center at Kaya Aurora, was there testing patient's energy levels. Depending on the problem," Mary said, "the patient can improve his or her health by diet, exercise or other means – in a holistic way."

Dietitians from the Health Department demonstrated how to make healthy "alternative" snacks and healthy food products and passed out nutrition information. Thanks to the Lions Club, the Diabetic Foundation, Brokx Shoes, Manrique Capriles and Balfran Agencies for bringing this free day of testing to the people of the island, many of whom cannot afford proper medical care.
L.D.



Medical students on the job: (r to l) Rosy Khara, Sharmilla Mahadeo and Malay Saysana.



Physiotherapist and elektro-acupuncturist Mary Timmermans with patient Carmita Flanders and her husband Ernesto.

The Snack Bar Detectives

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



This week: Kos Bon So, Rincon.

Regular followers may recall that The Snack Bar Detectives took a saunter out to Rincon some weeks ago. Since then we vowed to return. This week we did just that. As always, our evening started early. Big D was waiting eagerly as I pulled outside of his house. This week, we were joined by a third sleuth, a Brit with an arm for drinking and big appetite; he was a natural choice to join us. Beefy Bob

(as he likes to be called) squeezed his not insignificant frame into the back of the truck and off we went.

As we dropped down into Rincon, we found by chance our venue of choice, **Kos Bon So**. Taking the road into Rincon towards the Rose Inn you'll find Kos Bon So on the left. It can easily be missed so keep your eyes peeled. As we walked in we were confronted with bar stools the size of tables. For once Big D was going to be comfortable. Looking around, we saw montages of photographs from everyone who had visited. Within minutes we were posing to join them. Three Polars were taken from the freezer. As always, the freezer door had hardly closed before we ordered three more.

One thing that is instantly noticeable is how clean this place is - gleaming white tiles, fresh paint and immaculate staff. Several beers later we enquired about the menu. Chicken, Lomito and Ribs were on offer from the Barbecue served with coleslaw, fries, Arroz y Habichuelas (rice and beans) and sâte sauce. Finding it difficult to choose, we decided on a mix of everything.

A smell filled the air which can only be described as mouth watering. We kept



our beer tally going until our food arrived. As most people have their food to go, we were served our meals in take-away trays. In our case, two each! The food was to die for - succulent chicken, tender ribs and the Lomito (a kind of pan fried steak) was the tops. Beefy has been known to put his food away. English fry ups and fish and chips aren't for the faint hearted, however, he had to admit defeat. Only Big D cleared his plate.

We sat and chatted, exchanging conversation with the locals and staff. One of the local guys even asked us if we minded if he smoked!

In one of his occasional pearls of wisdom, Big D summed it up in one phrase. "It's a hidden treasure." Once again, Big D had it spot on. *Photo & Story by SBD*

PORTRAITS OF BONAIRE, VOL. 2 WILL DEBUT

On Sunday, December 3, from 5 to 7 pm at Kas di Arte you can get a peek at the new *Portraits of Bonaire Vol. 2* book by author Guus Gerritsen and painter Henk Roozendaal. This coincides with the opening of a one-man exhibition, where Roozendaal will show 30 paintings. The exhibition will be opened by Donna Dovale and Elvis Martinus, both portrayed in *Portraits of Bonaire Vol. 1*, four years ago.

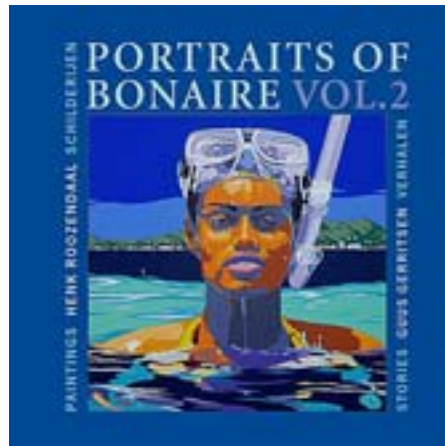
During this "art party," only, the new book will be offered for \$25 (NAf45), a \$10 discount.

For Antilleans, the publishers offer a free separate Papiamentu translation sponsored by *extra* newspaper and Notary Maarten Maartense. The translations are by Bòi Antoin and Celia Fernandes.

The exhibition will stay open until December 31st, daily from 2 to 7pm. Closed on Mondays. *Guus Gerritsen*



Model and Artist —Sharon Bol and Henk Roozendaal
photo Guus Gerritsen



PORTRAITS OF BONAIRE

The Captain

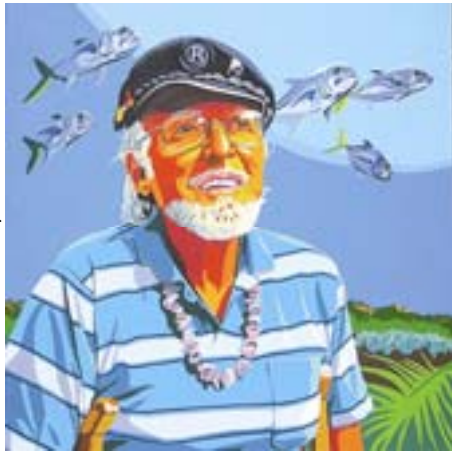
Story by Guus Gerritsen; portrait by Henk Roozendaal.
From the new book, Portraits of Bonaire, Vol. II.

On 19 December 1997, after having sailed aboard our yacht *Aeolus* for 24 days from the Canary Islands, we reached the Bonairean coast. Although it was almost dark, we couldn't see the Willemstoren lighthouse yet. Maybe the light wasn't switched on, not an uncommon occurrence in the area. We had to be careful. The lighthouse was placed quite illogically in the middle of the southern part of the island, instead of at the south-westernmost point. There were some unexpected currents here, and legend had it a lot of ships had run on the rocks close to the lighthouse. We decided to change our course due southwest, to round the southern tip of the island. At 11 o'clock at night, we finally made mooring in Harbour Village Marina.

On 15 December 1979, at seven in the evening, the experimental sailing raft *Sterke Yerke III* ran aground on the rocks of Bonaire. A few hours later, the raft had sunk and would become deep-sea property of the ocean. The crew, a Dutch biologist, a few researchers and several environmentalists, escaped with minor scratches. Their journey started in IJmuiden harbour, 123 days earlier.

On 1 January 1980, Captain Don, a 'friend of the sea' and an experienced diver, oversaw and took part in efforts to raise the raft from the ocean floor. One of his legs became lodged, and he broke an ankle. It didn't look good, and it turned out he had to have a full leg cast and would not be able to dive for months.

Years later, after the last screws had been removed by his doctor, Rob Van de Veen, Captain Don received the bill for medical expenses at the San Francisco Hospital: out of



Capt. Don

respect for all he had done for the island of Bonaire, the treatment was free. But the personal cost of the accident would be high, as Captain Don later found out.

"I was born in California in 1925, just east of San Francisco. My mother was an aspiring actress; my father was an inventor and patent holder of numerous window devices. They suffered at the 1929 Crash, they lost everything. My mother died, my dad lost his factory, and everything went from bad to worse.

Then came December 7th, 1941. The chill I felt at the news of Pearl Harbor was no different than that of my nation. I thought my karma had arrived, and I reached out to embrace our navy's retaliation: four years in the Pacific.

"In 1945, now a civilian, I sought the excitement of Hollywood.

It was during those years I discovered diving off Catalina Island. I had written an adventure novel called *Quest for Adventure*, which attracted the attention of a major Hollywood studio. They said, 'We will do the movie, but you have to furnish the prop.' The prop was a sizeable sailing schooner.

So I purchased the 70-foot *Valerie Queen* for the movie. A typical Hollywood turn-around occurred, and they cancelled me.

I begged, 'What will I do with the ship?' 'Just live your script, Don,' they replied, 'Live the script.' I had just turned 29.

"Well! I attempted to live the script, but it involved the Caribbean, guns and rum, with pirates and dozens of pretty ladies. My main character, Captain Flynn, was like a sea-going Indiana Jones. However, I found it all hopelessly beyond my skills. Yes, I had adventures aplenty: fires at sea, hurricanes, storms and pirates that changed my course. A course that eventually sailed me to my personal Shangri-la, a magic little rock called Bonaire.

"On 21 May 1962, I stepped ashore with my mate Percy at my side, with only 63 cents and my ship's papers in my pocket. At that time, it was an island with barely four thousand souls.

Goats, salt and charcoal were her commerce. Tourism was nonexistent. An untouched magnificent bay, which proved to be a field of gold. I thought of this place as an island adrift, without purpose or destination."

Captain Don settled in Bonaire. He took over management of the Hotel Zeebad (currently Divi Flamingo Hotel), co-founded the Sailing Regatta and the Bonaire Hotel Association, established diving facilities, rallied for ongoing environmentalism, and opened his very own Captain Don's Habitat in 1976. The captain turned out to be both a good

businessman and a promoter of tourism, adding an economic lifeline to the island.

"I could picture it: this island needed a new source of income, but everything to realize that was already there, in the form of nature and the ocean – provided they were being taken good care of. So no oil or garbage spills, no more anchoring right in the coral reefs, do away with the spear guns... I fought for that, even though I owned one myself! And with good reason, because there would be no divers coming to visit if the sea would not be clean or it would be empty of wildlife.

I've become an environmentalist, or even an activist, and not just because of economic reasons."

He received countless awards for both his economic endeavors and his way of promoting environmental care.

The Bonairean people loved him; he even became somewhat of an icon, fighting for important issues, working towards a better future. He knowingly accepted this role. Wherever he could, he spread his message fervently, using his powerful presence and acting abilities. Even to this day, he writes and gives talks – his friends in tourism see him as a welcome and effective means of promotion. They thankfully use the image of the Great Helmsman of Bonaire, cultivating it and spreading it for their own purpose.

What happens to someone who is praised so consequently that he almost comes across as a Saviour? Does he turn vain or shy?

"I see it as my job, nothing more, nothing less. It's also the job of a team of people around me, but to be fair, I like the attention.

(Continued on page 18)



Elvis leads the queen to the windsurfing show.
Wilna Groenenboom photo



A Stichting Project staff member talks with the Queen, Mick Smit, and Antilles Prime Minister Emily de Jong-el Hage Wilna Groenenboom photo

(Royal Visit. Continued from page 3)
cussed Klein Bonaire's return to the people of Bonaire in 1999. He explained to her Majesty that in 2002 he thanked her son Prince Willem Alexander for the royal support FPKB got to save Klein Bonaire out of the hands of developers. Prince Willem Alexander answered that Imre really had to thank his mom for the support FPKB got. After telling her this, her face became one big smile and she confessed that she did "some pushing" in order to save Klein Bonaire.

Spontaneous applause from the bystanders followed her "confession."

Perhaps the highlight of the afternoon came when the Queen named two sea turtles after her grandchildren. The first, a juvenile green turtle that she released after helping Gielmon Egbrechts (aka "Funcchi") tagging it, she named after her youngest grandchild, Zaria. The second turtle, a mature female sea turtle that will be fitted with a transmitter in 2007, she named after her eldest grandchild, Eloise.

Now that there is an emotional link between the Royal family and Klein Bonaire protection of Klein Bonaire is ensured more

than ever!

The Queen asked the STCB to take care of "Zaria" and "Eloise." STCB has taken care of sea turtles for more than 15 years now and will continue to do that in the future.

Klein Bonaire is part of the Royal family now for the next two royal generations. *G.D./Imre Esser*



Queen Beatrix speaks with Imre Esser (r.). STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom and Antilles Governor Frits Goedard look on.



The queen and Funcchi release turtle Zaria.

STCB photos

Astronaut on Bonaire!

An astronaut is coming to Bonaire! Former astronaut Charles Bolden will be here **November 25 to December 1** to talk about his many experiences in space with students in the public and private schools and with the community. Astronaut Bolden will make a presentation to the community **from 7 to 8:30 pm on Thursday, November 30 in the auditorium at Jong Bonaire**. This meeting is open to all, and it's free.

His visit was arranged by Bonaire residents Ben and Laura Buchbinder. Charlie and Ben met at NASA Headquarters 20 years ago. Ben volunteers at the Pelikaan School and when he found that so many students were interested in space he decided to invite his old friend Charlie to come to visit and share his stories.

General Bolden, a veteran of four Space Shuttle missions, was the pilot of the Shuttle mission in 1990 which launched the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit. A recent decision by the US space agency, NASA, to use a Shuttle mission to repair and upgrade the Hubble, will allow the telescope to continue to provide critical information on outer space until 2013 or beyond. Astronaut Bolden's visit provides Bonaire residents with a unique opportunity to meet someone who has actually seen the planet Earth from space and who has contributed to the deployment and use of the most productive telescope in our history.

In preparation for Bolden's visit to Bonaire, a number of schools have encouraged students to participate in space poster and essay contests. The winners of these contests will be announced at a Press Conference on Monday, November 27, at 5pm. at the Divi Flamingo Hotel, where General Bolden will be officially welcomed to Bonaire.

Charlie, like all NASA astronauts, is a scuba diver. The astronauts simulate weightlessness in their astronaut training by diving in the Neutral Buoyancy Facility at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Charlie is looking forward to some scuba diving during his first visit to Bonaire, and he may try wind surfing as well.



Discovery crewmembers, wearing mission t-shirts, pose for their onboard portrait on the mid-deck of Discovery. Charles Bolden (top left), was the pilot for this mission. The mission insignia is in the center and a model of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is on the right.

As well as the Buchbinders sponsors for the astronaut's visit are Divi Flamingo Hotel, ReMax Real Estate, Support Bonaire Foundation, Hertz Car Rental, Jong Bonaire, The Pelikaan School. Many other individuals have also contributed their time to ensure his visit and the poster and essay contests are a success. The astronaut's visit has been endorsed by the Board of Education, the RK Schoolbestuur and SGB.

Laura & Ben Buchbinder



Pilot Charles Bolden floats while orbiting in the Discovery Space Shuttle while Mission Specialist Kathryn D. Sullivan conducts a skin test on him as part of a space mission. In Sullivan's left hand is a bar filled with doses of a bacterial antigen to be administered to Bolden's skin. They are in front of the forward lockers on the mid-deck of the Earth-orbiting Discovery.

NASA photos

STRAIGHT TALK

It's all about dating, love, sex, friendship, and marriage - so let's talk. Email your relationship questions to my attention: reporter@bonairenews.com.



"Single Mother Of Five"

Dear Betty –
I am a single mother, early 30s, with five kids, ages 14 years to 18 months. My oldest is the result of teenage love. After the baby was born my boyfriend disappeared. A few years later, I fell in love with a man 15 years older than me. We were together five years, and had two children before I found out he was already married. He moved away to find work, and sent me a little money every now and then. After a year or so, the money stopped, but he continued to send Christmas presents. I started dating again, fell in love, and had my fourth child. Before the baby was a year old, the father moved to Holland, and I never heard from him again. A few years later, the father of my second and third child moved back to the island. I had my fifth child with him. I think he really loves me because he keeps coming back and said he wouldn't leave at all if he could find work here. He's leaving again in a few months. I don't know what to do. I love him, but I need someone here full time who can help me raise and support the children.

Betty Answers: Two MIAs (missing in action) and a multiple hit and run are not favorable odds. In the States, they're called "dead-beat dads," and when they get caught they are held financially responsible - not what's happening in your situation. You

were left as a single parent with full responsibility of raising your children alone. It's time for you to start thinking smarter. Honey, if you have any more kids by different fathers, you'll need a software database just to keep up! You probably can't afford a computer right now, so if you're going to have sex, at least use protection. You should be practicing safe sex anyway. If he refuses to use a condom, give him the boot. It's difficult enough for two parents to raise five kids, which tells me you're a pretty special Mom who deserves a special man in her life. Don't settle for anything less.

Joke Of The Day

A young man took his girlfriend home to meet his parents. His mother was thrilled with his choice, and couldn't wait for the wedding, but his father was upset. The son asked, "Dad, you don't seem to like her, but Mom likes her a lot." The father explained, "Son, there's nothing wrong with the girl. It's just that I cheated on your mother a long time ago, and your girlfriend is my daughter by that woman." So the boy dumped her, found another girlfriend, and took her home to meet his parents. His mother was delighted with her, but his father again told him the girl was actually his half-sister. The boy lost his temper and told his mother what his father said. Furious, the mother shouted, "Don't listen to him, sweetheart! He isn't even your father!" *Betty Wills*

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.

Supplied by *Molly Kearney (who has to solve all the puzzles first)*

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

Complete solution on page 19.

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

Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):
Free ads run for 2 weeks.

Commercial Ads only NAf0.80 per word, per week.
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 HOUSE NEW TO YOU?

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!

Vacation Rental

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

For Sale

Electric Guitar for sale. Stratocaster model. Brand new. Naf 300. Call Thomas 786-5352

For Sale – Woman's shorty ScubaPro wet suit with long sleeves. Worn twice. Black with magenta trim. Size 13-14. NAf70 (\$40). Call 717-8988, 786-6518.

For Sale Sharp TV with integrated Multi-System VHS & PAL, with lots of video tapes. Only NAf 150, Call 790-1604

Cars & Bikes For Sale



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

YAMAHA VI-RAGO 1100 1987 30K Miles NAf2500,00 Call 717-5939



Car for Sale Toyota Pick up with 4 doors, in good condition! Only NAf6.000, Call 790-1604

For sale: FIAT BARCETTA Cabrio, 1997, yellow, with hard-top and windstop. Tel. 786-5591.

Wanted

Captain and Crew needed for sailboat delivery from Miami - Bonaire. All expenses paid. Call Thomas 786-5352

A screen door for a bedroom. Call 786-3117



Porch sale: Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 18 & 19 – 8.30am to 4pm, Kaya Mandolin 2– Everything must go

35 ft. DUFOUR Racer/Cruiser Your opportunity to own the most successful model of the famous DUFOUR French shipyard:

- 2 private cabins w/head, 3 berths, Sleeps seven, full kitchen and saloon
- Large cockpit with foldaway dining table 10ft. CARIBE inflatable dinghy and 8 HP YAMAHA outboard
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 - Almost new, oversized, rigging, boom and self tailing mast, NORSEMAN connectors, telescopic boom vang, LEWMAR winches, lifelines, PROFURL roller furling, and DOYLE sails, wind and speed instruments
 - New, in the box AUTOHELM Sea Talk ST4000 autopilot, ADLER/BARBOUR Cold Machine electric freezer.
 - FRIGOBOAT Mechanical compressor refrigerator, 25 HP VOLVO PENTA diesel inboard motor
 - SIGNET Echosounder (depthfinder), Arjes mechanical autopilot, SIMPSON LAWRENCE electric anchor winch, BROOKS & GATEHOUSE speed log
 - 12v/110v electrical system, 110v-12v converter

Call 717-7223 / 786-9000



Book Week Opens



Governor Domacassé tells a story from the Reading Chair

Book Week opened last Saturday at the SGB. Then on Sunday at Wilhelmina Park there was a festival and presentation of the "Reading Chair." Both days were organized by the SEBIKI foundation led by Riet Sealy.

The Reading Chair was built as a result of teamwork among SGB students, teachers, SEBIKI and local business. Sealy approached the SGB art teachers with a challenge to let the students design a Reading Chair for Book Week. Funds to make the chair were provided by Marisella Croes of Benetton and construction teacher Weiman was asked to make the chair.

There were design requirements. The chair was to be used by both adult and child readers; it should be well constructed but not too heavy so it can be transported to different locations; and it should be of a multi-functional design, not for "a one-night stand."

Two and a half months ago the designs were submitted. Two designs, from Geruliane Booi of SGB High School class H3B and Ro-Angelo Martines of class B4HO (Hospitality), were selected, then combined into a single chair design. Weiman made the chair and last week the students and SEBIKI members put on the finishing touches. Teamwork and creativ-

ity made this Reading Chair possible. The Chair was unveiled and introduced by Governor Domacassé, who told a story of *Kompa Nanzi*, with musical accompaniment. It looks like that our Governor has some hidden musical "rap" qualities. The children loved it. Willemina Park was decorated for the day with book stands for children. The SEBIKI crew changed children into little animals by making up their faces, while "real" animals walked through the crowd. *Tio Gaby* entertained everyone with his music. The Reading Chair designed for the Children's Book Week was a perfect start. This whole week children will see the Reading Chair in different locations with different readers.

Story & photos by Wilna Gronenboom



Marisella Croes of Benetton donated the funds for the Chair

Picture Yourself with The Reporter

Woudrichem, The Netherlands

This little town is the residence of Bonaire visitor Ella van der Ploeg. Some years ago she volunteered together with her husband Frits at the Krusada Foundation. They regularly visit Bonaire and Krusada. It helps addicted people on the way to freedom. Krusada is located at Guatemala residence on the road to Lagun.

Woudrichem was founded in the year 1356. In August there was a celebration of the 650th anniversary of the town. The people walked around in historical costumes and the houses were decorated with flags and paintings. When climbing the tower (213 steps!) you have a splendid view of Woudrichem and the river Merwede.



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.)

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 |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|------|
| 11-17 | 1:53 | 1.0FT. | 10:50 | 1.8FT. | 19:48 | 1.1FT. | 22:26 | 1.1FT. | 49 |
| 11-18 | 0:57 | 1.0FT. | 11:14 | 1.9FT. | 20:48 | 1.0FT. | 23:54 | 1.0FT. | 58 |
| 11-19 | 11:39 | 1.9FT. | 21:55 | 0.9FT. | | | | | 67 |
| 11-20 | 12:04 | 2.0FT. | 22:40 | 0.8FT. | | | | | 74 |
| 11-21 | 12:37 | 2.0FT. | 23:17 | 0.7FT. | | | | | 81 |
| 11-22 | 13:17 | 2.0FT. | 23:54 | 0.7FT. | | | | | 85 |
| 11-23 | 0:32 | 0.6FT. | 13:56 | 2.0FT. | | | | | 87 |
| 11-24 | 1:09 | 0.6FT. | 14:44 | 2.0FT. | | | | | 86 |

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Available on-line at: www.bonairereporter.com
Reporters: Laura & Ben Buchbinder, Kalli DeMeyer, Caren Eckrich, Imre Esser, Guus Gerritsen, Wilna Gronenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Jiri Lausman, Molly Kearney, Greta Kooistra, Henk Roozendaal, Snack Bar Detectives, Michael Thiessen, Betty Wills
Features Editor: Greta Kooistra **Translations:** Peggy Bakker **Production:** Barbara Lockwood **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao**

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)
All The King's Men
(Sean Penn)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
The Guardian

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400
Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)
Children under 12 - NAf12

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 November:
Open Season

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 19—Leonid Meteor Showers, start at 3 am. See page 19.

Sunday, November 19 – Bonaire Day of Thanks— To give away to those in need—bring clean, non-perishable items (clothes, baby items, appliances, tools, canned good, office items, toys, bikes, shoes, paint, housewares, hardware, etc) to the building behind the big Catholic Church in Kralendijk, 9 am-3 pm. Before Sunday drop off items at Termo Tek, Kaya Korona (717-4658). More info call 786-1919 or 790-7272.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Sunday, Nov. 19 – *Rijnendam*; Tuesday, Nov. 21 – *Sea Princess*; Wednesday, Nov. 22 – *Amsterdam*; Tuesday, Nov. 28 – *Crystal Symphony*; Wednesday, Nov. 29 – *Crown Princess*

COMING

Thursday, November 23—American Thanksgiving. Special Thanksgiving Dinners at Rum Runners (Capt. Don's Habitat) and Buddy Dive.

Saturday, November 25—Sint Nicolaas arrives in Bonaire, Wilhelmina Park. Sponsored by the Fundashon Sanikolas. Call 717-8482 for more information.

Sunday, November 25 – Surinam Day celebration at the Sentro di Bario in Nord di Salina. Food service begins at noon and goes on the rest of the day. Celebration starts at 4 pm until ?? See page 6.

Thursday, November 30—Meet Astronaut Charlie Bolden, Jong Bonaire, 7-8:30 pm. Free. See page 11

Friday, December 1 – Live from Curaçao – “Caribbean Latina” - music from Colombia, Rep. Dominicana, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Antilles – Salsa, Merengue, Vallenato, Bachata. At Don Paranda – 7 pm until ?? NAf15 P/P

Sunday, December 3— Portraits of Bonaire Vol. 2 Debut, Kas di Arte, 5 pm. With portrait exhibition by Henk Roozendaal of portraits from the book.

5—7 pm. See page 8

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—**Buddy Dive**, 5:30-6:30
- HH **Cactus Blue** (except Sun.) 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.
- **Parke Publico** children's playground open everyday into the evening hours.

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, 2nd Saturday of the month, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.
 - **Flea Market every first Saturday of the month** from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambience 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.

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

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 BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.
Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the FORMA Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other **Tuesday, 7 pm**. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every **2nd and 4th Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm** - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Zeezicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 7117

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451; Valarie@telbonet.an

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

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on Sundays at 10 am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am. Children's club every Saturday at 5 pm in Kralendijk.

Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.

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 **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 Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday -Saturday 6-10pm | 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. |
| 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 10am-6 pm daily, | A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service |
| ADVERTISE YOUR RESTAURANT | IN THE BONAIRE REPORTER Every Week | And get listed in this directory FREE |

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.

CALENDAR

Bonaire Creations new 2007 Calendar available now at shops around town.

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 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.

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, rapelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the Galeries 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 most experienced 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.

The Touch Skin & Body—Birkenstock shoes for men and women. New styles

SECURITY

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

SHIPPING

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

WATER TAXI

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

WINDSURFING

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

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Monday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.

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On the Island Since ... 2006

Dyrichemar "Rico" Martis and Elizé Craane

"I was born on Curaçao where my dad was working as a foreman for the Curaçao Dock Company until they closed in 1993. My mother was working as an administrator for Pharmacy Muizenberg. I went to high school HAVO/VWO, the Maria Immaculata Lyceum, and when I finished I went to Holland.

I arrived in the city of Tilburg with a group of 25 students and they put us together on one floor... that was fun! I wanted to become a chemistry teacher, because at school I'd been very good in the subject and so it seemed to be a logical choice. But I was 17 and Holland was quite a different world from what I was used to. It was too much of a good thing. We were only partying! That's why I didn't do well with my studies. Chemistry turned out to be much more complex than I'd figured when I was still in high school, but they gave me another chance, and so I tried it for two years. Then I worked for two years - cleaning offices and in a cake factory. After that I picked up another study, mathematics. I studied for four years, but I didn't complete it because geometry was my weak point.

In 1997 my sister came to Holland and my parents followed in 1998 because my father had problems with his kidney. In 1999 my dad got a kidney transplant and it's been going well now for seven years already and we are all very grateful.

When I quit my studies I began working at Jumbo Supermarkets, filling up the shelves at night, from 11pm until 5 am. Then after a year I began another study, marketing management, specializing in the organization of fairs and events. It was a private education and twice as expensive as the regular one, so I kept on working to pay for my studies. I worked till 5 am and had to get up to go to school at 8 am! It was tough. But I realized that in the beginning I'd partied too much and this time I had to be really serious to complete my studies because it was my last chance. That's how I saw it.

In 1998 I met my wife-to-be, Elizé Craane. I went for a weekend to Groningen, in the north of Holland, to stay with an old classmate of mine from Curaçao. When we went out I met Elizé and both of us pointed a finger in the other one's direction and we said at the same time, 'I know you!' It appeared that we'd been in the same car with a bunch of people a month before in Tilburg, the south of Holland, but then we didn't have eyes for each other! However, when we met again the second time we started talking and until today we haven't stopped!"

"I was born on Bonaire in 1980," *Elizé says*, "and January 1995, at the age of 14, I went to Holland to live with my sister Marie, who was studying in Groningen. In Bonaire I wasn't doing well at school and so my parents took the risk and told me,

'Maybe you'll have a better future there...' I am really grateful to them that they let me go. It didn't take me long to get used to all the new things and at school I began to do better immediately. I thought about many professions but in the end I completed Middle Professional Education to become an office assistant."

"Well", *Rico says*, "I was living in the south and she was living in the north and so I took the train every Friday night to spend the weekend with her. We lived like that for four years and we became very attached to each other. I owe her a great deal - I am who I am thanks to her. Elizé is very spontaneous, very correct and she has a goal in view and she taught me to set myself a goal and to make it come true."

"You were always like that," *Elizé smiles*, "but maybe you didn't realize it. He's always sticking to his plans," *she says*, "and Rico is also very traditional and so am I, and that's great! We think the same about so many things, like education, getting married and starting a family, all in that order. And we have a lot of respect for each other. From when we met we've always supported each other; we went through a lot, but we stuck together because we always had a bigger plan in view: to come back to the islands and to get married..."

"It would be ideal when all Antilleans can come back with the knowledge they've built up abroad to develop our islands and make the world a better place. That's what I'm working on and that's why I came back."

"In 2002 Elizé came to live with me in Tilburg," *Rico continues*, "and in 2005 I went to work as a trainee on Curaçao and Bonaire, with the purpose of finding a job there because we wanted to come back. During the first years in Holland each one of us had planned on building a future in Holland, but over the years and especially after 9-11 the world and also Holland became more and more radical. I felt like I had to prove all the time that I wasn't like the other Antillean youngsters who'd given us such a bad reputation. So, after 2001, Elizé and I began to think about moving back to the islands. During my intern period in 2005, I was setting up an exhibition in Curaçao, 'Single Event 2005,' and that's when I met Ronella Croes, director of TCB (the Tourist Office) on Bonaire. I came to



Elizé Craane and Dyrichemar "Rico" Martis

ask for a donation for the event and before I went back to Holland to graduate, Ronella approached me and asked me if I wanted to work at TCB. I was very happy! My dream had come true! The negotiations took almost a year, until April 2006, and then I came to Bonaire! Elizé came back in July after finishing her studies. Johnny and Betty Craane, Elizé's parents, found an apartment for us and they helped us in every way, and I'm grateful for all the knowledge they gave me - they are my parents on Bonaire.

I miss my own parents very much. They've been a great support all my life and now that I make my own decisions they're still my advisors and we call every weekend. I've adjusted very well and I like it here, especially the people who are so much friendlier than in Holland or Curaçao. TCB created a position for me. I became the assistant to the director. The job is very diverse and sometimes you get a real adrenaline rush - I like it! Elizé and I also became members of the Flamingo Toastmasters Club, a club that prepares you and helps you to develop your leadership- and communication abilities.

In July I was approached by Rudsell Leito, the director of SELIBON, to ask if I wanted to become the chairman of the *Fundashon Tene Boneiru Limpi* (Keep Bonaire Clean). The Foundation had been stagnant for two years and they needed someone with fresh ideas to start it up again. I accepted the position, and Elizé became the secretary and together with the whole team we're working hard to let it roll again.

During Regatta we organized a game to keep the streets clean and people could win a bicycle. It was a very successful event. Now Carnaval is in the planning and of course we're going to organize a "Clean-

Up the World Day" again for next year, so be ready! Compared to the other Caribbean islands Bonaire is a clean place, and that's good for tourism, because blue waters and a beautiful nature are something the other islands have too. We have to distinguish ourselves in other ways and by keeping the island clean we're making a difference.

Eleven years in Holland have changed me in many ways. I've grown up; I've learned how to handle money and to set priorities. Life is tough, but if it were easy, you'd probably not appreciate it. Only when you've conquered all the obstacles do you know your own strength. But also I appreciate my islands much more than I did before."

"I've been away for 12 years," *Elizé says* "and a lot has changed: my mind-set, my behavior, my view of life - I see things in a completely different way. I am very glad to be back and I certainly see a future for us here. I've always appreciated Bonaire - its environment - and of course, my family. When I returned I immediately got a job at the RBTT bank, but beginning in mid-November I'll be working with the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance and Kalli de Meyer. It's exactly the job I've studied for."

"It would be ideal," *Rico says* "when all Antilleans can come back with the knowledge they've built up abroad to develop our islands and make the world a better place. That's what I'm working on and that's why I came back..."



Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

(Portraits, Capt. Don. Continued from page 9)



It's nice to see you can manage something well enough to get results, and to see other people taking on your ideas. "There are thousands of Bonaire

Alumni around the world. It is our task to mobilize them to fight for the ongoing health of our oceans, which are in peril. Bonaire serves as a drawing board, an example, a leader in ocean conservation that sets the pace for the world to follow. I founded the Accolade Foundation to document and promote images of a clean ocean and seaside, to raise awareness and hand out awards like I received to people who have achieved something in that respect. We plan to build an information centre in the coming years to focus our efforts in, and I'm certain we will find the necessary funds. The difficult part will be finding people motivated enough to work at the centre. We're still searching, so you can help!"

In December 1976, a young woman from New York followed the advice of one of her friends to book a diving holiday with Captain Don in Bonaire. She reserved a room at The Hotel Bonaire (the first of two locations of Captain Don's Aquaventure, later joined by Captain Don's Habitat). The morning after her arrival, with the remains of a hearty breakfast still on the table, a strapping, handsome man entered the room to start the diving courses.

His name was Don Stewart.

He asked every participant to read an excerpt from the Rules of Diving. Janet obliged, as did everyone. The ritual was similar to the one a fresh crew on a sailing ship has to undergo: reading aloud their own possible pun-

ishments: Do this wrong, you get keelhailed, do that wrong and you're tied to the mast for a day without any food or water, steal from your mates and you're thrown to the sharks!

This morning turned out to be a special one for both Janet and the Captain.

"He had the air of a captain alright, he was really imposing, and when he asked you to do something, you just did it. But he was charming as well. He would tell jokes and liked to socialize. After our diving lessons, he would tell beautiful, exciting stories. That holiday was the start of my life with Captain Don."

After many years Don and Janet still live in their self-created ranch home in Lagoen, a beautiful place with a heavenly garden, containing a greenery of plants and trees that all of Bonaire should bask in.

Captain Don spends his days writing as-yet-unpublished novels, cleaning his collection of antique air guns, checking on the shrubs and trees, and drawing the plans for the Accolade Centre with a soft pencil. Every Monday evening, the 81-year-old visits with hotel guests at Habitat and occasionally still does a popular slide show/story hour.

1 December 2004 found the Captain in surgery at Curaçao's St Elizabeth Hospital, where his friend, Dr. Van Leeuwen, amputated his right leg below the knee. The broken-ankle incident from 1980, on board the sunken Dutch raft, had turned bad. The pain of the last 24 years was finally removed.

As bid by Don, Janni (Janet), his mate, at great emotional cost, saw that the foot that first stepped onto Bonairean soil 42 years earlier was put to rest in the land to which Don belonged. On 4 December, the foot was buried in Bonaire, at the Protestant Cemetery's west gate, with many friends attending. Don was still hospitalized at the time, but the Bonaireans laughingly said, "Old Captain Don finally has one foot in the grave!" The living legend had created a new legend, of the grave without a body. *Story by Guus Gerritsen; portrait by Henk Roozendaal.*

"Bonaire Experts" Graduate



Proud Graduates with Sue Felix

Want to know anything about Bonaire and its history? Ask any one of these 22 recent graduates of Sue Felix's Tour Guide Class. The students attended 70 hours of classes, interspersed with class tours over a period of 19 weeks, and many emerged as official tour guides. Others in the group, working at the hotels, graduated with tour guide knowledge. The graduates' certificates were based on attendance, general knowledge and guiding. This year the top ranking student was Jurrie Mellema, Director of the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Also graduating was Henk, one of the first taxi drivers to take the course, who gave a short thank you speech.

Throughout the course organized and sponsored by Achie Tours, guest speakers from different sections of the community shared their knowledge with the students. As well each of the students received a "bible," covering all the facts and figures and wonderful stories of Bonaire.

The graduation celebration, attended by Lt. Governor Domacassé, was held at the Black Durgeon and was prepared and organized by the Durgeon's Rona, also a graduate, who offered drinks and an extensive buffet. *L.D*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Get Ready For This Weekend's Leonid Meteor Shower!

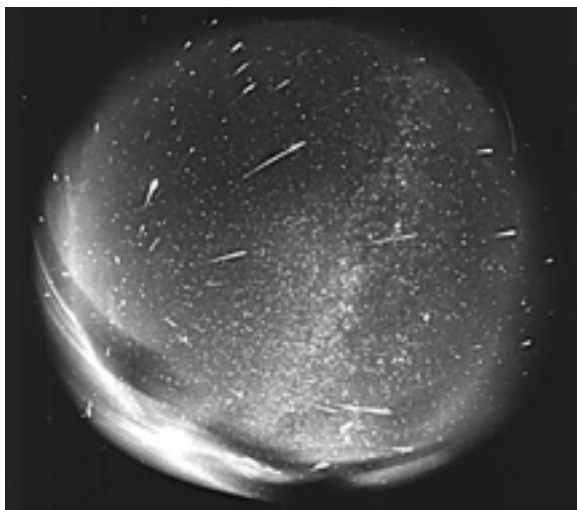
Every November we are treated to a meteor shower which appears to originate from **Leo the Lion**, so we call this event the **Leonid Meteor Shower**. Last year it was a real dud because bright moonlight wiped out all but the very brightest of the meteors. But this year there'll be no moonlight to interfere. So if you get far enough away from city lights and it's clear out you should be able to catch quite a few.

Very early this Sunday morning, November 19th, around 3 am, face east, where halfway up from the horizon you'll see the bright stars which make up the constellation Leo the Lion. The front part of Leo is marked by stars which trace out a sickle shape or a backwards question mark. Leo's rear is marked by three stars which form a triangle. And this year you'll see a bright light next to Leo which usually isn't there, planet #6, ringed **Saturn**.

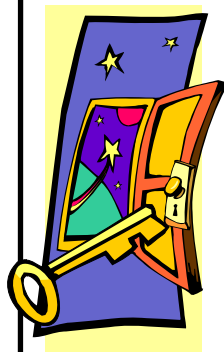
Now every November on the nights of the Leonid meteor shower bright streaks of light which we call meteors flash across the sky and appear to come from a spot within Leo's sickle. But it's all an optical illusion because the meteors are millions of times closer than the stars of Leo. You see, meteors are nothing more than tiny bits of comet debris that slam into our **Earth's** atmosphere so fast that they incinerate and cause gasses in our Earth's atmosphere to briefly light up, kind of like the gasses in a neon tube. The comet that causes the Leonids is **Comet Temple - Tuttle** which pays our **Sun** a visit every 33 years. But every time it visits our Sun it sheds some of its tail and leaves a trail of debris all along its orbit. So after hundreds of years and dozens of passages Temple- Tuttle's orbit has become filled with tiny specks of comet debris. And every November when our Earth plows through this river of comet debris many specks slam into our Earth's atmosphere leaving the trails of light which we call the Leonid meteors.

Now most of these specks are very tiny and leave very faint trails, but there are always a few bigger specks and they can leave brilliant trails which will make you gasp with delight. So because we have no bright moonlight to interfere this year you can expect to see 15 to 20 meteors per hour if you follow the rules for optimum viewing.

So start watching about 3 am this Sunday morning and make sure you are far away from bright lights. Lie back in a sleeping bag or on a lawn chair (stay awake!) with your feet pointing east, then slowly scan the sky back and forth for at least an hour and you should see a few bright ones. You'll have a better chance to see more bright ones about an hour before sunrise because that's when Leo will be almost overhead. Patience is required. And remember **not** to use a telescope or binoculars. This is strictly a naked eye event, which is my favorite kind. *Jack Horkheimer*



The peak of the 1998 Leonid meteor shower (rich in bright fireballs), shown in a four-hour time exposure through a fisheye lens, taken by Juraj Toth of Modra Observatory. This photograph demonstrates how the meteors in a particular shower appear to emanate from a certain point in the sky called the radiant.



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, November 12 to Saturday, November 18, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Regardless of your first reaction, the outcome will be favorable. Take time to listen to the problems of family members. You will be emotional about family matters. Avoid confrontations with coworkers who aren't pulling their weight. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Your charm will attract members of the opposite sex. You can win if you're open and up front with your boss. You should channel your efforts into getting rid of bad habits. Look into the cost factor, but don't try to get backing yet. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Take things slowly, especially for the sake of those you love. You may find a rare antique this week. Opportunities to meet new lovers will evolve through your interaction with groups or fundraising functions. You must avoid gossip and focus on what you have to do. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will learn a great deal from the foreigners you meet. Travel will be favorable. Don't let siblings put pressure on you. Try to curb your bad habits. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Acceptance will be necessary. Relationships may be hard to handle. You could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric individuals. You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Concentrate on spending quality time with children and friends. You mustn't make promises that you won't be able to keep. Try not to overspend on luxury items. Your courage and willpower will enable you to get rid of destructive habits as well. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Deception regarding joint finances or investments will cause upsets between family members. Avoid joint ventures and steer clear of groups that want you to contribute financial assistance. Your family may not be pleased with your decisions. Be prepared to overcome frustrations and obstacles at work. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Try to include the one you love in your plans this week. Keep an open mind when dealing with youngsters. Your partner could also use some time alone with you. You can make money if you concentrate on producing services or goods that will make domestic chores easier. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Ignore colleagues who appear to be going in circles. Get the whole family involved in a worthwhile cause or cultural event. Be aware of any emotional deception. Do not sign legal contracts or documents this week. Love relationships will flourish. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Secret enemies will be eager to spread rumors about you. Try not to let your emotions interfere with the completion of your work. You would be wise to consider attending lectures that will broaden your awareness concerning your professional direction. Get back to the comforts of cottage or home. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will be able to get good advice if you listen to close friends or relatives you respect. Talk to someone with experience about budgets or consolidating debts. You may be up for some changes in your home. You may find acquaintances being deceptive. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can learn valuable information if you listen and observe what others are doing and saying. Unpredictable events will disrupt your routine. Take the time to do your job correctly or you may find yourself looking for a new one. Involvement in groups will be favorable. Business partnerships will prove lucrative. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

And the solution is:

(puzzle and directions on page 12)

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