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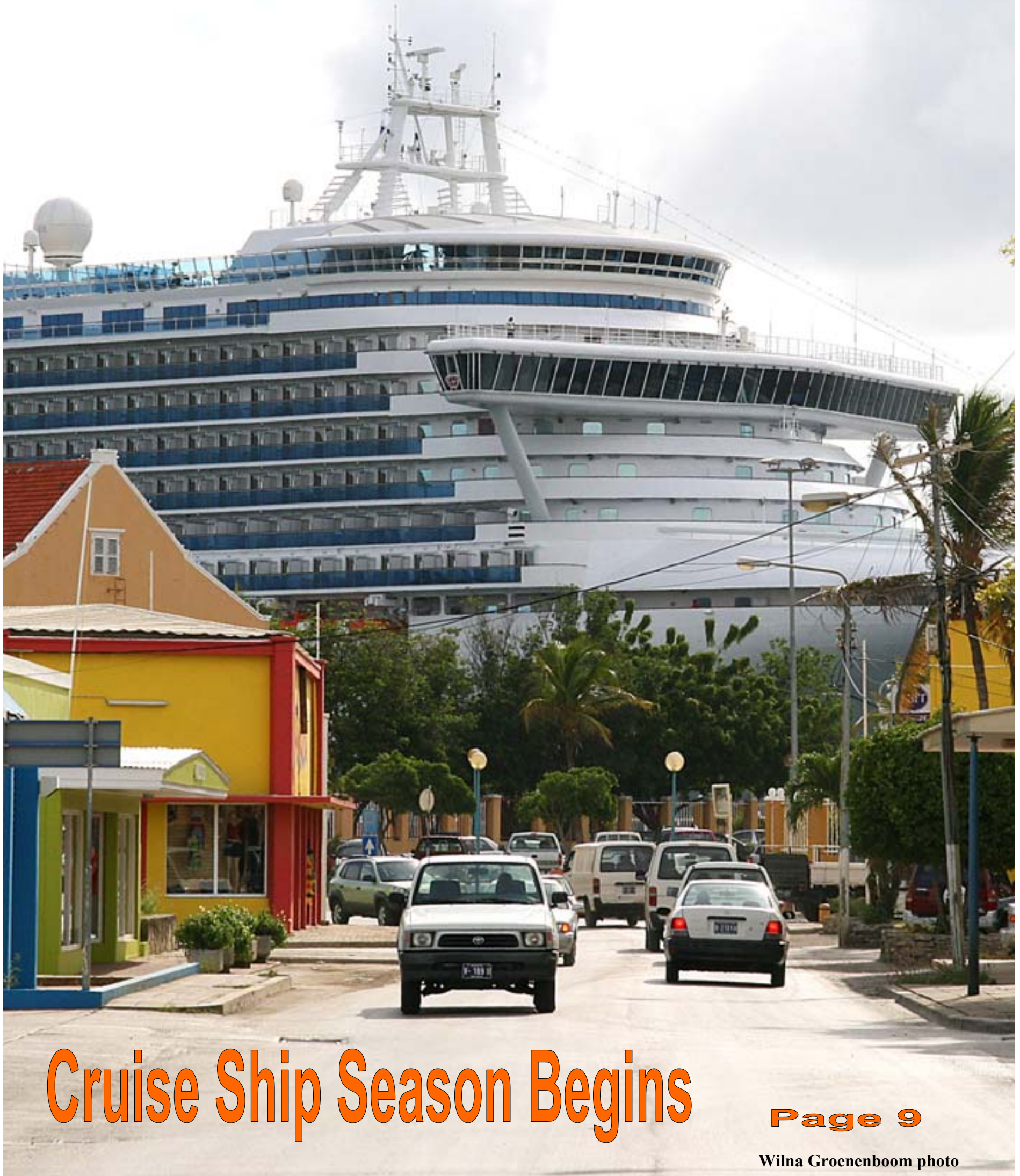
BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Cruise Ship Season Begins

Page 9

Wilna Groenenboom photo

Flotsam and Jetsam



Last week the Antillean Parliament voted unanimously to increase the old age pension (AOV) by NAf100 per month effective January 1, 2007. The basic monthly pension will become NAf654 (\$374) a month, with a double payment in December. To fund the increase the AOV premium will be raised 3% in two phases: 1.5% in 2007 and another 1.5% in 2008.

This premium increase is the same for both the employers and employees, namely 0.75% in 2007 and the same in 2008. The current premium is 10%, of which 5.5% is paid by the employer and 4.5% by the employee. Poor and indigent people will get more, NAf754.

► Flying out of Curaçao? **The departure tax for International flights has been raised from \$25 to \$32 per person.** The rationale was that Curaçao Airport Partners, which run the airport, said they would be short \$7 million annually without the increase. Charges for flights between Antillean destinations are NAf14,50. There is also a \$2 "transfer fee."

► Curaçao has the right to reject or renegotiate the final agreement dissolving the Antilles signed in The Hague on November 2, but **it does not have the right to hold back the constitutional reform process for the other islands** of the Netherlands Antilles, says Constitutional Affairs Minister Roland Duncan. Simply said, Bonaire can proceed with cementing its closer ties with Holland regardless of what Curaçao decides to do.

► Buoyed by the Netherlands' highest economic growth in five years, **Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende seems likely to retain power** when Dutch voters go to the polls on November 22, despite the resignation of two of his three governments in four years



Prime Minister Balkenende
Internet photo

► Dutch citizens with voting rights in the Netherlands and living on the Antillean islands are participating in the upcoming Parliamentary elections. **A total of 595 persons living in the Netherlands Antilles have been registered for participation in the Second Chamber elections.** The vast majority of the registered voters live in Curaçao. Most of the registered voters, 469, will cast their ballots via the Internet. Only 124 persons will vote by mail.

► **The noted hurricane forecasting team led by Dr. William Gray has not missed by this much in a long time.** Before the Atlantic 2006 hurricane season started, they predicted it would be well above average. Instead, it has been slightly below average as the November 30 end of the season draws near. The unexpected formation of the El Niño phenomenon in the eastern tropical Pacific was probably a chief factor.

► **The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) began surveying 178 companies in Bonaire** last week to obtain information on the island's labor market. The survey will also be conducted in Curaçao and St. Maarten. The survey started on November 13 and will end on December 15. The last job survey was held in 1998.



► **Parliament debated on the draft law to formalize the tax treaty signed recently between the Netherlands Antilles and US** so the exchange of tax information between the two countries can go into effect as soon as possible. Approving the draft law will open additional possibilities for trade with the US, Antilles State Secretary of Finance, Alex Rosaria, stated in a press release. He said the treaty would fortify the Netherlands Antilles' position as a high-quality international financial center. He added exchanging tax information with the US will prevent fraud and tax evasion and is an instrument to combat financing of terrorism.

BONAIRE The REPORTER

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► **The Netherlands Antilles still remains on the financial blacklist of several countries** despite the fact that Antillean tax laws have been thoroughly revised. South American governments are typically not aware that the Netherlands Antilles has updated its tax laws and consequently, these countries avoid doing

(Continued on page 4)

Astronaut to Announce Contest Winners

Former Astronaut Charles Bolden will land on Bonaire 25 November at 6 am, especially to speak with students and award prizes in the space essay and poster contests. He will be met at the airport by Governor Herbert Domacassé and officially welcomed to the island.

Monday evening, 27 November, at the Divi Flamingo Hotel, Astronaut Bolden will announce the winners of the poster and essay contests and present the prizes to the winners. Over 100 students from the 6th class, SGB, Pelikaan School and Uni-College entered the poster and essay contests.

The schedule of official activities follows lower right. When he is not making a presentation to one of the schools or the community, the former astronaut will try to take in some of Bonaire's scuba diving and maybe try windsurfing. General Bolden is a scuba diver and he will be visiting Bonaire for the first time.

Sponsors for the astronaut's visit are RE/MAX Paradise Homes, Support Bonaire Foundation, Divi Flamingo Hotel, Hertz Car Rental, Jong Bonaire, The Pelikaan School, Jake Richter family and Laura and Ben Buchbinder. *Alan Gross*



Liftoff of the Space Shuttle Discovery in 1994 with Charles F. Bolden, Jr. as mission commander. The eight-day mission was the first to carry a Russian cosmonaut. NASA photo

Bubbles from the Biologist



Octopus Photo by Albert Bianculli

Did You Know... Octopuses are among the most intelligent invertebrates?

Their intelligence is said to equal that of a housecat. According to many behavioral scientists, an octopus can learn difficult tasks and can also learn from watching other octo-

puses. They can navigate mazes, open jars, and distinguish different shapes and patterns. If one octopus sees another open a jar with prey inside, it will be able to open jars in much less time than if it were isolated.

Another fun fact: two-thirds of an octopus's neurons are in its arms. If an arm is severed, it can continue to crawl, change color, and even suck onto surfaces! Octopuses can regenerate an arm, but not its head. For those of you lucky enough to find an octopus out on the coral reef, be extremely patient and calm and it may reach out and interact with an outstretched finger. Needless to say, I'm a big fan of octopuses and haven't been able to eat them for years! *Caren 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.



Date & Time	Activity	Location
	Astronaut's Visit	
25 Nov. Saturday 6 am	Boldens arrive airport & are met at steps of plane by officials.	Flamingo Airport tarmac
27 Nov. Monday 8:45 to 11:30 am	6 th Grade students: Group 1. 9-10am Group 2. 10:30-11:30am	Jong Bonaire auditorium
27 Nov. Monday 5 pm	Press conference preparation	Divi Flamingo Calbas dining area
27 Nov. Monday 5:30 pm	Press Conference and photos (50 to 60 people)	Divi Flamingo
28 Nov. Tuesday 7:45 to 9 am	Presentation to Pelikaan students and UniCollege	Unicollege
28 Nov. Tuesday 4 to 5:30 pm	Presentation to Jong Bonaire and possibly FORMA	Jong Bonaire auditorium
29 Nov. Wednesday 7:30 am to 12:30	Presentation to several groups at SGB high school	SGB high school
29 Nov. Wednesday 12:45	Lunch with Rotary	
30 Nov. Thursday 6:45 to 8:30 pm	Presentation to public	Jong Bonaire

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) business with the Netherlands Antilles. The Central Government is working to correct the situation expeditiously.

► Rude immigration officials and long delays in processing visas have turned the **US into the world's most unfriendly country for international travelers**, according to a global survey released on Monday. The survey showed that the US was ranked "the worst" in terms of visas and immigration procedures by twice the percentage of travelers as the next destination regarded as unfriendly—the Middle East and the Asian subcontinent.

► **The traditional holiday stamps from Nieuwe Post N.V. are out.** The "December" or "Discount Stamps," is a series of six stamps which can be used to send holiday cards at a discounted rate, Nieuwe Post N.V. said in a press release.

The local and inter-island rate is NAf45 cents. For international destinations (US, Canada and Europe) the fee is NAf2.15. For Aruba the rate is NAf1. For destinations in the Caribbean and South and Central America the rate is NAf1.49, and for Australia and countries in Asia and Africa the rate is NAf2.85.

Nieuwe Post said the discounted rates are only valid to the end of the year for cards up to 20 grams in an open (un-sealed) envelope.

The stamps convey best wishes for a happy holiday in five languages: Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Spanish and French. First Day covers and all related philatelic items are available at all post offices in the Netherlands Antilles.

► The Central Committee of the Antillean Parliament debated the 2007 budget this week. It did so against the background of major debt. **The debt problem of the Antilles gets bigger and more difficult to manage.** The debt in 1996 was NAf2.8 billion, 57 % of the Gross National Product; in 1999, NAf3.3 billion, 66% of the GNP; in 2003, NAf4.4 billion, 81%; and now in 2006, NAf5.1 billion, 84%. Curaçao offi-

cial hope the bulk of the debt will be resolved when Curaçao acquires its new status next year. Holland's debt is about 50% of its GNP.



ABVO photo

► The Queen not only met with government and social organizations while in Bonaire last week. Here she is **with Hamoudy Dabboussi of City Shop and his wife, Rouba.**

► **Sanikolas arrives on Bonaire at the North Pier this Saturday.** This long awaited event held every year at this time offers some of the best photo opportunities. Kids of all ages and their parents and guardians line the streets as Sanikolas, together with his helpers, Swarte Piet, pass through the throngs. The Swarte Pieten entertain the crowd by throwing candy and doing all sorts of gymnastics and funny tricks.



Sanikolas and his group, it is said, sail into Bonaire every year from Spain. They should arrive around 10 am. Before that, however, there will be all sorts of activities at Wilhelmina Park for the children starting at 9 am. After his arrival there will be even more entertainment and activities on the stage. The event is sponsored by the hard working members of the *Fundashon Ata Sanikolas i Zwartepiet* and SEBIKI.



Her brother accepts for Yufrou Yoi.



Luti Balentin ABVO photos

► Bonaire recalled its slave days heritage last week with the **Chapi di Lucha Awards** (Hoe of Light). The group that was founded in 1834 by Catalina Janga fought against the maltreatment of slaves. This was commemorated on Monday last week with the awarding of Chapi di Lucha to two Bonaireans: union leader Luti Balentin and educator Mrs. M.D. Helmijs-Marsera (better known as Yufrou Yoi). There is also an exhibition in the Kas di Arte where local artists reproduced the life of slaves in works of art.

Then on Sunday, November 26 from 4 to 7 pm, Sanikolas and Zwartepiet will be at Parke Publico with more games and fun and it's all free.

► **This Saturday, November 25, don't miss the exciting activities of Surinam Day "Brasa Dey."** The group of Surinamese living on Bonaire, about 320, know how to throw a party and they put on a great event every year with live music, dancing, native dress, Surinamese food, and wonderful camaraderie. Sale of the very succulent and delicious foods begins at noon, then the party begins at 4 pm until ? It's at the Sento di Bario in Nord di Salina. It's a "don't miss" opportunity and it happens only once a year.

► **It is now possible to dial US "800" numbers from Bonaire via Telbo.** Just dial the 800 series number and accept the charge for the International portion of the call

► Every December, *Caribbean Travel and Life* magazine publishes the hottest deals available for the 2007 High Season. This year they only picked 26 deals, chosen from thousands of resorts worldwide. **Golden Reef Inn was Bonaire's only resort property to be chosen a "Hottest**

Deal" with their Romantic Adventure Package called "Pirates Adventure in Paradise Special."

The special includes accommodations in a one-bedroom suite for seven nights, a welcome basket with champagne, flowers, fruit and chocolates. Each person then gets to choose two activities from two different categories including scuba courses, windsurfing, land sailing, sunset dinner cruises as well as mangrove and kayak snorkeling. Airport pickup and a vehicle are included in the price of \$2,400 per couple. Ad on pg.18.

► Don't let it happen here: **Elfina Hermanus (53), a Dutch woman living in Curaçao, was killed while snorkeling in Curaçao** after being hit by the propeller of a Coast Guard boat. The boat was originally a "go-fast" boat confiscated because it was used in drug smuggling. A team of police and military officials are investigating the incident. The victim was snorkeling and diving with a group of friends when hit by the propellers of the speeding boat. Unconfirmed reports said the dive instructor who guided the group had not complied with regulations. There is also a concern that the victim was too far out at sea for safe snorkeling.

G./L. D.

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The second of a new series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brower, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

The Fire Engines of Rincón

The Rincón fire station is located in the center of the lovely small village, just opposite the monumental Roman Catholic Church.

The three firemen are very proud of their job and of their fire engines. They know every detail of their trucks and equipment and they maintain the vehicles themselves.

Mr. Statia (Fire Chief First Class-hoofdbrandwacht eerste klas) is the head of the fire brigade of Rincón. He has been a fireman for 28 years now. He's assisted by Mr. Cicilia (Fireman-hoofdbrandwacht). Cicilia has been working for the fire brigade for 17 years. They have been assisted by Mr. Koeiman (Fireman in training-aspirant brandwacht) for



The three proud firemen of the village of Rincón. L to R: E. Cicilia (Fire Chief-hoofdbrandwacht), S. Koeiman (Fireman in training-aspirant brandwacht) and P. Statia (Fireman Chief First Class hoofdbrandwacht eerste klas). The men are pictured in front of their newest fire engine: an International, built in 1991, known as the AS17. (Picture: J@n Brower)

almost a year now.

The firemen were very pleased to give all kinds of information about their three fire engines. The oldest one, the AS14 (AS stands for *AutoSpuut*), is parked behind the fire station. The 30-year-old engine is "retired" now. According to the firemen people often take pictures of this classic International Cargostar 1810B. The huge fire vehicle is equipped with a massive V-8 engine. The truck was manufactured in Indiana USA in July 1976.

The other two fire engines are in mint condition and eager to work every day. The newest one is an International V-8, built in 1991. The International is known as the AutoSpuut 17 and it is able to hold 3,800 litres of fire extinguishing water.

The third fire engine is a cute "little" GMC Sierra Grande 35, built in 1980. The GMC can carry 1,000 litres of water and the vehicle is equipped with a nice and functional four-wheel drive traction. The car can cope with all kinds of rough terrain and is able to extinguish fires in the most desolate areas of the island of Bonaire.

The fire station of Rincón is manned 24 hours a day. The phone number is 717-8222. J@n Brower



Another picture of the firemen with the "little" GMC Sierra Grande 35, built in 1980. (Picture: J@n Brower)

Guest Editorial expresses the opinions of the writer

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT ON BONAIRE
MUST DO - PART 2
THE EXAMPLE OF ARUBA

A moratorium on construction of new hotels should be declared by the government before it is too late. On Aruba, after ignoring the rampant situation for several years, the government declared such a moratorium at the beginning of the 90s. It went so far that construction of two large hotels on the famous Palm Beach was stopped and one large, almost completed hotel (Ramada) was demolished! However, after the elections, the new administration of the MEP party, currently in power, has thrown out the moratorium, and an uncontrolled hotel construction started again on a much larger scale than before.

A gigantic, new timeshare hotel complex of four buildings, towering above other hotels, seems to be transferred directly from Miami Beach. At the site of the demolished Ramada a new, much larger and higher hotel tower is planned to be built. Another large hotel is being constructed on the last pristine section of the Palm Beach, which has been to Aruba the same as Lac is to Bonaire, in spite of fierce protests by the environmental factions. The windsurfing on Aruba, in earlier years known for its famous annual High Winds championship, is finished and the main windsurfing company moved to Bonaire.

The political status of the island has proven to be crucial for the decisions on new hotel development. Because Bonaire

still forms a part of the Netherlands Antilles, the Governor had the power to suspend the permits for the Mangrove Village Development.

If a similar situation arose on Aruba with its Status Aparte, the Governor of Aruba, a former minister in the MEP government, would never take a similar decision and nobody would even dare to mention that a report on the environmental impact of the land use should be elaborated. Status Aparte currently gives an absolute power on Aruba to the government party, and no restriction concerning the island development can be imposed by the Kingdom. MEP "owns" the governor, the government and also the parliament, in which the party has an absolute majority.

The Status Aparte has been also responsible for paying exorbitant salaries to 21 parliament members and pensions to many more. It is evident that it is pure money squandering because the parliament, being an extended arm of the government, has, during the 20-year existence of Status Aparte, never voted against a government decision. I hope that those among us, who voted for Status Aparte for our island in the past referendum, realize that a similar dangerous situation could also be created on Bonaire. We do not need to go too far to see that an absolute power of one political party, having the presidency and a majority in the both chambers of the congress can be disastrous for a country.

Jiri Lausman

The Snack Bar Detectives

Their Mission: *To seek out the mysteries behind the doors of Bonaire's snacks*
This week: The Top Five Snacks of 2006.



As we are approaching the end of the year, we figured that we should review our findings so far. During the week we collated our evidence and sat at our favourite watering hole to cogitate, deliberate and ruminate over our findings.

We've taken many things into consideration including: quality of food, portion size, price, coldness of beer, surroundings and the staff. Through many hours of debate (and many bottles of Polar) we're ready to announce the **Top Five Snack Bars of 2006**.

In **Fifth place** we chose: **Donde Papi Kushina Krioyo**, on Kaya Libertado Siman Bolivar 22. We loved the décor, friendly welcome and great local food. A great place to sample the cuisine of Bonaire.

Fourth place took us to **Kos Bon So in Rincon**. This one we found by accident. Only Big D's nose for food ensured that we didn't pass it by. As always in Rincon, a great welcome and friendly locals. The food from the grill was superb with big portions all at a good price.

OK. Top three time. In **Third Place** we found **Mi Banana** on Kaya Nikiboko Nord. The food is mainly Latino in style, big grills, great fish and some of the best soup on the island. Check out their Sopa de Dia, all homemade. The fish soup is superb.

Just missing out on the top spot was **Sisys Bar in Rincon** in **Second Place**. Once again, Rincon welcomed us with open arms. This place had it all, excellent food, cold, cold beer, great atmosphere, friendly staff and great prices. Some may remember that four of us ate and drank all night for around NAf100. Not to be missed.

So, any guesses on the number one Snack Bar of Bonaire? There was really only one choice for us: **Spanhoek bar & Restaurant**, Kaya LD Gerharts 15. Spanhoek came out on top for a few reasons. Firstly the food, always consistently high quality, very cheap and huge portions, you really couldn't make it for the money. Beers are straight out of the freezer, with Amstel and Polar at NAf2 and Balashi at just NAf1.75, it won't break the bank. We have tried just about everything on the menu and never been disappointed. Don't forget to try their Roti Night every Thursday; a great Surinam dish with Chicken or Beef and as spicy as you like, but reserve in advance.

There we have it. Thanks to all of the Snack Bars on the island for keeping us well fed and watered. Congratulations to Erna and De Guang from Spanhoek for beating off very tough competition.

What now for the Snack Bar Detectives? Well, Big D and I will be taking a well earned break from our culinary sleuthing. We hope to return in the New Year full of vim and vigour to carry out our ongoing mission.

If you haven't already done so, check out our top Five. Don't be afraid to stray from the beaten track. If anyone asks, tell them "The Snack Bar Detectives sent you"!

Story by SBD

Dream Diving on Bonaire

Matt Johnston is an explorer, pioneer and inspiration to many. He is a man who has set out not to push limits, but to define them. At age 29, after a nearly three-year pursuit of his dream, Matt has become the first ventilator dependent individual in the world to go scuba diving. Beginning at a very young age, Matt has defied the odds of muscular dystrophy with more than a will to live...as he pursued a dream to one day experience a world that many take for granted.



Matt Johnston

Liz Ginocchio, owner of The Golden Reef Inn and a Registered Nurse, writes: "I'm working with a very dear friend of mine, Matt Johnston, who has Duchenne MS, is totally paralyzed and was just recently certified as a diver. The cool thing is he is completely ventilator dependant. He is 29 years old. (The typical life span of a DMS patient is only 31). **His ULTIMATE dream is to dive on Bonaire.** We have been phone and email buddies for the last two and a half years, and I finally got to meet him in person at DEMA (Dive Equipment Manufacturers Association).

Golden Reef is donating the rooms for Matt and his crew and Wannadive will be handling the diving. I am working with TCB and Rolando on a form of transportation while on island that can accommodate his wheelchair and

vent. We are also seeing if we can get some restaurants, etc. to kick in too! Anyway, we need to raise funds for his airfare. He is in Minneapolis, but he can get to Chicago. He is going to be on the Today Show in two weeks and we really want to make the announcement then. We need to get a couple of first class seats and between six to eight coach seats. We'd like to get him down here in May. Check out his website at www.divingadream.org and click on his "personal" website too."

Attention Reporter readers! Maybe we can generate some funds from our "unhandicapped divers." They can qualify for tax free donations. Contact Liz at (599) 717-5759 or email to info@goldentreefinn.com. G.D.

Career Day in Bonaire

Want to be a park ranger, a banker, a policeman? Want a higher study in health or teaching or hotel management?

Last Saturday at the Sport Hall more than 500 students from the SGB High School were able to really get a look at what different careers could hold for them.



Herman van Leeuwen photo

A number of schools and institutes were there with representatives to answer questions and demonstrate what they had to offer. It was a fantastic opportunity for young people to see what the future might hold for them. The event, the third, was organized by Reynolds "Nolly" Oleana and Lilian Paula-Crestian and coordinators of the SBM (*Studie en Beroepen Markt*) Bonaire 2006.

Not only were there soon-to-be graduates of SGB but also students who have two more years to go.

Bonaire may be a small island but its opportunities for advancement for its young people are unbounded. *Pabien* to the organizers.

Schools represented were: 1. **Bonaire:** SBO;

2. **Curaçao:** Frater Aurelio MBO, RK, MTS, Instituto pa Formashon den Enfermeria, Maris Stella SBO, Abel Tasman College, Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen, Cusises, Akademia Pedagogiko Korsou, Openbare MBO "Ban Bria,"

3. **Aruba:** Edukashon Profesional Intermedio

4. **Netherlands:** Hogeschool Rotterdam, Saxion Hogescholen, Noordelijke Hogeschool Leeuwarden, Christelijke Hogeschool Nederland, Christelijke Hogeschool Windesheim, Haagse Hogeschool, ROC Amsterdam, Mondriaan International Hotel and Management School, YFU.nl International Exchange

Companies and Institutes with representatives:

Fundashon Mariadal, Korps Politie Bonaire, STINAPA, Dienst Educatie en Cultuur, Britisch American Books, Fundashon pa Planifikashon di Idioma, Maduro & Curiels Bank NV, Telbo NV, Dienst Economische Zaken en Arbeidsaangelegenheden, Cargill, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, FINEB (Study financing), Brandweer (Fire department), Fundashon Material Pa Skol

Herman van Leeuwen with L.D.

ArkeFly's Back To Rock 'n' Roll



Live at Plaza Resort

November 10th saw the first concert organized by the Fundashon Bonaire Entertainment, a non-profit making organization whose aim is to "Bring people together with music." Rene Shuman, Angel-Eye and band performed live at Plaza before hundreds of people in the first of hopefully many such concerts.

The band hit the stage shortly after 10pm. Before that, the audience was kept well entertained by the MC for the evening, Michiel (aka Shrek). As the live music started, Rene and Angel-Eye were soon whipping the hungry audience into a frenzy with their own blend of Rock'n'Roll.

The band was obviously accomplished musicians. Angels Rock'n'Roll piano playing was effortless for her but spellbinding to watch. Rene's guitar playing came into its own during the second set when he dazzled everyone with an acoustic piece on his Ovation. During the interval, MC Michiel did a sterling job of upping the tempo in anticipation of the band's second set.

Within a few minutes of the Band coming on stage for the second time, there was hardly a still pair of feet on the beach. Their rendition of Suspicious Minds instantly springs to mind as one of my favourites. Others must have agreed as they were urged to play it twice! At one stage, the multi faceted Angel picked up a guitar in place of her piano and went one to one with Rene.

The show ended much to the disappointment of the crowd. It was clear to see that the majority could have danced all night. All in all, a good time was had by everyone. Big thanks have to go to all the guys and girls behind the scenes. The drinks kept coming, sound and lighting were superb and continuity seamless. Bert Poyck and Jo Bux from the FBE deserve a special mention for their months of work to make this happen. Their reward was a great show.

The FBE would like to thank everyone who turned up on the night for their enthusiasm and support. Finally, a big "Mashá Danki" to all of our sponsors whose generosity made the whole event possible. In the next few weeks, we will report on the success of the event from the Fundashon's point of view and what their plans are for the future.

Plaza Resort Bonaire RE/MAX Paradise Homes Mega FM Jody's Fashion & Music
Grand Palace Casino More for Less & de Slager Krioyo Paint Alubon

Amstel-Antillean Wine Company - Auto City - Bonaire Motorcycle Shop - Bonaire Access - Bonaire Airstervice - Bonaire Gift Shop - Bonaire Partners - Bonaire Security Force - BSC Painting Pool & Spa - Caribbean Fasteners - Caribbean Homes - Caribbean Laundry Services - City Café - Duijn Bonaire nv - Cultimara - Duty General Construction - Ennia - Flamingo Communications - Flamingo TV - Koop Tjuchem - Lisa Gas - Maduro & Curiels Bank - Notaris Kantoor Maarten Maartense - Plantation Furniture - RentoFun Drive - *The Bonaire Reporter* - Total rent a Car & BoCar - Tropicana Apartments - Tropical Habitat Development. *Antony Bond*

European Freestyle Pro Tour Finals Hallowind Premantura, Croatia



Ruben performs a one-handed spock

Finally, the last event of the 2006 EFPT season arrived with lots of exciting riders ready to give it all they've got to earn the needed points to raise their final 2006 rankings. There was a surprisingly big entry list with over 40 riders registered.

Some new riders from countries such as Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia and France showed up for the first time to give it a try and to get a taste of the European riders' fellowship.

I arrived at Slovenia's airport, Ljubljana, about 300 km. from Premantura, Croatia. I was picked up by Andrea from Reptile-Masts, one of my main sponsors this year who provides me with the right masts for my sails. I was one of the early arrivals together with German brainiac Andre Paskowski and some other kids from Austria. Knowing that the forecast was good two days before the start of the event I decided to go early to train and get used to the difficult conditions - gusty winds and very choppy waters.

The wind started blowing on the second day of the event. As we started at 10 am the conditions were sunny and windy, 18-22 knots, temperature 12° C, water temperature around the 20's. This water temperature was extremely unusual for November in Croatia.

In my first heat on the water I faced a new Exocet team rider, Loice Viandier from France. I won the heat easily, performing an easy routine. Then I was up against a Russian talent and a friend, Sergey. We both had a great performance, but I managed to finish my moves with a bit more style and speed which eventually brought me victory in the end.

Next up was the tour leader, German Andre Paskowski, who was very nervous about facing me, as he knew from day one that if I'd win this heat it would be very difficult for him to get the title this year. With Norman Gunzlein out of the battle because of a foot injury, the next rider on the line was Matteo Guazzoni from Italy who also could possibly win the title this year. We both did our best. As I told him, may the best man win.

Andre took the victory and felt great. We even went to the judges together to ask about the results of our performance as it was such a close one. Andre gave me a hug; he was extremely happy. I was out of the singles, stuck at 7th position.

The freestyle action went on with some extreme freestyle battles.

The wind was still blowing enough to run the double elimination on the same day.

Waiting for the start of my heat I took time to stay warm and to watch the other riders'

performances. The wind was getting more and more unstable - gusting from 17 to 23 knots - making it hard to choose the right equipment. Finally I knew who I was going to meet: another Exocet team rider, Micheal Rossmier.

The first half of the heat started off with light gusty winds so I could only perform safe and easy maneuvers. During the second half the wind picked up and made it difficult to perform with the wrong equipment. I managed to do some new school moves like the *punch*, *double flaka* and some *switch-stance* combinations. After a long silence the judges pronounced me the winner of the heat and I moved on to the next round, facing Slovenian freestyler, Tine Slabe. As Tine was one of the riders I had to beat to gain points to go higher up the rankings I took this heat very seriously and gave it all I got. Afterwards I felt really good and knew I'd won.

I moved on to the next round, facing the latest and most talented freestyler of this time, Mattia Pedrani from Italy. Seeing his videos on most of the windsurfing websites you can easily see how he could be a champion freestyler.

The wind was getting lighter and we fought through the whole heat, pumping and spinning, trying to get in as many moves as we could. In the end he managed to make a *gozzada* and some more difficult moves than I. Even though I lost the heat I knew I beat everyone I had to beat to be at least top 8 on the European Freestyle Pro Tour.

It was getting darker and colder and the final heats were still running until the amazing final of Euro Tour between Andre and Matteo, a heat full of action under the full moonlight. What a romantic way to end the last freestyle event of the 2006 season.

The results of the Hallowind event after the double elimination:

1 Andre Paskowski	G-2 F2/North
2 Matteo Guazzoni	I-711 RRD/Simr
3 Andreas Olanderson	S-66 JP/Pryde
4 Remko de Weerd	H-23 Fantc/Gaastra
5 Mattia Pedrani	I-00 Mistral/North
6 Ruben Petrisie	NB-50 Exocet/Loft

Story by Ruben Petrisie and Damike courtesy of EFPT Pictures by Reptile-Masts.



The slide

And thanks to: Elvis, Taty, my family, Alacati surf paradise club, EFPT crew, Exocet, Monty Splinder, Reptile and friends.

Summing-up. This year's tour started in Spain, moved to Austria, two events in Italy, two in Greece, Turkey, Belgium, Switzerland, Russia and ending in Croatia. After 11 events and 120,000 € prize money it ended with a lot of happy faces full of higher expectations for the next season.

It took the EFPT family nine months of traveling, living and spending time together and of course windsurfing in great places, with even some new destinations for some of us this year. Without a doubt you could say it's what keeps the magic of the windsurfing sport alive: going to nice places and spending great times with your friends, in and out of the water. *Ruben Petrisie*



Ruben Petrisie ranked 7th in the 2006 EFPT top 10 Overall Rankings

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Dema 2006



Where was everybody in the dive and resort business last week? They were at DEMA (Dive Equipment Manufacturers Association) in Orlando, Florida, of course. At DEMA lots of business is done that prepares Bonaire's dive resorts and shops for the coming seasons.

TCB and Sara Matera sent us photos of the crew.

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.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On November 24th, Evanthe Denou will be one year-old! This beautiful princess receives many, many congratulations from her parents, Sapphira Coffie and Tonky Frans, who love her very, very much. Evanthe also receives lots of pabien from her cousins Dion, Jaedan, Romy Ann, Ian and Chanelle, together with their moms and dads, Oma Linda and Opa Walter. They are all preparing along with the rest of the family to sing for Evanthe on her first birthday. Happy, Happy Birthday and Hiep Hiep Hoera!

Readers are invited to send their announcements to The Reporter. The photo and text will be printed free of charge.



Cover Story **Cruise Ship Season**

The Bonaire cruise ship season went into high gear last weekend with the arrival of the *Crown Princess*, the crown jewel of the Princess fleet. The 2006-2007 Cruise Ship Season is set to be one of the most active in years with many of the ships having a passenger capacity in the thousands.



The Holland America liner Rijndam approaches port Internet photo

A recent law passed by the island government exempts cruise ship passengers and crew from paying the Marine Park daily fee. All other Bonaire visitors and adult residents are subject to the \$2/day (or \$10/year) "Nature Fee."

The *Crown Princess* was launched just this year. The 951-foot-long ship carries 3,110 passengers and 1,300 crew on her 19 decks. The *Crown Princess* has been sailing from Red Hook, Brooklyn, New York, since July to ports in the eastern and western Caribbean. Her "Godmother" is publisher, TV personality and ex-convict Martha Stewart.

She has already been in the news. On July 18 at approximately 3:30 pm, one hour after departing her last port of call in Port Canaveral, Florida, the *Crown Princess* reported "listing" or making "heavy turns" to the port side, about 16-19 degrees from the horizontal. A confidential source from the Coast Guard allegedly told a Florida television station that a junior officer "panicked," then took the ship out of automatic pilot thinking a meter was showing that the ship was turning too sharply to one side. But instead of turning the *Crown Princess* back to the right, the junior officer accidentally kept the ship in an even sharper left hand turn - similar to over-correcting in a car. This caused the massive 113,000-ton cruise ship to list severely, tumbling passengers, pool water and everything else on board into the elevator shafts and accommodations. Later 240 passengers were treated onboard for various injuries such as abrasions, bruises and fractures, of which 94 were transferred to local hospitals ashore for evaluation and treatment, according to a press release.

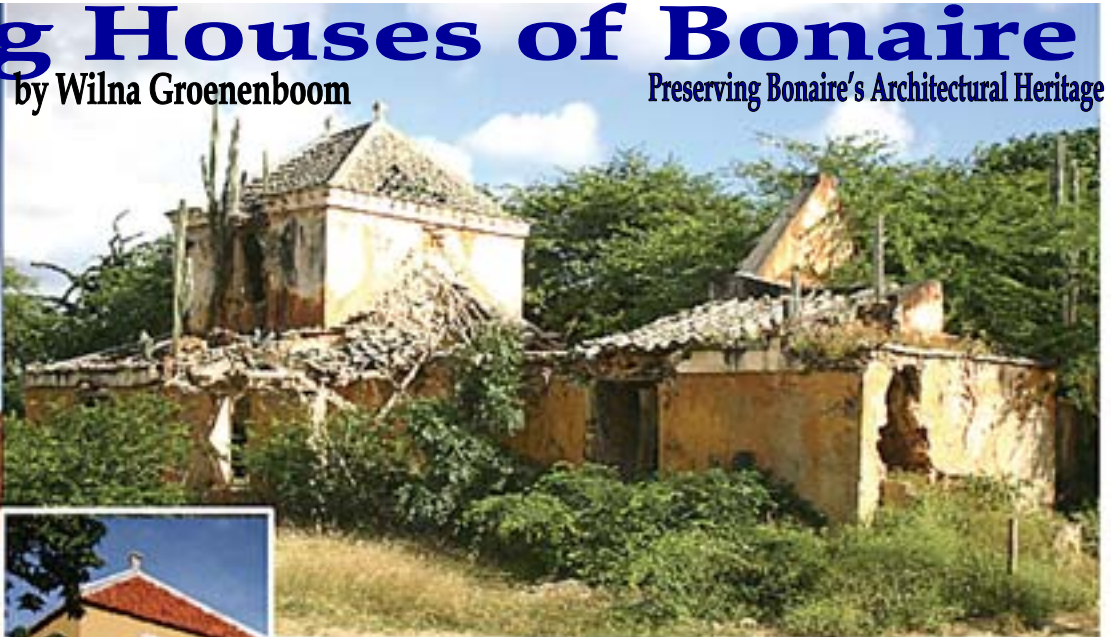
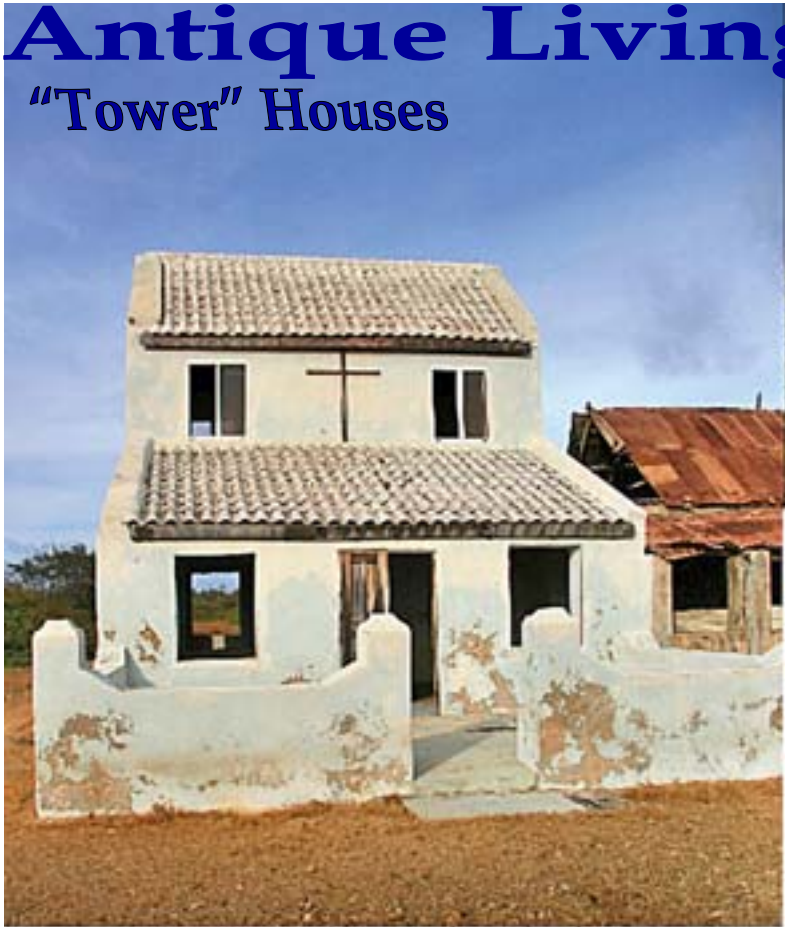
The matter was referred to the National Transportation Safety Board and US Coast Guard for investigation. With approval from the Coast Guard and the Bermuda flag authorities, the vessel returned to service. A full refund was given to all passengers on the ill-fated cruise, and a 50% refund to passengers on the following cruise. Since then, *Crown Princess* has resumed her normal schedule.

This makes the incident the worst accident in the history of modern day cruising. The last severe incident affecting hundreds on a cruise ship was the capsizing of the *M.S. Estonia* in the Baltic Sea claiming 852 lives in 1994.

The Holland America liner *Rijndam* tied up on Sunday. She will be followed by the *Amsterdam*, *Wind Star*, *Crystal Symphony*, *Crystal Serenity* and many others. G.D.

Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

by Wilna Groenenboom Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage



Most Antique Living Houses on Bonaire have only one storey, but in Kralendijk (Playa) we have some beautiful examples of two-storey buildings. Three of the houses this week appear at first as a two-storey house (photos left and right below), but they are basically one-floor houses accompanied by a nice "tower." Two of the houses no longer have people living in them, but a look at all four of them together can give us an idea of how they were built.

The three tower houses are concentrated in the area of Kralendijk and Nikiboko. (The "non-tower" house at upper left is in Bacuna.) The people living in them don't know much about their houses' history, however. Each of the houses has a different style, so they were probably built at different times. But it appears that the towers are all from the same period. We can clearly see that by their similar style, form and size. All are topped with a typically hipped roof (*woldak*). Two of them are decorated with a cornice front (*fachada di leshi*). As far as I know these three antique living houses are the only examples with this type of tower on Bonaire.

The photo (top right) is a house many people know. It was probably built at the beginning of the 20th century. Every year more of the house disintegrates and falls. Now it's at such a point that it's probably is too late to be renovated. It is a Cas di Hadrey with a square tower on its left side. The tower is connected to the main house by two inside doorways. Inside the



Oven detail from Cas di Hadrey, House (photo lower right)

tower was a wooden stairway to the second floor.

The photo below right is also a Cas di Hadrey, but without a hadrey (porch) on the front but with a tower on the right. The house has had some extensions to make it bigger. It appears that the old kitchen isn't in its original place. Traditionally the chimney and kitchen are built on the west side of the house, to allow the smoke and cooking smells to blow directly outside. But this kitchen is not only at the back of the house, but it's also on the south side. The fact that there is a baking oven connected with a *fornu*

(fireplace) makes me think that it must be the traditional *fornu* in its original place. Normally the baking oven is behind the fireplace. This is the first time I've seen a house with the oven built on the right side of the fireplace. Again, as in other houses, the oven has been sealed. So this *fornu* combined with the baking oven gives the impression that this house was probably built before the time of professional bakeries. The photo in the center shows the tower and the chimney from the back.

The house in the photo, left bottom, also has a tower. The tin roof of the main house and the style of the walls suggest that the house was built in the 50s, so it's possible that the tower is a good imitation of the old ones. Or perhaps the house is not the original one. This tower has lost a little bit of its look because it's partly hidden behind a concrete extension on the street side.

Each of the square bases of the towers stand next to the house, connected by one or two inside doors on the ground floor. They have no inside windows

Bacuna (photo top left) looks similar to the other three but it isn't. This is a Cas di Hala with an "upstairs room" that is one with the ground floor. The walls of the ground floor have an open structure with inside windows and doors. If you look well you can see through the left window, through the whole house, to the back to the kunuku. The roof has a "saddle roof" (*dak di hefel*), which is completely different from the hipped roof. The Bacuna house and the Papaya Moon Cantina (previously Croccantino house, men-

tioned two weeks ago) are in the same family style.

It is sad to see that such striking, outstanding houses sometimes can't survive on Bonaire, like the house on the top right which has the inscription, "1885 Pueblo Novo." This house is also mentioned in the government's list of "Historic Monuments of Bonaire" (1987).

Photo montage and story by Wilma Groenenboom

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



Day of Thanks Brings Cheer

Last Sunday's "Day of Thanks" at the St. Dominicus School behind the church in Playa was a success, say the organizers. Generous donors brought in clothing, baby items, appliances, office and computer supplies tools, canned goods, toys and more to give away, no strings attached, to those in need. The event was organized by the New Creation Group which counted this year's "Day" as the 4th annual. The spirit was lively, thanks to the live music of "Mike and Friends" and the BBQ and Stoba delights cooked up on the scene. *L.D.*



The committee sorts through some of the donations



One of the organizers, Mamita Fox, with friends from Curaçao: Ansley Nicaela and International Chef and TV celebrity Broertje Maestall who came for the event.

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.sudoku.shack.com.

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

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

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 NA\$0.80 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. 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 & Janet). 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 NA\$5 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

Refrigerator/freezer, 5.30 cu. feet. Gold Star Best One Designer's Feeling GR1515. Runs perfectly. NA\$250. Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125



62" Television with DVD Player For sale - Samsung 62" DLP television with matched Samsung progressive scan DVD player. Bought two years ago - both in excellent condition. NA\$3990,- - Call Jake at 717-4112 or e-mail jake@nettech.an.

High quality Universal® printer/copy PAPER- Large format 11" x 17" (279mm x 432mm). Two cases of 2500 sheets. White (84 brightness) 20 lb. grain long NA\$60 per case., two for NA\$100. Call 786-6125 or 717-8988.

Dive tanks - 80 cu ft. aluminum. NA\$125 Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

Electric Guitar for sale. Stratocaster model. Brand new. NA\$300. Call Thomas 786-5352

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.



Betty Wills

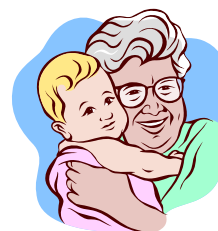
Dating Dilemma!

"Dear Betty I have been interested in this guy for nearly two and a half years. He now knows I like him. Recently, a friend and co-worker of his told my friend that he likes me a lot but is very shy. What will it take for this guy to ask me out? We have talked on the phone quite a lot. I am too shy to ask him out; so don't tell me to do that. Should I ask him, "When are you going to ask me out?" Thanks, Dilemmett (Dilemma)"

Answer: If it has already been two and a half years, by the time he gets over his shyness, if ever, you may be too old to remember what you wanted! Worse yet, you may remember, and at that age, the best method of birth control is nudity! Shyness is hard to overcome, but it does have a positive side. If he's too shy to ask you out, it's highly unlikely he'll ever cheat on you if you do enter a relationship with him.

If you really like him, and your only obstacle right now is shyness, perhaps you should take the lead. Ask him out without it's being a "date." For example, invite him and a few other friends over for a cook-out. Another option is to play games - and I don't mean relation-

ship games. I'm talking about board games, like Scrabble, and maybe he will eventually get over his shyness. Keep it simple. Stay with group dates until you are both comfortable enough with each other and you slip into dating effortlessly. It takes the pressure off both of you.



Joke of The Day

With the help of a fertility specialist, a 65 year-old woman has a baby. All her relatives come to

visit and meet the newest member of their family. When they ask to see the baby, the 65 year-old mother says, "Not yet." A little later they ask to see the baby again. Again the mother says, "Not yet."

Finally they say, "When can we see the baby?" And the mother says, "When the baby cries." So they ask, "Why do we have to wait until the baby cries?" The new mother says, "I forgot where I put it." Betty Wills

For Sale - Woman's shorty ScubaPro wet suit with long sleeves. Worn twice. Black with magenta trim. Size 13-14. NA\$70 (\$40). Call 717-8988, 786-6518.



Cars For Sale

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



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

Car For Sale: '93 Toyota Starlet, Motor E-2, Wheel size 15, Color Red, NA\$4,000. Tel. 717-4636

Wanted

ESL teacher for evening class, lower intermediate English. Xavier Medical School 717-3966

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, Dec. 2 - 8.30am to 4pm, Kaya Mandolin 2- BEST PORCH SALE IN TOWN

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
- Fully equipped:
 - 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
 - SIGNED 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



Tutti Fruiti in Curaçao

Bonaire displayed itself to advantage in Willemstad, Curaçao on Wednesday the 15th of November. Hosted aboard the cruise ship MS Free-winds, the Grupo Tutti Fruiti entertained about 250 enthusiastic fans. Visitors from the US, Holland, France, India, Columbia and England listened or danced with the people of Curaçao and with some of the Bonaireans who live on our sister island. All declared it was a wonderful evening.

Grupo Tutti Fruiti, headed by Emma Sint Jago of Rincon, is part of the Fundashon Arte i Cultura Bonaire. This assemblage of local professional musicians donate their considerable time and talent to support a youth choir, procure instruments and provide free music lessons for the children of Bonaire. Thru music and musical contests, they are dedicated to promote and preserve both new talents and old ways.



Tutti Fruiti Performers

The newest CD, “*Kortado di Sentebibu*” (Cutting the Aloe) may be heard on local radio or purchased at Flamingo Bookstore, Botique Vita, or Rose Inn, Rincon. As on their other four CD’s, their original songs in Papiamentu speak of the hard work, traditional tasks and good times, either remembered from childhood or passed down in family sto-

ries. All funds from the sale of the CDs go to the foundation.

For more information concerning needs, donations, or upcoming events. Look in *The Reporter*, visit Bonaireralk.com, e-mail artandculture65@hotmail.com, or call Emma at 786-6420. *Story & photos by Pamela Bowne*



Pet of the Week

Petite little “Julia” was found in a garden in Nikiboko. When she was first brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter she was scared and frightened of being alone. While she was in quarantine (as are all the new animals brought into the Shelter) she cried and cried, so very sad to be by herself. But, the good news is, once she was put in with the other dogs she acclimated immediately and was so happy that she stopped her crying. In fact now, she’s enjoying life so much that she’s like a different dog. Julia is about two months old and a real darling. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.



“Julia”

As of Monday this week there have been 115 pet adoptions at the Shelter so far this year. And the Shelter staff is very proud to say there have been 96 sterilizations, thanks to the generous donations to the Shelter’s Sterilization Fund That’s an accomplishment when you think of all the poor female dogs that are on the street who give birth year after year. This doesn’t have to be, and you can help. By giving a donation to the Sterilization Fund you can help turn the tide of unbridled continuous pregnancies for Bonaire’s female canine population. The Fund helps by augmenting the costs for those who cannot afford it. You may donate to the “Sterilization Fund,” MCB Account #10616410 or through the Support “Bonaire. Inc. website: WWW.SupportBonaire.org. Every little bit helps. L.D.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)							
<i>Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides</i>							
DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
11-24	1:09	0.6FT.	14:44	2.0FT.			86
11-25	1:38	0.7FT.	15:37	1.9FT.			81
11-26	2:00	0.8FT.	16:34	1.8FT.			74
11-27	2:14	0.9FT.	17:39	1.7FT.			66
11-28	2:19	0.9FT.	9:22	1.5FT.	13:18	1.4FT.	18:42 1.6FT. 59
11-29	2:13	1.0FT.	9:13	1.6FT.	15:32	1.3FT.	19:52 1.4FT. 55
11-30	1:58	1.0FT.	9:34	1.8FT.	17:00	1.1FT.	21:06 1.3FT. 58
12-01	1:35	1.0FT.	10:02	1.9FT.	18:16	1.0FT.	22:28 1.1FT. 66

Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

All The King's Men
(Sean Penn)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

The Departed
(Leonardo DiCaprio)

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

Thursday, November 23—American Thanksgiving. Special Thanksgiving Dinners at Rum Runners (Capt. Don's Habitat) and Buddy Dive. See their ads in this issue for details.

Saturday, November 25—Sint Nicholaas arrives in Bonaire, Wilhelmina Park. Sponsored by the Fundashon Sanikolas. More on page 4.

Saturday, 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 ? More on page 4.

Thursday, November 30—Meet Astronaut Charlie Bolden, Jong Bonaire, 7-8:30 pm. Free. For other appearances of Astronaut Bolden. See the story on page 3.

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

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

COMING

Saturday, December 2—Big Monthly Rincon Marshe—Stands selling gifts, food, drinks, plants, produce, local food, snacks and sweet things. 6 am to 2 pm. A true Bonairean experience. Don't miss it!
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.
Sunday, December 10 – Comcabon Fun Run – 2, 4, 5km. 8 am. Info at 780-7225, 717-8629

Sunday, Dec. 10—Great fashion show organized by Bonaire Lions Club aboard the Freewinds. Tickets Naf25 For info. tel. 785-3902. Show will start at 7.15 pm.

Fashions from Benetton, Bamali and Aquamarina; models Top's International Agency Models. Dancing and songs by Jules Andrew and Boy Thode.

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 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**.
- **Beach BBQ 7-10 & Live music by Flamingo Rockers -The Windsurf Place** at Sorobon

- 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

Monday—Dee Scarr's “Touch the Sea” Slide Show, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. Call 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 Valerie 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:786-6518 or 786-6125

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. Reserve for the Wednesday Beach BBQ.
ADVERTISE YOUR RESTAURANT	IN THE BONAIRE REPORTER Every Week	And get listed in this directory FREE

SHOPPING GUIDE See advertisements in this issue

<p>AIRLINES Divi Divi Air. Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.</p> <p>APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, tv, computers, cell phones and more. Fast service and in-store financing too.</p> <p>BANKS Maduro and Curiel's Bank provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.</p> <p>BEAUTY PARLOR Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.</p> <p>BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS De Freewieler rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.</p> <p>BUSINESS SERVICES Get accounting software to manage your payroll at Cactus Accounting Services—717-6033</p> <p>CALENDAR Bonaire Creations new 2007 Calendar available now at shops around town. It makes a superb holiday gift.</p> <p>DIVING Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q. 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.</p> <p>FITNESS Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.</p> <p>FURNITURE, ANTIQUES The Plantation Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.</p> <p>GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain</p>	<p>it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Incredible selection of pots.</p> <p>GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR The Bonaire Gift Shop has a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts - all at low prices.</p> <p>HOTELS The Great Escape Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar. New! Spa!</p> <p>METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V., offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.</p> <p>NATURE EXPLORATION Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com</p> <p>PHOTO FINISHING Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . Full digital services.</p> <p>REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management. Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's 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.</p> <p>REPAIRS Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345</p>	<p>RESORTS & ACTIVITIES Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.</p> <p>RETAIL Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children. Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.</p> <p>The Touch Skin & Body—Birkenstock shoes for men and women. New styles</p> <p>SECURITY Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.</p> <p>SHIPPING Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. FedEx agent.</p> <p>WATER TAXI Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the <i>Kantika di Amor</i> or <i>Skiffy</i>. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein</p> <p>WINDSURFING The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.</p> <p>WINES Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Monday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.</p> <p>ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN: Put your ad in The Bonaire Reporter. Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518</p> <p>Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for weekly advertisers?</p>
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On the Island Since ... 1977

Varenia Thomas

“I was born on Curaçao, but we moved to Bonaire when I was two. My father, Ely Thomas, is Bonairean. He’s the butcher at Cultimara. My mother, Yvonne Thomas-Evertsz, is from Curaçao. Last year she celebrated 25 years with the MCB Bank. After high school I went to study in Curaçao to become an activity leader with the handicapped.

In 1996 I met my boyfriend on Bonaire when I came to spend the Easter holidays with my family. I saw him for the first time on the roof of his Aunt Sula’s house in Nort di Salina where my family also lives. I thought, ‘He’s nice, but I don’t know him at all!’ The only one who seemed to know him a little bit was my baby sister Rhada, who’d pass by the house he was working on her way to Papa Cornes School. All day long I thought about him. His face was always on my mind, and that’s how I went back to Curaçao, without having spoken to him. When I was in Curaçao I called my mom, then I talked to Rhada and asked her, ‘Did you see him?’ And she told me every day when she came from school she’d chat with him.”

She laughs. “George always tells me that by the end of their little conversations Rhada would walk away saying, ‘I’ve got something to tell you!’ But she would never say what it was! Three months later I came to Bonaire for the summer holidays. Rhada told me that this boy, George, the one I liked so much, had a red car, so all the time I’d be on the lookout for it. When the holidays were almost over I still hadn’t done anything about it. One day when I was going home in the car with my cousins and Rhada I saw him standing at the bus stop across from Dr. Lont’s practice. My cousins said, ‘Varenia now is the time!’

Well, I was raised this way. A girl doesn’t go out looking for a boy. I felt ashamed and also, what would he say? I drove by the bus stop and went around again and then I got some courage and... I made my little sister talk to him through the window of the car. You know what she said? ‘George, my sister Varenia is asking if you want to come tonight to a moonlight party at Lac.’ I felt so embarrassed! And George’s reaction was, ‘Lac! Not me!’ He doesn’t like parties and neither do I! Well, Rhada convinced him to go and see me there and we set the time. Magic Sound was playing and there was a lot of noise, but it was the first time we talked. He told me he’d been living in Holland for quite some time and by the end of the night he gave me a picture of himself, then I had to go back to Curaçao.

We couldn’t call each other all the time, but we did write long letters and his handwriting was much more beautiful than mine and he used beautiful words. I read those letters over and over again.

Then, one day, he wrote that he had something to say to me, but he wanted to tell me in person. I got scared and I didn’t know what to think and I rushed back to Bonaire. He told me the reason he’d been living in Holland for so long was because he’d had kidney problems. When he was 12 he fell from a height and damaged his kidney on the rim of a drum without knowing. The doctor checked it out but didn’t find anything. Because he didn’t get any treatment the other kidney became badly damaged because of his high blood pressure, and by the time he got really sick in 1989 it was too late. In 1990 he went to Holland for the first time and in 1991 he went to live there because he had to be on dialysis. In 1993 he got a kidney transplant and in 1994 he came back to Bonaire. He told me all this, but I didn’t realize what it meant. He also told me that he’d never had a girlfriend because he’d figured once he’d tell her all this she wouldn’t be interested anymore. That’s why he wanted to know my opinion, so he knew where he stood. I told him it wasn’t important to me.

“I love my work (*with the FKPD*); I feel for the people like I feel for my family.”

And so, George Boezem and I began our relationship. Every month he had to go for a week to Curaçao to do his check-ups and I would accompany him to see all the doctors and so I learned about his medical condition. I also went to the library and searched for more information about it. After I graduated in 1998 I wanted to come back immediately and start my life with George.”

Varenia Thomas (31) is an exceptional girl; she’s very bright and one of the sweetest persons I’ve ever met in my life. “Before I’d met George it was my intention to go to Holland for higher professional education, but then I had to choose and I chose him.

On Bonaire I went to live with my family and George was living with his sister. I applied for a job with the FKPD (center for the handicapped in Rincon), but there



George, Georgeson and Varenia Thomas

was no vacancy. During my studies I’d been working every year as a trainee at the Monsignor Verriet Foundation, a center for the handicapped in Curaçao, and it was something I really enjoyed. So, the FKPD was a logical choice and I wanted to put my knowledge into practice very badly. For a year I worked at the Jiwiri playschool and had a part-time job as an administrator at Consales as well. Then I got pregnant and George was overwhelmed with joy because in Holland they’d told him that he would have only a slight chance of ever becoming a father. He wanted a boy and I wanted a girl but as I figured that this child might be the only one we’d ever have I prayed and prayed that it would be a boy. November 25th 1999 our son, Georgeson, was born on Curaçao. It was the most beautiful thing that ever happened to me in my life.

When we came back to Bonaire we found a little one-room house, but it was enough. We were together, the three of us. I got a real job with a real salary as an activity leader at Kas di Kuido, a home for the elderly. It was a very nice job, but when Georgeson was one year old George had problems with his kidney. You see, a kidney transplant is not forever. If you maintain the kidney well it might last 10 years. That’s the maximum, and George had his for nine years. For weeks and months I accompanied him during his hospitalizations in Curaçao, and the people of Kas di Kuido have been of great support to me.

In 2001 the FKPD had a vacancy and I got the job. I love my work; I feel for the people like I feel for my family. We can talk about everything because their level is high and they tell me exactly what they like or don’t like. The most important thing for me is that I can help them to become more and more independent so they learn to count on themselves. I see my future with the FKPD and I am happy with my job.

George lost his kidney, and since November 2002 he has to be dialyzed three times a week in Curaçao while he’s on the waiting list for a new kidney. At home George takes care of Georgeson. They’re very attached to each other.

We’re living in an apartment that belongs to George’s mother. His parents have always helped us, but George has his own land and we’d like to build our house there in the future. I have a salary and George has a small government allowance as he cannot work, but the funny thing is that he handles his money so well and I am so bad at it! I think he is fantastic. I am very happy I found such a wonderful husband, and you know, when he introduces me to someone he knows he always tells that person, ‘She loves me the way I am,’ and I think that is so nice.”



Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

STARS of the SGB



Dauri Jansen
(VWO/HAVO-8th grade)

My School ! (SGB)

I'll begin by introducing myself. My name is Dauri and I go to a typical high school which is quite fun. The SGB may have a bad reputation but I think that people give their opinion about something without even knowing it. Better said: people judge our school too much.

Of course it has got its bad parts, such as violence and pupils who ruin everything for everybody.

I, as an active pupil, want everybody to know that I have a great time at the SGB. Nice teachers, nice classmates and schoolmates, and most importantly, a good area. Okay, my idea is not to exaggerate, but to just tell you guys out there



who think that SGB is only about bad things and violence that you are pretty wrong.

SGB is our only high school on this beautiful island. Let's lift its name on high. Together we can make it! Together! *Dauri Jansen* VH2b. (VWO/HAVO-8th grade)

Series by *Yvette van der Moolen*; Assistant / photographer: *Sue-Ann Mo (T2B)* Van der Moolen is an English teacher at the SGB High School

POEM of the WEEK

by *Tracy Lee Dimsoy*
(Havo 3 B)

Real

I want it to be real
Not just a flirt with meaningless words
Not just a give-away hug
I want it to be real
Not just a kiss
That's a meeting of two lips
I want it to be real
Like a laugh when it's funny
A smile when you're cheered
I want it to be real
Like a baby's innocence
A warmth in your heart
I want it to be real
So I can feel the power
Of its true depth
Let your love be real. *T.L.D.*





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Mercury Begins a Super Show This Weekend and Three Cosmic Birds for Thanksgiving

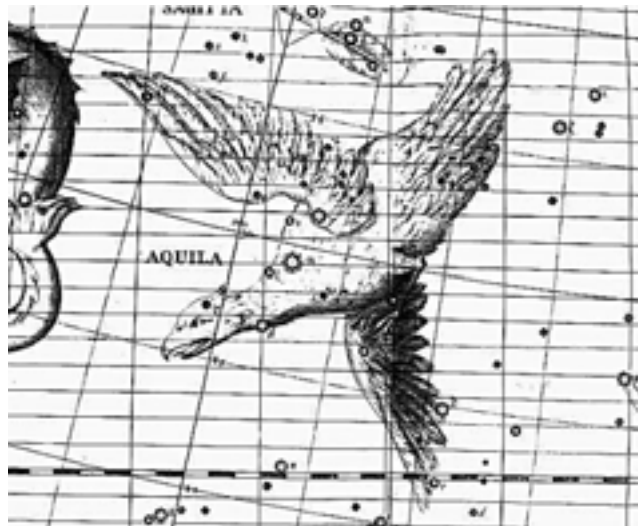
Every Thanksgiving week I like to point out that in addition to the bird on American Thanksgiving tables there are three cosmic birds in the heavens. Plus this year Mercury begins a super show this Thanksgiving weekend.

On any clear night this Thanksgiving week just after dark, look towards the west. You will see three bright stars which, if connected by lines, make up what is called the **Summer Triangle**, but which every November I unofficially call the “**Thanksgiving Poultry Triangle**.”

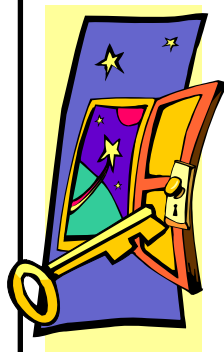
You see, historically these stars have always been associated with cosmic birds. The highest star is **Deneb**; the bright tail star is **Cygnus the Swan**. So in addition to your Thanksgiving turkey we have a heavenly swan to be thankful for. The star farthest to the west, **Altair**, is the brightest star in **Aquila the Eagle**. But the brightest of the three stars and closest to the northwest horizon is **Vega**, the premier star of **Lyra the Harp**, which strange as it may sound, has had more feathery incarnations than the other two put together.

You see, Lyra was not always a harp. In fact long ago before it became a lyre it was a cosmic turtle, and strange as it may seem the association between a turtle and a lyre is not far fetched because some musicologists believe that the first lyres were made out of turtle shells with strings stretched across them. But even before Lyra was seen as a cosmic turtle it was a bird of one sort or another. Ancient records tell us that Lyra's association with birds goes back over 2,000 years. In ancient India Lyra was seen as a cosmic vulture. But when Babylonian kings and queens strolled through the hanging gardens of Babylon at night they looked up and saw Lyra as Urakhga, a mythological bird who brought storms. And in ancient Arabia people often depicted the stars of Lyra, depending upon what tribe they belonged to, as one of two birds, either a desert eagle or would you believe, a cosmic goose. Lyra's stars were also once known as a great osprey and even as a wood falcon. Anyone care for a wood falcon or osprey drumstick?

In fact as recently as the American Revolution the stars of Lyra were depicted as a great American eagle, but would you believe, with a lyre in his beak? Today, however, all that remains of this proud eagle is the musical instrument of long, long ago, the lyre/harp of ancient Greece. So this Thanksgiving week after you've had turkey up to here why not step outside just after dark and look west for some birds of a different feather. And thank heavens above you'll never get them in your leftovers. Plus this Thanksgiving weekend 2006, we have a special added attraction. Look east about 45 minutes before sunrise and you'll see a bright pink light which is planet #1 out from the Sun, 3,000 mile-wide Mercury, which is now officially the smallest planet since **Pluto** got the boot. Please start your Mercury watch now because it is getting ready to put on a super show with two other planets at the beginning of December! *Jack Horkheimer*



Aquila



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, November 19 to Saturday, November 25, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will be popular and will easily attract members of the opposite sex. Get involved in sports groups or hobbies that attract you. Catch up on overdue phone calls and correspondence. You can come up with solutions to the problems responsible for inefficiencies at work. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Spend time with friends or family. You may find that getting together with colleagues after hours will be worthwhile. Be prepared to counteract the damage that adversaries are about to create. Residential moves will be favorable, and larger quarters the most probable direction. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't forget to let your mate know how much you care. Family outings or a quiet stroll through the park will lead to stimulating conversation and a closer bond. Take care of any dealings with government agencies. You can be sure that any dealing with large institutions should go well. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable and should lead to new and lasting friendships. You can solidify your relationship if you plan a special evening with your mate. You will do well if you mingle with the brass this week. You can change your living arrangements. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will enjoy travel and getting together with peers. Your added discipline will enable you to complete some of those unfinished projects. Do your own thing. Your outgoing nature might work against you this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will feel tired and rundown if you have allowed yourself to get into a financial mess. Try to stay calm and understand both sides of the situation. Romance is likely if you participate in unusual forms of entertainment. You can make gains if you look at long-term investments. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Family outings should include visiting friends or relatives. Use your charm to get your own way. You don't owe anyone an explanation. Do your own thing, you need time to yourself. Do not push your opinions or try to reform your emotional partner this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Real estate investments will payoff. You must be careful not to trust just anyone. Your ability to be practical in business will help. It's time to reconnect with some of the people you used to know. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Take care when dealing with older relatives. You can develop your creative talents if you take the time to practice your art. Interaction with colleagues will only be upsetting. Use your creative talent in order to accomplish your goals. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) A need to express yourself may come out in creative ways. You can make a difference if you offer your help at functions that involve children. Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. You are best to be discreet. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't let your work and your personal life interfere with each other. Stop those bad habits. Communication will be the source of your knowledge and you must be sure to spend time with those who have more experience. Don't make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments. Don't donate more than you can afford in order to impress others. Visitors may be likely to drop by. You can make extra cash by moonlighting. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

And the solution is:

(puzzle and directions on page 12)

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