

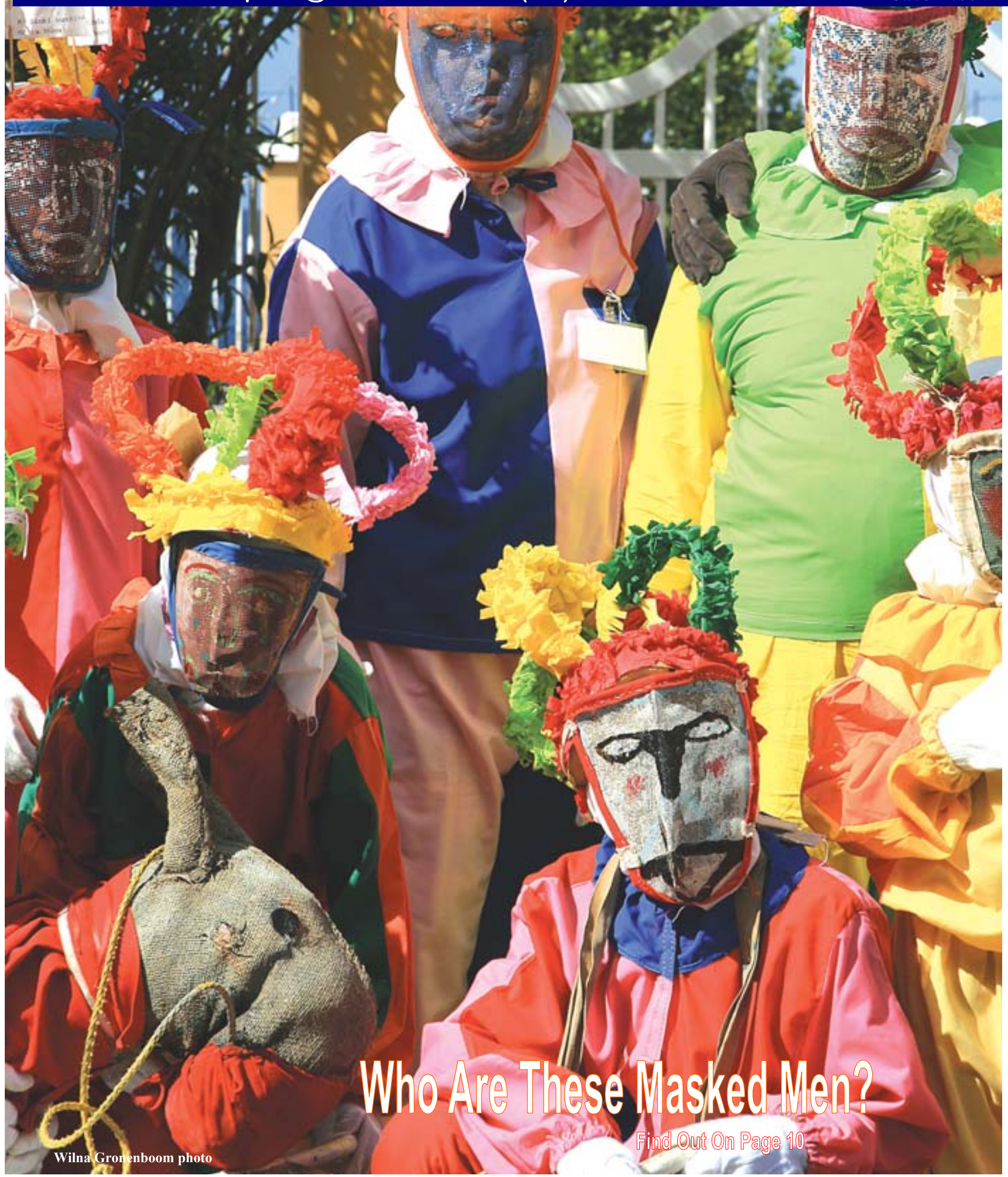
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BONAIRE

January 5-January 12, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 2

The REPORTER

PO Box 407 - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 786-6125/6518 SINCE 1994



Who Are These Masked Men?

Find Out On Page 10

Wilna Gronenboom photo

Flotsam and Jetsam



DAE will begin flying Fokker-100s like this one next year

Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) announced Thursday that it would start jet service between Curaçao and St. Maarten as of February 1, 2007, as well as expand its schedule to other destinations. DAE Managing Director Floris van Pallandt said that on January 15 he would be receiving the first of the two Fokker-100 aircraft the company is leasing from a company in Western Europe for a period of five years. His announcement came a day after the inaugural/test flight by competitor Insel Air. DAE's lawsuit to block Insel Air from flying their foreign-owned 168 passenger MD-83 on the same route as DAE was rejected by the court.

After the aircraft is entered into the Netherlands Antilles aviation register, the plane will fly to our islands on January 25. Van Pallandt plans to begin jet flights to St. Maarten with the 100-seat aircraft February 1. DAE will continue with its daily St. Maarten

► WEB's planned wind farm project doesn't benefit its workers or the Bonaire public, according to FEDEBON, WEB's labor union. WEB didn't do their homework, they imply. FEDEBON made its point by showing prices paid for electricity on the other islands:

	Client 1 (220KWH)	Client 2 (380KWH)	Client 3 (650KWH)
Aruba:	NAf63,45	NAf104,39	NAf 170,71
Curacao:	NAf116,56	NAf195,14	NAf344,45
Bonaire:	NAf151,51	NAf223,86;	NAf372,80

They point out that Aruba doesn't have windmills but Curaçao does. Aruba also has the Valero refinery, Curaçao has Isla.

service.

On the busiest three days, around the weekend, DAE will fly once per day with the jet and once per day with the current ATR propeller aircraft. The jet will increase capacity on the busier days. Flying time on the Fokker-100 between the two islands is 1½ hours.

The next Fokker-100 should be available for service during the first week of February.

The Dutch-manufactured Fokker-100 with its 100 seats is superior for the Curaçao-St. Maarten market, said Van Pallandt. It is an excellent plane for regional routes on which DAE will be venturing in the very near future, he added.

He said the aircraft had 'considerably more' cargo space than the 48-seat ATR aircraft. With the acquiring of two Fokker-100s, DAE is creating more capacity in its ATR fleet. As a result, the airline is increasing service to several destinations.

Flights between Curaçao and Aruba

will go up by 20%, between Curaçao and Bonaire by 5%. DAE will also increase flights between Curaçao and Caracas to 12 times per week.

Van Pallandt said the company had waited a while to introduce jet service because it wanted to acquire only Fokker-100s. The aircraft are very fuel efficient and when they were manufactured in the early 1990s the technology was considered to be advanced beyond the MD-83 used by its competitor. (Suzanne Koelega)

► While the international departure tax has jumped from \$12 to \$32, departure tax for ABC island and St. Maarten flights remains NAf10 except for children under 12 and seniors over 60 years old who **get 50% off- NAf5.**

► DAE Director Floris van Pallandt said Friday that time would tell if competition on the Curaçao-St. Maarten route would benefit passengers. Van

(Continued on page 3)

BONAIRE THIS WEEK: The REPORTER

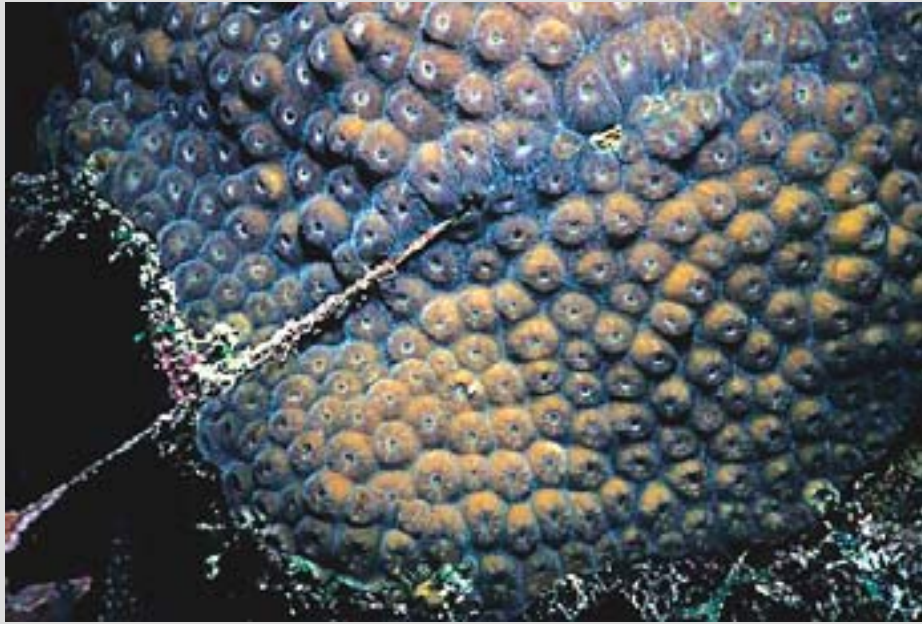
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2007

coral glimpses

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



The fishing line lying across this star coral has tension on it, so it didn't move over the years, enabling the coral animals it had injured to heal. You can see that the circles -- each the top of a single coral polyp -- grow in a less-organized pattern around the path of the line.

The little bare spot in the middle, showing the uncovered fishing line, also shows the extreme thinness of the living coral tissue that covers a coral head. . *Captions & photos by Dee Scarr. Dee's Photos restored by Jack Drafahl of the Oregon Coastal Digital Center*

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.



Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

Butterflyfish don't fool around?

Among coral reef fish, there are a variety of mating behaviors. Some fish mate daily, while others only mate once a year. Hmm, which would you rather be? Some fish have harems, while others mass spawn. Some are one sex their entire lives (gonochoristic), some change into the opposite sex



Butterflyfish photo by Albert Bianculli

(sequential hermaphrodites), and others are both (simultaneous hermaphrodites)! Looking back at what I've just wrote, some humans could fit into each of the categories I just mentioned! Well, butterflyfish are thought to stay the same sex throughout their life and are monogamous, sometimes mating for life. So in case you haven't noticed before, you'll almost always see those charming butterflyfish in happily mated pairs. *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

DIVERS AFFECT THE REEF POSITIVELY

Dear Editor:

We often hear and read about negative impacts of divers on reefs. While it is an important issue, I think it is not less important to emphasize the other side of the equation - the positive ways divers affect the reef. Here is one of them.

It is shown in various research studies that fundamental functions of corals, including nutrient uptake, gas exchange, and feeding depend upon the flow of water over the coral and through its branches. Studies have also shown that enhanced water flow over the coral facilitates both prevention of and rapid recovery from bleaching. As Dee Scarr wrote previously in her articles, water flow also helps sponges by clearing their pores. We know that Damselfish regularly aerate their eggs by creating water flow over them. Shortly, water flow is good for reef and its inhabitants. Here come the divers. When swimming along the reef they create an enhanced water flow over it and by doing so, help the reef. Less experienced divers using inefficient fin kick, "pedaling", and waving their arms create even more water flow than more experienced ones. Fast swimming divers, while usually seeing less, do better at creating a good water flow than slowly "gliding" ones. As long as divers don't directly crash onto the reef, their presence there is good for the reef.

Here is some circumstantial evidence:

67% of dives on Bonaire occur in the range of 40'-80' (12m-24m) - and that's where the reef is generally in the best shape. Many dive sites on Bonaire are popular for night diving; studies have shown that increased water flow is especially helpful at night. Isn't a high density of Bonaire diving - some sites almost never stay "diverless" - at least partially responsible for the relatively good shape of Bonaire reef?

Genady Filkovsky.

BIO-DIESEL FUEL MAY CAUSE HARM

Dear Editor,

I read in *The Reporter* of WEB's plans considering the introduction and cultivation of specialized algae with rapid and aggressive growth aspects for production of bio-diesel fuel. This could prove to be pennywise and pound foolish if implemented on Bonaire due to the potential for their escaping to the reefs if the variety chosen is able to adapt to the marine environment. If this should happen and the organisms thrive there they could potentially wreck the reef ecology and could be impossible to eradicate. There is more than one way these organisms could escape and get into the wrong place in addition to ground water flows as mentioned in an earlier letter to the editor. Among these would include direct runoff from the ground surface and growing facilities during storms, and by being carried on the feet of birds. The latter happens all the time; and it is one way

that even amphibians get around from one water body to another when their eggs get stuck to the feet of water fowl and other birds.

Before such venture is implemented, a thorough study of this organism should be done, and other alternatives safer for an island so dependent on the ecology of its coastal waters as Bonaire should be investigated.

Here is a web site that cites a newsletter devoted to the topic of harmful algae blooms and the problems that they can cause. <http://ian.umces.edu/newsletters/>

*Eldon Gemmill, B.A., M.S.
(Plant Physiology) Baltimore County
Environmental Protection*

DON'T GO NEAR TOWN!

Dear Editor,

A democratic government is supposed to listen to and do what a majority of **its citizens** want.

Isn't it interesting that Bonaire's government is run by cruise ships and what they want. Not only has the government of Bonaire changed laws overnight to accommodate them so they can save \$2 (yes, just \$2) per passenger and have all of Kaya Grandi for their passengers, but that has diminished the quality of life for everyone living on Bonaire.

Doesn't anyone in the government care about its own people and Bonaire's environment?

Jack Kelly



Guest Editorial expresses the opinions of the writer

SUPPORT FISH CONSERVATION -NO CATCH ZONES

Protecting fish spawning areas where fish congregate to make more fish is fast becoming a major issue in coral reef conservation. Some of the most threatened species found on coral reefs use this "group sex" method of reproduction. This may well be why species such as the Nassau grouper are in such trouble. The reason is simple: When fish congregate — for whatever reason — they become much easier to catch. And once fishermen know where to find these aggregations, entire local populations of targeted species become extremely vulnerable to overfishing. So, it should be obvious why spawning areas must be managed if species like grouper and snapper are to have any chance of survival.

Clearly, protecting these vulnerable fish-making sites is important to everyone, not just fishermen. Healthy fish

(Continued on page 5)



(Guest Editorial, No Catch Zones. Continued from page 4)

populations are essential for a healthy marine ecosystem for Bonaire. The problem is that many spawning aggregations are already in trouble, while others are already gone. According to the Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish

Aggregations, of the 140 sites studied so far, 15% have been wiped out, and 60% are decreasing. *BB-adapted from Dive Training.*

Establishing no fishing zones to allow growth in Bonaire's fish populations is being debated on Bonaire. Ed.

Guest Editorial expresses the opinions of the writer

POLICE PRIORITIES

It is true to say that in many ways, Bonaire is going through a time of change and transition. Development is prolific, closer ties with Holland are on the horizon and as always with swift transition, some social problems are rapidly emerging.

One of the biggest problems facing the residents and visitors to our island at this moment in time is the sharp rise in crime, the most disturbing aspect of which is the accompanying violence which is becoming more common as the perpetrators throw caution to the wind as they go about their business.

With a small population comes the problem of limited resources, to wit, a small police force. Locals are constantly told that the police have insufficient means with which to tackle the rising crime. The outcome is that tourists are being robbed in their hotels as they sleep, as well as having to contend with having their rental vehicles looted or stolen.

The picture for locals is even less rosy. Theft is endemic from houses, people are

being mugged in the street and violent gangs are threatening householders with firearms and machetes. The innocent and law abiding tax payers are being driven to sitting inside the house behind bars instead of enjoying the night air on their porch.



Bearing in mind that our Police Force are at "Full Capacity" as they struggle to get on top of this crime, it was with open mouth that I witnessed where the Chief of Police believes his priorities lie. Around eight in the morning Police Officers were stopping vehicles at random as people traveled to work. Their aim?

To check documentation, lights, etc. At a time when some people are disenchanted with the ability of the Police Force to maintain law and order, insult was added to injury by seeing valuable resources being wasted in the name of "Road Safety." Some areas are being targeted nightly by thieves, areas that are not policed because of lack of resources. However, when it comes to making a quick buck out of the motorists, there are Police aplenty. Drug dealers freely ply their trade outside bars and on street corners in full view of every-

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

Pallandt said that ultimately the customers would decide on which airline he/she preferred to fly. The Curaçao-St. Maarten route doesn't have much growth potential.

► **Insel Air plans to start jet service to St Maarten on January 5, flying four times a week.** DAE has already proven itself by being dependable and punctual. DAE flies an ATR propeller aircraft twice a day but as of February 1 also with a Fokker-100.

DAE has been the sole airline flying the Curaçao-St. Maarten route since April 30, 2005. Before that Exel Aviation and Dutch Eagle Express (DEE) flew the route.

► While DAE prevailed with an injunction against Curaçao's Insel Air earlier this year when Insel Air planned to start flying with a Suriname Airways MD-82 jet it lost its latest bid to block its competitor. **Last Friday Judge P. de Kort of the Court of First Instance ruled that Insel Air had operational control of its aircraft and that its business permit allowed for St. Maarten flights. Now Insel Air wants to start flights soon to the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Miami.** The company wants to take over all the regional routes ALM and DCA used to fly before DCA

one, yet we are led to believe that it is more important to have fully functional tail lights. I, like so many other Bonairean residents, will sleep soundly in my bed tonight knowing that there are no tail lights unlit or turn signals inoperative on the is-

land. Why worry about petty matters such as theft and armed robbery when somebody may be displaying only one brake light. My hat goes off to the Chief of Police for his sensitivity and prioritizing at this time.

► The Papiamentu newspaper, *Extra*, every year produces a **Christmas supplement edition which has many very interesting historical articles and photos.** A limited number of free copies of the edition are still available at the *Extra* office on Kaya Gilberto F. Croes. Call 717-8482 for more information.

► Get ready for the colored flags. **The last date for voter registration to participate in the Island Council (*Konseho Insular*) election is January 29.** The election date is on April 20. This may be the last Island Council election due to Bonaire's having closer ties with Holland as a municipality. As of now parties running in the election are UPB, PRO and the PDB (Democrats). However, the Socialist (PABOSO) and Labor party may offer candidates as well.

► To make it even more convenient for their banking customers **Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire (MCB) has just opened its 8th Bankomatiko at the Progreso Supermarket** on Kaya Korona. Among other places Bankomatikos are at the MCB offices at Playa and Hato, at Cultimara, Divi and at the Airport. See page 12.

L./G.D.

A.B.

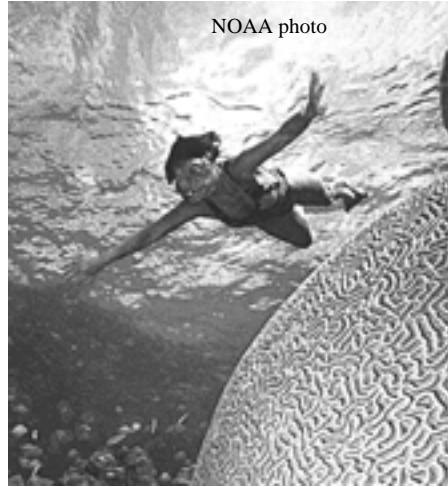
Snorkeler's Notebook:

Eroticism on the reef

As snorkelers, without dive suits, tanks, and gauges, we have the perfect opportunity to discover on the reef the true nature of eroticism, the kind defined by the god of Eros and all those who follow him: full sensual pleasure that is not necessarily sexual.

First, the skin reveling in the warm liquid velvet water streaming across each pore. Then, the muscles being rocked and floated by waves sometimes gentle, sometimes rough. In song and literature, the sea has often been compared to a lover. Why not also a masseuse or masseur (depending on your preference), kneading and soothing our bodies to release stress and fatigue? As we all know, taste and smell are inextricably linked, and the sea impresses those senses by burning noses and lips with a salty passion that awakens us from complacency. Perhaps the acrid sensation even takes us back to the womb where we also floated innocently in our mother's life force.

If we pay attention, we can especially notice our ears taking in the sounds of the reef (shrimp popping, fish clicking, shells tinkling) which melt our senses together in a somnolence that removes us further from the mind. Without a doubt, sight dominates the interest of a snorkeler; after all, we enter the sea to see. But sensuality is found in more than rippling light and luminescent color. It is also experienced in images collected and memorized for every visual detail: the glistening, mottled shell of a Hawksbill



turtle who breathes deep at the boundary of water and air before diving deep; an octopus shifting colors and patterns with flirtatious finesse; rainbow parrotfish tails waving seductively between the two worlds of sea and sky. Such is the stuff of erotic poetry available to the snorkeler at every turn of the head.

What other word can be used to describe the full-body experience of snorkeling besides "eroticism"? Perhaps this enveloping series of sensations is why we do it again and again so that our mental baggage can disappear and our true selves can break free into the realm of the erotic that is the boon of being human. *Pauline E. Kayes*

College Professor of English and Humanities, Pauline Kayes, is a Bonaire part-time resident

Rocargo Anniversaries



Rocargo Services celebrated eight employee anniversaries last year. They were honored at lively Christmas party at the Flamingo Beach Hotel with music of the 4Bs and dancing.

Mariella Goeloe celebrated her 21st anniversary at Rocargo,

Patricia Dhaukal, Albert Sint Jago and Anneline Adoptie all celebrated their 10th anniversaries,

Cheryll Panhuyzen, Janiro Frans, Marjorie Frans and Ana Martinez their 5th anniversaries.

Also **Rocargo** itself celebrated renewal of their ISO 9001:2000 certification with a perfect score. Rocargo Services, the island's leading ship and cargo handling agent, was established in 1982 and was the first Bonairean company to obtain an ISO 9002 quality certification in the year 2000. *Press release*

A Shrink Studies SCUBA



How Do Divers Equalize?

Usual Methods for Equalizing Pressure in Middle Ears when Diving

	Male (n=300)	Female (n=100)	Total*
Close Mouth, Pinch Nose & Blow	88%	87%	88%
Nothing	86%	85%	86%
Swallow, Yawn, or Thrust Jaw	59%	64%	61%
Very Slow Descent/Ascent	51%	76%	59%
Decongestant by Mouth	55%	63%	58%
Decongestant Spray or Drops	21%	35%	26%
Other - Not Listed	14%	15%	14%
Hum or Buzz	7%	6%	7%

The above data came from online surveys completed by 400 volunteer divers last year as part of a study of middle ear equalization among divers who had reported difficulty equalizing pressure in their middle ear and/or use of decongestants when diving. The most striking difference between male and female divers was the use of "Slow Descent/Ascent" with the males (51%) using that approach significantly less often than females (76%). Females were also more likely than males to use decongestant sprays or drops. The anatomical differences between the Eustachian tubes of adult males and females, which may account for the differences, will be discussed by an ENT specialist in a pending issue of *Scuba Diving* magazine. In the meantime, viva le difference. The accompanying chart shows these figures graphically.



Internet photo

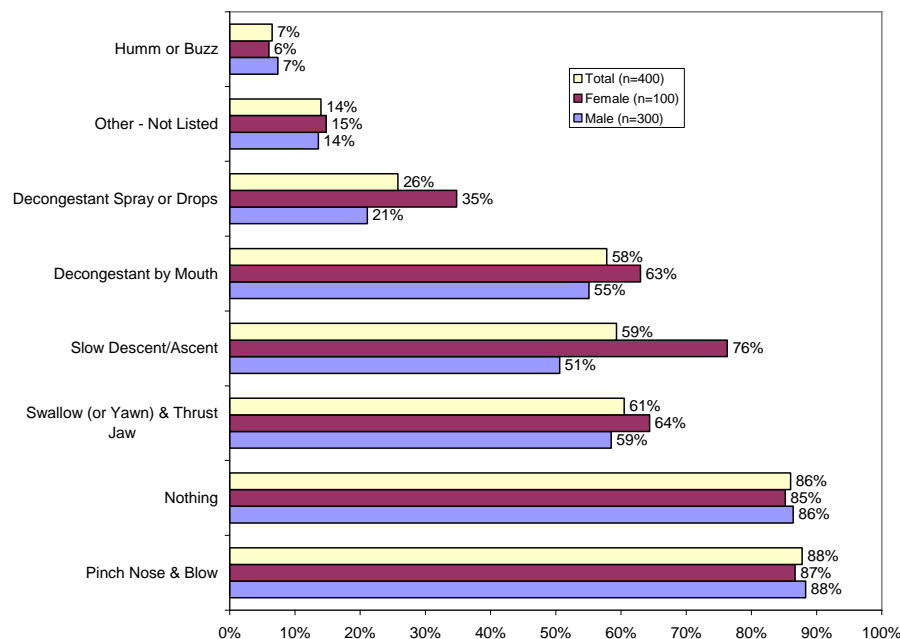
David Colvard, M.D.

*Percents total more than 100% because some divers use more than one method.



David F. Colvard, M.D., is a private psychiatrist and clinical investigator in Raleigh NC, and a divemaster. He hosts the website www.DivePsych.com which provides evidence-based information for divers on psychological and stress factors in scuba divers.

Methods for Equalizing Pressure in the Middle Ear



Detailed Follow-up from last week.

Why Divers Cancel Dives (Based on 383 responses)

Cancelled dives or dive days because of injury or illness in 2003

Marine animal/life injury (bites-cuts-scrapes-stings)	0.3%	1
Food poisoning	0.5%	2
Headaches-Migraine	0.8%	3
Pregnancy	0.8%	3
Cuts/Lacerations-Stitches	1.3%	5
Medication Side Effects	1.6%	6
DCI-DCS symptoms	1.8%	7
Cuts/Lacerations-No Stitches	1.8%	7
Dental Pain	2.1%	8
Hangover	2.3%	9
Motion sickness	2.3%	9
Traveler's Diarrhea	2.9%	11
Broken Bone(s)	5.2%	20
Sinus Squeeze	6.5%	25
Back Pain	8.6%	33
Ear Squeeze (unable equalize middle ear)	10.2%	39
Recent Surgery	10.4%	40
Other - Not Listed	14.1%	54
Flu/Fever	16.4%	63
Ear/Sinus Infection	20.9%	80
Cold/URI	56.1%	215

Antique Living Houses of Bonaire Slagbaai

by Wilna Groenenboom

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage



Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Slagbaai Plantation is in the Washington-Slagbaai National Park, on Boka Slagbaai.

The Park, consisting of 6,000 hectares, was opened to the public by Governor Dr. Nicolaas Debrot, son of a former owner, on May 9, 1969. It was the first National Park in the Antilles. In the beginning the Park consisted of the Washington and Slagbaai

plantations. Later the former plantations of Brasil and Gotomeer (Gotolake) became part of the Park.

The old photo in the center of the photo on page 8 shows the old Customs office (left front). The building in the center was the caretaker's house; the largest building on the right was the warehouse or "mangasina." The old warehouse is the oldest of three building and dates from 1869. Nowadays people can rent the mangasina space and the caretaker house. So from time to time it is a very active and lively place, especially during the holiday seasons.

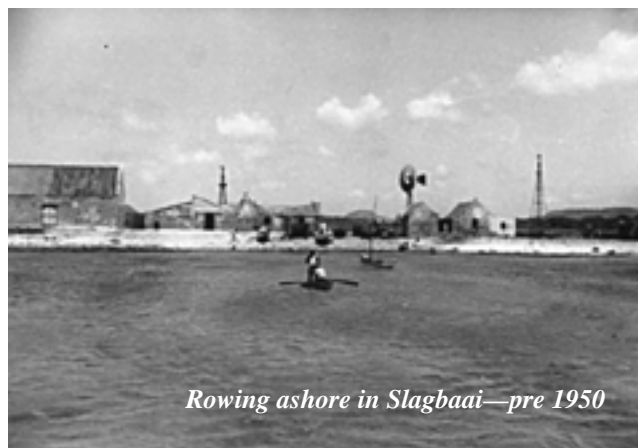
The plantation produced goats, divi divi trees, aloe and charcoal. The bay and buildings got their name by the fact that in the past goats were slaughtered there – slag - the old Dutch word for slaughter and baai - bay.

In the hills, there were thousands of wild goats, the number once estimated at 15,000. During the good years more than 3,000 goats per year were caught, killed, salted and exported. Mostly only the male goats were slaughtered or exported. Most were shipped alive to Curaçao from Playa Funchi. The customs office was at Slagbaai, so the ships going to Playa Funchi to load had to go first to Slagbaai to prepare their papers.

In 1960 there was a total of 4,618 live goats exported from Bonaire; in 1965, 3,978 goats; then in 1970 the number dropped to 1,099 goats. In 1975 it ended with only six exported animals.

During 1960, 3,004 goat skins were exported but after that exportation of the skins ceased. When goat skins were exported there also had to be meat which had to be salted for longer use. So salt was an imported product for the slaughtering.

Although Bonaire has been a salt exporting island since 1635, the Peekelmeer



Rowing ashore in Slagbaai—pre 1950

in the south was the only place where it was gathered. It was not until 1868 when large parts of the island were sold to private persons that salt gathering also took place at Slagbaai and other salinas. Flat-bottomed vessels were used to take it to the small harbor to be stored in the mangasina. Occasionally the salt was brought on board ocean-going vessels for export.

At Slagbaai we see two different styles of buildings. In the front of this photo we see the old Customs office, two Cas di Halas (house with "wings") built next to each other. Now they have roof tiles but in the past they had an ordinary tin roof.

The middle building, the former owner's residence, is a strange combination. It looks like it was built also as a Cas di Hala, like the old Custom office. But the Hadrey (big porch) has something strange. Normally the roof slopes from high on the house side to low on the street side (see the Custom office). In the past there was probably a wooden porch built around the east and south sides of the house. We can clearly see the holes for the beams high on the outside of the wall. Because it is on the windward side it had to be sturdily constructed. And it had to be low on the outside of the building, to provide more shade. I can imagine that they used the outside walls for the construction of this porch. When this photo was made there was no extension and there still is not one.

The last unusual thing is that the had-ray, as far as I know, never goes all around a building. But to make extra use of the fresh wind to cool down the house, the plan of this house was well thought out. Maybe that explains the unusual architectural style of this building.

The kitchen with its chimney is as usual on the west side of the house (photo, top right) so the smoke from the fire and the smell of food don't go through the house.



Slagbaai—pre 1990

To provide this necessary fresh breeze inside the house they made "windows" in the inner walls. The window is "closed" with a diagonal wooden slat construction. It gives privacy and allows fresh air into every room of the house. Before the wind enters the house it's cooled as it passes over the salina. So it's always very fresh and airy here.

The last building is the mangasina or warehouse in a Cas di Cabez (two heads) style. As usual the doors and windows have wooden shutters, but here they've made very beautiful decorations with the round top of each door and window. The mangasina and the former owner's residence have big water cisterns. On the north side of the building we can clearly see an outside gutter which connects the east roof with the west side roof, so all the rainwater can be collected in the big cisterns to use during the dry season.

In November 1999 Hurricane Lenny hit Slagbaai very hard, not only under water but on the land as well. One third of the seaside wall and roof of the mangasina were destroyed. A few years later reconstruction and renovation of all three buildings began. A wall was built (photo lower left) to give the buildings extra protection against future storms and hurricanes. The



Curing goat skins—pre 1950

(old photos courtesy of Fernando Simal, STINAPA Washington Park Manager)

ground around the buildings has a floor of sawed coral (shown behind photos). Although it's not a traditional floor construction, it's very much in style with its surroundings.

The Park is open daily from 8 am till 5 pm except on certain holidays. It's also possible to sleep over there. For information contact STINAPA: 599 788 9051 / 786 5229/ 717 844 Story & current photos by Wilna Groenenboom

Sources: *Field Guide National Park Washington-Slagbaai Bonaire* (STINAPA No. 23 1982), *Excursions-Guide to the Washington-Slagbaai National Park Bonaire* (STINAPA No. 29 van Peer Reijns 1984).

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



Maskarada

Who are those mysterious, silent, masked people who appear every January 1 in the morning in Bonaire? It's the "Maskarada" - a group of children and adults in colorful costumes and masks who show up to dance and perform short skits. They arrive, quietly and mysteriously. They don't speak and only communicate through their actions. No one knows who they are; even the members themselves may not know who else is among them.

They enter silently, following a group of musicians - an accordion, a *tambu*, (drum), a *raspa (file)* and a *quarto* (large ukulele) - and the skits and the dancing begin.

Certain characters are the same every year: the policeman who directs the group, the donkey, the shark, the fisherman in the boat, an old *kunukero* (farmer), the matador and the bull, each one personifying his or her character. During one of the dances the matador, waving a red flag,



Live music accompanies the Maskarada



Close-up details of a mask



The "fisherman" brings in the "shark."

attempts to entice the bull and to rope him. Finally the bull is roped; he tries to escape but finally succumbs and is thrown to the ground. All the dancers gather around. During another dance the fisherman in the boat, after a number of unsuccessful tries, reels in the shark which flops around in its death throes then lies dead on the ground. No one knows for sure how the tradition got to Bonaire. Some say

Africa; others say it's Indian. Still others say it's South American or even European. Culture guru Papi Cecilia suggests Spain: the "crowns" worn by the company represent the Spanish monarchy which ruled Bonaire for a time. That's also where the bull and the matador come from, he says. But of course, the donkey, the *kunukero* and the fisherman in his boat are completely Bonairean. So, considering the polyglot makeup of the island, although the concept may have come from all those other places, it's turned into something totally Bonairean that's not found anywhere else in the world.

L.D.

Welcoming The New Year Bonaire Style



It's a Dutch and Antillean tradition to welcome the New Year with fireworks. Perhaps they have borrowed it from the Chinese tradition to scare off the evil spirits. These photos by resident photographer Wilna Groenenboom show the view from the Buddy Dive Resort. Notice the divers' underwater lights. G.D.

Happy New Year from the Shelter Pets of the Week



Isn't this the happiest picture to wish you a Happy New Year – girl volunteers at the Bonaire Animal Shelter with four happy pups. Having a wonderful time last Saturday at the Shelter were Iris Jasperse with “John,” Suley-Mae Pourier with “Jack,” Amber Jasperse with “Josephine,” and Lisa Schut with “Jordan.” It's volunteers like these girls who donate their time to play and spend time with the animals that help to make the Shelter such a success. It's been proven that how a pet is treated in its early weeks and months determines how it will act – whether it will be a loving, social pet or one which is fearful, snappy or aggressive. All the animals up for adoption at the Shelter have been socialized and love being around people.

This year there have been 134 pet been sterilized or will be when it is old

adoptions – and each one of them has enough.

One of the most important missions accomplished through the Sterilization to have their pets sterilized can have it the Fund has provided for **108 sterilizations** without the donations of generous contributors who supported the effort. It's difference! Donate to the “**Sterilization Fund**,” MCB Bank, Account #10616410, or go to the Support Bonaire website: www.SupportBonaire.org for on-line credit card donations. L.D.

the Shelter has is to reduce if not eliminate and kittens on the island. Much has been done at a reasonable cost. This past year **zations**. This could not have been done without the support of the effort. It's difference! Donate to the “**Sterilization Fund**,” MCB Bank, Account #10616410, or go to the Support Bonaire website: www.SupportBonaire.org for on-line credit card donations.



DO YOU SUDOKU?

Sudoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site www.Sudoku Shack.com.

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

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

Complete solution on page 19.

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

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

Commercial Ads only NAf0.80 per word, per week.
Call 786-6518 or 7866125 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.

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!

IS YOUR 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.

JELLASTONE PETPARK

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

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>

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: bonaire-cottage@aol.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

For Sale

Phillips 29" TV. Perfect condition. NAf225. Call 786-6518 or 786-6125



MASH TV Show Season 7 set, 25 episodes on 3 DVDs. New and unopened NAf 35. Swanson 717-8814



NIKONOS III – Camera and Macro tube Set. Still the best camera for macro shots. Original owner. NEVER been flooded. Past Nikonos Shoot-Out winner.

Complete \$250. Call George 786-6215.

New Diadora Cayman Mtn. Biking Shoes, size 39 (mens 6.5, womans 8) but seem to fit smaller than that, NAf 35. Swanson 717-8814

Phillips 29" TV. Perfect condition. NAf225. Call 786-6518 or 786-6125

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 newworn twice. Black with magenta trim. Size 13-14. NAf70 (\$40) OBO. Call 786-6518.



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

Cars For Sale

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



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



Property, Sales & Rentals

Harbour Village Marina Front Condo For Sale- Large one-bedroom, two-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

STINAPA BONAIRE NATIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION

GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

STINAPA Bonaire is looking for a serious and responsible retailer to rent the giftshop in the Washington Slagbaai National Park. Business plan required. For more information call

STINAPA Bonaire at
786 - 5229

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

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



Blasting Around With Blokarts on Bonaire

For almost a year now it is possible really sail ON Bonaire. To sail on wheels on the surface of the island Bonaire instead of sailing on the surrounding Caribbean Sea! Alongside the road from Kralendijk to Rincon – an eight minute drive - near Piedra Cruz and Boka Onema an oval race track suddenly appears. It is the largest artificial landsailing track in the world,

paved with calcium sulphate, donated by Cargill Salt on Bonaire.

Blokarting or landsailing is a new way of eco-adventure or eco-sport. It is a kind of mixture of karting and sailing, using the free energy of the always present trade winds.

Nelson and Naomi are the owners of the new enterprise. They both live on the island and they are the importers of Blokarts for the Caribbean area. Blokarts are high-tech three wheelers made of high strength

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.

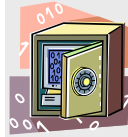


Question from: "Dealing with a jealous girlfriend"

Betty Wills

Dear Betty, My girlfriend is very jealous of my friends, especially female friends. I'm not the least bit jealous of her male friends, and I've never done anything to make her not trust me. My relationships with females other than her have always been platonic, but I'm now thinking if I'm going to be accused anyway, I might as well do what I'm accused of doing, and at least get some enjoyment, right?

ANSWER: Brilliant! Treat insecurity with infidelity. It works every time! Why didn't I think of that? Sorry, but it sounds to me like you need to be a little more considerate of your girlfriend's feelings and invest a little more time into understanding why she feels the way she does. The fact you even considered doing what you've been accused of doing speaks volumes. It's obviously on your mind, therefore your girlfriend may have good cause for concern. Your remark to *at least get some enjoyment* tells me you're a borderline infidel waiting for the perfect excuse. If you truly love and care about your girlfriend, invest a little more time and effort into making her feel loved and secure. You're obviously not jealous of her male friends because she's done a good job of making you feel loved and secure. Return the confidence, and if it still doesn't work, by all means....do what you've been accused of doing, and at least get some enjoyment!



JOKE OF THE DAY

Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?
A: Rename the mail folder, "Relationship Manuals."

steel or stainless steel, equipped with a sail of four square meters.

"Blokarting is easy to learn," says Naomi. "Our oldest student was 86! The youngsters are about eight. We offer special introductory lessons. It is really very easy: one steering wheel and one line to cope with. That's all! It's real fun to blast around with your friends and other enthusiasts.

The Blokart track is open six days a week, closed on Monday. Just recently Nelson and Naomi set up a clubhouse. In the near future the track will be extended to an Olympic triangle.

Call for reservations: 786-8122 or 717-8122. There is also an email address and a web site: info@landsailingbonaire.com and www.landsailingbonaire.com. Story & photo by J@n Brower



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

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

- **Car Rental Agencies:** Exito Bakery
- At the Airport INPO
- **Airlines:** Last Bite Bakery
- Aboard Divi Divi Air Paradise Photo
- **Banks:** Photo Tours, Playa
- MCB (Playa & Hato branches), Plantation Furniture
- **Restaurants:** **Hotels:**
- Bistro de Paris Buddy Dive
- Cactus Blue Capt. Don's Habitat
- Capriccio Carib Inn
- City Café Divi Flamingo
- Lover's Ice Cream Eden Beach Hotel
- Papagayo Golden Reef Inn
- Pasa Bon Pizza The Great Escape
- **Dive Shops:** Plaza Resort
- Yellow Submarine Sand Dollar Resort
- WannaDive
- Carib Inn
- **Shops:** **Supermarkets:**
- Benetton Cultimara
- Best Buddies & Pearls Consales Cash & Carry
- Bonaire Gift Shop Montecatini
- Chat 'n' Browse Progresso
- City Shop Sand Dollar Grocery
- DeFreewieler Warehouse Bonaire
- **Government:**
- Bestuurscollege
- Customs
- Parliament Office
- BVO
- **Others:**
- Bonfysio
- Botika Korona
- Caribbean Laundry
- Fit 4 Life - Plaza
- Hair Affair
- Harbour Village Marina
- Rocargo
- San Francisco Hospital
- SGB (High School)
- TCB
- Telbo
- **Bookstores:**
- Bonaire Boekhandel,
- Flamingo Bookstore
- **Realty Offices:**
- Caribbean Homes
- Harbortown
- Re/Max
- Sunbelt
- **RINCON:**
- Chinese Store
- Joi Fruit Store
- Lemari Grocery
- Rincon Bakery
- Rose Inn

12/29/06

Still can't find a copy? Call us at 786-6518 or 786-6125

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
1-05	13:47	2.0FT.	23:24	0.7FT.					89
1-06	14:22	1.9FT.	23:56	0.8FT.					83
1-07	0:17	0.9FT.	15:00	1.7FT.					75
1-08	0:35	0.9FT.	15:26	1.5FT.					65
1-09	0:39	1.0FT.	9:15	1.5FT.					55
1-10	0:19	1.0FT.	8:41	1.6FT.					44
1-11	8:42	1.7FT.	23:18	1.0FT.					36
1-12	8:57	1.8FT.	18:49	1.0FT.	20:21	1.0FT.	21:52	1.0FT.	31

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Dejavu
(Dezel Washington)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
Zwartboek
(Carice van Houten)

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
January: Happy Feet

THIS WEEK

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 10 am to early afternoon: January 10 – Crown Princess

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.

COMING

Saturday, January 13—Underwater Cleanup sponsored by Yellow Submarine and NetTech. Meet at Yellow Sub at 1 pm. Potluck BBQ at 5:30 pm. Call 717-2929

January Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park during cruise ship visits 10 am to early afternoon: Wednesday, Tuesday, January 16 – Sea Princess, Tuesday, January 23 – Veendam, Wednesday, January 24 – Crown Princess

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 Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar, 5-7

- "Admiral's Hour" for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the FORMA Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056. Darts Club plays every other Sunday

at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

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

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

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

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4303.

Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

Special Olympics— Call Roosje 786-7984

Volunteers to train children in sports. Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

CHURCH SERVICES

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

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am.

Children's club every Saturday at 5 pm in Kralendijk.

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

New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services on Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu 717-8304 . Saturday at 6 pm at Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

Send event info to:
The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach 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 ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach	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.

DIVING

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine) -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly cleanup dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

FITNESS

Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

The Plantation Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

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

HOTELS

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

METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

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

NATURE EXPLORATION

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

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the 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:

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Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125

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Born on Bonaire

Orpha Saleh-Craane

“I was born during the dark winter of 1941. We had to have black out curtains, but my dad was very inventive and he made a closet like a nursery so my mom could take care of me at night. I was their first child. My father was John Philip Frederic ‘Buchi’ Craane and he was the captain of the ships his father, the famous shipbuilder Jan Nicolaas Erasmus ‘Katchi’ Craane, built. My mother was Raquel Gregoria de Jongh and she was a homemaker.

After me 12 more children were born, a pair of twins, stillborn, and then I had seven brothers and three sisters. My father travelled around, but when I was about 11 he moved to St. Martin to work for the government as a harbour pilot. My mom said: ‘I’m not going to move to that island!’ And so she stayed on Bonaire where her family was.

We lived by the sea and it was a very close-knit community. When for instance a big shark was spotted in the bay, people who were living on the shore would team up – they loved to eat shark meat. They’d get big hooks and strong lines and they’d tie the lines to the lampposts on the boulevard – five, six lines along the whole waterfront – and they’d take the bait out with a boat and sit and watch all night until they caught the thing and then they would divide it between them.

There was no children’s bedtime in those days; it was lots of fun! We also used to have storytellers. My grandma was a very good one and so was my mom and my dad had a niece... she was fantastic! Everybody used to have storytellers their family – it was an art! When my mom would tell her stories she would whip some eggs with brown sugar and add a few drops of brandy and when it was very creamy she would give all the children a little bit on a saucer. Then we would sit the whole evening, listening to her stories, eating slowly because it wasn’t much, and at the end of the evening all the children would go to bed and sleep very well!

I’ve got so many stories to tell! Some years ago I was planning to write a book and took a creative writing course by correspondence, but somehow I wasn’t satisfied with what I wrote, so I asked my teacher if he thought I could become as good as Hemingway or Couperus, but he never answered, and then I thought, ‘If I can’t be as good as those writers I quit and leave it up to them!’

When I was 13 I went to a convent in Holland to study. I wanted to become a nun. I really liked the convent life, you could read all you wanted, you could

study all you wanted and your life was planned out for you. Beautiful gardens, beautiful life – you didn’t have to worry about anything. One day the mother superior told me I couldn’t become a nun. I didn’t understand, I was really hurt, I was behaving so well. But many, many years later, about 10 years ago when I went to Holland and visited the convent, I got the chance to talk to her again, and she explained that it had not been them but the Antillean government who had made the decision. They’d wanted me to come back to Bonaire and live there for a while before I was going to commit myself. Well, I lived in two different convents for eight years and when I was 21 I moved to a rented room with a family in The Hague. For two years I kept on studying at a nun school to become a teacher. After I’d graduated I came back to Bonaire. For all those years I’d never come home because I’d been afraid once I would come back I’d never return to Holland again.

“I wanted to become a nun. I really liked the convent life, you could read all you wanted, you could study all you wanted and your life was planned out for you. Beautiful gardens, beautiful life – you didn’t have to worry about anything.”

When I came here everything looked so small and it was so hot! I went to work as a school teacher at the St. Bernardus School. I was never interested in boys and I’d always told everybody that I was never going to marry, but when I saw my husband it was love at first sight! Believe me! I was hooked! He is a very good husband and a very nice man. We’ve been married for 42 years now and if I ever get married again, it would be with him again! We had three beautiful children, Orphaline, Michel and Amélie.

My husband, Raymundo Saleh, had become a deputy just before we got married and for a long time he was in the government. In 1969 he became the governor and we went to live in the governor’s house where Amélie was born. It wasn’t a house for children to grow up in because every official occasion took place in that house and you can’t lock your children in the bedroom. The former governor’s name was

Morkos and so my children would ask me: ‘When is Uncle Morkos coming back so we can go back home?’ After some time my husband resigned and we went back to live in our own house and everybody was very happy, especially the children!

Now our daughters live here and our son lives in Holland. We have two beautiful grandchildren; they are very intelligent, just like their parents! I love my children, they never gave me a problem; they behaved very well. I knew they had to leave early as it’s not possible to continue studying here on the island, so I started to make them independent at a young age and it worked very well for them. I quit working a hundred times! I would tell the principal of the school who was a friend of mine: ‘I invest eight hours per day in other people’s children and not even three hours in my own,’ and then I would stay home again for a year. My children were great fun to be with! We would invent all kinds of occasions to organize a party; we even organized a big wedding party for Barbie and Ken! And I would take the children to the sea. There were reefs everywhere and at ebb tide we would look in all the puddles behind the rocks that were filled with all kinds of sea creatures – unlike now. Now they’re empty, what a shame... too many people in this world I guess...

I stopped working definitely in 1991; my children were in Holland and I wanted to see them more often and I didn’t want them to grow up with other people’s ideas, so I travelled back and forth for long periods of time.”

Orpha Saleh is a character; a lady with great personality and a sharp mind. She’s very well-read, very entertaining and she has a great sense of humour.

“I am not an easy person, I am exacting, not only for myself but also for others. I am only satisfied with perfection. One of my pupils told my son once: ‘I don’t like your mother, she’s too strict and she gets angry too quick!’ And... that’s true! You know what my



Orpha Saleh-Craane

son answered? He told the other boy: ‘You’re the lucky one; you get to go home after school. I have to go home with her!’ Ha, ha, ha! I always expect too much of people. Now I’ve come to an age when I say: ‘I don’t mind, it’s not my problem.’ But I know I can work together with other people only when they put in as much effort as I do; the moment they put in less effort, I quit. I think it’s probably my family’s style. We have patience with plants, needle work and animals, but when it comes to people we expect them to be the same as we are and that’s sometimes not so easy.

I’ve always been looking forward to living my old age. From the time I was very little I always loved to talk to old people. Some people grow old so beautifully, their hands, the lines in their face... I see them as very, very special, and I hope I will grow very old, very gracefully.

How do I feel about Bonaire? Well, let me tell you something: Peter Ustinov was a scout for a big tourist organization and he used to go around the world, looking for beautiful places. One day they had a huge meeting in London to discuss the new places to travel to and I saw it on TV. Someone stopped him and asked him: ‘Did you find a nice place this time?’ and he answered: ‘I found a beautiful little island.’ Then the man asked him ‘Where is it?’ And Peter Ustinov answered: ‘I am not going to tell you, because you will spoil it.’ That’s how I feel about it; Bonaire has changed so much already and I don’t want

people to spoil my island too much...”
Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



This week it's the Battle of the Photos. Both show the same event, and one of the submitters is even a subject in both photos.

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Mt. Tavurvur, Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.



Andy Uhr, a past multiple winner of the Picture Yourself annual competition writes, "On October 7, Mt. Tavurvur at Rabaul, New Britain, in Papua New Guinea, erupted forcing the inhabitants of the town to evacuate. On October 21, Lee Bray and I cruised past the volcano which was still bellowing smoke and ash.

We had a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* aboard the dive live-aboard *FeBrina*, completing a 12-night trip that started from Walindi Plantation, in Kimbe Bay, New Britain, and terminated in Rabaul.

Okay, so it's not the top of Mount Everest, but a volcanic eruption was the best we could arrange on short notice!"



A few weeks later Mary Gessner sent us this photo and write-up, "Attached, please find a picture of Mary Gessner, Cindi LaRaia and Lee Bray with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* in front of Mt. Tavurvur, Rabaul, Papua New Guinea. Mt. Tavurvur initially erupted on October 7, 2006, and was still spewing ash when we disembarked from the M/V *FeBrina* (in the background) on October 21, 2006, after a 12-night dive trip from Hoskins to Rabaul. Since this shows two plumes, it is obviously way better than the picture submitted earlier by Andy Uhr."

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, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2007 photos are eligible.)



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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

Use the Moon to find Saturn and Regulus



Leo the Lion

Greetings, greetings, fellow star gazers and Happy New Year! And to start the New Year right we have a special Sky Park show for you this weekend because this Friday, Saturday and Sunday you will be able to use the **Moon** to find the most beautiful ringed planet in our solar system and the magnificent blue white star which marks the heart of **Leo the Lion**. Let me show you.

This Friday at 10 pm, Sky Park Time, face east where the brightest thing you'll see will be a just-after-full **gibbous Moon**. And in case you've forgotten what a gibbous Moon is it comes from the word humped and is the name given to the hump-shaped Moon on the nights after first quarter until just before full, plus the nights after full until last quarter. This gives us a monthly sequence of **waxing crescent Moon** (waxing means growing bigger each night), then first quarter Moon, and then **waxing gibbous Moon**, which means a growing hump-shaped Moon until full Moon. Then after full Moon to last quarter Moon we have a **waning gibbous Moon**, which means a shrinking hump-shaped Moon. Then finally we have **waning or shrinking crescents**. So the Moon you'll be seeing this Friday January 5th will be a waning gibbous Moon because it is shrinking each night and on its way to become last quarter Moon next week.

And this Friday if you look directly below the waning hump-shaped gibbous Moon you'll see planet #6 out from the sun, my favorite planet of them all, 75,000-mile-wide ringed **Saturn**. And even the cheapest telescope at 50 power will show you its rings. In fact you'll even be able to see its biggest moon, **Titan**, which will look like a tiny pinpoint of light. Now my favorite night for sky gazing this weekend will be Saturday the 6th when a slightly smaller waning gibbous Moon will be parked right next to the brightest star of Leo the Lion, the hot blue white star named **Regulus**. It marks the heart of Leo if we picture the stars of Leo as a reclining lion, kind of like the great Sphinx of Egypt. So this Friday the gibbous Moon is parked directly above Saturn and on Saturday below it but right next to wonderful Regulus.

And in case you're wondering how different each of these objects is let me just say that whereas our Moon is a 2,000-mile-wide natural satellite of **Earth**, Saturn is the second biggest planet in our solar system, so big we could fit 42,000 Moons inside it. Regulus, however, is a different story because it is a very hot blue white star with a surface temperature of 24,000 degrees Fahrenheit and so huge, about 4 1/2 million miles wide, we could fit 192,000 Saturns inside it! And if you want to see just how fast the Moon travels and watch it shrink some more, 24 hours later on Sunday night the 7th at 10 pm you'll see an even skinnier gibbous Moon just above the eastern horizon on a straight line with Regulus and Saturn. So this weekend use a waning gibbous Moon to find both Saturn and the heart of Leo. Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday night. *Jack Horkheimer*

DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

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

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



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, December 31 to Saturday, January 6

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You are best not to retaliate if members of your household are trying to pick a fight. Try to curb your habits, or you could find yourself in an awkward financial position. Don't argue with family. Curb your mood swings; they could result in loneliness. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Misunderstandings could cause confusion and upset. Your financial situation may be draining and it's time to make some serious changes. You have to feel free to come and go as you please to achieve happiness. This will not be the time to start new business ventures or make drastic changes in your career. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) If you have treated them equitably, you might be able to count on their loyalty. Your relationship appears to be stressed out and depleted. This is not the best day to visit relatives who get on your nerves. Don't bother complaining, do the work yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You'll be surprised how much you can accomplish. It would be in your best interest to stay away from any intimate involvement with a client or coworker. You will be a real chatterbox this week. It is time to clear your decks. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Delve a little deeper if you really want to know the score. Someone left a real mess for you to sift through. Travel for business or pleasure. Overindulgence may cause conflicts. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Avoid letting family get involved in your personal life. You can travel for business or pleasure. Organize social events or family gatherings. Your mate could get on your nerves if he or she backs you into an emotional corner or puts restrictions on your time. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can handle situations that require contact with institutions or large corporations. Traffic will be busier than you anticipated, so try to get a head start if you have made plans to travel. Insurance pay outs, tax rebates, or just plain luck. Be careful that you aren't saddled with the responsibilities of others. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Avoid getting too close to coworkers or employers. Socializing or travel will lead to partnerships. Try to be a bit more understanding or you may end up spending the evening alone. You will have a great day if you just say what you feel. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will find that uncertain individuals will want to draw you into joint ventures. You will not impress others by being foolishly generous. Get involved in creative groups. The emotional state of peers may cause a problem for you. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You could lose a good friend because of it. Creative pursuits should pay off. Be careful while traveling. Get motivated and follow up on some self-improvement resolutions. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Make plans to attend group discussions or get together with friends who like to talk as much as you do. You can develop your creative talents if you take the time to practice your art. New romantic ties can be made; however, you must make sure that your motives are not selfish before you make your move. Try to keep a low profile. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) If you can't get ahead in the company you're with, perhaps it's time to move on. Dealing with foreigners will be most enlightening. You need some help this week. Opportunities will come through behind the scenes activities. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.