



BONAIRE The REPORTER

PO Box 407 - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 786-6125/6518

SINCE 1994

December 22- December 29, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 48



Honored Bonaire Artist Manuela Winklaar Decorates The SGB High School Walls For The Season



Flotsam and Jetsam

Bonaire continues to progress towards its separation from the Netherlands Antilles to become a quasi-municipality of Holland.

The scheduled February 2007 Round Table Conference (RTC) to further prepare for the breakup of the Netherlands Antilles and Bonaire's closer ties with Holland can take place if needs be without Curaçao, said Dutch Caretaker Minister of Administrative Reform and Kingdom Relations, Atzo Nicolai, during the debate with the Dutch Second Chamber committee for Antillean and Aruban Affairs.

The Minister plans to officially formalize the accords on the future constitutional changes for the Netherlands Antilles. Because the Curaçao Island Council rejected the accord, the planned meeting in February was in question.

► **Interestingly, December 15 was Kingdom Charter Day**, when the document granting the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom was signed in 1954.

► Our new tourists will have to pay more to leave Bonaire beginning next year. Officialdom wasn't able to raise the Airport Departure Tax, but it seems they were able to up the **fee for all international departures to \$32 (NAf57). The fee applies to all, residents and visitors to Bonaire.** Accord-

► Non-stop flights from the US to Bonaire were doubled on Sunday with the arrival of the first weekly flight of Continental Airlines from Newark. On December 17, **Continental Airlines launched its service from Newark's Liberty Airport to Bonaire.**

The "red eye" flight arrives early Sunday morning which gives vacationers time for a full day on Bonaire. It has been 15 years since a non-stop flight has been available from the northeast of the US, Bonaire's largest source of American visitors.

Continental also is using an aircraft with more seats to accommodate the demand on its Houston-Bonaire Saturday flight.

ing to reports it has been okayed by the Island Government. In Curaçao at least passengers get jetways and air conditioning for their \$32.

► **Insel Air, the latest Curaçao airline startup, is acquiring an MD-83 jet**, formerly used by Air Adriatic from Croatia. The plane will arrive soon in the Netherlands Antilles, according to director Albert Kluyver. The MD-83 is already in France awaiting an Antillean registration. Insel Air will use the 167-passenger plane to fly regional routes from Curaçao.



TCB welcomes Continental at dawn

► **The Antilles Parliament agreed to the 2007 draft budget last week.** A resolution was also passed stating that Parliament supports St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire in their process to leave the Netherlands Antilles constellation. The resolution on the accord on future constitutional change was the main topic of confused discussions during four days of debates on the budget.

(Continued on page 3)

BONAIRE THIS WEEK: The REPORTER

Table of Contents

Coral Glimpses	3
Letters	
Bio Concern	4
Bad Rap	4
Life in the USA	4-5
Guest Editorial	
SOS for Conservation	5
Pet Project 2006	
Remedy for Firecrackers	9
Antique Houses (San Bernardus) 10&11	
MCB Press Day & Appreciation of Prins Wilhelmina Fonds Fdn.	12
Mangazina di Rei Celebrates 10th Anniversary	13
Bonaire on Wheels (Fiat Barchetta)	14
Stingray Secrets	14
SGB Stars (Nanouk de Jong)	15
Mr. and Miss Jong Bonaire	17
Bonaire Excels in Antilles Swim Championships	18
Swim School Graduation	22

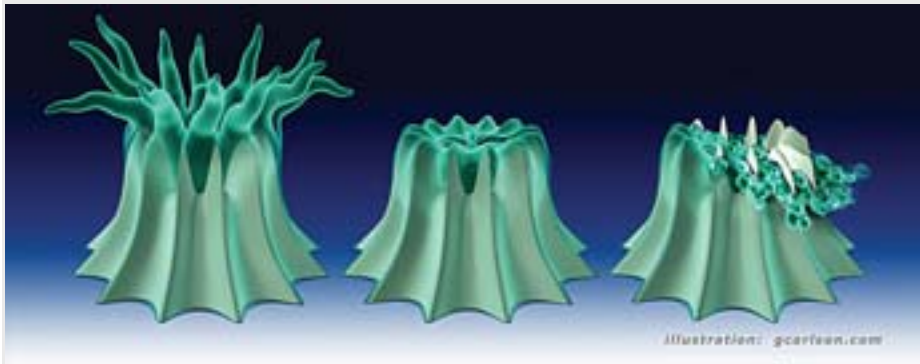
WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Biologist's Bubbles (Kissing)	3
Picture Yourself (Nice, France)	8
Pet of the Week (Sasha)	9
Classifieds	16
Straight Talk	17
Tide Table	18
Reporter Masthead	18
What's Happening	19
Movieland Film Schedule	19
Shopping & Dining Guides	20
On the Island Since	
(Marlis Seelos-Schmid)	21
Sky Park (Planet Meeting)	23
The Stars Have It	23

Cover photo by Wilna Groenenboom



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



Action In Behalf of Coral Project Provides Educational Sticker

Thousands of divers explore the world's coral reef ecosystems every year. Unfortunately, many make careless contact with living coral – because they don't understand the significance of their contact. Now everyone can get an up-close and personal view of exactly *why* living coral is fragile, in a sticker being provided to dive operators by the Action in Behalf of Coral Project. "Divers are taught that coral is fragile," says ABC Project founder Dee Scarr, "And then they see boulder-like formations. The sticker shows how damage is done by a simple light brushing along even boulder-like coral."

The ABC Project sticker just made its debut recently on dive boats and in dive equipment areas in the Bonaire National Marine Park and is available elsewhere in the Caribbean and around the world.

Dive operators can contact the ABC Project about getting stickers by e-mailing Scarr at dee@touchthesea.com.

The mission of the Action in Behalf of Coral Project is to protect corals by providing education. In addition to the sticker, the ABC Project has created a series of short pieces about coral, each illustrated by a photo, called Coral Glimpses. *The Bonaire Reporter* has published Coral Glimpses weekly since January this year.

Artwork for the Action in Behalf of Coral Project sticker was done by professional Biological/Medical Illustrator Gary Carlson, whose work can be seen at www.gcarlson.com.

More information about Action in Behalf of Coral and a list of supporters of the Project, can be found at www.touchthesea.com/abcproject. Scarr can also be reached at 954-246-3536 (North American number), or at 599-717-8529 (Bonaire number). *Dee Scarr*

Bubbles from the Biologist



Amorous (?) Grunts Photo by Sipke Stapert

Did You Know...Fish kiss?

Have you ever been swimming along, minding your own business, when a couple of grunts started kissing right in front of you?! Again and again? Some think this behavior is terribly cute, but scientists believe this kissing display is anything but amorous. Grunts and seabass are territorial and when there is a dispute over who reigns what, lip-locking takes place. Whoever has the largest mouth is victorious and is 'king of the rock.'

This behavior is likened to the horn-bashing contests of rams and is an easy way to establish dominance without injury. Can you imagine men competing in this fashion for a lady's attention? *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.



LETTERS

BIO CONCERN

To The Editor:

We have been concerned for some months about the WEB plans to contract a German company to grow fast growing algae on Bonaire for **Bio-diesel**. We have only to look at the problems that the Mediterranean and Hawaii are having with fast growing invasive algae in their ecosystems. Hawaii is spending millions and millions to "super suck" the algae that are destroying their coral reefs and the Mediterranean might be too late to save.

When we have asked about the possibility of these algae leaping the barriers and going into the ocean reefs we were told that it could not happen. Age old story of things that "Could Not Happen." Bonaire has seven terraces with extensive cave systems that cover the island. All of these caves have water which runs through them to the sea. Everything on Bonaire eventually reaches the sea. There is no escaping this fact. ***If this algae reaches even one cave.....***

Bonaire is a small island with limited resources and the sea is almost everything we have for our tourist industry. We believe that our reefs could be in danger from this project.

What is the environmental impact of this algae bio-diesel project? Has there been an Environmental Impact Study or is our search for cheaper energy blinding us to the threat of disaster down the road?

Maggie and Frans Booi

Editor's note: Using natural or genetically-altered algae to produce bio-diesel is expected to be cost competitive with fossil fuel by 2010, according to published university studies. Extracting the oil can be as simple as pressing the algae and treating it with alcohol and some common chemicals. Carbon dioxide exhaust from the generators can be piped to the algae ponds to enhance production.

About 50,000 gallons (190,000 liters) of bio-diesel a year can be supplied by one hectare of saltwater pond in a sun-rich environment like Bonaire's.

Just by way of history, petroleum is



Algae Studies
internet photo

widely believed to have had its origins in kerogen, which is easily converted to an oily substance under conditions of high pressure and temperature. Kerogen (the naturally occurring, solid, insoluble organic matter that occurs in rocks) is **formed from algae**, biodegraded organic compounds, plankton, bacteria, plant material, etc., by biochemical and/or chemical reactions. On the basis of several studies it can be inferred that algae grown in CO₂-enriched air can be converted to oily substances. Such an approach can contribute to solving two major problems: air pollution/global warming resulting from CO₂, and future crises due to a shortage of energy sources.

We were unable to find any studies on the effects/dangers of the algae escaping into the sea. The great enthusiasm for algae-produced fuel seems to have left no time to consider the possibility of this super-algae escaping into the sea. The world's oceans produce most of the planet's oxygen. *G.D.*

BAD RAP

To The Editor:

I was initially very excited about the **new radio station, 97.1 FM**. They were playing a nice mix of 60's, '70's and 80's music with some light jazz put into the mix. However, I have noticed that Rap music with totally unacceptable lyrics are making their way into the programming. The last thing the young people on this island need is more obscene 'music'. 97.1 needs to decide on a musical style and stick with it. Hopefully it will be the type of music they played when they first went on the air. I would ask them to please not drive a large segment of potential audience away by playing that nasty Rap 'music'.

Dabney Lassiter

LIFE IN THE USA

To The Editor:

My name is Lars and I've lived on Bonaire for three years. I graduated high school there and now I have my HAVO diploma. But because I didn't want to go to the Netherlands right away to continue my study I was looking for an alternative. And that's how I decided to join an exchange program. I got involved with YFU International Exchange and chose the USA as country because you hear a lot of different statements

(Continued on page 5)

LETTERS

Letters (Continued from page 4)

and prejudgments about the US nowadays and I wanted to experience this diverse country by myself so I can develop my own honest opinion.

And here I am in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The place I live is called Audubon and I go to Methacton High school.

I'm in 12th grade (senior) and it's really nice and especially interesting to see how an American high school is. It took me some adjustment when I just came here and of course everything was new and totally different but now I'm pretty much used to it and I'm enjoying it very much. School here is very big; it's almost like its own village! We have an indoor pool, cafeteria, nurse's office, theatre and a lot of sports facilities in our school. I'm doing Winter Track as extra-curricular activity and that is basically running and sprinting. I made a lot of friends already and I can say that Americans are very hospitable and interested. People ask me all kinds of questions and love to hear everything about my culture and home country.

Sometimes when I talk to people it's funny to hear how little some people know about things outside America and this can lead to funny misconceptions and situations. Compared to the Dutch and other European school systems American high school is not hard at all and easy to manage. It's nice how I can compose my own curriculum here and there are so many more classes to choose from. It can go from acting to ceramics, musical instrument classes, journalism, TV production, cooking, oceanography, psychology, mythology, food, life guarding etc. just to mention a few.

Sports also play a big role in school and are very competitive and challenging. We have our own teams, including cheerleaders, and special colors (ours are white and green) to show the school spirit. Every morning we do the 'pledge of allegiance' (show your loyalty to the flag) and I take the famous yellow bus every day.

I live with a great host family. I have a host brother who's 17 and a host sister, 19, and I get along with them very well. They show me around a lot and take me to a lot of places.

I've done a lot of trips already to places like Philadelphia, Atlantic City, New York City and Washington D.C., and we're going snowboarding in Canada in December. The houses here are very big and everybody has a lot of space, which also means you have to do everything by car. This can be annoying sometimes because you're not very free to go wherever you want.

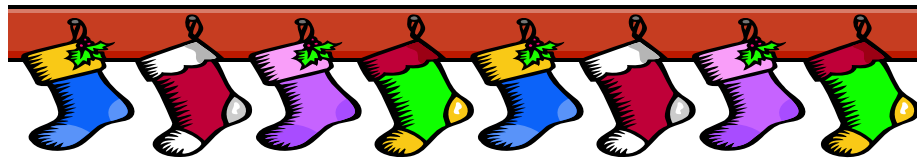
I'm very close to the city (Philly) which is very nice because when you're a teenager the suburbs can become a little bit boring sometimes. Nightlife and bars are not really common here because it's not allowed. Sometimes I go to clubs, but it's usually house parties. We're close to a very big mall (one of the biggest in the US!) and to a movie theatre so there's enough time you can spend there.

The Christmas atmosphere is everywhere right now. A lot of houses are decorated and some people get really into it. The stores are full of sales especially on Black Friday right after Thanksgiving. This day all the stores are open from early in the morning and there are sales and bargains everywhere! Everybody went shopping and waited in line in the cold just to get that great deal they're after. It was very crowded everywhere and kind of crazy to see how much some people do just to get stuff on sale. You hear Christmas songs everywhere and from now on it looks like everybody is constantly shopping.

Well I hope I gave you all an impression of how I'm living life like an American.

Of course I also have my moments when it's hard and that you're a little down and sad because you miss your family, friends, language, and culture etc., but those moments are very seldom and for the most I'm having an unforgettable time of my life.

Lars Heeringa



Guest Editorial expresses the opinions of the writer

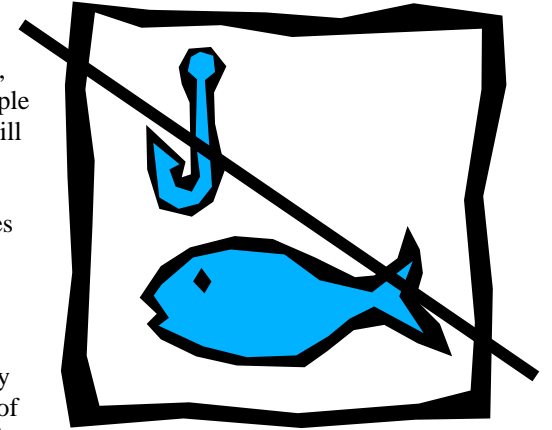
SOS FOR CONSERVATION

Many people think that what is, will always be. Younger people think the way it is now is the way it will always be. But many who have been around quite a bit longer know that things have changed and in many cases not for the good.

Even when scientists, backed with a book full of factual information, warn us, many just reject it or simply don't care. It has now been published that by the year 2048, 90% of the fish stocks of the world will be decimated. Take a few seconds to think about that. Perhaps some people don't care, saying they won't be here anyhow, but many will, and our children will certainly see this. 2048 really isn't that far away. And that is 90% gone. Each year a percentage of the fish disappear and there is certainly proof of that on Bonaire.

In the early 1970s one could see Nassau grouper on every dive. Also marbled grouper, literally tons of yellow tail snappers along with lobsters and conch, to mention only a few. It is 2006 and most of them are gone or at the very best, rarely seen. Those who have come to live on Bonaire recently, perhaps in the last 10 or 15 years, don't always realize this, thinking it has always been this way; nothing has changed. It has changed and the fish are being decimated.

There has been talk, and at this point just talk, to install no-take zones so fish



have a minimal chance to reproduce. Those for it know this can only help while those against it say it hurts the fishermen and therefore becomes a political issue. Politics should not enter into this at all. What will hurt fishing is no fish left at all, just like the conch and lobster are now, and it will happen. Anyone needing proof has to just see other islands and fishing areas around the world. Or ask someone who has been on Bonaire a long time.

The time will not come when fish disappear. It is already here and has been here. The big question is will 2048 arrive sooner than anyone thinks? Do not argue the no-take zones. Allow them and install them soon. Yesterday if at all possible. It will only help in the long run. Too late is just around the corner if not already here.

Bruce Bowker

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

► The **Central Bank of Aruba recommended that postponing the introduction of the Turnover (Sales) Tax** is the safest option because its economic effects are too uncertain. There have been widespread demonstrations by Aruban citizens in opposition to the measure. Bonaire's economy took a nosedive when the sales tax was introduced here in the 1990s.

► The new penal code of the Netherlands Antilles is finished

(just in time for the dissolution of the Antilles, when it may become moot for Bonaire) and was officially offered to Justice Minister David Dick. It took three years for a special committee to rewrite the new penal code.

President of the common Court of Justice of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Luis de Lannoy, said that the Netherlands Antilles has laws that are over 100 years old.



David Dick



Although imprisoned, Anthony Godett is still admired by many in Curaçao. Amigoe photo

► Imprisoned FOL leader **Anthony Godett's was released for two hours last Saturday** under supervision of prison guards. Prison Director Bartolomeus Andrea confirmed that Godett was released on Saturday to go to his home. Andrea said that it was very normal that prisoners were allowed to go home for a short period of time to attend to family matters. He denied all the rumors that were circulating about Godett's early release which is set for March next year.

Last Friday morning Anthony Godett was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of

St. Elisabeth Hospital. After experiencing chest pain for some time Godett visited his doctor on Thursday for the results of some blood tests he had taken on Monday. After examining the results, his doctor sent him to the hospital for more tests. He was later admitted to the ICU.

The medical condition of imprisoned political leader Anthony Godett improved, but, as of press-time he still remains for observation in Room 56 at St. Elisabeth Hospital in Curaçao. Normally the prison pays third class for all prisoners. However, Godett is still a Member of Parliament and the Curaçao Island Council, and via his medical insurance he can expect to receive at least second class medical care at the hospital.

► The Island Government of **Curaçao is still dissolved but may soon be active in a coalition of three political parties including that of imprisoned FOL party leader, Anthony Godett.** The PAR party, the centerpiece of the past coalition government, refused to join because they demanded that Godett give up his seats in the Island Council and Parliament. Godett is scheduled to be released from prison on March 12, 2007, just before the April Curaçao Island Government elections. He was convicted of fraud and money laundering.

► **Bonaire's income will drop by NAf7 million in the next budget year,**

according to Finance Commissioner, 'Yonchi' Dortalina. The income for 2007 is expected to be NAf69 million, made up of NAf36 million in income tax, NAf1.5 million in rental income, and NAf31.7 million from the National Government.

The decrease of the revenue is a consequence of a decision of the national government to lower the percentages for land tax and income tax.

► **Continental Airlines Inc. and United Airlines parent UAL Corp. are in preliminary talks about a merger that would create the largest airline in the world,** sources familiar with the situation said last week. The talks come amid heightened merger activity in the fragmented and highly competitive airline sector. Continental began flying to Bonaire from the New York area this past week and has a weekly flight from Hous-



ton to Bonaire as well.

► Michael Conway, chief executive officer of Air Jamaica, has sought to allay security concerns raised by pilots regarding a proposal to replace the airline's current Airbus fleet with Boeing 737s. Conway dismissed the concerns raised by the pilots. He said that based on accident rates from 1959 through 2005, the two aircraft series being acquired had the lowest accident rate per million departures. According to Conway, of the 14 in the new fleet, six were 5% less fuel-efficient and eight had a fuel efficiency of more than 15%.

The pilots had also expressed reservations about the company's decision to purchase older planes than it was currently using, but, Conway said, not all the planes



would be older aircraft. Air Jamaica flies to Bonaire every Saturday.

► Bonaire's cell phone scene was thrown into turmoil when, after a hasty announcement, **Digicel acquired mobile business from Bonaire's island-owned telecom provider, Telbo.** Under the terms of the deal, Digicel took Telbo's existing mobile subscriber base, spectrum and base station. Digicel entered the Bonaire market six months ago.

According to Hans Lute, CEO of Digicel Dutch Caribbean, "We are delighted to welcome Telbo's mobile customers into our family and we are putting the necessary processes in place to ensure a smooth transition with former Telbo mobile customers being able to keep their mobile phone, telephone number as well as their current benefits."

Telbo cellular customers may choose to remain with UTS or switch to Digicel. There is no cost, no phone number change, and a bonus of NAf30 is offered to switch, when exchanging Sim Cards (a must as

Continued on page 7.

(Continued on page 7)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 6)
 otherwise the phone won't work after December 31) at a Digicel store or at special facilities set up in Antriol and Rincon. Any money still left in the subscriber's Telbo account, however, is lost.

Telbo severed its partnership with UTS, the Curaçao government-owned telecom provider, to join Digicel. As we go to press the legality of the merger is being decided in court.

Concurrent with the partnership it was announced that Digicel will subsidize the Government of Bonaire and the Bonaire Football Association for a total of \$240,000 in the development of sports on Bonaire over the next 10 years. The investment will also go towards further development of Bonaire's national sports stadium, renamed the Digicel Kralendijk Stadium.

► **This year continues to be on track to be the warmest in the Netherlands** since temperatures were first measured in 1706, the Dutch meteorological institute KNMI said on Tuesday, linking the record with global warming. The average temperature in 2006 is likely to exceed 11 degrees Celsius beating a previous record of 10.9 degrees in 2000.



Natalee Holloway

► Natalee Holloway may be gone but the lawsuits surrounding her disappearance persist. The parents of the Alabama teen who disappeared last year while on a trip to Aruba with classmates filed a **wrongful-death suit Thursday against two brothers** who were once suspects in the case -- a day after the brothers sued the "Dr. Phil" show.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Beth Twitty and Dave Holloway, claims that Deepak and Satish Kalpoe "intentionally, negligently, wantonly" caused fatal injuries to their daughter.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Deepak and Satish played a role in my

daughter's death and should be held accountable," Twitty said in a statement. "It's unconscionable that they have not been punished so far."

The wrongful-death lawsuit came a day after the Kalpoe, both residents of Aruba, filed suit in Los Angeles against television's "Dr. Phil" show alleging libel and slander.

The brothers alleged that a private investigator secretly recorded a conversation with Deepak Kalpoe and aired it on the nationally syndicated show. The show altered portions of the recording to "create false, incriminating, and defamatory statements that the plaintiffs engaged in criminal activity against Natalee Holloway," the lawsuit said.

Natalee Holloway was 18 when she disappeared May 30, 2005, while on a trip to Aruba with fellow high school graduates. She was last seen getting into a car with the Kalpoe and their friend, Joran van der Sloot.

Police spent months searching for the missing teen, but she has not been found and there was insufficient evidence to file criminal charges.

A similar lawsuit filed by Natalee Holloway's family in a New York court



against van der Sloot was thrown out by a judge this summer. (*The Associated Press*)

► **The Outlet Mol opened** on Thursday December 14, with a wide assortment of first quality women's fashions at affordable prices. The selection includes swim wear, sleep wear, blouses, slacks, bras, panties PLUS the "chickie-la-la" fashions that you have come to expect. The store is located upstairs in the La Terraza, in the space directly above Botica Bonaire and just across the street from the Tambu Shop and the Best Buddies Shop.

► **The Bonaire Flag celebrated its 25th**
 (Continued on page 8)

► Artist Christel Cosijn, an artist who presented a portrait to the Queen during her recent visit, had her **art work that was on display in the Harbourside Mall stolen**. Some thief must surely appreciate good art because in addition to Christel's Bob Marley portrait he or she also stole, among others, a lovely painting of the artist's daughter, Nikita, asleep.



It would be a fine thing if the thief could just bring the paintings into Littman Jewelers and leave them. If nothing else, they took a long time to paint, and the artist depends on income from the sale of her work for a living. If the paintings aren't returned voluntarily, Christel will paint a portrait of the person who provides information leading to their return as a reward. If you can help, call Christel at 717-3542.

Parrot Research Help Needed

Sam Williams, one of the two parrot researchers working with Bonaire's endangered Lora, will be visiting Bonaire in January to help with our annual Lora count. He will also be making some preparations for the coming breeding season, and there are a couple of things he needs help with.



Loras don't say "ouch."

- Do you have a cordless drill capable of drilling masonry? Sam would like to borrow a strong portable drill for one or two days in mid January.
- Are there any bee keepers on the island? If so please get in touch with Sam as he needs some advice so he can help the parrots without getting stung! If you have parrots near your house after 1800hrs can you let Sam know. He is interested to find any new areas where they are roosting.

Contact Sam by email at sam.williams@shef.ac.uk, or leave your phone number with the Reporter (786-6125/786-6518) so they can call you when Sam lands on the island.

(Flotsam is continued on page 8)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 7)



anniversary last week. Commissioner of Culture Geraldine Dammers, in the name of the government, sent greetings to all citizens of the island and said she hoped that our flag would continue to be a symbol of Bonaire's cultural identity on its course to a new governing structure. The flag was designed by a committee headed by Frans Booi.

► The Tourist Corporation of Bonaire (TCB) announced that **Kaya Grandi, Bonaire's main street, will be closed from 12:30-5 pm on Wednesdays** when the cruise ship *Crown Princess* is in port from now through May 2007. Motorists are also advised to be especially aware of congestion at the waterfront piers on Mondays and Wednesdays.

► In connection with Continental Airlines expanded service to Bonaire, **two resorts are offering high value Dive Vacation packages:** Buddy Dive Resort offers 8 days, 7 nights from \$1522 p/p quad (four in a room), and Divi Flamingo Beach Resort- 8 days, 7 nights from \$1566 p/p for a double occupancy room. Restrictions apply. Tours are operated by Caradonna Dive Adventures.

► Effective January 1, 2007, **Air Jamaica introduces Executive Business Class**, which replaces First Class on all routes, including the Saturday flight to Bonaire. Executive Business Class customers will have more comfortable seats with extra legroom, gourmet cuisine,

champagne, fine wines, premium liquors, exclusive check-in areas, three pieces of checked luggage, priority luggage handling and the use of Lovebird Executive Lounges.

► **Ka'i Minima the 60 plus club of Tera Cora, will celebrate its 25 years** of serving the elders of the community on January 25. Lots of exciting events and entertainment are planned for the day. Watch *The Reporter* for more information as the date nears.

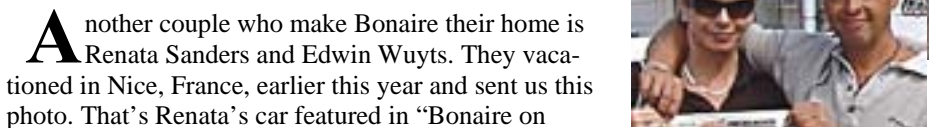
► **Dee Scarr is back on the island with an all new "Touch the Sea" slide show on Monday nights at Capt. Don's Habitat.** The show is free, and author-diver Dee's personality and her wealth of information about the undersea world makes the show super special. The slide show will be outdoors at the hotel, under the stars as it always was in the past. It's at 8:30 pm. Don't miss it!

► **Plantation, the amazing store featuring Indonesian furniture and accessories, has extended their opening hours for the rest of the month of December:** Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm, non-stop. The shop is located on Kaya Industria South, on the dirt road behind Warehouse. For more information call 717-5449. See their ad on page 22.

► **The Staff of The Bonaire Reporter wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of love and**



Picture Yourself with The Reporter Nice, France



Another couple who make Bonaire their home is Renata Sanders and Edwin Wuyts. They vacationed in Nice, France, earlier this year and sent us this photo. That's Renata's car featured in "Bonaire on Wheels" in this week's issue. Edwin recently completed the IDC course and is now qualified as a PADI SCUBA instructor.

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.)

THE PET PROJECT 2006 To Benefit the Animal Shelter



Our New Year's celebration is festive. We ring in the year with fireworks that we traditionally set off for a while, but our pets react with confusion. A couple of years ago, my pets were suffering to the extreme. I decided to give them a remedy that has helped me effectively for a variety of stresses. It's named "Rescue Remedy."

At 11 o'clock on New Years Eve, my pets were terrified at the noise. I placed a drop of the liquid Rescue Remedy on the pads of their feet. I didn't see any effect, so I repeated this treatment again in 10 minutes. The fireworks were loud, but the pets seemed less frightened. I put one drop into their water dish. This helped them to sleep.

Rescue Remedy is a natural medicine made from flowers. It was invented in England by a physician named Dr. Edward Bach, who intended to relieve psychological suffering of people. That was in 1935. Since those years, people have used Bach remedies and shared it with pets.

I intended to find a way to bring Rescue Remedy for pet owners to help their animal companions through the New Year

2007. I call this my Pet Project. I'm preparing pet remedies now.

The holiday season is here! On December 31st we will welcome 2007 with a fanfare of fireworks which will help us celebrate. Most of our pets show their dislike for fireworks by disappearing. I intend here to suggest a way to help your pets through the celebration.

Rescue Remedy is homeopathic style medicine made from five flowers. Each of the flowers has a calming effect. The ingredients are:

Cherry Plum: promotes rational thinking.

Clematis: promotes enjoyment of life.

Impatiens: promotes ability to think of the present moment rather than to worry.

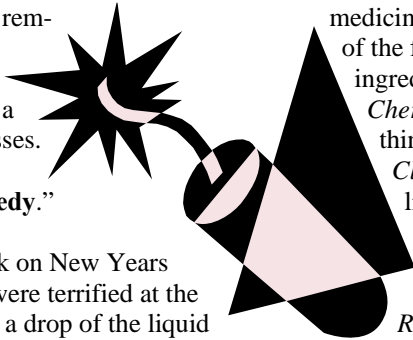
Rock Rose: builds courage.

Star of Bethlehem: soothes pain.

The ability of certain flowers to treat mental stress was uncovered in 1930 by Dr. Edward Bach, a noted British immunologist. He designed a system of healing for the layperson. The flowers above are gathered, heated for a time and diluted homeopathically. We are left with the "soul" of the plant. Perhaps due to the dilution it has no side effects.

The solutions are preserved by trace amounts of alcohol and vinegar and the mixture tastes like water.

Giving your pet this stress relieving remedy is easy. Simply drop one drop into the pet's water dish, early on December 31st.



Pet of the Week

In the last edition of *The Reporter* you saw the little newborn "piggy pups. Now here's their very young mom, Sasha, who's only a year old herself – much too young to be saddled with three boisterous puppies. But Sasha rose to the challenge and raised three adorable little pups, all of whom have been adopted already. It was a Good Samaritan who brought pregnant Sasha into the Bonaire Animal Shelter where she was given loving care, both pre and post natal! Now Sasha herself has been sterilized and she has a chance at a new life, off the streets, without wondering where her next meal is coming from. All she needs now is an appreciative and loving owner. Sasha is ready to go – healthy, certainly very social and a dog with a fine character. You may meet Sasha at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

So far this year there have been 130 pet adoptions. There were more than 100 sterilizations, many of which were thanks to the Shelter's Sterilization Program. Want to give a gift that keeps on giving? Consider a gift certificate, in your giftee's name to the Sterilization Fund, MCB Account #10616410. Or contact Support Bonaire: website: www.supportbonaire.org/ It's your way of showing that you care about preventing so many unwanted and abandoned puppies on the island. LD



"Sasha"

This will allow it to work all day, as your pet drinks. During the firework's loudest noise, if you are able to get near the pet you may give it on the pad of his foot. Place one or two drops on the palm of your hand, then apply to the pet's foot pads. It may be added to food as well.

I wish a happy 2007 for you and your pet!

The cost is NAf2. The proceeds will be donated to the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

Next week: how to give the remedy and your questions about the remedy for fire-

works. *Florence Ditlow*

References: Bach Center, Bach Flower Essences for the Family, May 1996, bachcenter.com
NaturesBrands.com

If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email fhummingbird@yahoo.com

Florence Ditlow is a Registered Nurse and certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center.

Editorial Note: You may find this product at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road. Tel 717-4989.

Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

San Bernardus Rectory

by Wilna Groenenboom

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage



Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

San Bernardus Rectory

If we look at the old photo of the Rectory of San Bernardus (top center photo) we see a *Kas di Hala* or a "Winghouse" model, built in 1852. The roof is a *Dak di hefel* or "saddle roof, like that of the restaurant, Papaya Moon Cantina. But this house has "wings" on its right and left sides. The house and church property were surrounded by a pillared fence, with a pillar cap or *pilaarpet* on each of the pillars, again like that of Papaya Moon's). So both houses have many similarities. Between the gate and the house is a small tree. The young tree, seen in the old photo has probably become a big tree, so big in fact that it made it very difficult to take a good architectural photo.

Pastor Basilus was the first who lived in this house until 1863.

The old water cistern at the back of the house (photo right below) was built as a little *Kas di Hala* with a saddle roof. Big buttresses were built on the outside to accommodate the stored water inside. Now days it is used as an activity room.

The basic style of the house is still the same. When any changes did take place, whether they were big or small, is difficult to say.

The front entrance of the house had a great facelift which changed its appearance completely. On the old house we see five windows on the second floor. The present house has seven windows on top. The "new" first two windows are con-

nected with the open porch at the street side. So the wall we see behind the pillars on the façade of the porch (right above) is probably the original one from 1852. It is almost certain that with this extension they decided to change the design of the roof too. It has now a *woldak* or "hipped roof" (photo left below) which we see mostly on a traditional *Kas di Kaha*. On top we see the roof doll or *dakpop*. In the old photo we don't see the ridge beam connecting the wall with the roof. This was probably constructed when the shape of the roof was changed. And looking well at the old photo, it looks like the angle of the "lean to roof" or *Dak skeins* has been remodeled. It looks like they have raised the outside walls of the side wings. The open small porches on the left side and a big one on the back haven't changed the house much. The double thick shutters have cathedral relief glass on top, to provide more daylight.

Wilna Groenenboom

The history about the different religious orders

"Since 1989 till 2003 the parish is under guidance of the congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel (Michaelites) coming from Poland and is represented by father Daniel Wieslaw Szpila.

On June 8th 2003, another Polish Priest took the guidance of the Parish: P. Andr s Makowiec coming from the same origin of the congregation of Saint Mi-

chael the Archangel. After his ordination, which took place in this same Parish on August 15th of 1991, he was admitted to the Diocese of Willemstad.

Everything started with the discovery of Bonaire by Alonso de Ojeda in 1499. The spiritual life of the Christians was in the hands of monks who would visit the island now and then from neighboring Venezuela, to baptize. These missionaries belonged to the order of Jesuits or Franciscan order. The first resident priest was Jacob Bernardus Eisenbel from Holland, who came from Aruba where he had served for many years. The 24th of July 1827 is the date when the parish of Saint Bernard became official. Pastor Bernardus couldn't stay very long on Bonaire. In the year 1829 he returned to Holland and his place was filled by other clergyman and Capuchin Friars. Among the first was also Father Basilio who served as pastor of the parish in Kralendijk as well as later in Rincon for 21 years.

Beginning in 1870 the spiritual guidance of the Antilles was trusted to the Dominican Friars. First to arrive was father Reginaldus van der Venne in 1882. The last Dominican friar was father Antoon Boks who left Bonaire in 1987. All in all the Dominican friars served in the parish of Saint Bernard for more than 105 years."

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



MCB Congratulates the Press and Aids the Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds Foundation



The Award Memento

It's become a very welcome tradition. For the last five years the Bonaire branch of Maduro Curiel's Bank has hosted a warm and congenial celebration of the work the press of Bonaire has performed during the last year and an Annual Merit Award to a deserving organization. This year the occasion was held at the

Bambu restaurant.

MCB Managing Director Evert Piar said, "On behalf of all of us at Your Friendly Bank I would like to thank you again this year, not only for your important work, keeping our community informed, but also for the support that you have given our Bank through your various media. The roll that you play in our community is very important and the responsibility associated with it increases as our island enters a new era and we need to be informed more quickly and accurately. We sincerely hope that you can continue to do this difficult work which is so important to our society."

He continues, concerning the chosen organization this year: "It is an organization which many times works in silence, without publicity, with the noble objective of helping those less fortunate who are suffering from illness and require assistance to continue. I would like to congratulate the Board and members of Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds." (Cancer Foundation).

Members of the press were awarded hand made and hand painted ceramic replicas of a traditional Bonairean house. But, these Bonairean houses, unlike the KLM replica houses filled with Geneever, contain "a real Bonairean liquor."

Thanks for the Thanks, MCB, from all the press of Bonaire. L.D.



MCB's Rudy Gomez, Gabrielle Nahr and Evert Piar present the award to Astrid Francisca and Sofia Theodora of the Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds.



Astrid gets a very special hug from Gabrielle

Mangazina di Rei Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

Mangazina di Rei (Storehouse of the King) celebrated its 10th anniversary last weekend, an example of what can be reached with vision, passion and perseverance. Edith Strauss and her many friends have worked for 10 years to make the Mangazina a cultural center where everyone, young and old, locals and tourists, can come enjoy the cultural inheritance of Bonaire and in particular, Rincon. The village of Rincon is a unique spot, rich in



Samples of old time houses



Youngsters show us how it used to be with costumes, musical instruments and songs

history and host to beautiful nature. Mangazina is on the edge of the village itself. It's the second oldest stone building on Bonaire. Built in 1820 it was primarily used for the slaves to store the sorghum and corn harvests.

Since 1996 the Foundation Mangazina di Rei, with its volunteers, have done the hard work to make it what it is today – an open air museum with examples of historical buildings and botanic gardens.

Last weekend this supreme effort was celebrated with the volunteers and their sponsors. It was an open house with a festive program where everyone was able to see with their own eyes what the founda-

tion has accomplished during the last 10 years.

The main attractions of the Mangazina are an interior museum, a patio museum with walking trails featuring small houses of stone and wood, and furnaces for charcoal, limestone and aloe.

It's open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to the public. During the weekend there are tours given by appointment. They also rent the area for family days and special occasions.

As of November 1 a project manager has been appointed to professionally manage the Mangazina in the coming years. There are many plans and ideas for 2007.



Inside the Mangazina is a museum displaying household and clothing articles from the past

The foundation wants to have more educational programs and cultural activities in the schools, particularly for the study of durable energy, making the students aware of their environment so they can continue to live with nature.

The foundation wants to work with young people who've dropped out of school, teaching them agrarian skills and helping them to reinforce their personal and social development. They want to show how Bonaire can cultivate its own vegetables.

They say, "We start small with a large expectation!"

The foundation hopes to purchase Onima, an important natural area that is part of the larger, "landscape park Rincon: the "Tanki (dam) di Onima," and "Roi Onima," which hold water all year round, places that are important for regionally endemic and threatened Caribbean birds, particularly Loras, and cactus. The value of this area, with its bio-diversity and the possibilities for ecotourism and educational aims, makes it indispensable and unique, and within the total natural wealth of Bonaire. Moreover this area contains some unique geological formations and rich cultural history as seen in the old country house itself and the double aloe furnace. The total price is NAf1.2. Foundation Mangazina has an option on the land and as soon as the money is collected the buy can continue.

A special program has been set up



A stroll back in time

whereby you can become a sponsor or donor. The aim of the Foundation is to prolong the rich historical-cultural history and nature for everyone now and for the coming generations. For further information or a newsletter contact Ilo Christiaan, project manager, tel. 786-2101. *Ilo Christiaan*



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 FIAT BARCHETTA

Where on Bonaire does this vivid Italian live?

It's not that easy to find the home of this Italian-born Barchetta. Follow the road to Lagun, find the blue stones on the left, follow the dirt track, follow the blue marking stones, follow the dirt, try to find the road and to keep on it, try to cope with mud and even more, more mud... and finally you are there: the home of the Fiat Barchetta and her owner. Somewhere in the middle of nowhere; the outback of Washikemba.

Renata Sanders is the very proud owner of the broom yellow dynamic Italian two-seater *pur sang* sports car. Renata has lived on the island of Bonaire for over a year now and she really loves it. Renata: "I feel completely at home. We bought our own house here. This island is big enough for me. We really intend to stay here!"

Apart from her partner, the Fiat Barchetta (*barchetta* is Italian for: little boat) is Renata's real love. "I always loved Italy and Italian cars. We drove all kinds of Fiats. We had a black Fiat IX/9 sports car with a mid engine and we had a silver metallic Alfa Spider. I always liked the sleek and slender Barchetta, so finally I decided to buy one." The car was built in 1997 and imported from Germany. The yellow color really fits the Barchetta which was designed by Pininfarina.

In the Netherlands the two-seater convertible was her only way of transport. Renata used the car every day, even during the cold European winters. Renata: "During wintertime I always had to put the kettle on. I used the boiling water to defrost the door handles. There was al-



The Fiat Barchetta and her owner, Renata Sanders

ways ice on the inside of the windows. Finally, I decided to buy a hard top for my lovely Barchetta. No more ice on the inside and even an electric heated rear window! I think the car even looks better with the yellow hard-top.

I love driving fast. In The Netherlands we lived in Arnhem and I liked to go shopping in Oberhausen, Germany. There is no speed limit on the German highways and my Barchetta easily reaches a speed of over two hundred kilometers (approximately 130 miles) per hour.

When we decided to go to Bonaire I took my car with me. I personally drove it into the container for shipment to Bonaire. My car is the only Barchetta on the island. She is in a very good condition and completely original. She has a 1.8-liter, 16-valve engine with double overhead camshaft and a five-speed gearbox. The engine produces 130 horse power at 6300 revs per minute.

Very unfortunately we have to sell the car with pain in the heart. She cannot cope at all with the muddy trail to our house. We tried everything: we changed the tires for higher ones, we even tried to improve the road, but my beloved is too stubborn and headstrong: she just likes the paved roads!" J@n Brower

DIVING with DEE STINGRAY SECRETS

Who would ever have predicted that the Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin, would be killed by a stingray? Granted, the most statistically unlikely part of Irwin's death wasn't that he was spined by a stingray, it was that the spine penetrated directly into Irwin's heart. If that spine had entered his body just about anywhere else, the man would be telling us exactly what happened himself. But why did he get spined at all?

What made his experience different from those of the thousands of people who visit Cayman's Stingray City? Dozens of Southern stingrays (*Dasyatis americana*) compete with hundreds of yellowtail snappers there for the bits of food that adventurous souls scatter for them.

There are injuries, of course, mostly fingers nipped by yellowtails. The most unexpected injuries I heard about were bruises caused by stingrays sucking onto divers' shoulders (more about this later). There have been no issues with stingrays



Wayne Haddon of the Aggressor Fleet communes with stingrays and yellowtail snappers at Stingray City.

using their venomous spines on divers, snorkelers, other rays or anything else.

My personal interactions with stingrays have been entirely peaceful. The island of San Salvador has a wide sand shelf, 30 to 40 feet deep, between the inner reef and the drop off. Southern stingrays could be found there often, feeding or resting just under the sand. I'd get low to the sand and approach a resting ray slo-o-owly, at a diagonal in front of the ray so it could see me clearly. If the ray so much as flapped a fin, I'd slo-o-owly back up at least a meter, then rest on the sand and watch the ray for a while, then back up a bit more and go on to other things without further disturbing the ray.

(Continued on page 15)

(Stingray. Continued from page 14)

It was a great opportunity to study the ray's large eyes, roughly oval in shape, with the long axis parallel to the bottom. Such an arrangement indicates this stingray has a good view of what's to its sides, a probable blind spot directly in front and in back, and another blind spot above it.

I also saw the ray's breathing intakes, called *spiracles*. They're just behind its eyes, at the highest part of its body. This is a sensible arrangement. Since the ray is often resting on or digging in the sand, it doesn't inhale through its mouth, but rather from where the least stirred-up sand would be. The exhaled water exits through gill slits on the underside of the ray.

When you see a ray swimming past you, or in the photo of the spotted eagle ray in Humann and Deloach's *Reef Fish Identification*, or in lots of Stingray City photos (including the one with this article, on the ray in the background), the resemblance of the ray's gill slits to those of sharks is apparent. Rays and sharks are closely related, being the main groups of cartilaginous fish (those who have cartilage but no actual bones).

Physiologically speaking, a ray is a sort of shark whose pectoral fins have been greatly enlarged into those wonderful "wings." Have you ever tried to swim along with a ray? Once I was already hovering in the blue water when a spotted eagle ray cruised past me, barely moving its wings as it casually swam along. I swam alongside it for maybe a minute and was amazed at how effortlessly it moved. It never increased its leisurely speed, and I couldn't come close to matching it.

Once, off Grand Turk, I slid up to a Southern stingray in the sand, curious

about the lump on one of its wings. The lump turned out to be a triple hook, made from tying three 2" fishing hooks back to back. The ray allowed me to touch the hook, but I couldn't wriggle the hook out. I thought (not very logically), "I'll cut the hook away so the ray's hydrodynamics will work, and the point will work its way out." I swam back to the boat and got the closest thing to wirecutters: rusted wirecutters. Again, the ray allowed me to approach, and I closed the wirecutters on the hook. I squeezed. Nothing. I squeezed harder. It became clear that a more accurate name for this tool would have been "pliers."

All this fussing disturbed the stingray, who tried to swim away. I hung on, and the hook began to loosen. The ray flapped its wings harder, I hung on and the ray turned me as it swam – and the hook loosened and came free! I hovered there, pliers in hand, hook in pliers, and watched the ray matter-of-factly bury itself in the sand again only a few feet away. Sure, it's possible that my involvement was irrelevant and that the hook would've soon worked its way out of the ray after causing no harm. But *my* behavior wasn't why I told this story – the reason for the story is the ray's *reaction* to my behavior. Even though I probably caused the ray some pain, it never tried to use its spine on me and never appeared particularly disturbed.

So why did Steve Irwin get stabbed? It was said to have happened at the very beginning of his dive. My guess is that he saw the rays as he first descended. I imagine him gently descending -- his buoyancy control was probably very good – and ending up just above a stingray and a little way back on its body – with his chest right above the spine, in fact.



Stingray spine

Slightly more than a decade ago, I was swimming at the Jersey shore when the body of a large stingray (the rough-tail stingray, *Dasyatis centroura*) was pushed onto shore by the waves. The line protruding from its mouth and other injuries on the ray's body showed that it had been hooked and fought until the line broke or was cut, but the ray didn't survive the experience. Before its body was towed back out to sea, I was allowed to remove the spine, which you see here.

Dr. Carl Edmonds, Irwin's countryman and Australia's foremost authority on the effects of marine creatures' defense mechanisms on people, writes in *Dangerous Marine Creatures* (1989):

"The stingray is not aggressive, but is capable of protecting itself against intruders... The unwary wading victim may tread on its dorsal surface or the diver may descend onto it. The stingray swings its tail upward and forward in a reflex action, either producing sword-like lacerations or driving the spine into the limb ... or body of the victim. A skin-like integument over the serrated spine is ruptured. Venom escapes and passes along grooves in the spine into the perforated wound. Extraction of the saw-shaped spine causes further tissue damage due to the serrations and retro-pointed barbs, and may leave spine or sheath within the wound.

Damage from the spine may cause death from either physical trauma by penetration of the body cavities ... or from the venom of the spine, or both. In Australia deaths tend to be from the penetration of body cavities, whereas in the US deaths are more often from the venom effects. *Dee Scarr*

This morning I was loading the washing machine on my porch when there was a sudden disturbance in the vines along the edge of the porch. I jumped at the unexpected noise and turned defensively, but the iguana who'd dropped from the roof stayed out of my way. If the iguana had dropped onto me, though, I surely would have flung it across the yard.

That might have been how Irwin's stingray had felt – some unknown thing dropped down upon it, and it defended itself.

So remember: *interaction* means *between* the two, not solely from one to the other. So if you want to have an interaction with an animal, it's definitely better if the animal knows what's going on. *Dee Scarr*

Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her slide show "Touch the Sea" at Capt. Don's Habitat, Mondays, 8:30 pm.



STARS of the SGB



Nanouk de Jong

Animes and Mangas "Bleach"

Bleach is an "Anime." Anime are Japanese cartoons. And almost every

Anime series has a "Manga" A Manga is a Japanese strip. Most of the Anime are based on the Manga. Well, this Anime series is about an orange haired guy named "Ichigo" (strawberry in English). And he meets "Rukia," a Death God. Then when a "Hollow" (a bad spirit that feeds himself with good spirits) appears and threatens to murder Ichigo's family, the Death God helps him by giving him some of her Death God powers. But suprisingly he takes all of her powers. Now as a Death God he helps spirits move on and destroy the Hollows. And all of this with Rukia. But later Rukia gets taken by the other Death Gods to the spirit world. She has to be punished for what she did (giving her powers to Ichigo, who is a human). She has to be eliminated. Ichigo and his friends, "Orhime," "Chad," "Ishida" and a cat named "Yoruichi" go to the spirit world to save Rukia. All have a special power. But unexpectedly they get split up. They all fight their way through the Death Gods that want to stop them from saving Rukia.

I really like this Anime. I just think it's awesome! If you start watching Anime, I would say that it's one of the best Anime series ever. *Nanouk de Jong - (VWO 2 B)*

Series by *Yvette van der Moolen -Van der Moolen is an English teacher at the SGB High School. English is not the native tongue of these students.*



Nanouk de Jong

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.
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 NAf5 per meal. Call **CHINA NOBO 717-8981**

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!

JELLASTONE PETPARK

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

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

Freezer, Polaris brand.

Works perfectly and keeps all frozen solid. Take advantage of all those holiday specials and freeze them for the future. Height: 86 1/2 cm.; width: 59 cm.; depth: 54 cm. NAf250. Call 786-6518 or 786-6125 any-time.



For Sale: Surfboard Mistral

"Escape", all-rounder 3.45 m, good condition and complete with two sails 5.4/4A m² for the best offer! **Te1 717-5038.**

Lounge Chairs - Aluminum - welded.

All in good shape. Only NAF 100. **Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm**

Wooden dining room table with four matching wood chairs.

Country kitchen style with maple finish and white trim on table and chairs. Table can be square or rectangular with self-folding leaf, which stores below table-top when not in use. In excellent condition. FL 675.00. **Call 717-2848.**

Surfboard Mistral "Escape," all-rounder 3.45 m, good condition and complete with two sails- 5.4/4.4m² for the best offer! **Te1 717-5038**

2 Boogie Boards. NAf75 each or best offer. Call Bruce **717-8819 8 am to 5 pm**

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 NAf60 per case., two for NAf100. Call **786-6125 or 717-8988.**

For sale —Dive tanks - 80 cu ft. aluminum. NAf125 Call **717-8819 8 am - 5 pm**

For Sale – **Woman's shorty ScubaPro wet suit** with long sleeves. As new-worn twice. Black with magenta trim. Size 13-14. NAf70 (\$40) OBO. 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 BAR-CHETTA Cabrio,** 1997, yellow, with hard-top and windstop. Tel. 786-5591.



Wanted

Wanted starting January 07, 6 apartments for medical students. Call Natalia, Xavier, **717-3966.**

Wanted: 18" high Dog Kennel. Call **717-6776**

Professional American couple looking for **temporary rental** of a 2- 3 bedroom home beginning 1st week of January. Furnished or unfurnished ok. Will need approximately 4-6 months. **717-5759 or 780-0959**

A screen door for a bedroom. Call **786-3117**

Property, Sales & Rentals

Wanted starting January 07, 6 apartments for medical students. Call Natalia, Xavier, **717-3966.**

Harbour Village Marina Front Condo For Sale- Large one bedroom, 2 bath apartment located in a secluded all condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. www.luxurybonaire.com

FOR SALE: Kunuku (farm)– 949 sq. meters. Modern house with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath inside, 1 outside. On water line, plus sweet water well. Electricity via solar and wind generator. Tras di Montana road. NAf180.000. **Call 785-6378.**

Timeshare week in Dutch St. Maarten, on Cupecoy Beach. Enjoy 7 nights at The Ocean Club, any week that space is available, in a studio which can sleep up to four, with privacy for two. Up to two weeks available, FL 750.00 per week. **Call 717-2848.**

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.



Question from: "Marital Miss"

Dear Betty,

I've had four failed marriages, none of which lasted very long. I doubt if even one of my ex-wives ever really loved me. I was very young when I married the first time. She was 10 years older and wanted things I couldn't afford as a teenager, so she left me for a richer, older guy. I quickly learned women like men with money, so I started working two jobs and saved most of my paycheck. I married a second time and divorced a few years later when I found out she was stealing money from me and stashing it away in a private bank account. I married my third wife on the rebound, and she ended up doing the same thing, but was much better at it. I later found out my second and third wives were best friends long before we met, and had been conspiring against me the whole time. I eventually married again, only this time I made sure my fourth wife had plenty of money before I married her. The marriage still didn't work. She was used to the finer things in life, and I simply couldn't keep up, so we had the marriage annulled after three weeks. I've decided to never marry again. What I can't figure out is why I'm attracted to money-hungry women?

ANSWER: This advice is going to cost you, so deposit a thousand dollars in my bank account. Women aren't the only ones who are money hungry. It's a worldwide dilemma and occurs in both sexes. Contrary

to what you may have heard, money actually does buy happiness. I can't begin to tell you how happy it makes me feel when I have money to spend because it means I can go shopping. You've probably heard the phrase, "shop to your heart's content." Well, there's some scientific truth to it. Studies have revealed that shopping, like eating chocolate, actually triggers endorphins in the brain. Endorphins are natural pain killing substances, or neurotransmitters that provide feelings of euphoria, so if you want to make your woman happy, feed her chocolate and send her shopping with a wad of cash. I know, I know - it's not what men want to hear, especially when they believe their sexual prowess is responsible for a woman's happiness. Don't confuse satisfaction with happiness. Take your loved one shopping and allow yourself to experience the same release of endorphins. What was that? Men hate to shop? I almost forgot that beer and football provide better results for men, perhaps because testosterone overpowers endorphins, both of which are produced in the male brain, except now we're talking about two brains. When boys reach puberty, they develop a second, smaller brain where testosterone is produced. The small brain often controls the big brain, and we all know it would much rather hunt "dear" than shop - a non-critical fact of life, not science. What men haven't quite figured out is that the highest concentration of dear can be found shopping.

Betty Wills

Mr. and Miss Jong Bonaire Competition

Last Friday Jong Bonaire held its 6th Annual Miss and Mister Jong Bonaire Contest. Under the direction of Angelo Domacassé the youngsters put on a special show. Jong Bonaire would like to thank all who helped make the night a memorable success. *Story & photo by Rudsel Chirino*



Results Miss Jong Bonaire:
 Miss Popular; *Ruthgainy Frans*
 Miss Simpátiko; *Mariluz Melaan*
 Miss Dinámika; *Ruthvianca Josephia*
 Di Dos Finalista; *Carina Chirino*
 Di Promé Finalista; *Luisanne Cicilia*
Miss Jong Bonaire; *Ruthgainy Frans*

Results Mister Jong Bonaire:
 Mister Popular; *Luizinho Gomez*
 Di Tres Finalista; *Giovanni Priest*
 Di Dos Finalista; *Jonathan Clarenda*
 Di Promé Finalista; *Esmith Orozco*
Mister Jong Bonaire; *Luizinho Gomez*
Story and photo by Rudsel Chirino

Anyway....it appears the women you married allowed money to control their lives, which bled over onto yours, and you're still bleeding from it. *True love* is one of the few things in life money can't buy, so maybe you're putting too much emphasis on money which could be the reason you attract money hungry women. The olfactory receptors on some women can sniff out cash in a guy's wallet as easily as K-9 security dogs sniff out drugs in a suitcase. Try changing your focus from money and finances to love and trust, and remember, it's a two-way street. Don't become too trusting too soon. It's better to proceed slowly. Trust must be earned, and should be well established in the relation-

ship before considering marriage, or giving your partner access to your bank accounts and private financial information.

JOKE OF THE DAY



A woman was telling her friend, "It is I who made my husband a millionaire." "And what was he before you married him?" asked the friend. The woman replied, "A billionaire."

Betty Wills

Bonaire Excels at the 2006 Netherlands Antilles National Swimming Championships

The Swimming Federation of the Netherlands Antilles (NAZB) held the 2006 National Swimming Championships on 8 - 10 December at Sentro Deportivo Korsou in Curaçao. Swimmers from Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Maarten competed in this annual championship event. Swimmers 11 years and older had to meet qualification time standards to participate while the top 16 swimmers in each event aged 10 years and under were invited. Swimmers must hold a Dutch passport to be eligible for prizes. Swimmers of other nationalities swimming in the Netherlands Antilles are allowed to participate with exhibition status.

Bonaire had seven swimmers qualify for Nationals this year compared to three in 2005. Swimmers who participated were Giada Binelli, Churmer Bomba, Ryda-Luz Emer, Samson V. Evertsz, Asdrubal Marciano, Olivier Wagemakers and Philip Winkel. The swimmers were accom-

(Continued on page 22)



Samson Evertsz gold medal(s) winner

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
12-22	13:40	2.1FT.	23:49	0.7FT.					92
12-23	0:16	0.7FT.	14:25	2.0FT.					92
12-23	0:16	0.7FT.	14:25	2.0FT.					92
12-24	0:44	0.8FT.	15:20	1.8FT.					88
12-25	1:00	0.9FT.	16:12	1.7FT.					82
12-26	1:06	1.0FT.	8:30	1.4FT.	12:29	1.4FT.	17:25	1.5FT.	73
12-27	0:59	1.0FT.	8:17	1.6FT.	15:13	1.3FT.	18:34	1.4FT.	63
12-28	0:40	1.0FT.	8:36	1.8FT.	16:35	1.1FT.	20:05	1.2FT.	57

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—Subscribe Yearly Mail to US \$110; On-line \$35
 Published weekly. For information about **subscriptions, stories** or **advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, phone (599) 717-8988, 786-6518, 786-6125 fax 717-8988, E-mail to: **Reporter@bonairenews.com** **The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles.
 Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com** **Reporters:** J@n Brower, Ilo Christiaan, Rudsel Chirino, Nanouk de Jong, Florence Ditlow, Caren Eckrich, Wilna Gronenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Molly Kearney, Greta Kooistra, Dee Scarr, Valarie Stimpson, Michael Thiessen, Yvette van der Moolen, 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

©2006 The Bonaire Reporter

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

**Deck The Halls
(Danny De Vito)**

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

**A Good Year
(Russell Crowe)**

**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

December: December:
The Santa Claus 3: The
Escape Claus

THIS ISSUE

Saturday, December 23—Motorcycle Santa with his frolicking elves will be making a personal appearance at Rose Inn in Rincon. Good little boys and girls will be receiving gifts from him. Then on **Christmas Day** itself Motorcycle Santa and entourage will be at Jibe City.

Monday, December 25. Dee Scarr is back on the island with an all new "Touch the Sea" slide show on Monday nights at Capt. Don's Habitat. The show is free.

Until March 30—Guest Artist Markus Taurer Exhibit at the Cinnamon Art Gallery.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Sunday, Dec. 24 - *Amsterdam*; Wednesday, December 27 - *Crown Princess, Silver Shadow*; Thursday, Dec. 29 - *Prinsendam*

Sunday, December 31—COMCABON Run, 2-4-5 km. Start 1730. Different shops will sponsor

Sunday, December 31—Disco Heaven at Buddy Dive, 10 pm until late. Free entrance. See page 20

COMING

Monday, January 1—Maskarada—colorfully costumed, masked, silent characters dance and pantomime—Wilhelmina Park area, morning hours. Uniquely Bonaire.

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

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off **Buddy Dive Resort**, 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

- **Steak Night On the Beach** (a la carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, kitchen open 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
- **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

- Fish or Meat **Dinner Special for only \$10,-**. **Buddy Dive Resort**, kitchen open from 6:00 pm - 21:30 pm
- **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 -Reserve ahead. Tel. 717-5091, 717-2288
- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort**, kitchen open from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Thursdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rock-**

ers, **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
- **Buddy's Bingo Show** - Buddy Dive Resort, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225
- **Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers" Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7
- **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
- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm) & All-u-can-eat BBQ (7:00 pm - 22:00 pm) - **Buddy Dive Resort**
- **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

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 Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the FORMA Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank. All levels invited. Naf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

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

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

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

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th **Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana



This is the time of the year people send greeting cards to one another. Snorklers Joan & Alan Zale sent this to *The Reporter*.

#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:786-6518 or 786-6125

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Extensive snack/salad/burger. Menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30 am - 10:00 am. Lunch daily 11:30 - 17:30 am. Dinner on theme nights 6:00 pm - 10 pm.	Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights: Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10.-); Wed. - Caribbean Night A la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7:00 - 10:00 pm)
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	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	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast Sandwich Lunch 10 am-12 noon	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Breakfast Buffet 7:30-10 am every day Super beer selection—Happy hours 5 to 7 daily.
The Last Bite Bakery Kaya Grandi 70 717-3293	Low-Moderate Open Tuesday through Saturday	NAf10 lunch every day main dish with 2 side dishes.
Papaya Moon Cantina Downtown— Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate Open everyday except Tuesday For Dinner	Margaritas a Specialty 2 for 1 Happy Hour 6-7:30 Incredible Mexican Cuisine
Papagayo Downtown, Kaya L.D.Gerharts, opposite MCB 717-8003	Moderate Open for Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Monday	Breakfasts featuring Eggs Benedict Burgers and Salads Open at 8 am
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 ingredi- ents. 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	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.

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. Now flying to Aruba.

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.

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.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Get accounting software to manage your payroll at **Cactus Accounting Services—717-6033**

CALENDAR

Bonaire Creations new 2007 Calendar available now at shops around town. It makes a superb holiday gift.

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. **OPENING HOURS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER: Monday through Saturday: 9 am to 6 pm, non-stop**

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

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

HOTELS

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

METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

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

NATURE EXPLORATION

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . **Full digital services.**

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's 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. Easiest landing on Klein

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.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:

Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125

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

ON THE ISLAND SINCE . . .

1990

Marlis Seelos-Schmid (originally published in March 2004)

We sailed from the Canary Islands to Senegal and Gambia. We did part of the Gambia River then crossed the Atlantic to Trinidad and Tobago. Carnival in Trinidad - hundreds of thousands of people - me dancing *soca soca*. You couldn't walk normally, hearing the music from the steel bands. The idea was to go in steps around the world. This was the first step. We had to go back to Germany and make money. Curaçao was a safe place to leave the boat for eight months.

The first time I saw Bonaire I'd sailed over from Curaçao. It looked so peaceful. I thought I'd like to live in one of those old houses. I found a house like that in 1990 and opened up a boat business, even offering laundry services because there was nothing for the sailors. I did all kinds of stuff. I was honorary port officer from the Trans Ocean *Stützpunkt!* I built up my business and I survived. I didn't go to Germany anymore, just once 10 years ago shortly before my mother died.

I'd lived in Germany, traveled all over Europe, Peru, for six months, to Chile, then back to Europe on a cargo ship. Bonaire was the first place outside my country where I've lived, and from the first moment I felt very much at home. At first I saved my money to put it into the business, but then I started to travel. I am a typical Cancer. I had to learn to open my mouth and not to swallow everything or behave like a crab at the shore that hides under a rock!

I've always wanted to travel, once I was there I didn't want to go home. Now, when I travel, I say after a few weeks, 'It's time to go home.' I never felt that way before. There are still quite a few places left that I want to see: Easter Island, the south of Chile, Patagonia. As long as I can afford it I'll give myself a ticket for my birthday and for Christmas. I like places with very strange cultures like Mexico, Peru and Ecuador - the Indians - and the small islands in the Pacific. I never get enough of islands. I don't know why. It's just wonderful to explore an island where the people still live like a hundred years ago.

I love marketplaces where I sit and watch the people for hours, talk to them. I want to be outside, sleep in a hammock and wash myself and my clothes in the river together with the local women. I think, on the other hand, Bonaire is enough, but I wouldn't have known that if I didn't have the opportunity to travel."

Marlis Seelos-Schmid (60+) is an extraordinary, extravagant woman with a big heart, a beautiful soul and a tre-

mendous lust for life. "I was a little devil as a child- more like a boy than a girl. We were four children and my father died when I was eight. It wasn't easy for my mom, but she managed. She was a great person. We lived in a small village. At 14 you dropped out of school because it was a waste to let a girl learn a profession as she would marry anyway. At 15 I worked in a photo business. I worked there for three years and went to school once a week. Then I passed my exam and became a

"I've always wanted to travel, once I was there I didn't want to go home. Now, when I travel, I say after a few weeks, 'It's time to go home.' I never felt that way before."

professional photographer. My mother pushed me to do it. She taught me sewing too; now I make my living from it! My mom and I were always singing. When she heard a waltz on the radio she would push the table aside and we danced. A real waltz is gorgeous! I love to dance and I love music - every kind - as long as you can hear the instruments clearly. My parents had a gramophone - a piece of furniture it was. My favorite music was the Overture to the Barber of Seville from Rossini. I sat there in my nightgown, singing and playing the harmonium like a diva!" *She laughs:* "Now I'm 60+ and I feel free to do whatever I like. I can be crazy as can be. I have an excuse - I am an old woman! The things that keep me going in life are the small things. If you can appreciate them there'll be something good about every day. It goes up and down, up and down. You sit on cloud nine and you fall down very hard - the big bang! Never boring! One has dreams, but reality is a little bit different.

Life has so many compromises. You could or should learn from your mistakes, but you don't listen to yourself.

That's the way you are. Everybody gets hurt in life and it's like with a wound: some people heal fast; others take forever. But don't tell me, 'Life goes on.'

It was hard to learn to be alone, but now I can spend a whole Sunday in my hammock, relaxing and reading. I couldn't do that a few years ago. I have mountains of books. I need books, books, books. I think just in my bedroom I have more than 200 books. If I don't have three or four books to choose from I'm very unhappy. I don't have TV. I read every day, at lunchtime, even when I come home at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Since I was a child I've had animals. When somebody said, 'This animal will die,' I said, 'No! It won't!' I took what people brought me. I'm still doing that. I can't say no, but I learned that I can't take everything. Now I show people how to do it, but if it goes wrong I'll still do it myself. My house is full of animals. I think I have 22 cats. I have chickens whose eggs I see when they're already walking around. I have a monkey, three prikitchis, eight Loras, a big Macaw, three dogs and three flamingos."

She closes her eyes and says: "Listen to that song: the melody, the words - very touching - the way they fit. It's the perfect match!" *She smiles:*

"Always happy, always cheerful - what is on the inside is nobody's business. You know what I also like? Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite, beautiful with the sunset! The last time I went to see my brother in New Zealand I came back with 110 CDs, all classical music!

Twice a year I go to Panama, to *Kuna Yala*, Kuna Land - 365 tiny little islands on the Caribbean side of Panama. There I buy the handcrafts I sell in my shop. The Kuna women are quite powerful. This is something I like; they have a lot to say. They handle their own business and the husband has nothing to say about the handcrafts or the selling. If they marry the husband goes to her family and he has to help them. There are about 40 islands big enough for a small village. You can't just go there. Boat people are allowed, but that doesn't mean you can walk around all day. They have very strict rules. You must



Marlis Seelos-Schmid

go to the island chief and he'll tell you what you're allowed to do. I am a friend of one of the women, so I can stay. I hang my hammock outside the 'house' - one big room made out of sugarcane stalks - because inside it's too crowded. I see the stars and I hear the sea two meters away. I eat whatever they cook and I learn about their culture. But it's not easy; they don't want to tell you. It takes a long time. We're both in a hammock; we smoke a cigarette, then little by little my friend, one of the men, tells me about the rituals of the burials, the carved little persons that are your personal protector and the way they see religion - until his wife tells him to shut up! It's always very quiet there - no music and they don't sing - very strange. These things I like to experience.

But all in all, somehow, I found my place here. I kiss the ground like the Pope! I like the mixture of the different cultures: we are so many.

A tourist asked me once, 'Don't you miss culture or nice conversations?' I got really annoyed, and I said very seriously, 'If I want intelligent conversation I just talk to myself!' Here I can live in personal peace - nobody is cutting my wings - I feel free to do things my way. It seems long ago that I arrived. Many things happened in between. It was another world."

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

Swim School Graduation

A level swimming graduation of Enith Brigitha's Swim School at Sorobon on Friday the 15 of December. Photos by Wilna Groenenboom

The graduates are: Michael Statie, David Pijpers, Juliette Houhuijzen, Amy Schrader, Mikki de Man, Lars van Bekkum, Hendrik Pot, April Hazeveld, Chris Wijngaarden, Cezar van Esveld, Joshua Statie, Jedidja van Twillert, Eduard Ar-ends, Almar van Leeuwen, Kasper Pot, Max Witten, Olivier Wagemakers, Alejandro De Lima, Rosa Wagemakers



Your own piece of Paradise

Sunbelt Realty
Kaya LD Gerharts 8
Tel 717 65 60

info@sunbelt.an www.sunbelt.an

(Bonaire Swimmers. Continued from page 18)
panied by Coach Simone Sweers, event officials Luisa Marcano and Valarie Stimpson, and various family members and fans.

Samson V. Evertsz became the first Bonaire swimmer to win gold (3) at a National Championship and came home with 7 medals in total. Samson qualified for all 9 events open to Boys 10 & under but was only allowed to swim 8 under tournament rules. Unofficially Samson's 50 meter freestyle time in the competition was the fastest for this event in his age category swum in the Netherlands Antilles during the year 2006. Ryda-Luz Emer, who started swimming with the Bonaire Barracudas in January 2006, qualified for 6 events in the Girls

10 & under category and proved that she is an up and coming talent. Ryda-Luz finished 4th in three of her events and 5th in two others.

While the National Championships bring 2006 to a close, Bonaire swimmers have a full schedule for 2007. Many of these swimmers and their teammates from the Bonaire Barracudas Swim Team will participate in Curaçao at the 4th Curaçao Swimming Federation Open Swim Meet on 20 January. On Sunday, 28 January, the Barracudas and Sedrebo will hold the 3rd Annual Bonaire School Swimming Competition at the Meralney Sports Complex. Story & photo by Valarie Stimpson

RESULTS

Boys 10 & Under	Event	Time	Place	Medal	
Evertsz, Samson V.	50 meter butterfly	0:36.82	1 st (J)	Gold	
	50 meter freestyle	0:32.97	1st	Gold	
	100 meter backstroke	1:26.31	1st	Gold	
	50 meter backstroke	0:39.84	2 nd	Silver	
	100 meter breaststroke	1:40.29	3rd	Bronze	
	100 meter butterfly	1:27.78	3 rd	Bronze	
	200 meter IM	3:05.60	3 rd	Bronze	
	50 meter breaststroke	0:46.86	5 th		
	50 meter backstroke	0:45.09	8 th		
	200 meter IM	3:44.79	14 th		
Boys 10 & Under	Event	Time	Place	Medal	
Ryda-Luz Emer	50 meter butterfly	0:43.15	5 th		
	200 meter IM	3:20.40	4th		
	50 meter freestyle	0:34.98	4th		
	50 meter backstroke	0:43.77	5th		
	100 meter freestyle	1:17.88	4th		
Boys 11 - 14	Event	Time	Place	Medal	
	Bomba, Churmer	50 meter breaststroke	0:43.82	12 th	
		50 meter breaststroke	0:39.75	8 th	
	Winkel, Philip	50 meter backstroke	0:37.34	7th	
		50 meter breaststroke	DFS		
Girls 11 - 14	Event	Time	Place	Medal	
Binelli, Giada	50 meter backstroke	0:41.14	X		

J = Judges' decision, tie for 1st place DFS = Disqualified false start
X = Exhibition

Home-Beauty-Income-Appreciation—this Villa has it all!

Cross the road and step into the Caribbean from this **stylish, superb Bonaire property**. Adjacent to a small, full-service hotel making it perfect for your full-time home, seasonal get-away or income rental. Architect designed with flowering inner garden, the villa, exemplifying both Caribbean and Antillean architecture, is perched just above the ocean. View of the sea from nearly every room! Quality construction, very low maintenance.

Living room, modern kitchen, three bedrooms, (one a separate apartment), Airco, 3½ baths, Travertine floors and baths, luxury fittings, atrium, two terraces, mature tropical gardens and much more.

Lot: 811 sq. m. (8730 sq. ft). House: 226 sq. m. (2433 sq. ft.)



The Villa, portrayed by artist John Jay Gebhardt (NY collection)
www.gebhardtart.com



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

What Do The Stars and Planets Have To Do With Santa Claus This Christmas Eve?

If you don't believe in Santa Claus then this story is not for you. Because I'm going to show you how Santa will be able to find his way around the northern hemisphere this Sunday night, Christmas Eve, if his GPS global positioning satellite system goes on the blink. Because he'll be able to use the stars and planets as direction finders just



At the North Pole the stars appear to revolve around Polaris, as this time-lapse photo shows

Photo: Copyright (c) 1986 Hiram Clawson

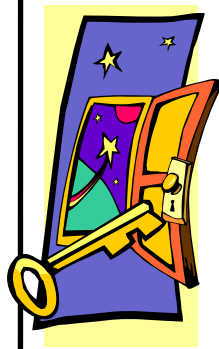
the way he did when I was a kid before anyone even thought of GPS. So let's get started right from where Santa will start, from his home at the **North Pole**.

At the North Pole, and as you may recall from elementary school, in December at the North Pole there is 24 hours of night, which means 24 hours of starlight. So if Santa looks straight up he will see directly overhead a star called the **North Star** or **Polaris** because it is located directly above the **Earth's** North Pole and axis of rotation. That means that all the stars in the heavens slowly revolve around the North Star while the North Star remains stationary. It only changes its position in the sky depending on a person's latitude. That means that as Santa travels southward the North Star will always be due north, but it will also descend lower and lower the farther south he travels. And it will always be the same number of degrees above the horizon as the latitude from which Santa is observing.

For instance at the North Pole, which is 90 degrees latitude above the **Equator**, the North Star is 90 degrees above the horizon directly overhead. But by the time he gets to Fairbanks, Alaska, which is 65 degrees above the Equator, the North Star will have descended and will be 65 degrees above the horizon. As Santa heads farther south the North Star will continue to dip, and by the time he hits the latitudes of San Francisco, Chicago and New York the North Star will be only 40 degrees above the horizon, the same as the latitude of each of those cities. And by the time he gets to Bonaire it's only 12 degrees above the horizon.

So using the North Star Santa can not only find where north is but also how many degrees above the Equator he happens to be. Plus this Christmas Eve, 2006, he'll also be able to use some planets for direction finding which you yourself can see. In fact, 30 minutes after sunset look southwest and you'll see an exquisite four-day-old crescent **Moon** and below it, at the horizon, the brightest planet of them all **Venus**, which is often mistaken for the **Christmas Star**. Around midnight as you and Santa look eastward you'll see the ringed planet **Saturn** and then an hour before sunrise Christmas morning as Santa heads home, look southeast and you'll see the king of the planets **Jupiter**.

So don't fret if Santa's GPS goes on the fritz this Christmas eve. He'll find his way around the old fashioned way, which is a lot more fun in my opinion. Merry Christmas! *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, December 17 to
Saturday, December 23

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can make extra cash if you act on a hunch. You will be quite excitable this week. Traffic will be busier than you anticipated, so try to get a head start if you have made plans to travel. Don't let someone take the credit for a job you did. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You need a break from your daily routine. Work quietly at your own goals and forget about situations that you can do little about. You can get your point across if you don't beat around the bush. You mustn't be so trusting. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Work on legitimate financial deals that may enable you to bring in some extra cash. Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. You may find that others do not do things the way you want; however, if the job gets done, let it pass. Try not to lend or borrow money this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for all. You may be experiencing emotional turmoil in regard to your mate. Plan your days carefully. You can't always have your own way. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Don't bang your head against a wall. Secret affairs can only lead to devastating circumstances. Partnerships with creative people could lead to financial gains. Minor health problems will flare up if you don't take care of yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You must take care not to over exert yourself if involved in sports. Opportunities to make money may interfere with your personal plans. Don't forget to read the fine print. Get out and, about. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Make sure that you have all the pertinent facts before taking action. You'll be prone to tears if your mate is harsh with you this week. Avoid boredom by being creative in your endeavors. Avoid any hassles. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Romantic opportunities will develop through friends or relatives. Try not to use emotional blackmail; it will only make matters worse. Take time to look at any outdated papers or possible investments. In-laws may cause difficulties. Travel should be considered. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your mind will be on matters that deal with secret affairs. Jealous attitudes may lead you astray. Don't let your emotions interfere with your efficiency. Your intuition will be right on. Follow your feelings in matters pertaining to financial investments. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't get involved in joint ventures. Do not expect others to do your work. You will find that joint ventures could easily turn out to be dead end projects. Be very careful while in transit or while traveling in foreign countries. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your position may be in question if you haven't been pulling your weight. Don't be too eager to dismiss someone who works under you. Don't blow situations out of proportion or you could find that others will misinterpret what really happened. Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. Your lucky day this week is Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can elaborate on your creative ideas and get involved in groups that relate to the arts. Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. Don't let situations get out of hand. Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.