

**It's
still
Free!**

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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Kids' Karnaval

Page 11



photo by Wilna Gronenboom

Breaking News- A Big Step to a New Bonaire

As a result of meetings in St. Maarten this week, **The Netherlands is making available more than one billion Antillean guilders** for financial support for the Netherlands Antilles (Central Government), St. Maarten, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. The transition date to the new constitutional status moved out 18 months. The island of Curaçao is not included and did not participate by choice. **The target date for new relations in the Kingdom of the Netherlands has been set at December 15, 2008**, the day traditionally celebrated as Kingdom Day, the day on which the present Charter was signed in 1954. St. Maarten will become a country and the three “smaller” islands-Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius-overseas municipalities of The Netherlands.

To make sure the islands have a healthy start, the Netherlands is helping with debt relief. The four islands will receive NAf 71 million extra for social and economic investments. NAf 15 million is being made available in the short term for “concrete projects.” NAf 13 million is being reserved for a one-time contribution to cover health care related expenses for the three “smaller” islands, plus Bonaire is earmarked to get 19 million for social-economic purposes. These monies are separate from current aid funds from USONA.

In addition it has been agreed that the Netherlands will deposit NAf 507 million on an account at the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles as soon as the financial supervisor has been appointed. This money is reserved to pay the shares of St. Maarten, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius in the yet undivided debt of the Netherlands Antilles. Bonaire's share is NAf55 million.

Bonaire's delegation leader Ramonsito Booi, after the signing ceremony, said perseverance had overcome everything. Booi congratulated the people of the four islands and especially those of Bonaire. He said for Bonaire the accord meant that it could finally develop and get out of the hold of the (Central Government) Netherlands Antilles. He called on Bonaire's people to pour a solid foundation. In an obvious reference to the upcoming island elections, he spoke of a brighter future, something to which the people who had elected him had been looking forward to.

Further details will be in the next issue of *The Reporter*.

► Bonaire's cell phone users were the victims of poor management of an infrastructure switch by all the island's cell phone service providers, except MIO, when Telbo changed from UTS to Digicel. **It was “cell phone Purgatory” for just about everyone who had to use their phone.** Problems related to *The Reporter* included: no cov-



erage, inability to contact some numbers, inability to receive calls, unexpectedly changed phone numbers, no off-island service, excessive SMS messages and general confusion. Telbo customers who did not switch from UTS to Digicel were supposed to have their calls forwarded to their new 79x numbers, but some users were unable to receive any calls. The companies were working on the problems as we went to press.

► **Queen Beatrix officially asked caretaker Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende to put together a Cabinet**, the Dutch Government Information Service said Friday. Balkenende and his Christian Democrat CDA party have reached agreement to form a centrist Dutch government with the left-leaning PvdA party and the small

(Continued on page 4)

BONAIRE THIS WEEK: The REPORTER

Table of Contents

Letters	
Bermuda Model	4
69 Crime Solutions	5
Cell Battle Victims	5
Historical Buildings	5
Preserving the Past	7
A Real Splash	8
Envirowatch (Batteries)	9
BONHATA 10th Anniversary	10
Bonaire District—Rent for Success	10
Kids Karnaval	11
Maritza St. Jago, MCB Anniversary	12
Happy Birthday, Cactus Blue	13
Lost Dog-Tyson	14
Shrink Studies SCUBA (Panic)	18

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Biologists Bubbles (Parrotfish)	3
Coral Glimpses	3
Picture Yourself (Boulder, Colorado)	12
Classifieds	12
Pet of the Week (Hazel)	14
Tide Table	14
Reporter Masthead	14
What's Happening	15
Movieland Film Schedule	15
Karneval Schedule	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
Born on Bonaire (Johnny Leoneta)	17
Sky Park (Valentine Trio)	19
The Stars Have It	19



Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...
There are some fish out there with fantastic sex lives?

We're talking every day, several times a day! Parrotfish are one of the luckiest fish in the sea. First of all, they get the best of both worlds: they start off as females and then eventually turn into males. Secondly, every day they have a set time, depending on the species, when they get all excited and start their mating ritual. The colorful males begin to establish their territories by chasing each other and intensifying their colors. The females group together and do their best to ignore the males until their victor is the undisputed champion. Then the male rises up, pumps his pectoral fins, quivers his tail and poops!



Female Stoplight parrotfish Photos by Jim Brandon



Male Stoplight parrotfish

Yes, right there for all to see. Perhaps it's a sign to the gals that he's so brave and strong and fast that he doesn't have to worry about predators. One female may rise up, but as he swoops down to escort her to the surface, she often completely ignores him and returns to the reef below to feed on algae. Perhaps she has a headache.

After many unsuccessful attempts, finally one of the females will rise up. The male will swim with her upwards and they will quickly turn together at the apex. It's at this point that she releases her eggs and he quickly fertilizes them with his milt. Then they race back down to the safety of the reef. He keeps at this until all of the females have released their eggs. If I'm snorkeling between 11:30am and 12:30pm, I can almost assuredly find these beautiful fish doing their thing. As can you. Just look for males chasing each other and any parrotfish that rises upwards. Then stay calm and don't get too close and you're in for a peep show! □ *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.



coral glimpses

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

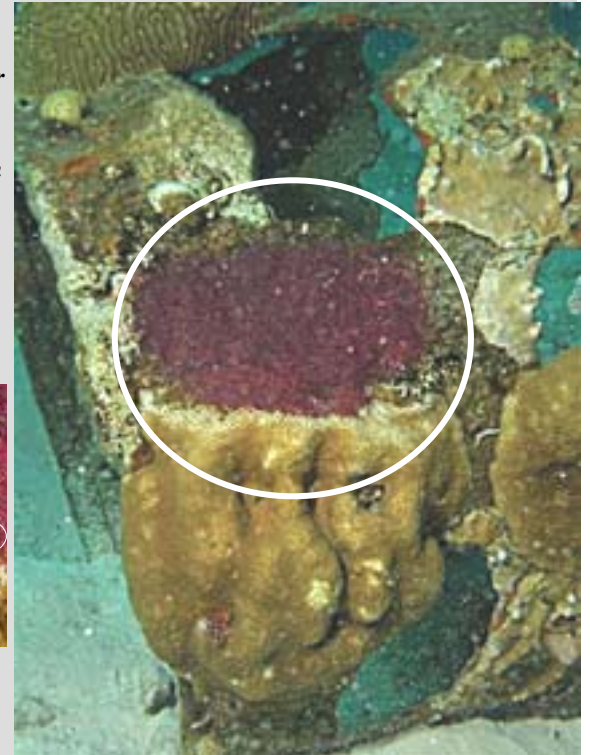
The reddish-purple spot (right) is sergeant-major eggs, most of which were deposited on the side of an old barrel. The eggs on the bottom are deposited on the top of a little star coral head.

In this closer shot we can see that the coral polyps on the bottom are alive.



The coral polyps in the cups surrounded by white (naked) skeleton are probably dead. If the coral were alive, it would have eaten the sergeant-major eggs. Perhaps there have been several nests there, and Dad in his preparations or patrols rubs against the living coral adjacent to his nesting spot. Eventually the polyps would expire, and his nesting area would expand.

Captions & photos by Dee Scarr.



Correction:
 Yikes! That's obviously not a long-jawed purplemouth moray as captioned in the Diving with Dee article last week. That's the first of the two shots of the little spotted moray with the rebuilt jaw! □ *D.S.*



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)
Christian values Christian Union party. The Queen's request is the next step in the formal procedure by which a new Dutch administration will take office. Balkenende will now select ministers for his cabinet.

► **The final statements** (Slotverklaringen) of October 11 and November 2 last year, which are the basis for the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles and Bonaire's new relationship with Holland, **were added to the draft governing accord** of the new Dutch CDA, PvdA and ChristenUnie cabinet. The original accord didn't include them. However, environmentalists are concerned that **there is still no stated policy on preserving the island's environment and unique culture in the government platform.**

► During a seminar at the Central Bank in Curaçao last week, outgoing Dutch Finance Minister Gerrit Zalm said the value of the **Netherlands assuming the debt of the Netherlands Antilles as part of the restructuring of the islands is worth NAf24.000 guilders per inhabitant.** "All Antilleans, rich and poor will profit from this," he said. He expects that the new CDA, PvdA and ChristenUnie cabinet that will probably take office later this month, "will carry this decision through." They can count on a parliamentary majority in the Upper and the new Lower House. "The ball lies before an empty goal; all Curaçao has to do is kick it in," said Zalm in a short press conference after the seminar.

While all other islands have agreed to the conditions required by the debt assumption, Curaçao has yet to do so.



Iron Rita SP.NL photo

► Last Friday, the outgoing Dutch Cabinet agreed to a last ditch attempt by Caretaker Integration Minister Rita Verdonk to force through legislation which would **allow the deportation of young convicted Antilleans and Aruban criminals** from Holland.

The proposal has already been rejected twice by the Council of State which said it contravened the European Human Rights Treaty by discriminating between different segments of the Dutch population. Her plan only applies to a specific group of Antillean young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who arrived in The Netherlands without an education

(Continued on page 6)

LETTERS

REPLY: UNCONVINCED AND UPSET

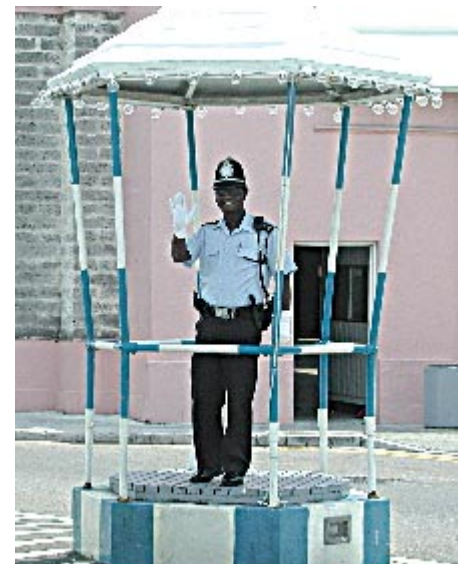
When I saw in the last issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* a letter by Genady Filkovski, I began to read it first, expecting other interesting facts about the marine environment like in the previous letters of this young man. Unfortunately, to my disappointment, his poison-pen letter, reacting to my article "The Good Example of Bermuda," published in the previous issue of *BR*, does not say anything about important issues mentioned in my article, like protection of the fragile environment of this island surrounded by coral reefs.

Instead, he dedicates the greater part of his letter to the race question, in spite of the fact that he himself mentions that the skin color has nothing to do with the issue. For an unclear reason, he calls the information in my article, that 61% of Bermudians are blacks, a "slip of tongue" (according to the Dictionary of American Idioms, "the slip of the tongue" means "the mistake of saying something you had not wanted to say"). Bermudian blacks are, like people of all other races, proud to live and work on their island and to contribute to the exceptionally high living standard of Bermuda. The blacks, indeed, form also a majority in the government.

Although Genady declares to be very concerned about the development of Bonaire and to be interested in all data and ideas in this regard, he does not say one word about the following main good examples of Bermuda mentioned in my article:

1. Unlike Bonaire, Bermuda has its **Development Plan** of 1992, containing planning policies, zoning and land use provisions for the island. It is based on the Development and Planning Act 1974, the law that regulates all development in Bermuda. The governmental Department of Planning has as its main task to protect Bermuda's environment and to develop a **sound eco-tourism industry.**

2. Although Bermuda's economy relies on tourism, there is a **moratorium**, introduced in 1974, on construction of hotels. In spite of the booming construction, **no work permits for foreign labor** are being given. According to the government, bringing people from abroad would mean higher crime, pressure on infrastructure, on schools and medical facilities



The "trademark" Bermuda policeman
Bermuda Tourism photo

Bermuda's national resources are its people and the government wants to protect them. The slogan of Bermuda is: Whereas many countries are spending a lot of money in order to change, **we are spending a lot of money to stay the way we are.**

As I mentioned, the introduction of some specific Bermudian regulations described in my article is not applicable to our island. Nevertheless, I am convinced that in principle the development model of Bermuda would be much more appropriate than the model of Aruba.

As I have recommended to the members of the Island Council, a short stay on Bermuda, with its coral reefs and stunning underwater life, could be interesting also for Genady. He would learn to know not only a beautiful, clean island without slums, but also its people, proud to live on their island.

Jiri Lausman

An infrequent visitor to Bermuda wrote to us as well: "I visited Bermuda about 10 years ago. The islands are completely paved/sculptured/mown. The government regulates vehicles because the roads are so crowded there's not room for any more vehicles. Their right-offshore marine life is so completely devastated that the sea urchins scraping away is a potentially serious thing, since nothing whatsoever is building the islands back up. They have no natural nature! I betcha that every tree, flower, and blade of grass has been replanted on an area cleared for building and then landscaped..." Editor



The Bonaire Reporter welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number or e-mail address. Letters without that information will not be published. If a writer wishes to remain anonymous or just use initials we will honor the request. Letters should not be more than 400 words in length and may be edited at the Editor's discretion. E-mail: letters@bonairenews.com

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

With the exception of the criminals themselves, no one likes the crime situation here on Bonaire. Those people who have newly arrived and have fallen victim to crime want to do something about it just like everyone else has over the years. Unfortunately they want to have meetings and set up programs etc. not knowing what others have done.

Over the years many ideas have come forth at meetings and through letters on how to solve the crime problem. These are just a few. Some barely worked for a short time but most never worked at all:

1. 4-color poster telling people to use common sense
2. have a major meeting about crime
3. new police station in Rincon
4. new police substations on Bonaire
5. crime task force
6. victims help group
7. more police
8. office for fighting crime - Komakia
9. take H plates off cars so they do not look like rental cars
10. take rental signs off cars as above
11. 5-year police plan
12. Holland commission to monitor and report on police
13. newspaper follow-ups on above on a weekly basis (ended after 2 or 3 weeks)
14. have another major crime meeting
15. give games to prisoners so they have something to do
16. all government security people working with police
17. National Guard working with police
18. numerous public meetings with the public and police
19. better lights around hotels and houses
20. bicycles for police
21. prisoner hard work program
22. mark all personal items such as TVs with ID numbers
23. numerous commercial sector meetings with police
24. leave absolutely nothing in cars
25. security just like Plaza Resort – military uniforms in the past (they have been robbed many times)
26. keep our mouths shut and don't tell any tourists there is a problem
27. report all crimes in the newspapers
28. a new and larger police headquarters
29. crime form for police
30. huge crime march



31. another crime form for police
32. keep all cars locked
33. keep all cars unlocked
34. border watch for suspicious boats
35. even more police
36. TV & radio campaign to teach people not to buy stolen goods
37. find where stolen property is going
38. round the clock volunteer guards on piers to watch
39. volunteer guards at dive sites
40. have all divers dive same shore dives on same day
41. dive bus (which was robbed)
42. train hotel employees to watch for problems
43. campaign to increase support for the police
44. have clubs on the steering wheels (thieves removed the steering wheels)
45. better education
46. weld metal locked boxes in trunks of all rental cars
47. petition sent to the government signed by 100's
48. have still another crime meeting
49. better food for poor people
50. better religious upbringing
51. better parental guidance
52. and still another crime form
53. internet crime form
54. get tough on criminals who are caught
55. neighborhood watch groups
56. special tel # to call police
57. report all crime on internet talk groups to force someone to do something
58. security camera on top of TWR towers
59. beach patrol
60. foot patrols at night in town
61. guards at schools
62. unmarried women alone should get married
63. get bigger dogs
64. grow cactus around all windows
65. cut all plants around hotels and houses so nowhere to hide
66. bars on all windows
67. post stolen property list weekly in newspapers
68. zero tolerance team
69. rent only trucks with heavy metal tops on back □BB

BATTLE VICTIMS

Dear Editor:

We are in a telecommunication battle here in Bonaire - this, instead of building bridges to communicate about our differences and to solve our differences with love. I am afraid that we, the clients, will for sure become the main victims of this battle if it continues.

N.G.



BONAIRE'S HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Dear Editor,

Another one bites the dust as we see the old Leeward Inn building demolished to make way for another new modern eyesore. I am not saying that L.I. was in the best condition, but it was a part of history's architecture that very few seem to care about, especially the real estate businesses and the developers, as their only objective is profit with no concern for preserving our heritage. We have seen this same example with other buildings over the past few years with the Hausmann's Folly being a prime example of another landmark torn down by people who only have one agenda and no care for these beautiful antique buildings.

When is someone from the higher powers of the Bonaire government going to do something about these building massacres? Are we to witness more of these atrocities in 2007? I think so, as the word on Bonaire is that the grand looking building that used to house the Blue Moon Restaurant, and which is in good condition, will be torn down to make way for another set of condos with no character.

Once again it appears that this meaningless destruction is pushed by the real estate companies and the developers with no concern whatsoever for antique properties.

Come on, Bonaire Government, make a stand and put a stop to this nonsense before Bonaire loses another antique gem to people who just simply do not care. I know the majority of people living in Bonaire share this view.

*A Sincerely Concerned
Bonairean Resident.*

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4) and have turned to crime.

According to Antillean Justice Minister David Dick, expulsion is not the answer. "It is discriminating and it doesn't offer a solution to The Netherlands as well as to the Netherlands Antilles."



Anthony Godett

► **Imprisoned political leader Anthony Godett was released from Bon Futuro Prison** in Curaçao last week. He was greeted at the prison gates by family, friends and his FOL party members. Godett had been sentenced to 15 months in jail, five of which had been suspended, for falsification of documents, corruption and money laundering. His incarceration began on July 17, 2006. He stopped at three churches along the way home for prayers.

► Effective February 12th, some of the **postal rates of New Postal Services Netherlands Antilles increased as much as 4.5 %**. This increase is legally allowed based on inflation rates published by the Central Bank. New Postal Services wrote in a press release that only the rates for letters, aerograms and postcards will go up. The rate for letters weighing up to 20 grams will now cost NAf1.04 (was

NAf1) while letters weighing 1000 to 2000 grams will cost NAf3.22 (was NAf3.09); an aerogram will cost 1.55 (was 1.49); postcards to local addresses will cost 80 cents (was 77 cents); while to foreign addresses 1.55 (was 1.49). For more information, visit www.npostna.com

► Last week we reported that 123 babies were born in Bonaire in 2006. The raw birth rate of a population is determined by the number of births per 1,000 persons per year. The world average raw birth rate is 20 for each 1,000 people. In Spain it's 10; in the Dominican Republic it's 23; in Haiti it's 36; and **in Bonaire (2006 population around 14,000) about 9**. Because mothers with birthing difficulties are sometimes advised to have their babies in a Curaçao hospital, the figure is deflated.

► **The Lt. Governors of the island territories of the Netherlands Antilles will meet on Bonaire** from February 14 to 16. While specific details have not been released, the meeting is mainly scheduled to address law enforcement in the island territories as well as matters related to immigration, the combating of crime, naturalization aspects and police affairs. Governor of the Netherlands Antilles Frits Goedgedrag and Justice Minister David Dick are scheduled to join the discussions as well.

► Three Bonaire political parties - Partido Demokráitiko Boneriano of Jopie Abraham, Obrero Nobo of Theo Frans, and Partido Boneriano Sosial of Jona Chirino-Felida - announced that they **will form a single election list** for upcoming

Island Council elections on April 20th. They did the same during the Parliamentary elections last year, and while making some progress failed to disrupt the UPB (green party) majority. For the Island Council elections of April 20th, they named the new party **Aliansa Demokráitiko Boneriano (Bonerian Democratic Alliance)** and their color will be red.



► The organization of dive operators on Bonaire, CURO, invited Joe Weatherby of Reef Makers to Bonaire last week for a feasibility study **on sinking a large military ship for a new dive site**. Augusto Montbrun is heading the project and working closely with Reef Makers. These types of wrecks create a lot of interest from divers around the world and take pressure off the reefs as new dive sites. While here, Joe and Augusto did some exploratory dives around Klein Bonaire looking for possible locations to place the ship. Bonaire is difficult since the "bottom" is so deep in most areas and also slopes at a high degree.

CURO met with various governmental departments and these meetings produced a positive attitude for the project. Projects like this are not cheap and a great deal of money must be raised. CURO is looking

at various options for funding. According to Reef Makers most of these wrecks have paid for themselves in a remarkably short time through divers booking hotel rooms and the many people who come to see the rather spectacular sinking procedure.

► Who could fail to notice the **abandoned ALM airliners sitting on the outskirts of Curaçao's Hato airport**? One dive operator in Bonaire suggested they might make an even more spectacular "wreck dive" than any ship.



Alvin Obersi (center) was also instrumental in Digicel coming to Bonaire.

Digicel photo

► With his family, staff and tenants standing alongside him, Obersi Group of Companies CEO and **President Alvin Obersi from Bonaire hosted a cross section of business people and government officials** as he officially inaugurated the Obersi Building in St. Maarten last Thursday. Commissioner Sara Wescott-Williams said the Obersi Group had come to St. Maarten in August 1995, less than one month before the devastation of Hurricane Luis on September 5, 1995, and has shown confidence in the island then, not only by staying, but by making a sizable investment by making his business bigger and better.

(Continued on page 7)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 6)



Hr. m Zuiderkruis (A832)
Dutch navy photo

► Eleven days after it left the port of Den Helder in the Netherlands, the newest Dutch navy ship to be on duty in the Caribbean, the **Hr. m Zuiderkruis (A832)**, arrived in Curaçao. The 170-meter-long former replenishment ship is now re-equipped as a Fast Combat Support Ship and carries a crew of 182. Although she is 31 years old she got an extensive refit last year. The ship is expected to participate in anti-drug missions for the navy and coast guard.



The huge Air Jamaica Airbus 340
Air Jamaica photo

► Despite confirmation that Air Jamaica's London route bleeds as much as \$25 million a year, the airline's managers appear reluctant to stop flying there. **Jamaica-London contributes to 35% of its operating losses.** Those losses amounted to \$72.6 million in 2005 (in 2004, \$71.5 million). "London is being assessed," said Air Jamaica president Michael Conway. But so is the entire route structure, including the weekly Bonaire-Montego Bay flight. Conway was evasive about which of Air Jamaica's routes was most profitable, saying that releasing that type of information could hurt the carrier's market

competitiveness.

Air Jamaica now flies an Airbus A340 to London, but once the current lease contract runs out, he said, the airline would not renew its arrangement with the European plane maker, raising the odds of the route being chopped. Air Jamaica plans to lease nine 737-300 aircraft and six 757-200Ws from Boeing.

A one cent increase in the cost of jet fuel results in \$500,000 of additional expenses for the airline, Conway said. In the past 10 years, Air Jamaica's jet fuel costs have increased from \$0.67 on average to \$2.31 per gallon in 2006.

With the one-year-old PetroCaribe agreement with Venezuela, however, Air Jamaica is already saving about US\$20 million per year on its fuel bill. Currently, Air Jamaica's load factor is less than 60% for two-thirds of the year, said Conway, meaning that there is a potential 40% more in passenger revenue.

Source: *The Gleaner*--Jamaica)

► The announcement that **low-cost carrier Spirit Airlines has increased its planned flights from Ft. Lauderdale to St. Maarten from two to three per week**, more than two months before they have even started, was welcome news for St. Maarten. It gave hope that in the future Bonaire could be added. Spirit's Caribbean hub is in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



Hugo Chavez

► **Hugo Chavez**, president of oil-rich Venezuela, **has urged the world to cut back on oil use to fight global warming**

Preserving the Past

Thanks to a generous grant from the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds digitalization of an enormous amount of audiovisual material of great historic and cultural value has begun. The source material, the majority on 150 Video U-Matic cassettes and other diverse media, was in jeopardy of being lost. Now it will be preserved for a longer time. The work is a project of the Historical/Cultural Foundation of Bonaire. Currently two volunteers, retirees from WEB - Papachi Salsbach and Norman Wilson - have begun the work of digitalization of the material. Some of the material includes a collection of TV programs, documentaries, promotional movies and feature films. Some titles include: "Wilson's Reward," "Duel in de Diepte," "Shark's Treasure," "A Girl Sees Bonaire," "Weekend in Bonaire," "Bonbiní to Bonaire," "Odysee d' Amour" and more. □ *Press release*



Extra photo

Digitalization staff: Ivan Wilson, Norman Wilson and Papachi Salsbach

and said his country would lead by example. Speaking on the heels of the Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which has said that climate change is a certainty and that it is caused by human activity, Chavez called on fellow Venezuelans to use public transport more in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from their vehicles.

Chavez said that the domestic price of gasoline will be increased to encourage his new public transport policy. At the moment in Venezuela it costs less than \$5 to fill an SUV with gas that would cost \$75 in Bonaire. He also announced plans to build a wind farm; to use more, cleaner-burning natural gas; and open a solar energy research center to produce photovoltaic panels to produce electricity.

Last year, Cuba and Venezuela offered free energy saver light bulbs to other Caribbean states. In Guyana, one only needs to turn in an incandescent bulb to get a free energy-saver bulb, compliments of Caracas, while in St Vincent a shipload of 250,000 Cuban-made energy savers landed. Cuban electricians will be going house to house to change all bulbs free of charge. Chavez also pointed accusing fingers at the US, saying that the consumer country was the leading cause of the world's environmental problems. The US is Venezuela's largest buyer of oil while Venezuela is the fourth largest supplier of oil to the US. "They're destroying the world," Chavez said, "The human race will be finished if we don't change the world capitalist system."

(Continued on page 9)



A Real Splash

Last Saturday afternoon around 3 the boat, N.B. 248, *Miss Eveline*, owned by boat builder and fisherman Luty Craane, had an exciting launch and almost took the crane with it. The boat is more than 20 years old. The operator of the crane is Dongo. Gilbert Kraal and Jevenson Clarendra, the four-year-old grandson of Luty, had an exciting ride. The boat was not far from the surface of the sea before the crane had to release it. All was well. The photos tell the story. □
Story & photos by Wilna Gronenboom



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 7)

► MCB Bonaire listened to your suggestions and **redesigned some of the features in their on-line banking service, MCB@Home.** The Wire Transfer feature now has enhanced template functionality, an improved request form, selectable processing time, help on SWIFT and IBAN numbers and more available currencies. And it's easier to order checks now too; you can order multiple books



and select the bank branch for pickup.

► **The last day to pay the road tax to get 2007 license plate stickers is now Friday, March 7, 2007.** It was February 9. You need a valid insurance certificate to present to the Island Ontvanger to get the sticker. **Vehicles without a valid sticker risk impoundment and a fine.**

► **The Netherlands is the third most pleasant country to live in,** after France and Australia, according to a survey of 193 countries by the Internet magazine, *International Living*. Criteria measured included the cost of living, tax levels, climate, opportunities for growing markets, safety, infrastructure and pollution. The Netherlands scored high in most categories but did particularly well when it came to personal freedom and health care.

► **Luckily, the Netherlands will not be flooded because of global warming,** but the sea level along the Dutch coast will rise more than in the rest of the world, according to a report by the Dutch environmental think-tank, MNP, and the KNMI weather bureau. The United Nations climate panel said on Friday that the sea level is set to rise between 18 and 59 centimeters by 2100, but KNMI said the rise in the sea off the Dutch coast could be as high as 85 centimeters because the level of the North Sea will be higher than elsewhere.

The southern part of Bonaire may be vulnerable to a rise in sea level, especially the Cargill salt production area. A UN report issued last week said that human behavior is responsible for more than 90% of global warming. Carbon dioxide is a leading cause of global warming, said the report.

► AWC reports: "On Saturday February 10th, wine tasters found the **Antillean Wine Company shop/storage abandoned** during the monthly wine-tasting hours. This was because they had no water!

The problem is solved now, and all are invited to come and enjoy six excellent wines (three reds and three whites from France) this coming Saturday, February 17th. They are at Kaya Industria 23, sort of across from Rocargo.

► **Welcome back to advertiser, Day Spa by Nubia.** Nubia is one of the most experienced masseuses on the island and has continued to upgrade her knowledge and expertise through the years. Nubia's "magic fingers" and hands can erase any tension and give you total relaxation. Something that should appeal to all divers is her one-hour "Deep Massage" which improves the circulation, eases muscle aches and tension while improving flexibility. Sound good? Then there's a "Special Honeymooners Package" which includes an aroma therapy massage, a hydrating facial and sea week mask for both persons. Call her at 717-2622 or 785-3398 or go to her website for full information: www.dayspabynubia.com. Nubia is located at the Sand Dollar mini mall at the traffic circle.

► After almost four decades of sailing races and parties the **Bonaire International Sailing Regatta will celebrate its 40th anniversary in October.** The preparations for this edition are underway. If you plan to visit Bonaire during the 40th edition of this major event, you are advised to book early because of high demand. For more information contact the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) at telephone number: (+599)717-8322 or visit the website: www.bonaireregatta.org. □ L./G.D.

ENVIROWATCH

People really do read *The Reporter*. In the photo Cathy Sladek helps take more batteries off Bonaire to be disposed of properly in facilities in the US. Bruce Bowker of Carib Inn, pictured here with Cathy, is always happy when people who read articles like the one that ap-



peared in *The Reporter* such as a few weeks ago when another Bonaire visitor removed batteries, and then the reader decides to do the same. The heavy and exotic metals used in today's high energy batteries can't be properly disposed of in Bonaire's landfill and our visitors are encouraged to bring their dead batteries home. □

Bruce Bowker

BONHATA 10th Anniversary Awards



BONHATA awards Sara Matera photo

On Sunday evening, February 4, BONHATA, the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association, celebrated its 10th Anniversary Annual Awards Fundraiser Event at the new Sunrise Restaurant at the Sand Dollar Condominium Resort. In celebration of the anniversary, Mr. Peter Odle, President of the Caribbean Hotel Association, and Mr. Jorge Pesquera, President and CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, were guest keynote speakers at the event. The main theme of both speakers was the need to have a unified, private sector tourism association.

This year, there were no categories for the awards. Instead, the membership was asked to "think outside of the box" and nominate a company or individual who deserved recognition for the contribution they had made to the Tourism Industry of Bonaire. The recipients were:

- Match Consultancy, BV
- Maribell De Wolff, Bonaire Tours & Vacations
- Littman's Jewellers
- Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V.
- Marcel Olij
- Bonaire Windsurfing Place
- Jenmarie Coffie, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino
- Sara Matera, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino
- Orlando Francisca, Bonaire Motorcycle Shop
- Marisela Croes, Rocargo Services, N.V.

A special award was also presented to Candice Kimmel and Marie Rosa of Adams Unlimited in recognition of their dedication

to Bonaire for over 15 years. Their company has been instrumental in making Bonaire the success it is as a tourism destination. At the same time, TCB (Tourist Corporation Bonaire) also honoured Adams Unlimited with an original picture painted by Nochi Coffie, which was presented by the Minister of Labor and Economic Affairs, Mr. Burney El Hage.

The evening was also a fund raising event and proceeds from this year's raffle are to go to the Bonaire Culinary Team to assist in their "Taste of the Caribbean" culinary competition to be held in Miami in June of this year. Preliminary accounting is indicating that nearly NAf 8.800 was raised! BONHATA would like to thank all who attended to make this evening such a success! □ *Press release/G.D.*

Bonaire District-Rent For Success

The Bonaire District, Bonaire's newest commercial retail shopping mall, is offering rental space now that it's had its 'highest point' party.

The Bonaire District, the island's first "suburban" shopping mall, located just off Bonaire's only traffic circle was unveiled last week with a party that attracted many Bonaire notables including the head of the ruling political party.

The location is a no-brainer for accessibility. The northern hotel row with resorts and apartments are in easy walking distance, and high-end housing developments are within a couple of kilometers. Harbour Village Marina is a stone's throw away.

Renters should be attracted to the mall because it has good connections with Bonaire's major roads and is convenient for hotel guests and island residents alike. Bonaire District developer and



The Duijn Construction team building the mall. Developer Deepak Daryanani at right.

downtown entrepreneur Deepak Daryanani says it will be the *crème de la*

(Continued on page 11)



The first buildings are nearing completion. Opening is planned for July 2007

(Rent for Success. Continued from page 10)
crème of Bonaire commercial retail space. It's ideal for specialty boutiques, a coffee shop, camera center, tropical clothing store, jewelry shop, ice cream parlor, bakery, liquor store, hair salon, deli, gift shop, donut shop, or flower shop and whatever you might think that people need.

The shopping center will initially house 12 shops, with each unit being 50m² in area. The shops will be offered ready for occupancy. Two units have been rented while still in the construction phase. Parking, landscaping, illumination, and security are included in the rent.

For additional information, contact Depak Daryanani at +(599) 717-2201, email info@bonairedistrict.com, or visit the web site at <http://www.bonairedistrict.com>, which also includes a renter's guide. □ G.D. and Press release



Entertainment was by Milton Kochs



Kids' Karnaval **New faces and great color for 2007**

photos by Wilna Gronenboom and Herman van Leeuwen



Picture Yourself with The Reporter Miller's Rock Boulder, Colorado US.



Longtime *Reporter* subscriber Jim Polstra writes, "Here I am reading *The Reporter* on top of Miller's Rock during a nice hike in the foothills west of Boulder, Colorado. It's warm today, but the snow in the background reminds me that the weather will be cold here at home this Christmas while I'm nice and warm (and still wearing shorts) in Bonaire!"

Notice that I'm also wearing my Larry's Wild Side T-shirt and my Jibe City hat!" □

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.) □

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.

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.

BONAIRENET

The leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don & Janet). 786-0956

Bonaire Images

Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lover's Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com

SUPPORT BONAIRE

The Island you love could use your help! Support Bonaire, Inc. provides support to

Bonaire's non-profits. To learn more about making a US tax deductible donation visit www.supportbonaire.org and help make a difference!

JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension
Day and night care. phone: 786-4651

Searching For GOOD Maid Service? For Quality House Cleaning CALL JRA

Serving Bonaire for more than 14 years
Honest, Reliable, Efficient, Thorough,
Low rates, References. One time or
multiple service
Phone 785-9041 ... and relax

OUTDOOR SPORTS

Rock climbing/Rapelling/
Abseilen Every Saturday.
Call Outdoor Bonaire 791-6272 /
785-6272

LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call
CHINA NOBO 717-8981

Vacation Rental

Cozy guest cottage
available
Studio with kitchen,
airco, cable TV, two
single beds (or king)



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Maritza St. Jago (far left) celebrates with her colleagues and family

Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. recently celebrated the 30th service anniversary of their employee Señora Maritza St. Jago. She began working on February 1, 1977, in the Cash Department as a Saving Account Clerk and has worked in many positions and now serves as an Adjustor. The event was celebrated on February 3 at the Casablanca Restaurant where, surrounded by her family, the Bank's Managing Director Evert Piar, presented her with a gold and diamond pin and the customary envelope and wished her many more years of health with the Bank. □

pull-out sofa, porch, yard and private entrance. Five minute walk to seaside promenade; 10 minute walk to town. \$50/night. Contact: bonairecottage@aol.com

For Sale

Lounge Chairs - Aluminum - welded.
All in good shape. Only NAf 89. Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

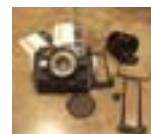
Two windsurf custom built Protec boards with covers, calbert race sails, 2 booms and miscellaneous parts please call 795-3456 asking price NAf 750,00 will negotiate! All must go!

Tae Kwondo suits belts/ helmet/leg, body and arm shields. Call 795-3456 asking price NAf 300- will negotiate- all must go!

Super Quiet Generator
EU 3000is - NEVER been used - Lightweight/compact - Stable/high power output - Low fuel consumption/oil alert Only NAf 2,499. Tel: 717-5394 <http://thai4real.spaces.live.com>



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.



Cars For Sale

Suzuki Sprint 2005 near new 9,300km. Must sell by Feb 19. Buy now for NAf 15,000, or best offer. 717-5394



FIAT BARCHETTA Cabrio, 1997, yellow, with hard-top and windstop. NAf 16,000 Tel. 786-5591.



BMW 520i - 4-door sedan, 1991, white, excellent condition. Fast, beautiful. A CLASSIC! NAf6.000 Call 785-9041



FOR SALE: Casio 275 PCR electronic cash register still in box. Loads of functions. Full sized with cash drawer. Perfect for a start up business. NAf170 or best offer. Call Bob at 786-7362 or 717-7362

Property, Sales & Rentals

I'm looking for a family house with 4 bedrooms. Please call 522-7450

Large House for rent 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms!!! Call 717-8603

Looking for Work

Spanish speaking lady with some English is looking for work as a full time, live-in maid. 700 - 9577.

Wanted

Goldfish and a private detective. Call Alex 700-0515

Local day care center Kresh Bon Kwido is in need of toys for its new after school program. For children from 4 - 7 years old: - picture and reading books, -LEGO/wooden blocks/construction toys, -cars/vehicles (big&small), -wooden and normal jigsaw puzzle, -family games like dominos, memory etc. Second hand is ok, as long as it is in good state. Call 717-8911/fax.717-8935; email kreshbonkwido@hotmail.com. Drop off at: Kaya MC Hellmund Boom 1 (behind the Hospital)

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

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

Found

Found: Baseball cap - lost by Dutch gentleman at the beginning of the Walk-a-Thon, Sunday, Feb. 4. Call 786-6518. □

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CACTUS BLUE

Bonaire... somewhere in the Dutch Caribbean

How can you tell when an island restaurant is on its way to becoming an island institution? You might begin by checking the repeat customers. And at Cactus Blue Restaurant's first birthday celebration last Wednesday there were several repeaters plus a couple of guests who dined there on the opening night a year ago.

What is filling the tables at Cactus Blue? Let's start with the food: interesting choices, deliciously prepared, presented artfully. A restaurant reviewer once told us that a measure of a fine restaurant was the quality of the vegetables served "on the side." In Cactus Blue they are fresh, crisp and as tasty as the main course.

If you'd like alcoholic beverages with your dinner you'll find the CB bartender will satisfy your craving. We were awed by the "Cactus Potion" served in a half-liter glass. The margaritas are full of flavor and tequila. If you want to surprise your waitress, ask for an "Accidental Baileys" to accompany your dessert.

The staff is efficient and smooth; in fact one of the young ladies has been with the CB team from the start.

But it is the warm, welcoming feeling that envelops you after you are seated that makes Cactus Blue special. On that Birthday Night, as he is on numerous other nights each month, Ralph "Moogie" Stewart entertained with his special blend of percussion-guided music. Never intrusive, he gradually enchants the diners to fall under his musical spell so that some even get up and dance.

Another Bonaire institution is a building. Be a part of it. Secure reservations at Cactus Blue by calling 717-4364. It's just north of the Divi Flamingo resort at Kaya J.A. Abraham 12 (www.cactusbluebonaire.com). Tell them you read about CB in *The Bonaire Reporter*. △ G.D.



Judie and Arnold Krup-sack from Wisconsin who were diners on Cactus Blue's opening night last year were on hand for the birthday party.



Cactus Blue staff join in the birthday celebration: Hagen, Chef Pedro, Moogie, Corinna, and staff Magnirys, Paola, Anna and Sje Maijma (leaning down in front).



Some of Moogie's questions were tough... this contestant said she watched "Animal Planet... and lost."



Another contestant answered correctly and won.



Pet of the Week

One of the newest arrivals in the cat cage at the Bonaire Animal Shelter is little "Hazel." She's interested in everything and seems to be loving life. She's only four months old but already she's showing her sweet disposition and personality. She's a regular purr machine whenever she gets petted or has attention. Now there's an appreciative kitten! Hazel is particularly interesting because of her gray fur – it's variation in color is almost like soft rabbit fur. Top that off with striped legs and tail and you have a real cutie. This kitten has been treated well by people and her attitude shows it.



"Hazel"

As are all the other adoptees at the Shelter Hazel is in top physical condition, has been tested and examined by the vet, has had her shots and will be sterilized when she's old enough. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

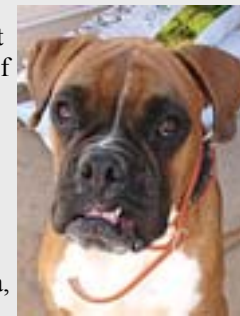
To raise funds for the Shelter the board has a regular table at the **Parke Publico Flea Market on the first Saturday of every month.** The next one is on Saturday, March 3. They've sold nearly everything and could use some **more items like books, clothes, household things**, whatever. So take a look around, clear out your clutter and drop it all off at the Shelter. It's going for a very good cause – to help keep the Shelter open to accept unwanted dogs and cats.

Want to help the Shelter and hear some good music too? Buy a ticket to the **Fundraising Show to benefit the Shelter Sterilization Program. It's aboard the Freewinds** on Sunday, March 4, at 7:30 pm. Tickets are NA/\$25 and available at the Shelter. □L.D.

LOST DOG

Who has seen our boxer Tyson?

He ran away last week in the area of Nort Salija and Mal Macho. He is a large, light brown dog, dark face, white tipped tail. Reward for finder. Call Linda, Tel: **701-2244**



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
2-16	1:30	1.0FT.	2:20	1.0FT.	11:47	2.0FT.	20:33	0.9FT.	84
2-17	1:34	1.1FT.	4:01	1.1FT.	12:31	1.9FT.	20:57	1.0FT.	93
2-18	2:07	1.2FT.	5:38	1.1FT.	13:26	1.8FT.	21:16	1.0FT.	99
2-19	2:52	1.4FT.	7:27	1.2FT.	14:18	1.6FT.	21:26	1.1FT.	101
2-20	3:49	1.5FT.	10:03	1.2FT.	15:36	1.4FT.	21:22	1.2FT.	98
2-21	4:43	1.6FT.	12:38	1.1FT.	17:22	1.3FT.	20:52	1.2FT.	92
2-22	5:46	1.8FT.	14:19	1.0FT.					82

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)

The Holiday
(Cameron Diaz)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
Pursuit Of Happiness
(Will Smith)

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

Karneval—See schedule above

Saturday, February 17—Antillean Wine Company Wine Tasting, 7-9 pm, AWC warehouse, Kaya Industrial #23 (across from Warehouse, Rocargo). NAf20 per person for 6 different wines.

Wednesdays in February – Happy One Year Birthday at Cactus Blue Restaurant. Dine there and win great prizes; music by Moogie. Open 5 pm until late. J.A. Abraham Blvd. #12. Tel. 717-4564

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: Wed. Feb. 21 – *Crown Princess*; Thurs. Feb. 22 – *Silver Wind*;

COMING

Monday, February 26th - Duofest 2007 onboard the *Freewinds* at 7.30 pm. Tickets on sale at Boutique Vita, Bonaire Boekhandel, Flamingo Bookstore and the Rose Inn Bar Restaurant -Rincon Cost: NAf 25 to benefit the Foundation for Art & Culture of Bonaire

Saturday, March 3 – Big Monthly Rincon Marshe - 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.

Saturday, March 3 – Flea Market at Parke Publico – 3-7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot call 787-0466

Sunday, March 4 – Bonaire Animal Shelter Fundraising Show to benefit the Sterilization Fund, on board the *Freewinds*, 7:30 pm. Tickets sold at the Shelter, NAf25.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina

Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon: Tues. Feb. 27 – *Lili Marleen*; Tues., Mar. 6 – *Veendam*; Wed. Mar. 7 – *Crown Princess*; Tues. Mar. 13 – *Lili Marleen*, *Sea Princess*; Wed. Mar. 21 – *Crown Princess*; Tues. Mar. 27 – *Lili Marleen*, *Veendam*

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.) 5-6
- 2 for 1 appetizers with entrée 6-7, **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** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Steak Night** On the Beach (a la carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 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.
- **Bike Trips**—Meet at Eden Beach Activity Center 4 pm. Free. Helmets mandatory. 785-0767
- **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
- **Beginning Yoga** 6.30pm Harbour Village 786-6416
- Fish or Meat **Dinner Special for only \$10**. **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6 –9:30 pm
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- **Advanced Yoga** 6.30pm Harbour Village 786-6416
- **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**.

Karneval Schedule

- Feb 17 Adult's Karneval Parade (Rincon)
- Feb 18 Adults' Karneval Parade (Playa)
- Feb 19 Farewell Youth Parade
- Feb 20 Grand Finale Evening Karneval Parade (Playa)
- Feb 21 Ash Wednesday



- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **Beach BBQ 7-10 & Live music by Flamingo Rockers -The Windsurf Place** at Sorobon –Reserve ahead. Tel. 717-5091, 717-2288
- **Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm
- **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- 9:30 pm

Fridays

- **Mixed Level Yoga** 8:30am, Buddy Dive 786-6416
- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 - 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5255
- **Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers" Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7 pm
- **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, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

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.
- **Tuesdays & Wednesdays**—**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Buddy Dive Resort (717-3802) at 7:00pm. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at the Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8817) at 7:00pm.

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.
- **AI-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

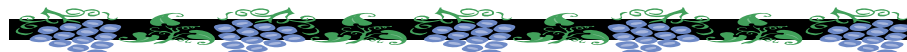
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **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 Claire 717-8290
- **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 Anriol, 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

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Extensive snack/salad/burger. Menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—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 (7-1- 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

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.

DAY SPA

Day Spa by Nubia offers relaxing body and facial treatments, nail and foot care, waxing. Special packages for Divers and Honeymooners.

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

PHOTO FINISHING

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

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's most experienced real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.

Re/Max Paradise Homes: Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them to sell fast.

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

REPAIRS

Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345

RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.

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

SECURITY

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

SHIPPING

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

WATER TAXI

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

WINDSURFING

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

WINES

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

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125

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

Born on Bonaire Johnny Leoneta

“I was born August 10, 1962. My father is Evaristo ‘Ruman’ Leoneta; my mother was Rosa Julia Leoneta-de Palm. I am the second child of their six children. My only brother, Dwight, was born in 1979 when I was 17. My childhood was quiet and my parents were not very strict; maybe my mom a little bit more than my dad, but that wasn’t so bad!

When I was 13 I started ‘working’ as a DJ with my friend Silvio Hart. We played softball and on Sundays when there was a party after the game we would take care of the music, and in the late Sunday afternoons we would play music at kunukus. Silvio would bring his record player and I came with the records which belonged mostly to my family. We played Antillean music, salsa, merengue, reggae, hiphop – Caribbean music - and we were popular; people would ask for us frequently. In 1980 we found a name for our mobile disco - ‘Hotline Disco.’

When I finished ETAO School (technical and administration) I went to A-Stream School and I was the best graduate in 1979. Then I went to work with my dad who was a contractor, but I still worked as a DJ and I was also playing softball and korfbal. I worked with my father until 1993, and then I only focused on music – that’s what I love – and organized public parties and cultural activities. I also worked as a coordinator for Sentro di Bario di Nikiboko and twice I was the coordinator for Dia di Boneiru in Nikiboko.

During the time I was organizing the public parties you could live off it, but now you can’t. Then you could easily get 600 people to come to a party. Now you have to work very hard to get just 200 people together. In the early days we would play all types of music, and the public was mixed - young and old and everyone in between. It’s still like that in Aruba and that’s what I love, but on Curaçao and Bonaire the young people stay separate from the other age groups. In Curaçao it’s no problem because there are plenty of people of every age, but on Bonaire you can’t get enough people together except for holidays like Dia di Rincon or Dia di Boneiru when there are a lot of visitors.

The young people nowadays like *ritmo kombiná* (cadans) and the elderly mostly like *montuno* (almost like salsa) and a little bit of salsa. My favorite music? Salsa! I love to dance! And of course our folkloric music.

In 1999 I started working for Bon FM as a DJ. Every morning we had a music show from 7 until 9 and from 9 to 12.00 am with Bon Dia Musikal, and on Saturdays and later, on Thursdays, a show

called *Salsa Kombiná*. It was fun! I did it until 2005, but I still belong to the Bon FM family and I hope to join them again by the end of this year. I’ve had many offers from other radio stations, but I’ll stay with Bon FM.

I don’t play an instrument myself, but I do write songs. I was always good in writing at school, and when I hear music I always listen to the words. In 1987 I wrote a tumba, ‘Eiden,’ for my brother Dwight who was nine years old then. He sang the song at the Tumba Festival but he didn’t come home with a prize. It was the first time I wrote something. I guess I was disappointed, yeah,” *he laughs*, “because it took me a long time to do it again!

In 1999 I wrote a song for the big Tumba Festival with my brother Dwight - ‘*Skeiru Boneiru*’ - and that went very well because Dwight and his band, ‘Obsession,’ got second place with the song. I felt good! It gave me courage! It was a top year for Dwight and ‘Obsession’ because they also won the title, ‘*Rei di Tumba*’ (King of Tumba) in the same festival with a tumba of Luigi Statie.

“For centuries we’ve been putting the blame on the Dutch because of what happened in history but I think we should get over it because none of those people are alive anymore and we’re responsible for ourselves”

In 2005 I wrote the tumba, ‘*Tur ku tin*,’ and Dwight wrote the music. Rignald Trinidad was the singer and... we won! In 2006 I wrote the words and Dwight did the music for the tumba, ‘*Un Kedá*.’ Robert Sancez sang and... we won! This year I wrote the lyrics for ‘*Saké Wayé*.’ Juan Angela and his son Garrick wrote the music and it was sung by Jonathan Clarinda, a 16-yea-old boy. He became the youngest *Rei di Tumba* ever on Bonaire, because we won!

First the lyrics and then the music; that’s how it goes. Usually you have to sit together with the composer, but when my brother Dwight writes the music, there’s nothing to discuss, I just send him my lyrics and he composes the song. We’re on one level, we understand each other perfectly well.

Dwight lives in Holland where he studied audio engineering at the conserva-

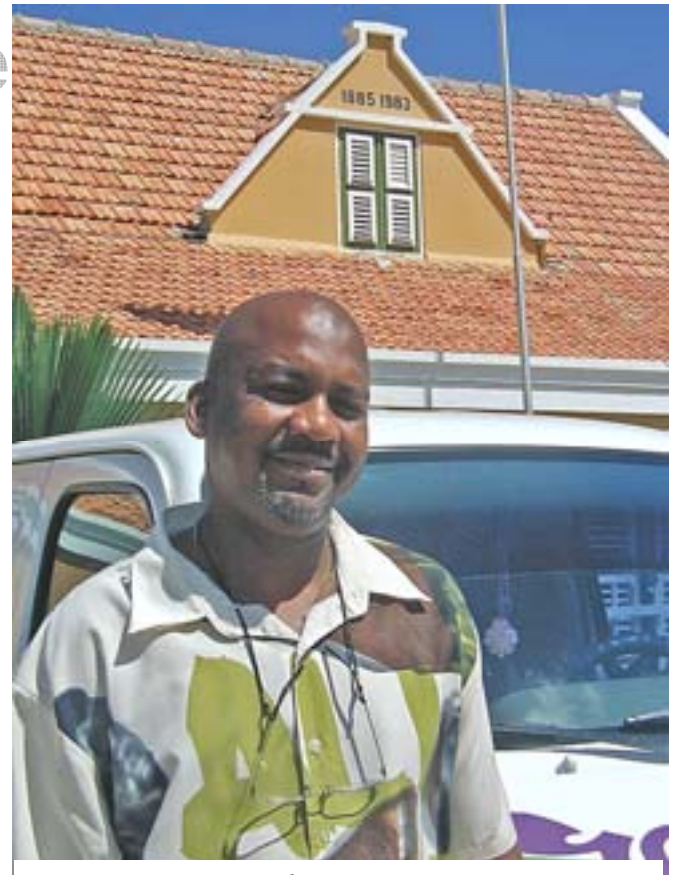
tory. He’s the band leader of a very successful Antillean band, ‘*Caché de Luxe*.’ I also wrote songs for a Pal’i Wiri CD, for a CD of a band called ‘Swave’ and for *Caché de Luxe*. It comes easy to me; someone says something or I see or hear or read something – or when I am running – I run almost every day in nature—and all of a sudden... there it is! And when I wake up with the words in the middle of the night I immediately write them down. If not, they’ll be lost forever!

I love to read, mostly history books, and every day I buy three, four newspapers. I used to write for *Nobo* newspaper; I had my own column ‘*Farandula Boneiriano*,’ about music and cultural activities. Since 2005 I’m working for the government, for SKAL, organizing cultural activities, working at the museum, all kinds of things, and I like it, it’s very diverse. I am also the chairman of ASOMBO, the Bonaire Musicians Association. It’s like a union for all the Bonairean musicians. We help them with the contracts, things like that, and next year we’re going to organize the Tumba Festival with the Bonaire Karnaval Foundation, a big project! We also want to build a festival center because we can’t have music festivals in the stadium anymore as they’re putting artificial grass there. So, we’re looking for a location where the neighbors won’t be bothered and we hope the government will help us to get a spot.

And besides all this I still have my own mobile disco, ‘DJ Hotline’ (call 796-9091/786-9091). I started with records, then cassettes, then CDs and now it’s the computer – a lot has changed! I do parties for all ages because I love music - all music – not just one kind...”

Johnny Leoneta has the cutest smile and he looks way younger than his 44 years. He’s mellow and easy going and just a wonderful guy.

“One of my biggest wishes is to learn how to play an instrument, and the most important thing for me in life is my family - we have a close-knit family - and my children. I have four children, two in Holland and two on Bonaire. My daughter Tania in Holland is 19 and she just made me a grandpa. My son Johnneson is 15. On Bonaire I have my daughter Ruthvianca who’s 14 and my daughter



Johnny Leoneta

Ella who’s three. After my family and my children comes music, music, music...

I love Bonaire, very, very much; there’s no place like Bonaire. Bonaire has a lot of potential and so does its people. We can do anything, but it’s a pity most of the people don’t realize that. We have very good musicians and bands and when they perform people start moving a bit, but when a band from Curaçao comes over, people freak out. Bonaireans should appreciate their own bands, their own music much more; they should appreciate everything that’s Bonairean much more.

I hope Bonaire will do better in the future. Especially the politicians should focus only on what’s good for the island instead of quarreling amongst themselves; they don’t realize that if they destroy each other, they also destroy the island. A new Bonaire is what we’re heading for and let’s hope everything gets better. I am not afraid that we will lose our culture, our way of life, our music or our language, because it’s so strong inside of us – we won’t lose it easily. And I never had a problem with other people - Dutch, Dominican, Colombian, Chinese, American or Bonairean - we’re all the same; there are good and bad ones, but most of them are good. For centuries we’ve been putting the blame on the Dutch because of what happened in history but I think we should get over it because none of those people are alive anymore and we’re responsible for ourselves. The best thing about Bonaire? That’s Bonaire! All of it!” □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



A Shrink Studies SCUBA

TABLE . Relative Risk of Panic During Dive in Presence of the Following:

	Males N=9292	Females N = 2939
Hyperventilation	4.6	3.1
Other physical/psychological factor(s) not listed	3.4	2.4
Other equipment problem(s) not listed	3.4	2.0
Other dive condition(s) not listed	3.4	2.6
Chest tightness	2.6	2.0
Fear of the unknown	2.5	2.1
Cold water	2.1	1.1
Poor visibility	1.9	1.1
Inhaled water instead of air	1.8	1.5
Task overload	1.8	1.4
Fear of scrutiny or embarrassment	1.6	1.2
Loss of orientation	1.6	1.3
Fatigue or overexertion	1.6	1.1
Low on air or out of air	1.6	0.6
Deep dive	1.3	0.5
Separation from buddy or instructor	1.2	0.8
Strong current or surge	1.2	0.7
Uncontrolled ascent	1.1	0.7
Difficulty operating buoyancy compensator	1.1	1.2
Entrapment or entanglement	1.1	0.6
Poorly fitting equipment	1.0	0.6
Loss of mask	1.0	1.2
Dry suit dive	1.0	0.6
Rough sea or surf	0.9	0.7
Overhead environment (cave, wreck, ice)	0.7	0.3
Nighttime or darkness	0.6	0.4
Over-weighted or under-weighted	0.6	0.4
Long surface swim	0.5	0.3
Loss of weight belt	0.5	0.3
Mask leak	0.4	0.4
Solo dive	0.4	0.1
Medication, other than decongestant	0.4	0.3
Difficulty equalizing ears	0.4	0.4
Regulator leak or free flow	0.4	0.2
Muscle cramps	0.3	0.2
Motion sickness	0.3	0.3
Decongestant medication	0.3	0.2
Dive light failure	0.2	0.1
Loss of computer or gauge functions	0.2	0.1
Shark	0.2	0.1
Other dangerous marine life	0.2	0.1
Broken or loose fin strap	0.2	0.1
Sharing air	0.1	0.4
Tank slippage	0.1	0.1



In 2000 when my wife Lynn and I conducted the “world’s largest diver survey,” our main goal was to determine exactly what factor or combination of factors led to diver panic aside from just “stress.” The unquestioned gospel in all the dive literature for decades has been that diver panic is the number one cause of diver deaths, so it is a worthy research subject.

PADI vice president of international training, Drew Richardson, challenged me over even the feasibility of studying the problem, but as a private psychiatrist I told him that even severe panic disorder patients can remember the details of their first panic attack. I also had several panic disorder patients who were divers and not only had they never had a panic attack while diving, but they claimed they felt the most relaxed when they were diving. DAN founder and then president Dr. Peter Bennett gave me a big break when he allowed me to administer a beta test of the survey to the 100+ attendees of a Dive Medicine continuing education course that summer, which helped me convince Drew that the study could be done.

Over 13,000 scuba divers from around the world participated in the online survey sponsored and hosted by Rodale’s *Scuba Diving* magazine and actively supported by then PADI vice president of international training, Dr. Drew Richardson. Many dive clubs and other organizations around the globe helped publicize it. Paper surveys were also made available for magazine readers without access to the web. We designed the 28 questions with the invaluable input of experts like Dr. Peter Bennett, Dr. Drew Richardson, Dr. Art Bachrach, Dr. William Morgan, Dr. Thomas Griffiths, and many of my dive buddies on Bonaire and in Raleigh. Due to incomplete surveys the final number of useable surveys was just over 12,200. In May 2002 I presented a poster and gave a brief talk to the annual international scientific meeting of the UHMS in La Jolla, California. At the request of Drew Richardson we prepared a six-page feature article for *The Undersea Journal* first quarter 2003 issue. Both can be found at www.DivePsych.com.

But Lynn and I failed to achieve our main goal of determining exactly what factor or combination of factors leads to diver panic. We used the useable responses to questions 6 and 26 to calculate the relative risk of panic under each of the 44 “circumstances that you have ever experienced while

scuba diving” (Question 6) and “conditions that were present during your first panicked dive” (Question 26). We also asked in question 26 if they were experiencing the condition for the FIRST TIME during their first panicked dive, but apparently too many respondents got confused by the question’s wording, so we had to just analyze the conditions that were present during the first panicked dive whether it was the first time they had ever experienced them or not.

When I showed Dr. Bennett Table 1 and he saw that three of the top four factors were “Other,” “Other,” and “Other,” his response was that we had proven nothing after several years of hard work. Researchers do not tend to publish negative findings, so the table has resided in my laptop until now.

For three years I conducted follow up surveys of those divers and am slowly analyzing the data and releasing the results, such as the prior articles on diver obesity. In September I will be speaking at a workshop on diver panic and stress at the South Africa UHMS annual dive medicine refresher course in Johannesburg, South Africa. □



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. □





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

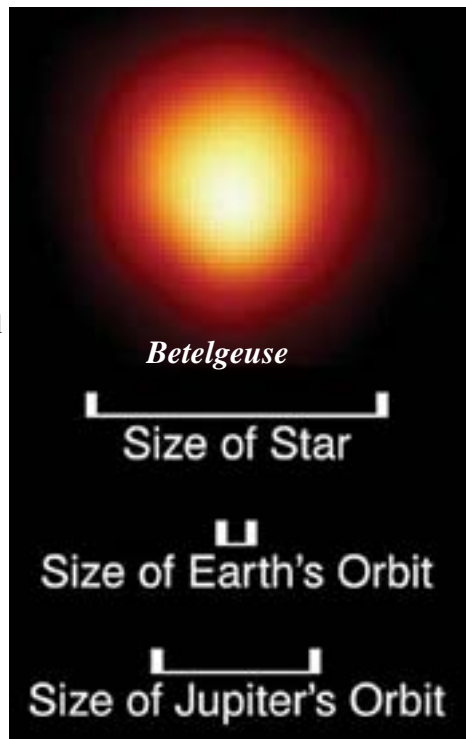
The Goddess of Love, The Lord of The Rings, and the Valentine's Day Star

Every year close to Valentine's Day I like to show you how to find a brilliant red star I call the **Valentine's Day Star** in the Bonaire Sky Park so you can share something beautiful and cosmic with your sweetheart. But this year we have two very special added cosmic attractions for Valentine's Day night - the super brilliant planet named for the Roman goddess of love and the most beautiful of all the planets as seen through a telescope and nicknamed "**The Lord of the Rings**." So this year you can show your loved one three jewel-like cosmic Valentines and all can be seen in early evening.

On any night this week including Valentine's Day night just after sunset, face west where you will see the most brilliant planet of them all, 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**, the same size as our planet **Earth** but much more brilliant because it's completely covered by a layer of clouds which makes it act like a giant mirror for the sunlight which bounces off of it. So Venus is cosmic goodie #1 for you and your sweetheart. To see #2 wait until around 8 pm, then look due east and just above the horizon you'll see another light not as bright as Venus, but the loveliest planet as seen through a small telescope, 75,000-mile-wide **Saturn**, which this week is still at its closest and brightest for all of 2007.

So you now have two cosmic jewels to present. To see the third simply face south between the hours of 8 and 9 pm and you'll see the star I call the Valentine's Day star because it's very bright and very red. And just coincidentally it reaches its highest point above the horizon every Valentine's week between the hours of 8 and 9 pm. It is in fact the brightest red star we can see with the naked eye from planet Earth. It marks the shoulder star of **Orion the Hunter** and its name is **Betelgeuse**. And if you've ever wanted to give your loved one a really big Valentine this is about as big as it ever gets. In fact if we compare Betelgeuse with our own star, our 865,000-mile-wide **Sun**, Betelgeuse is so humongous we could fit over 160 million Suns inside it. And that's when Betelgeuse is at its smallest size because Betelgeuse changes its size regularly like a gigantic slowly pulsating Valentine heart, one that beats, however, only once every six years. When Betelgeuse is fully contracted at its smallest size it is a whopping 500 times the width of our Sun, but when it expands to its biggest size it is a super 900 times as wide. In fact if we could place Betelgeuse where our Sun is, Betelgeuse at its smallest, contracted size would reach out past the orbits of **Mercury**, **Venus** and **Earth** all the way to **Mars**. And when it's at its largest it would stretch almost all the way to **Jupiter**. Wow!

So there you have it! In the west the planet named for the goddess of love, in the east the exquisite Lord of the Rings and in the south the biggest cosmic Valentine you'll ever see, a giant red star slowly beating like a heavenly heart for the one you love. Is this a romantic cosmos or what? □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, February 11 to Saturday, February 17

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your questions will help you ferret out secret information. You don't owe anyone an explanation. Do your own thing, you need time to yourself. Make any necessary changes to your insurance policy. Rely on the one you love for support and affection. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Get involved in activities that will bring you knowledge about foreign lands, philosophies, or cultures. Don't be too quick to respond to a plea for help. Your concern with older family members and those less fortunate than yourself will only add to your attractiveness. You can't make things better if you don't know what to fix. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You can meet a new romantic partner or secure the love connection you already have by going out and entertaining yourself. You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. Be careful while traveling. You will have excellent ideas and you should be able to help your partner get ahead. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Stomach problems could prevail if you haven't been watching your diet. Children's needs could be more costly than you anticipated. If you put your mind to it, you could entertain or host a multitude of social events. Don't make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Overindulgence will mean poor health. Money may slip through your fingers. Emotional upset may prevail on the domestic scene if you have neglected your duties or your mate. You may want to sign up for courses that will encourage you to have more confidence in yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your charm will attract members of the opposite sex. Involvement in financial schemes will be followed by losses. Take time to find out all you can. Your compassion will be appreciated more than you can imagine. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) In-laws may cause difficulties. Travel should be considered. Try to ease any disappointment by making amends. Your home environment may be volatile if precautions aren't taken. Major job changes or opportunities to get ahead professionally are apparent. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted. A romantic dinner, followed by a quiet evening with the one who is enticing you, should be most satisfying. Property deals will pay big dividends. You will be erratic and quite likely to make personal mistakes. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You've been hurt before and could be again if you don't play hard to get. Disputes on the home front may be hard to avoid. Spend a quiet day with the one you love. Equilibrium in your romantic life is likely if you treat your partner well. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Get involved in volunteer work that will bring you satisfaction, not an empty wallet. Catch up on your reading and correspondence. Your dramatic nature may be too much to handle. You're eager to learn. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't let your personal problems interfere with your professional responsibilities. You won't be able to keep a secret. Trips will be enjoyable, and communication with your lover will clear up any misconceptions. You may be overly emotional when dealing with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Get involved in activities that will bring you knowledge about foreign lands, philosophies, or cultures. Your partner could make you angry if they steal your thunder or embarrass you in front of others. Traffic will be busier than you anticipated, so try to get a head start if you have made plans to travel. Avoid lending money or belongings to friends. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □