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BONAIRE

January 26- February 2, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 5

The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



**Own this Artwork
by Renowned
Bonaireans
Page 8**



Kas di Arte Photos

Flotsam and Jetsam

Bonaire Holding Maatschappij (BHM) Director, Richard Hart, announced that because of the drop in world oil prices, Bonaire's electric rate will drop about 10%. "Effective February 1st everybody will pay 6 cents less per kilowatt-hour," said Hart, who manages the company that controls WEB, Telbo and other island-owned firms. Hart says that BHM has decided to look for international strategic partners, like Cargill for biodiesel, KPN for international telecommunication, E-Concern for the development of alternative energy, MAN for Diesel generators, Enercon for wind-turbines, and Digicel for cell phone service.



► A US citizen flying home last weekend from a ski jaunt in Canada, a beach break in Mexico or a dive in Bonaire could flash a driver's license or a birth certificate at airport customs officials and walk on through. As of this past Tuesday, those documents will no longer work.

Beginning then, US citizens, including children, returning to the US by air from any country in the Western Hemisphere will have to present a

passport. US officials, parrying complaints from Caribbean nations, said the measure was mandated by a 2004 law in which Congress adopted many proposals of the September 11 commission.

The purpose is to reduce the types of documents travelers can use to enter the US, simplifying the job of inspectors looking for fake or invalid ones. More than 8,000 styles of birth certificates are issued by agencies in the US, according to Maura Harty, Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs. "No inspector could ever possibly master all of those."

The US passports now being issued can be read by scanners in airport customs booths and instantly verified through a federal database. The new measure applies only to air travelers. Until recently, only 27% of eligible Americans had passports. The new requirements set off a rush, with a record 12.1 million passports issued last year, Ms. Harty said.

► On a positive note concerning the **progress of Bonaire towards closer ties with Holland**, Dutch Kingdom Relations Minister, Atzo Nicolaï, said that Bonaire, Saba, and Statia can look forward to financial commitments from The Netherlands during the planned meetings in St. Maarten on February 12th. On the other hand, St. Maarten Commissioner Sarah Wescot-Williams indicated in last week's press confer-



ence of the St. Maarten Executive Council that it is not feasible that her island will have autonomy by July 1st as planned.

► **Maintenance technicians employed by Air Jamaica say the airline should reconsider its proposal to replace its current Airbus system with 14 Boeing 737-300 airplanes**, warning it would boost the loss-making airline's operating expenses by \$1.1 billion. But Air Jamaica executives immediately dismissed the claim, saying the technicians were being influenced by Airbus.

Technician Austin Ferguson stated at a meeting of the special select committee appointed to examine the financial and operational state of Air Jamaica: "The switch to a Boeing 'classic' fleet means introduction costs of up to US\$16 million and a recurrent yearly cost of another US\$4 million." The airline plans to use the 737-300 aircraft on all but two routes - London and Los Angeles. "The lower seating capacity of the Boeing fleet," he said "represents a loss in revenue of over US\$5 million per year." The technicians suggest that if the airline wants to reduce its operating costs, it should lease cheaper A320 and A321.

Air Jamaica flies to Bonaire every Saturday.

► On December 20, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution entitled: **"Towards the Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future gen-**

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BONAIRE THIS WEEK: The REPORTER

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Only 8 days before the Walk-a-Thon!

DIVING with DEE

Scorpionfish are one of my favorite fish.
They're so cooperative!



My scorpionfish friend, Antares, examines the camera system. The growths in the center of his mouth have tiny teeth to help him grasp his prey. Their shape and whiteness probably also lure some small fishes closer (right into lunge range).

Anyone with a command of buoyancy control can hover near a scorpionfish and watch it to their heart's content. The scorpionfish you're most likely to see on Bonaire's reefs is the spotted scorpionfish, *Scorpaena plumieri*. It's also the largest type of scorpionfish, commonly reach-

ing lengths of 14", and I know of at least two individuals who are 16" long. Humann and DeLoach's *Reef Fish Identification* lists a maximum length for the spotted scorpionfish as 18".

You'll see a fish covered with little bits of

fake algae. Usually the fake algae is wispy or leafy, but sometimes it's more like the pink or green encrusting calcareous (calcium-based) algae that sometimes grows along shoreline rocks. Scorpionfish spend most of their time resting on the bottom.

You might notice that little wrasses, chromis, and damselfish seem quite blasé about the scorpionfish, swimming remarkably close to it. A closer observation would show that no matter how many little fishes are around, they almost never get closer to the scorpionfish's mouth than about two-thirds of the scorpionfish's body length. Why? Scorpionfish are called ambush predators since they lie in wait, and they eat small fish like wrasses, damselfish, and chromis. The tricky part is that their potential prey fish know very well that they're there, despite the camouflage. How can we tell that *they* know? Because the small fish just happen to stay out of the 2/3rds body length hemisphere in front of the scorpionfish.

But if the small fishes know the scorpionfish is there, why does the scorpionfish bother?

The scorpionfish knows that every single little fish won't remember its presence every single moment. All it takes is one moment of inattention on the part of a little fish, and the scorpionfish lunges. As it springs forward it opens its large mouth wide and flares out its gill flaps, creating a vacuum which sucks down the momentary inattentive fish. Scorpionfish can easily grab fishes half their length this way, especially if they swallow them head first.

A few years ago we had a queen triggerfish baby boom on Bonaire's west coast reefs: dozens of 2" – 4" long queen triggers appeared on the reefs where there had been few or no queen triggerfish for years. I

watched one 3" youngster flitter closer and closer to a scorpionfish's lunge radius until the scorpionfish couldn't resist, and gulped the triggerfish – but tail first. That day the trigger saved the triggerfish: the raised trigger absolutely prevented the predator from swallowing the prey. Eventually the scorpionfish gave up trying to swallow it and spit the triggerfish out.

Scorpionfish avoid being someone else's meal in part because they're not easy to see, and in part because of the characteristic from which they got their name: venomous spines. The scorpionfish's dorsal spines are hollow and rest upon a venom sac. When the spine is pushed down – such as when a predator tries to swallow the scorpionfish – the spine penetrates the venom sac, and the venom squirts through the spine into the wound.

So, most predators who see through the disguise and try to swallow a scorpionfish end up being envenomed – and lose their chances to contribute to the gene pool. Although one scorpionfish's life might be sacrificed, the result makes the world safer for all scorpionfish (from an evolutionary standpoint).

As we hover there, studying that scorpionfish, eventually we realize that this fish isn't doing very much. Even if the average scorpionfish ate, say, one little fish a day (and it might eat less often than that), and say it had 10 unsuccessful lunges for every fish caught (it probably has fewer unsuccessful lunges), and say each lunge took one minute (a lunge definitely takes less time), that would mean the average scorpionfish spends only 10 minutes of each day hunting.

Once in a while, though, scorpionfish engage in behaviors not related to hunting and which are probably related to courtship. There have been a few reports of scorpion-

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)
erations" (A/C.2/61/L.30). This resolution differs from previous resolutions adopted by the UN in that its declared objectives are unequivocal. The resolution is an achievement due to efforts made almost a decade ago by organizations in the region including CARICOM and the Association of Caribbean States to secure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development by the international community.

► It should be no surprise that **between October 2004 and October 2006, the number of people working in Bonaire increased by almost 1,000 persons, or 21%**. The total number of working persons on the island is now more than 5,600. The number of people in search of a job during that same period increased by 5.5% to 480 persons. The unemployment percentage dropped from 8.9% to 7.8%. The total number of people considered part of the working population based on their age increased by 20%, to 6,100 persons.

Youth unemployment has dropped from 25.2% in 2004 to 20.5% in 2006. The Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) conducted a Workers' inquiry in September and October of last year, a random check amongst households. The figures are the result of the developments that took place in the period between October 2004 and October 2006.

► **The Save the Lora Foundation (Fundashon Salba Nos Lora), Scouting, STINAPA and DROB are organizing the annual Lora count this Saturday, January 27.** More precise methods will be used this year to assure a more accurate count. Bonaireans, especially those in kunukus, are invited to take part.



Counting is done by assessing the numbers of loras that are present in a given roost. For that an early morning count is needed. If you want to volunteer call 785 7749 or STINAPA 717 – 8444 or DROB at 717 – 8130.

► **Mangazina di Rey, Bonaire's living outdoor museum, is offering a new program for young people** (especially Rincon residents) to acquire skills in the

agrarian sector, as well as reinforcing their personal and social development. A side benefit will be the enhancement of the botanical gardens of the Mangazina di Rey for the enjoyment of locals and visitors alike.

Unemployed young people and school dropouts are the targets of the project set for five participants. The involved young people will work six days per week to sow, transplant, weed, harvest and do general gardening tasks. The five participants will work as a team, which should contribute to their personal development. For further information contact Danilo Christiaan, tel. 786-2101.

► **Happy One Year Birthday to Cactus Blue Restaurant.** Owners Corinna and Haagen want to share their celebration with their patrons. Every **Wednesday in February** diners at Cactus Blue may win great prizes and hear music by Moogie. Cactus Blue is on J.A. Abraham Blvd. #12, open 5 pm until late. Tel. 717-4564.



► This week the Prokurador General of the Netherlands Antilles, Dick Piar (above), swore in **David van Delft as Bonaire's new permanent Public Prosecutor** in the office of Bonaire's Governor. He replaces Ernst Wesselius, who recently retired but still resides on Bonaire. V&P photo

► **The Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) will hold its 10th Anniversary Awards Event on Sunday 4th February** at the new Sunrise Restaurant at Sand Dollar Condominiums. The awards are in recognition of a company's or an individual's contribution to the tourism industry of Bonaire.

President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA), Mr. Peter Odle (Mango Bay Beach Hotel, Barbados), will be the



► Many years ago *Tene Bonaire Limpi* started a campaign where visitors enjoying Bonaire would **take batteries back to their home country** to get recycled. Batteries are one of the most toxic elements to be put into landfills. Bonaire's landfill has no special means to deal with them.

Here, Bruce Bowker, owner of the Carib Inn, hands over a bag of batteries to volunteers Hanne Hansen of Cranford, NJ and Tricia Rowen of Dallas, TX. The Carib Inn has, since the start of the *Tene Bonaire Limpi* campaign, held old batteries, and throughout the years has continued with great success in having people who love Bonaire and its nature take these batteries off the island. Carib Inn photo



► **New traffic and street signs are popping up on Bonaire's streets** to replace missing and worn out ones. In addition, some traffic changes and one-way streets will be more clearly defined. Keep a lookout. V&P photo

guest speaker along with the President and CEO of the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association (AHATA), Mr. Jorge Pesquera.

Tickets are available at the BONHATA office for NA/50 each and include a welcome drink, substantial snacks and happy hour prices all night.

Time: 18:00 hours to 22:00 hours
 Dress code: Vibrant Tropical with a touch of yellow!

Raffle proceeds for this year are to support the Bonaire Culinary Team's participation in the CHA Culinary Competition in Miami. The Bonaire Culinary Team will prepare the food that evening. For information contact Marion Wilson at 717-5134, Fax 717-8534, E-mail : marion@bonhata.org

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► On Monday Bonaire's Commissioner of Economics, Onnie Emerenciana (center, with tie), along with DEZA officials paid an informational visit to **the Punta Blanku Chicken Farm** which since 1983 has been producing eggs for local consumption. V&P photo



► **A Government press release said Bonaire is considering building its own asphalt factory to repair Bonaire's deteriorating roads.** According to the Government the fact that Bonaire cannot produce its own asphalt is a prime reason for the deplorable state of the paved roads. Not mentioned in the press release is the presence of an asphalt recycling machine on the island. It was recently used to pave a parking lot in a new building on Kaya Gob. Debrot. There's lots of source material on island according to an informed source who also mentioned that some temporary road repairs are already being done but with "cold" asphalt when the hot asphalt from the recycler would do a better and more permanent job.



Asphalt recycling machine on Kaya Gob. Debrot

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)

► **Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. donated NAf5.000 to the San Bernardo parish in response to a plea for financial assistance to cover general costs and improvements.** In the photo, bank executive Rudy Gomez (right) presents the check to Pastor Andres Makowiec. MCB photo



(Continued on page 9)

(Scorpionfish. Continued from page 3)

fish involved in mouth-fighting: two scorpionfish face each other and lunge toward each other, interlocking their jaws. In one observation the interlocked scorpionfish, apparently pushing each other, then rolled all over the bottom. This behavior seems to be competition between males.

Mouth fighting isn't seen very often; less rare are gatherings of two, three, or more scorpionfish. Obviously two would have to be together before they could mouth-fight. Over the last month I've seen, in three different spots on the same dive site, a pair of scorpionfish. The smaller one moves around, and the larger stays nearby with its mouth partially open. I wonder if the smaller is a female, releasing pheromones (chemicals exclaiming "Let's mate") and the larger a male whose open mouth may better sense the pheromones. If this is so, the advertising female may be swollen with eggs. Next time I'll have to look for swell-

ing of the smaller scorpionfish.

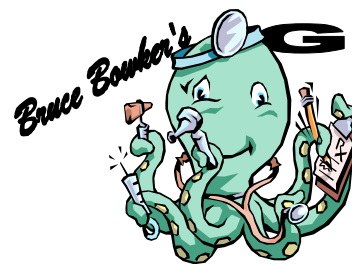
Since scorpionfish aren't "commercially valuable," there hasn't been any funding for studies of their behavior. The one species of scorpionfish who has been observed spawning, by coincidence, did so at midnight! The female released an egg raft – eggs imbedded in gelatinous material – similar to that of frogfish.

Although it's frustrating to hit the books or the Internet and fail to find information, the exciting part is that because there's so little known about scorpionfish behavior our observations are especially valuable. Scientists have told me more than once that they wished they could spend the time underwater that we divers have, instead of being stuck in the lab.

What can we teach them about scorpionfish? □ photo and story by 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.



Gear Doc

A bi-monthly feature in The Reporter devoted to helping you maintain your gear.



Swivel pins

If you are getting an air leak from the pressure gauge boot, most likely it is bad o-rings on the gauge swivel. This is one area that should get done in a normal overall service of a regulator but rarely does. The repair is quite simple but quite important. If a swivel is left untouched too long it can actually "weld" itself in the hose or gauge and will have to be drilled out. That is an extreme case of course, but not that unusual.

Remove the gauge with hose from the console or boot by pushing, pulling, swearing, getting help from your friends or otherwise. For some reason some manufacturers think that unless the gauge and hose are ridiculously tight in the console, they could come out in a nuclear blast. In some cases very hot water poured over the console will soften it, making it easier. In rare cases the console is so old that the rubber breaks; time for a new one.

Use two wrenches. *I will say that one more time.* Use two wrenches. That is 2. I hope that got across. One wrench is to hold whatever size fitting is actually on the gauge. The other wrench, usually 9/16th, holds the high pressure hose. There are two hex areas on the gauge end of the hose. It is the one closest to the actual gauge.

Remove the hose. You should see a pin with an o ring either in the hose or sticking out of the gauge. Only in a very, very old US Divers model (maybe some other old units) this pin does not come out of the gauge. I found out the hard way. Remove the pin and you should now see two rings, one at each end. If an o-ring is missing, it is probably still inside the gauge or hose. Remove it. The pin can be cleaned in a mild solution of vinegar or some other acidic solution and a clean water wash. If the pin is stuck you may have some problems which will have to be solved by a professional.

If the o-rings are clean, the pin is clean, the inside of the hose fitting is clean, probably just lubricating the o-rings with some silicone grease will be adequate. If there is corrosion, a thorough cleaning is needed with new o-rings. After I clean a hose (which I keep facing down) I attach it back to the regulator and blow it out well with air from the regulator. Again, use two wrenches to attach the gauge. Just snug it up. No need to over tighten. Then fight to get it all back in the boot. □ B.B.



Bruce Bowker

**IDEAS ABOUT BONAIRE DEVELOPMENT
PART 1- The Bad Example of Aruba**

In the wake of the Governor's decision to cancel the building permit for the Mangrove Village project at Bonaire's Sorobon Beach, we have heard during the last weeks various protesting voices of members of the Island Council, like "Bonaire needs to get a chance to develop!" or "There must be a balance between development and environment!"

The fact is that the island can and must have both – an extensive development and at the same time further protection of our precious environment. Unfortunately, in the eyes of our government, led probably by the wrong example of Aruba, the development of Bonaire means mainly one thing - construction of new hotels.

We are now, fortunately, not in the same position as Aruba in 1985 when, after closing its gigantic refinery, thousands of workers were on the street without any job opportunity.

At that time, construction of hotels along Aruba's magnificent beaches was the right development for the island. But Bonaire of 2007 is not Aruba of 1985!

After staying for several weeks on Aruba, my home of 18 years, I asked myself and my friends there what have been the benefits for the Aruban people of the frenzy of construction of thousands and thousands of new hotel rooms in the last

years. You would expect that on Aruba, with its thriving economy, the quality of life of the people has improved considerably. Unfortunately, this is not the case. While Aruba has always been proud that there has never been any sales tax on the island, due to a very difficult current financial situation (!?!), the government of the leading political party MEP, a fervent promoter of new hotel projects with absolutely no respect for the environment, has been obliged to introduce a sales tax on Aruba as of January 1, 2007. At the same time I read in the local newspapers that the government had promised that, due to streamlining of the approval process, work permits for another 20,000 (!) foreigners would now be given in a record time of 6 weeks. In connection with the introduction of the tax, mass protest demonstrations were organized by the opposition parties and even a fight took place in the parliament which finally resulted in police intervention.

However, because the governor, a former MEP minister, approved the measure, the inhabitants of Aruba and the visitors must now also pay a sales tax like on Bonaire. And furthermore what has happened to the quality of life of the simple inhabitants of the island? Only one of many examples: The garbage from private houses, deposited mostly in old oil drums, and piles of plastic bags, torn

apart by street dogs looking for food, remained on the streets for the whole week after the Christmas holiday! Thousands of tourists did not see it. The hotel garbage, in regularly emptied large metal containers, was collected without any delay. It is a shame that Bonaire with its perfect garbage collection system must serve as an example for the rich, overdeveloped Aruba, which is still admired by some Bonaireans!

But back to the matter of development of Bonaire. In the case of our island with scarce local labor, development must certainly not mean building new hotels. What do you think would happen if the government would give to a developer, local or foreign, all the necessary permits for the construction of a hotel under the condition that no foreign labor could be used for the construction and no work permits would be given to foreigners (with the exception of managers and some specialists) to operate the hotel? The answer is clear: the developer would withdraw because under the current circumstances **it is impossible to build and operate a hotel on Bonaire without foreign labor!** No study on the environmental impact of the project or intervention of the Governor would even be necessary.

In the case of Bonaire, development must mean realization of all projects leading to improvement of the quality of life of the people. Thus in the first place de-



Map of Aruba hotels
courtesy Aruba Travel Guide

velopment of the people themselves by improvement of education and intensive training of young men and women in executing various jobs, for which hundreds of foreign workers have had to be imported to our island to keep the economy running. Development of Bonaire further means improvement of the roads, construction of a new modern small hospital and realization of other projects for the benefit of local inhabitants.

Next week– The good example of Bermuda.

Jiri Lausman

LETTERS



PROPERTY VALUES

Dear Editor,

I read, with interest your article on property values. My wife and I are looking to buy a property on the island (we hope to come and live on Bonaire soon). The problem that you face is a common one throughout the world. The area where we live in the UK – the Yorkshire Dales – suffers from the same problem.

We could not afford to buy the house we live in now at today's inflated prices. Many young local people have to leave the area in order to find affordable housing. The rise in the value of our property is no real use to us unless we sell up and move to a much cheaper area as all houses in the locality are increasing in value at the same rate. The only people who really benefit are the estate agents who charge a commission and the government (at least in the UK and I suspect in Bonaire too) who also rake off some money.

As soon as a property is seen as an investment rather than a place to live you are on the slippery slope and I'm afraid that there is no really easy answer to it. Attempts to make affordable housing / housing cooperatives have had some measure of success. Trying to ensure that houses are sold to 'local' people only have met with much less success. It takes

a very great social conscience to sell a house to a 'local' person for \$100,000 when you could get \$400,000 on the open market.

The only note of caution I would advise is not to forget that some incomers actually want to move, live, and contribute to life on the island and not just use it as an easy way to make a short term profit

Richard Willis

Right after Richard Willis sent us the above letter regarding property prices he sent this:

"Coincidentally my wife also wrote an email about the same subject which she also was about to send to you (she's in the UK and I'm actually in Amsterdam at the moment)! Great minds think alike!

Dear Editor:

I read with interest A.B's concerns (vol. 14, issue 4) about the increasing house prices in Bonaire causing problems of affordability for Bonaireans, and would like to add a different perspective.

My husband and I have just returned from Bonaire after the most wonderful holiday and we are now actively looking to buy a property on the Island if we possibly can. Ironically we currently live in a "tourist area" of the UK, the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, and the cry from the locals here is exactly the same. Property prices here have increased by over 200% in 5 years and the National Park has had to bring in new regulations to allow local people to have access to affordable housing and prevent properties from being bought up as second homes. This is preserving our villages and preventing them from becoming empty "ghost villages"

during the winter when few tourists visit.

I don't see that there is a way to arrest the escalation in house prices either on Bonaire or in Yorkshire, as it is driven by market forces. So maybe there is a lesson here from other parts of the world where consideration of the needs of local people can be made through sensitive regulation?

For our part, as divers, nature lovers and as marine biology graduates, Bonaire is our dream come true and if we are lucky and brave enough we would love to move to Bonaire. We are active community members and would want to contribute as much to the Island as we can. House prices are never certain and investment is not without substantial risk. We certainly don't want to act as pirates in the property market but feel it is time in our life to follow our hearts and make our dreams a reality if at all possible, as life is not a dress rehearsal.

S.W.

WHERE DID ALL THE BIG FISH GO?

Dear Editor:

Divers regularly notice, and numerous studies confirm, that there are today not only less fish in the ocean than in the past, but the fish today also are much smaller. For example, top predators now are on average one fifth and rarely get to one half of the size they used to be. What's going on? Why so small? The answer is evolution. The Darwinian evolution is happening in front of our eyes, but instead of good old natural selection, this time the evolution comes as result of "unnatural selection" by fishing.

Fishermen selectively target big fish. By taking big fish they not only take out a large specimen - they also take out of

circulation the genes, which cause fish to grow large. They not only take out big fish of today - they eliminate big fish that could be there tomorrow.

Fishermen prefer large fish; so, fish "prefer" to be small. Under this selective pressure, small fish have a better chance to survive and reproduce, i.e. small fish are fitter in this world of human fishing. So, this is how they evolve: by getting smaller! Even if fishermen didn't take much, the fishing selection would cause this trend.

Well, there is at least one practical conclusion from understanding of this evolution: macro-photography should be a good investment.

Genady Filkovsky.



Will blennies ever become the "Big One?" Internet photo



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

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Aboard Divi Divi Air

Banks:

MCB (Playa & Hato branches),

Restaurants:

Bistro de Paris
Cactus Blue
Capriccio
City Café
Lover's Ice Cream
Papagayo
Papaya Moon
Pasa Bon Pizza

Dive Shops:

Yellow Submarine
WannaDive
Carib Inn

Shops:

Benetton
Best Buddies & Pearls
Bonaire Gift Shop
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City Shop
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Exito Bakery

INPO
Last Bite Bakery
Paradise Photo
Photo Tours, Playa
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Capt. Don's Habitat
Carib Inn
Divi Flamingo
Eden Beach Hotel
Golden Reef Inn
The Great Escape
Plaza Resort
Sand Dollar Resort

Supermarkets:

Cultimara
Consales Cash & Carry
Montecatini
Progresso
Sand Dollar Grocery
Tropical Flamingo
Warehouse Bonaire

Government:

Bestuurscollege
Customs
Parliament Office
BVO

Others:

Bonfysio
Botika Korona
Caribbean Laundry
Fit 4 Life - Plaza
Hair Affair
Harbour Village Marina
Rocargo
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Harbourtown
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Lemari Grocery
Rincon Bakery
Rose Inn

12/29/06

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Art to Benefit Lions Club Charities



The Bonaire Lions Club will hold a unique fundraiser where well known Bonaireans, who spent many hours crafting works of art depicting their vision of the theme "Bonaire, a Special Municipality within the Kingdom," will see their artworks auctioned off for charity. The auctioneers will be radio personality Aymed Ayubi and Papi "Cultura" Cicilia.

In the Kas di Arte over two evenings last week, assisted by local artists, they painted or carved their art pieces. For Bonaire it was a cultural watershed event, involving some of the island's luminaries: political leaders, a bank president,



Bòl Antoin is guided by Frans Booi



Rien van Silfhout coaches Ernst Wesselius

present and former governors, the notaris, commissioners, environmentalists, a former prosecutor, the chief of police and other well known persons

The artworks will be auctioned next Sunday evening. Revenues will be used to fund the renovation of the *Skol di Arte* (art school) building; *Sosiedat Diabetiko Boneriano* (Diabetic Society); *Drecha Kas* (renovation of houses of the less fortunate in Bonairean society).

The event will be held at the Kas di Arte. The art exhibition is underway right now and will run through Sunday when the auction will follow an informal BBQ at the Kas di Arte. The schedule is:

Exposition: January 21-28 from 17.00-20.30

Barbecue: Sunday, January 28 starting at 17.30

Auction: Sunday, January 28 starting at 20.00 □ *G.D.*

The participants, in alphabetical order, were:

Antoin, Bòl
Bernabela, Jackie
Beukenboom, Elsmarie
Booi, Ramonsito
Dammers, Geraldine
DeSalvo, George
Domacassé, Herbert

Hart, Richard
Maartense, Maarten
Oleana, Nolly
Petersen, Carlene
Piar, Evert
Saleh, Raymundo
Soliana, George
Stewart, Captain Don
Straten, van der, Jan
Wesselius, Ernst

They were assisted by the following artists:

Booi, Frans
Bijl, van der, Renate
Coffie, Nochi
Dania, Winfred
Ebing, Josephine
Huckaby, Janice
Ledezma, Nina
Marten, Sedney

Nijdam, Germaine
Rijna, Jenny (o.v.)
Rivas, Dianir
Roozendaal, Henk
Silfhout, van, Rien
Sluizeman, Marianne,
Stapert, Sipke
Trinidad, Tony (o.v.)
Twillert, van, Eefje □

AWC – A Wine Lover's Dream Destination



Stop by the Antillean Wine Company's shop on Kaya Industria #23, and see all the new wines and displays they've got. Here are the two Marjoleins trying to guess the weight of the bottle of Rocca delle Macie Chianti Classico. "We have 150 different kinds of wines," the Marjoleins declare. They've got bags, boxes, baskets, trays and all sorts of interesting containers for wine gifts. And gaze upon their spectacular wine coolers – fit for a king or queen's table. Stroll the aisles and see the specials of the week. There are wine glasses for red or white or champagne. They carry ports, sherries, vermouths, cognacs, even a gift basket of olive oil and balsamic vinegar. The shop is open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 12:30 pm.

The second Saturday of every month join the Wine Tasting at the shop from 7 to 9 pm. You can taste from six to eight wines for NAf20 per person. It's the place to meet old friends and make new ones. □ *L.D.*

2006 Beaujolais Nouveau has arrived →

Nature Education Begins 15 Years Protecting Nature



Nasta Biba sponsors with STINAPA staff

Last week the “Nature NGO,” STINAPA Bonaire, began a three-year campaign to inform and educate its population about the value of preserving Bonaire’s relatively unspoiled environment. The campaign, labeled *Nos Ta Biba di Natu-raleza* (Nature Nurtures Us), sends the message to conserve nature and the environment because eventually we all profit from it. The information has a positive slant and offers lots of information about Bonaire’s plants, animals and natural areas. “Nature is the “green engine” of Bonaire’s economy,” said STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom. The campaign

will publish weekly columns in the Papiamentu language newspaper, *Extra*, and the Dutch language newspapers *Amigoe* and the *Antillean Dagblad*. The English language *Bonaire Reporter* and some other Papiamentu language tabloids are not included. Advertisements are to appear in those newspapers and on the radio. STINAPA’s internet site has updated information and three times annually a free newspaper, *Makubekèn*, will be mailed to island homes. The effectiveness of the campaign will be evaluated by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The project is financed by government and private donors. □ G.D.



Congratulations to George Saragosa on his 15th anniversary as a Park Ranger for STINAPA Bonaire. George is well known by many Bonaire divers. In the photo he is joined by his family and STINAPA management. □

Elsmarie Beukenboom

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 5.)

► **This Saturday, January 27, Antillean Wine Company** will introduce the 2006 vintage in an extra wine-tasting at Antillean Wine Company (Kaya Industria 23) from 7 until 9 pm.

You’ll be tasting the wine by the bottle only, so bring a friend to share this rare opportunity to enjoy a totally natural wine. Snacks will be provided.

According to AWC, in producing this great wine no pesticides were used, no artificial fertilizers, no harvesting machines, no SO2 added. It’s a pure fermented grape juice from the gamay-noir-

a-juice-blanc grape. The price of a bottle of Marcel Lapierre’s Beaujolais Nouveau Chateau Cambon 2006 is NAf19.75 (\$11.29)

► **The work to cover Bonaire’s stadium playing field with “Astroturf” began this Monday** (photo at right). The project is expected to take four months to complete. Following drainage work, crushed rock will be spread on the field, then sand capped with rubber. The artificial turf will be glued to that. The work is financed by a Dutch grant. V&P photo □ L./



Snorkeler's Notebook: Diversity on the reef

Melting pot, patchwork quilt, mosaic, salad—all these metaphors have been used to describe the ideal of cultural diversity, especially in the United States. But as I snorkel 1000 Steps today, I propose a new metaphor—the coral reef—to describe the model integration and interaction of cultural differences.



The coral reef Internet photo

In the human world, differences are often construed as abnormal, divisive, and threatening, which causes all kinds of conflict, violence, oppression, even genocide. In fact, almost every culture and country is plagued by skirmishes, wars, and power struggles rooted in differences in gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, class, etc. The coral reef offers another direction: here difference is essential to the vitality of the community with each species dependent on the other for a healthy ecosystem. Indeed, this diversity is one of the reasons Bonaire's reefs are the most vibrant in the world.

Hovering over 1000 Steps, I am truly amazed at the diversity of life, with numbers of species only a marine biologist could estimate. In the coral reef world each species contributes its part to the functionality of a community where any imbalance—(i.e. one species dominates another)—has the potential to harm all the others. You could say that the integrity and survival of each species is inextricably connected in a vast delicate web of life. Can you imagine a similar human world where the viability of each race, religion, gender, or culture depended on others who were different from them? Would we still feel compelled to subordinate or destroy others because of racial, religious, or cultural differences? Yes, the “burgeoning reef” is a more appropriate metaphor, with no “melting” of any sort.

One final observation of note: just think how boring snorkeling would be if we only saw two or three species all the time, like the bluehead wrasse and boulder corals, at every dive/snorkel site. Ultimately, just as diversity causes the reef to teem with a synergistic energy, so too is our world enriched by all the differences among humans. As I study one very busy section of the reef with a different creature in every crevice, I am reminded of recent research that proves that diverse work teams are far more productive and creative than homogeneous ones. I just hope we learn the lesson of diversity that the coral reef is teaching before it is too late. □ *Pauline E. Kayes*

Pauline Kayes is a college professor of English, Humanities, and Women's Studies from Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. She is also a part-time resident on Bonaire.

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Africa



Linda Baker, a frequent traveler and contributor to this feature writes, “Yes, I am on the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. It snowed on me just about all the way to the top and I was freezing my butt off. I figure it was -20°F. and about -30°F. with the wind-chill factor.” Both Linda and the copy of *The Reporter* survived in great shape. □

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.) □

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

Age group swimmers become one year older with the New Year as their competitive group is determined by their age on the last day of the previous year. Swimmers who were at the top of their game as the oldest members of their age group last year now find themselves starting all over. Likewise, the younger swimmers from last year have now become the “senior citizens” of their categories.

Eight Bonaire Barracuda swimmers tested out their new status at the 4th Curaçao Swimming Federation Open Swim Meet on Saturday, 20 January at *Sentro Deportivo Korsow*.

The meet format had swimmers either participating in the 9 – 10 year age group or the 11 and over age group. Asked what it felt like to be swimming in the same heat as 19 year olds, 11 year old **Samson Evertsz** said, “The first event was scary and seemed unfair, but by the second event I was used to it.” Club rivalry came into play when Barracuda swimmers were pitted against each other in the same heat.

Giada Binelli, 15, swam against Barracuda teammate **Ryda-Luz Emer**, 11, in the 200 meter individual medley event. Giada led Ryda until the 50 meter freestyle leg when Ryda-Luz started to catch her. Giada said after the event, “I heard my teammates screaming and I saw Ryda coming up behind me. I said to myself, ‘Go Giada.’” Giada finished 0:01.13 ahead of Ryda-Luz.

The Barracudas swam very well, either improving or swimming close to their personal best times at this meet. **Olivier Wagemakers** achieved an “A” time in Boys 10 and Under 50 meter backstroke



Bonaire swimmers' prospects are “Lookin’ up.”

while **Samson Evertsz** swam an “A” time in Boys 11 – 12 100 meter backstroke. All Bonaire swimmers had strong “B” times in every other event they swam. Biggest personal best time improvements were **Asdrubal Marcano** in Boys 9 – 10 200 meter individual medley and **Rooske Wagemakers** Girls 11 – 12 100 meter backstroke.

The Barracudas entered a team in the Boys 9 – 10 200 meter freestyle relay. **Alejandro De Lima, Eduard Arends, Olivier Wagemakers and Asdrubal Marcano** showed real potential for future meets.

The Bonaire Barracudas and SEDREBO are organizing the 3rd Bonaire School Swimming Championship on 28 January at the Meralney Sports Complex. All 10 Bonaire schools will be sending teams and more than 90 swimmers are expected to participate. Top swimmers from this competition will represent Bonaire at the Inter-island School Swimming Championship in Curaçao at the end of March. Warm up begins at 12.00 with the Opening Ceremony and competition to start at 14.00. The public is cordially invited to attend. □
Story & photo by Valerie Stimpson

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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

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!

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For Sale

DANGER: If you are using a first stage from a scuba regulator to fill flat tires etc and do not have a 2nd stage attached, it is possible, if the first stage fails, to have the hose explode. Carib Inn has a limited number of pressure relief valves at \$10 each to protect both you and the hose. These are small and simply screw into one of the LP ports on the first stage. Carib Inn 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm.

NIKONOS III – Camera and Macro tube Set.

Still the best UW camera for macro shots. Original owner. NEVER been flooded. Past Nikonos Shoot-Out winner. Complete NAf250. Call George 786-6215.



For Sale: Nikon N90S Underwater System with Sea & Sea Housing:



Pelican Case; Nikon N90S; AFN Nikkor 2.8-80MM 1:35-5.6D; AF Micro Nikkor 60mm 1:2.8D; AF Nikkor 28-80MM 3.5-5.6D Zoom Gear; 2 aperture gears, Bower 62-52 gear; NX-990 Pro housing (Sea&Sea); NX-90 Dome Port/cover; NX50/90 Flat Zoom port/cover; aperture gear; dual sync cord (Sea&Sea); 2 YS-120 Duo Strobes (Sea&Sea); 2 Sea&Sea head adaptors; 4 ultralite clamps; 2 dovetail adaptors; 1 dovetail shoe; 2 strobe screws; 3 ultralite 4" D-ball; 2 ultralite 12" D-ball; extra o-ring set; Sekonic Marine meter II. Asking \$1,000. Call 717-2050.

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

**Cars
For Sale**

FOR SALE- 1995 Toyota 4-Runner 5 Speed, 4 Wheel Drive Excellent Condition 11,500 NAF or \$6650 US Call 700-0089 or 717-8019

Training Success



In the photo with the new graduate: Human Resource Head Marelva Solian, Comptroller Gershim Binns, General Manager Sara Matera

Congratulations to Violetta Martina, Divi Flamingo Housekeeping Manager. She graduated from a three-month English course given by FORMA and financed by Divi. □

FOR SALE: FIAT BARCHETTA

Cabrio, 1997, yellow, with hard-top and wind-stop. NAf 16,000 Tel. 786-5591.



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**Property,
Sales &
Rentals**

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.

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

Wanted

Wanted: Looking for the owner of the incomplete motorcycle stored for one year at the Antillean Car Centre, Kaya Amsterdam. Please call: 786 -

4759.

Who has seen our little gnome (kabouter)? He is almost completely orange and is wearing a pointy cap. He disappeared on January 14 between 2 and 6 p.m. We miss him very much. For information call 786-5591.

Looking for work. Cleaning lady (speaking Spanish and Papiamentu) is looking for part-time work. 568 - 9506.

Dog kennel, medium size for dog weighing 13 kilos/30 lbs. Airline approved. (Needed in March) 717-6862.

Cashier needed part time. Dutch, English, Papiamentu preferred. Last Bite Bakery. 717-3293

Kitchen/Prep/Dishwasher needed-part time Some English preferred. Last Bite Bakery call: 717-3293.



Porch Sale 28 January -Kaya Alkmaar # 6 (Hato) Various Porch set 2 and 4 seat with table.(plastic); Double semi Orthopedic bed; Side Tables - Hair Dryer - Bar Stool - Lots of old LP's / Cassette -Chest of drawers - - Showcase - cabinet (vitrine kast) And lots more.

Porch Sale on Feb 4 at 1:00-5:00 p.m. Address # 110 Sabadeco Terrace
Pls check this website <http://thai4real.spaces.live.com>

The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a person to do layout for the weekly editions.

Must be very competent with Microsoft Publisher and familiar with Microsoft Office programs. Great part-time job and could possibly be done from home. Call George or Laura at 786-6125 or 786-6518.



**Only 8 more days before...
Sunday, February 4**

Special Olympics Walk-A-Thon



Congratulations to Jordy Bernabela of Colegio Papa Cornes. Jordy, who's in the 6b class, created the winning logo, out of 50 entries, for the Bonaire Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon. The logo will appear on the official Walk-a-Thon Tee shirts.

GET YOUR TICKETS FROM Chat 'n' Browse
Obersi Electronics (Xerox)
Bowling di Danilo

Or from the Board of Directors:
National Director Claire Sealy
President Lupe Uranie
Treasurer Suzy Bakker
Head of Coaches Chio Semeleer
Board Member Aura Kock



Bonaire Bike Club served refreshments at Karpata—2006

The Fifth Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon is on Sunday, February 4. No matter who you are you're welcome to join the groups and individuals who will be walking, biking, roller blading, whatever, from the Slave Huts to the Pasa Dia in Rincon. No matter whether it be rain or shine, the Walk-a-Thon will go on. Special Olympics

Bonaire National Director Claire Sealy promises some surprises along the way and another at the end at the Pasa

Dia. Groups are forming to do the walk together. Signed up already is the enthusiastic "Go Fast" group coming in from Curaçao, Bonaire's "Pia Pia" and some Special Olympics athletes. And even if you don't want to make the trek yourself you can be a sponsor of one of the groups or an individual person...or just buy a ticket and watch from the sidelines.

Tickets are only NAf25 and it all goes to a good cause, sending our Special Olympic athletes to compete in this year's World Games in Shanghai, China, in October.

The Walk-a-Thon event, begun five years ago, was the inspiration of ex-head coach, Elizabeth Wiginy, who wanted

it to not only be a fund raising event but one that was historically important – the route taken by the slaves between Rincon and the salt pans where they labored.

"How To" for Participants

Everyone meets at the Slave Huts in the southern part of the island at 5 am, where the 30-kilometer walk begins. You may leave your car at the Stadium in Playa and take the FKPD bus which leaves at 4 am Sharp to take you to the Slave Huts starting area. It's a wonderfully quiet time before sunrise as you traverse the

Get Your Ticket Now- Only NAf25
Includes a T-shirt, canvas carrying bag, water bottle and a hot meal at the end.



Happy walkers took a rest stop: Craane cousins Marie and Shadira—2006

coastline. Birds will begin to awaken and you'll witness the sunrise. At the end, you'll be able to get a ride back to your car from the Pasa Dia in Rincon. Those who did the trip on bikes can get their bike transported back to the Stadium. Along the route there will be refreshment stops every five kilometers where you'll be offered water, Gatorade, oranges and plenty of encouragement. The Red Cross will be on the road to make sure everyone is okay, and pickup trucks will be patrolling to give a lift to the tired ones. At the Pasa Dia you'll get a certificate and a delicious hot meal and drink and time to re-hash the day. For your NAf25 you get: a free Walk-a-Thon T-shirt, canvas carrying bag, water bottle and a hot meal at the end. Get your tickets at TCB (717-8322), Chat 'n' Browse, Obersi Electronics, (Xerox), Bowling di Danilo or from any Special Olympics board member (**National Director Claire Sealy; President Lupe Uranie; Treasurer Suzy Bakker; Head of Coaches Chio Semeleer; Board Member Aura Kock**). Or [email- info@specialolympicsbonaire.org](mailto:info@specialolympicsbonaire.org). Present your ticket and pick up your gift bag at City Café/Hotel Rocheline in the lobby on Friday, February 2 from 4 to 7 pm, or Saturday, February 3 from 10 am to 4 pm. See you there! □LD

**Can't Do The Route?
But you can sponsor a walker or a group...**

And... buy the book, "Recipes for Success," compiled by Delno Tromp for \$10 and all proceeds go to Special Olympics. It's sold at shops around town.

Some Recommendations from the pros who've done it:

Don't wear new shoes. Make sure yours are broken in already. For long distance running or walking you should wear shoes a half to one size larger than you normally wear. Put baby powder on your feet. Then put Vaseline on your toes where you might have chafing. Bring along flip flops to change into if you can no longer wear your shoes. □



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Get a group together like MCB's Orphaline did last year

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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 : "Moving too fast"

Betty Wills

Dear Betty:
My boyfriend and I have been living together for three years, and we are both happy. I truly do love him, and he says he loves me, but apparently not enough, because he still hasn't asked me to marry him. I want to get married and start building a life together, but he isn't ready to make such a commitment. Am I wasting my time on this one?

ANSWER: It depends on what you consider a waste of time. A mind is a terrible thing to waste – a waist is a terrible thing to mind – so throw your clock out the window, and watch time fly. For me, sitting around watching TV all day is a waste of time. Loving someone who doesn't love you back is a waste of time. Some people spend time; some invest it, while others waste it. You are spending time with someone you love – he loves you back - you are living life together – it's time well spent. It appears you are already committed to each other if you've been together in a monogamous relationship for the past three years.

Joke Of The Day

Top 10 answers to that silly question, "Why aren't you married yet?"

- #10. You haven't asked yet.
- #09. I was hoping to do something meaningful with my life.
- #08. (For Single Mothers) Because having a husband and a child would be redundant.
- #07. Just lucky, I guess.
- #06. I already have enough laundry to do, thank you.
- #05. Why aren't you thin?
- #04. They just opened a great singles bar on my block.
- #03. Because I think it would take all the spontaneity out of dating.
- #02. We really want to, but my lover's spouse just won't go for it.
- #01. What? And spoil my great sex life?



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
1-26	8:06	1.9FT.	16:46	0.9FT.					59
1-27	8:46	2.0FT.	17:48	0.8FT.					55
1-28	9:32	2.1FT.	18:34	0.7FT.					58
1-29	10:10	2.2FT.	19:25	0.7FT.					64
1-30	10:51	2.2FT.	20:09	0.7FT.					73
1-31	11:34	2.1FT.	20:47	0.7FT.					80
2-01	12:09	2.0FT.	21:31	0.8FT.					85
2-02	12:46	1.9FT.	22:06	0.9FT.					87

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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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 Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 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 7:30am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-2pm	NAf10 take out lunch every day - main dish with 2 side dishes. Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna.
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
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all.	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the Wednesday Beach BBQ.

SHOPPING GUIDE

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On the Island Since ...2006

Fulco de Vries

“I studied in Gent, Belgium, and I lived there for six years. I had a wonderful time. People were very congenial, nice to go around with, and also they approached their studies seriously. After I became a veterinarian I worked three years in Zutphen, a city in the east of Holland, and then I moved to Lemmer, Friesland, one of the northern provinces of the Netherlands, where I also worked three years as a vet.

I am originally from Friesland, and when I was about eight I decided I wanted to become a vet. We lived among the farmhouses in a rural area, but my parents were not farmers; they were both teachers. When I grew older I forgot about becoming a vet, but when I was about 20 I picked it up again. Why? Because it fits me! I am interested in many different things, but for me this is the most interesting. I've always handled animals. However, there are things you find out when you're working in this profession. I think it's the same for any other profession: there are always things you like better and things you like less about your job.

What I like best is the surgical part. I like to operate because it's something that requires skill. How do I see an animal? An animal can be very good company and it's not more or less than a human. It has different qualities from what we have. When you keep an animal, whether it is as a pet or as a domestic animal, you should always treat it well because you chose to keep it and it depends on you. I will never say that an animal has more value than a human being, but they are characters and individuals, like dogs, cats, cows and sheep. They make a deal with us... you feed them and they help you without grumbling about it.

But this doesn't apply to all animals. For instance wild animals don't have the instinct to serve us and to make us happy, and many of them who live in captivity are suffering from being kept by people. They are bored or they have the need to do certain things they are unable to do or they miss their companions. You have to think about those things before you take such an animal because it creates suffering. Of course, in most cases the animal will adjust to the situation in the long run, but it will become numb.

I came here with a contract for two years. I was looking for something abroad, looking for a change in life as in Holland it had become too much of the same thing, and when you have the feeling that you have to change things in your life, that's what you do. The association of veterinarians in Holland has a kind of a list of jobs available and you

can respond to that. I'd never been here, not in any part of the Caribbean, but a long time ago I lived for a year in Israel, and when I served the army I was stationed in Germany for a year. I didn't come to look here first, but I applied and then I got the job and I came. However, Arie Binksma (one of the vets of the animal clinic in Kaminda Lagoen) instructed me and I also contacted my predecessors to find out if it would be something for me. They were all very positive so I came.

“The only thing I find that doesn't fit Bonaire is the traffic. It's too much for such a small island and the same for petty crime.”

My first impression? Nice and warm! Professionally it seemed to be okay. People are super friendly and that makes the job nice. In every way it turned out well. I meet a lot of people who really care for their pets and we communicate well. That's the most important thing - you have to understand each other. The work here is conveniently arranged; but most of all it's a pleasant atmosphere and that for me is the most important thing. Ruthmilda, our assistant who has been at the clinic for ages, helped me tremendously, especially when it comes to communicating with the people - everybody knows her and she knows everybody - and that is very important. We work together with the Animal Shelter and I also work part time for the government, for LVV.

For instance when someone has a sick goat, sheep or cow I visit them as an official and they only pay for the medicine. I also check the animals at LVV and the chickens at Punto Blanco, and when the food inspector is not on the island I also do the slaughter house inspection and that's also an aspect of being a vet.

Everywhere in the world there are many colleagues who keep an eye on food safety to prevent people from getting sick. You can keep meat by freezing, drying or salting it, but when you keep pork or chicken meat under bad conditions, there's a big chance that people will suffer from food poisoning. That chance is way less with goat meat because goats carry less bacteria, although you always have to be careful when you



Fulco de Vries with “Fred”

handle it. Here people don't suffer much from food poisoning. The drinking water is safe and the food inspector also visits kitchens and restaurants to check the sanitary conditions. The climate is very healthy; there's no pollution, it's fresh and warm at the same time, and the weather never changes much - a change of weather, that's what makes people sick.

In my job I've seen different things than I was used to in Holland: a dog that has 10 thousand ticks or dogs that are completely covered with lice; dogs that are suffering from scabbies, but especially the *karpatten* (ticks) are a disaster. I've seen other exotic disorders and also Parvo is still around, something you don't see in Holland anymore because of the vaccinations. Those are things you encounter here and I've never seen before.

“Fulco de Vries (35) is a gentle, matter-of-fact person, not much of a talker, but someone who is very practical. He's just cool. When I need a dog for the picture he takes “Fred” from the kennel in the next-door Shelter and says: “I've adopted his sibling, they're great dogs!” When the photo-session is over he takes “Fred” back very sweetly and goes on: “I'm enjoying my stay here more and more because I always see new things. When you first arrive here it may seem that it's all more or less the same, but the more time you spend in the outdoors, the more you recognize the beauty of this island's nature; it needs time...”

For my job I visit people and their animals at *kunukus* and I'm also involved in the Lora conservation project, and the area around Punto Blanco I know quite well now as I also started playing golf at the golf course there. It's fun! Just great! Strolling around in the open air

on that bare piece of land! I never played golf in Holland and I am not sure if I would like to do it there because you would get immediately involved in all the swank! On the weekends I go surfing, golfing or I go out with my dog and I visit some people; I'm having a great time.

The only thing I find that doesn't fit Bonaire is the traffic. It's too much for such a small island and the same for petty crime. The best thing about Bonaire is that it's so positive; people are so friendly to one another. Life here is pleasantly simple because you don't have a lot of choices. Most of the time you can buy anything you need, but there is not such superabundance like in other countries. For me such a thing is completely unnecessary; it makes everything way too complicated.

I like Bonaire better than Holland. Holland is a great country, but here everything is simpler. It might be different when you're here at another time of your life and you still have to study for instance, but when you already have a profession it's very agreeable.

I'm not thinking much about the future. I don't have a job in Holland anymore. My belonging are stored somewhere and the only thing I still have there is a car. So, I can't tell because I don't know. I am not someone who goes somewhere with great expectations - I am very open-minded. I took a course in Papiamentu and I did my best so far and... that's something isn't it?”

□

Story & photo by
Greta Kooistra



New Bonaire Commercial Prop-jet Pilot



Bonairean Patrick Angela returned from the US licensed to fly Fokker 100s, the plane used by Bonaire-based DAE. He was greeted at the Flamingo Airport by his sister, Suzy, and mother as well as island officials. Congratulations from *The Bonaire Reporter*, Patrick. □

Pet of the Week

Our "Pet" this week, little "Fred," shown here with teen volunteer Lisa Schut, is getting a lot of press in *The Reporter* this week. He's shown as the pet model with the vet, Dr. Fulco deVries, who is the subject of Greta Koistra's "On the Island Since..." column this week. Fred and his sister were dropped off at the animal clinic by someone.

Dr. deVries was so impressed with them that he adopted one, Fred's sister. Fred himself is a dog with a fine character. He's about six months old. Although he looks like a younger puppy he's growing like mad and should end up being a pretty big dog. He's alert and now that he feels comfortable in his new surroundings he's started barking to defend "his area," so he'll be an excellent watchdog for a good



"Fred" with Lisa Schut

and loving owner. He's a handsome boy too. Notice the dark color around his eyes; it looks like he's wearing eyeliner. You may meet Fred and the other fine and healthy pets at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989. □ *L.D.*

Sunfish Sail to Curaçao Regatta



Very early in the morning on Sunday, January 21, two Bonairean Sunfish sailors aboard their open 14-foot long sailboats, took off from the Kas di Regatta heading for Curaçao. Sipke Stapert and Victor Brouwer had packed their well prepared little boats with safety gear, food, drinks, clothes and a small tent for an open water voyage to Curaçao to defend the Bonairean flag during the **2007 Sunfish South American and Caribbean Championship Regatta**. Sipke and Victor just recently returned to Bonaire from the World Championships Sunfish Sailing, in Charleston, South Carolina, in the US.

At seven o'clock in the morning the two courageous sailors left Bonaire, heading west. There were no chase boats, no guard planes, no radio contact, just Sipke (sail number 111) and Victor (sail number 222) on their boats, facing the wind and the water, defying the elements, heading for our sister island over 35 nautical miles away.

After a little more than six hours of concentrated downwind sailing they reached Curaçao. From there they made a short phone call to their families: "Yes, we made it." No further comments about the elements, the time or the hardship. They had reached Curaçao and that was the only important thing. They were ready to unpack their boats and had already set up on the beach where they will spend the nights in their small tents during the week. They can't wait until the first race on Wednesday!

The Regatta will be held from Monday, January 22 until Sunday, January 29. □

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



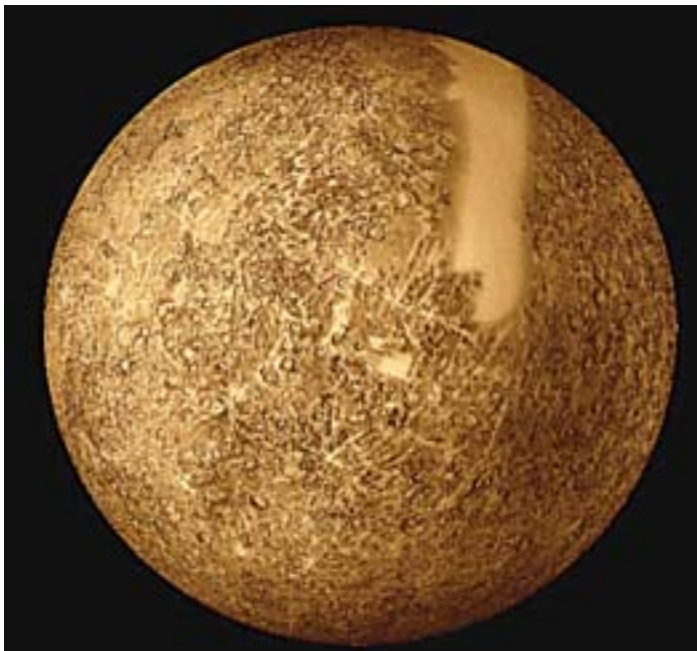
BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Planets In The February Sky

This February the Sky Park offers in early evening not one, not two, but three wonderful objects for planet chasers: planet #1, planet #2 and planet #6.

During the first week of February, about an hour after sunset, face west where smack dab in front of you, you will see the most brilliant of all the planets, planet #2, 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**, which is often



Mercury

referred to as "the evening star." But once in awhile there are two evening stars, and such is the case the first and second week of this February because just directly below Venus is the planet we call the pink iron planet, planet #1 from the Sun, 3,000-mile-wide **Mercury**. It's called the "pink iron planet" because it always looks pinkish due to the fact that it never gets very high up off the horizon. So we always see it through the dusty layers of atmosphere, which makes it appear pink even though it is not pink itself. It's called the iron planet because it actually has more iron in its core than our entire **Earth** does. So we have two so-called evening stars to open up the coldest month of the year.

Now Mercury quickly darts in and out of evening and morning skies a few times a year, so it's difficult to catch unless you find it at its farthest visual point from the Sun, which is called "greatest elongation," and luckily this occurs on Wednesday February 7th, which means Mercury will be at its highest above the horizon. So don't miss these two planets which our ancestors always called the "evening stars" when they were seen in the evening just after sunset and "the morning stars" when they were seen just before sunrise.

On Thursday, February 1st around 8 pm, look east and you'll see an almost full **Moon** right in front of you. Look directly below it and the brightest cosmic object you'll see is planet #6, 75,000-mile-wide ringed planet **Saturn**, which on February 10th will be at its closest and brightest for the entire year, and which just begs you to get out a small telescope. But in case you miss it on Thursday night, go out the next night Friday, **Groundhog Day** night, and an exquisite full Moon will be parked right underneath it which is the perfect telescopic opportunity to not only look at Saturn but to also peruse the lunar mountains, valleys, seas and craters.

Now February's full Moon has three names which are all very descriptive of February, the **Cold Moon**, the **Hunger Moon** and the **Wolf Moon**. And if you were a wolf out under this February full Moon you might be howling. So get outside the first week of February to see three pretty planets: the ringed planet only a week away from its closest approach to Earth, plus the two planets known to our ancestors as "the evening stars". □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, January 21 to Saturday, January 27

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your charisma will no doubt attract a lot of attention. Quarrels will erupt if you get into philosophical debates with friends. Try to keep your opinions to yourself. Involvement in groups will be favorable. Business partnerships will prove lucrative. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Added knowledge will give you the edge when dealing with peers. Someone you care about may let you down or criticize your methods. Get involved in activities that will bring you knowledge about foreign lands, philosophies, or cultures. You have to believe in yourself and your talents. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Mingle with those who can further your goals. Look into joining groups that can give you hands-on advice about business. New romantic ties can be made; however, you must make sure that your motives are not selfish before you make your move. It's time to reevaluate your own motives and make changes to yourself first. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You should feel a little more stable about your position; however, don't be surprised if a job offer comes your way. You will need to work diligently in order to accomplish even the smallest amount. You can make new friends by taking part in social events involving colleagues. You will be able to close any deals successfully. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You'll have amazing ideas, but superiors may try to block your attempts at implementing them. Don't try to hide your true feelings from your mate. You will be able to get along well with colleagues. Be sure to take time for old friends or relatives you don't get to see that often. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Put your efforts into making constructive improvements to your environment and to your state of mind. Be aware of any deception on the part of those you deal with. You can pick up valuable information if you listen to those with more experience. You will do well if you mingle with the brass this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't trust others with private information that could be used against you. You will be best suited to doing things around the house or inviting friends over for a visit. Your intellectual wit will bring greater popularity with your peers. Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about possible romance. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will be emotional about family matters. Those close to your heart may be difficult to reason with. Go after your goals and don't be afraid to ask for assistance. Spend time with friends or family. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. Your efforts will be rewarded handsomely. You could come into extra cash. Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Take a look at yourself and prepare to make those changes you've been contemplating. If you work in conjunction with someone else you may find they're trying to steal your thunder. Creative pursuits should pay-off. Clear up domestic chores that have remained undone for some time. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your mate may be distressed if you refuse to make a commitment. Later in the week your boss will pat you on the back for a job well done. Things aren't as they appear. It's doubtful anyone will try to stand in your way or cut you off at the pass this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your involvement with children will be most rewarding. Go out with close friends who understand your situation and your needs. Unexpected events may be upsetting. Help an older member with a problem that faces them. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □