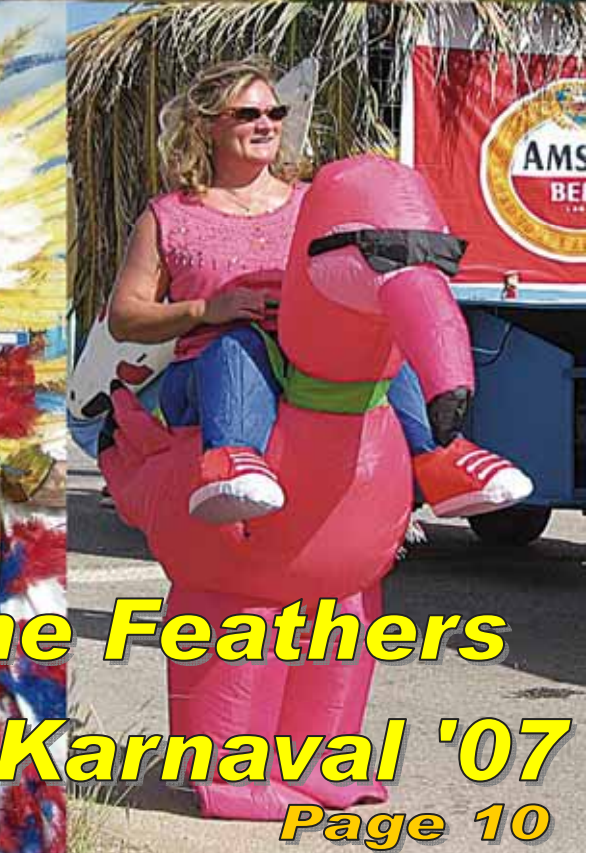


The **BONAIRE** REPORTER

February 23- March 2, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 9

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***Fine Feathers
for Karnaval '07***
Page 10



photos by Wilna Gronenboom, Laura DeSalvo, Phil Riposo

Flotsam and Jetsam

“We asked for 30 million guilders, we got 300 million.” With those triumphant words Ramonsito Booi, political leader of the UPB (green) party in power on Bonaire, reported the outcome of talks with Dutch Minister Atzo Nicolaï of Kingdom Relations. The financial injection is to give the island a healthy starting position before it becomes a Dutch municipality on December 15, 2008.

The money will correct a longstanding liquidity problem, says Booi. “Every day we ask ourselves the question, how much money is there today and which problems can we tackle with that? Do we pay pharmacies this month or do we repair a school? Papa Cornes, with 480 students, for example is badly in need of major maintenance.

Bonaire is burdened with towering debts and arrears, most of which were generated by Central Government management. The new money must come soon.” (Trix van Bennekom)

► **Ank Bijleveld-Schouten is the new Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations.** Currently she is mayor of the new township, Hof van Twente. She is the first female administrator in The Netherlands who is charged with the Antilles. The appointment of the Secretary of State for Kingdom Relations is one



Ank Bijleveld-Schouten
Dutch Information service photo

of the last ones of the fourth cabinet of Premier Jan Peter Balkenende (CDA). The names of other ministers and secretaries of state have already been announced earlier. But as it often is in the case of Kingdom Relations it is one of the last.

The Antilles and Aruba will now deal with a State Secretary instead of a Minister. The last secretary charged with the Kingdom affairs was Gijs de Vries in 2000. Since then here were quite a few ministers, like Johan Remkes Thom de Graaf (D66), Alexander Pechtold, again Remkes, and the current

outgoing Minister Atzo Nicolaï.

Ank’s proper name is Anna Theodora Berandrina Bijleveld-Schouten. She is 44 years old, married, and has two daughters. She has no specific experience with the Antilles. From September 1997 until September 1998, she was the Lower House Chairwoman of the Standing Committee for (Netherlands) Antillean and Aruban Affairs (NAAZ).



Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage speaking with Dutch Minister Nicolaï Dutch Information service photo

► “I would have preferred a Minister,” said Antilles Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage who says that she doesn’t know the new Secretary but that she is happy that the same advisers and government employees with the Antilles will remain in office. “We can be satisfied. If the Netherlands continues to pay the same attention to us, it doesn’t matter whether it is a Minister or a Secretary of State,” says the Premier. “If we come under a Minister with a busy portfolio, we will be neglected. I would have preferred a Minister only charged with the Antilles and preferably kept Atzo Nicolaï. But a Secretary of State with attention to the Antilles is also good, she added.

► A study by UNICEF, the United Nation’s children’s foundation, indicates that **Dutch children have it better than their peers in other rich countries.** UNICEF looked at a number of relevant factors like poverty, safety and education in 21 industrialized countries. The Netherlands topped the list. Denmark and Sweden came in second and third place. The UK came in at the bottom of the list, preceded by the US.

(Continued on page 4)

Because Bonaire will soon (December 15, 2008) be directly governed by The Netherlands, often referred to by the name Holland, we thought we’d present some **basic information** for our readers. The country has a population of 15.6 million people in an area of 41.526 km². Lots of its area is low-lying (its name literally means low countries or low lands.) It is popularly known for its windmills, cheese, clogs (wooden shoes) dikes, tulips, bicycles and social tolerance. Its policies are liberal towards drugs, prostitution, same-sex marriage, abortion and euthanasia.



At the national level there are **12 ministries** headed by a Prime Minister who leads the Government. At the regional level there are **12 provinces** headed by a Queen’s Commissioner. At the local level there are **636 municipalities**, (*gemeenten*) each headed by a Mayor. Bonaire will become another. A province represents the administrative layer between the national government and the local municipalities.

The Government of each province consists of three major parts - *Provincial Staten* which is the provincial parliament elected every four years; *Gedeputeerde Staten*, elected from the members of provincial parliament charged with most executive tasks; and Royal Commissioner of the Queen, appointed by the Crown. (R. Zaandam)

BONAIRE THIS WEEK: The REPORTER

Table of Contents

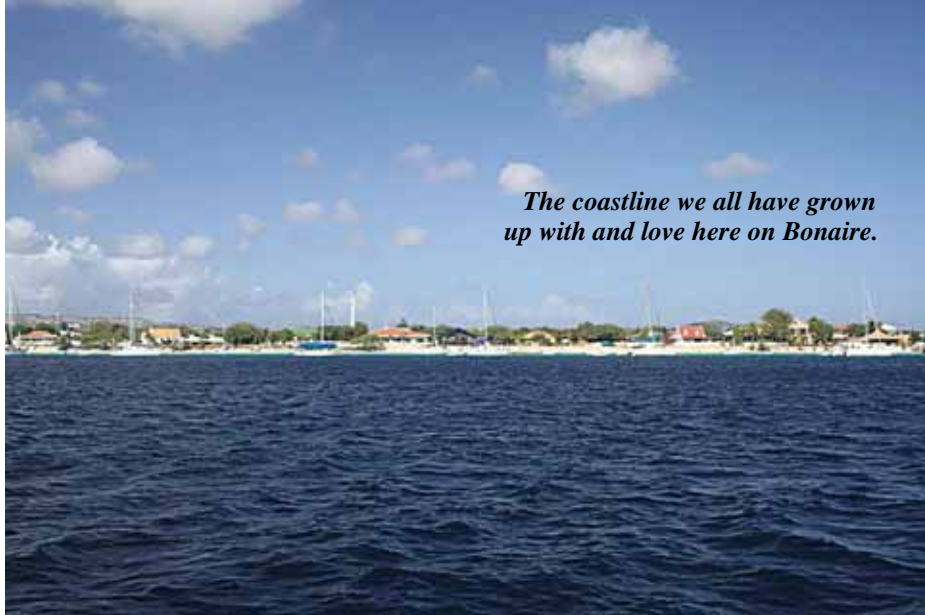
Envirowatch (Shoreline)	3
Guest Editorial (School Children's Carnival and SGB)	5
Announcements: Huckaby-Bailie wedding	5
Gear Doc (Regulator Hoses)	6
Letters	
Sharp Skeletons of Coral	8
Friends or Foes? (Frogfish & Seahorses)	9
Karneval	10
Where to find Reporter	10
2nd Kiteboarder Crossing	13
Pegasus Foundation Visits	18
Bonaire on Wheels (El Camino)	18

WEEKLY FEATURES:

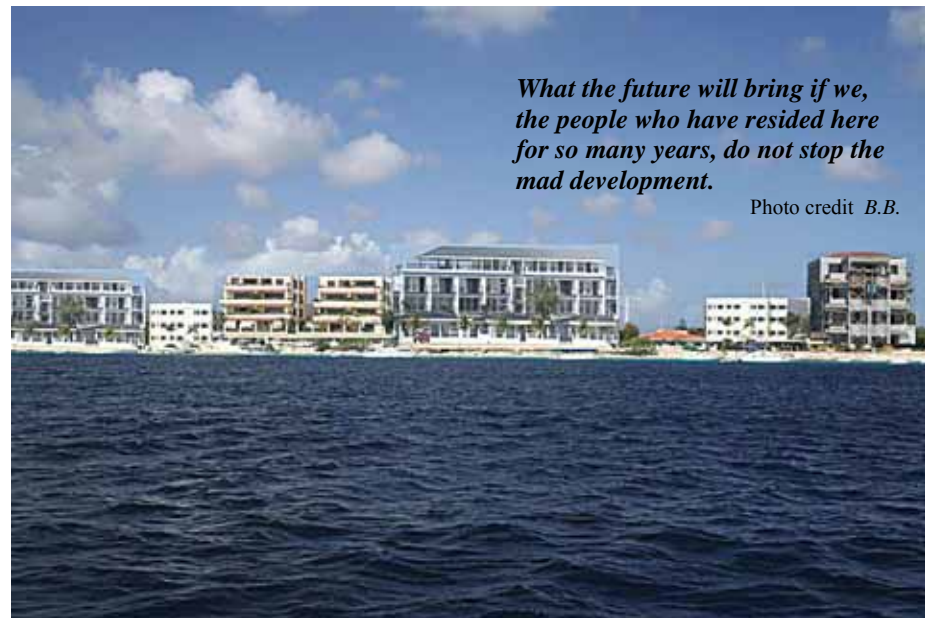
Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Biologists Bubbles (Heart Urchins)	3
Straight Talk	7
Coral Glimpses	8
Picture Yourself (Great Wall of China)	12
Sudoku	12
Classifieds	12
Pet of the Week (Francine)	14
Tide Table	14
Reporter Masthead	14
What's Happening	15
Movieland Film Schedule	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
Born on Bonaire (Emmy Schermer)	17
Sky Park (Saturn)	19
The Stars Have It	19



ENVIROWATCH



The coastline we all have grown up with and love here on Bonaire.



What the future will bring if we, the people who have resided here for so many years, do not stop the mad development.

Photo credit B.B.

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...Heart urchins are never happier than when they have crabs?

Pea crabs that is. Heart urchins are about the size of a big cantaloupe and live in sandy areas just below the surface of the sand. You can find them by looking for their tell-tale track and a few pieces of coral rubble that they keep just on the top of their exoskeletons at the sediment/water interface. It's easier to find them at night when they rise up a bit and scavenge for food. I'll sometimes excavate one



Heart urchin with pea crab Photo by the author

in order to show it to a group of kids or adults. I handle it very gently (the spines are very sharp) and keep it under water while searching for their symbiotic crabs – heart urchin pea crabs. These crabs are tiny and white and once they've found a host heart urchin, rarely ever leave. The crabs are protected by the urchin's short, stiff spines, and the heart urchin has a full-time cleaning staff at its beck and call (the crabs remove dead skin or debris from the urchin's spines – sometimes even consuming odd particles of food). After handling the urchin, I'll put it back in the exact place where I found it and gently push the sand back around its body and place a few bits of coral rubble on top – just the way I found it! It is against Bonaire Marine Park's rules to touch anything underwater unless you are a trained biologist or naturalist. So if you're dying to see one of these crabs, find a biologist or a naturalist who is willing to show you one. □ *Caren Eckrich.*



Heart urchin Photo by the author

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.



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

► From February 26 on, **Mayor Baukje Galama of Vlieland and her colleague, Joke Geldorp of Texel, both Frisian islands in the Netherlands, will be in Bonaire on an 11-day working visit.** The *Leeuwarden Courant* reported that the two mayors are striving for a similar status as that offered to Bonaire, Saba and Statia for their islands.

► **The Government Information Service advised persons traveling to Jamaica where there is an outbreak of malaria to take precautionary measures to protect themselves** from contracting the disease. The Ministry of Health of Jamaica has confirmed more than 287 cases of malaria which have occurred in Kingston and outlying parishes. There have been a few cases of malaria also reported in the Dominican Republic in the province of La Altagracia.

The disease is most commonly transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito, specifically the female Anopheles mosquito, a dusk-to-dawn biter. The Jamaica Ministry of Health plans to continue intense surveillance activities. The occurrence of the outbreak highlights the importance of conducting surveillance in countries that are non-endemic to malaria.

► **Insel Air, the new Curaçao based airline, flying an old MD-80 to St. Maarten, has accused its competitor, Dutch Antilles Express (DAE), of unsafe activities,** according to Curaçao newspapers. Insel Air alleges problems with the ATR42 engines and kerosene problems with its modern Fokker 100 jet. They want a government inquiry. (source *Aviation News*)

► **The Economic Affairs and Labor Service (DEZA) closed the UTS retail shop in Bonaire** last week because Curaçao-owned UTS "has no business permit to open a store on Bonaire." According to reports, DEZA informed UTS about the problem last year but UTS did not request a permit until last month. UTS operates a cellular phone service as well as a wireless TV cable service on the island. They are currently in a dispute with Bonaire-owned TELBO about "ownership" of 78x phone numbers used for cellular service on the island.

► FORMA, an institute on Bonaire for adult education, will start several interesting language courses in March. **During**

the week of March 5th they will start with four different groups of classes:

- 1) Papiamentu for beginners, plus conversation (instruction language English)
- 2) Papiamentu for beginner's plus conversation (instruction language Spanish).
- 3) & 4) English and Spanish classes for beginners.

All classes will be from 6:30 – 8 pm, in comfortable classrooms with air conditioning. If there is sufficient interest they will also start with a Papiamentu beginner's class during the morning hours.

You can sign up for classes at FORMA, Kaya Korona 13 (between RBTT and Kooyman) during office hours. When you sign up you will be asked to do a small test so FORMA can determine in which course / group you will benefit most. For more information you can pass by during office hours or call 717-6949 and ask for Margie Thodé.

► **Bonaire International Airport (BIA), or Flamingo Field, as some call it, had more passenger traffic last year** than the year before and expects growth in 2007. In 2006, 573,792 travelers used the airport, compared with 552,417 in 2005.

However, more than half were transit passengers aboard KLM flights headed for South America. **At the end of March 2007 KLM will halt the stopover in Bonaire for the Amsterdam-Lima flight** (about 150,000 passengers annually). However, a daily connection with the Netherlands will remain via the Ecuador flight. (The altitude and length of the Quito airport makes takeoff of a loaded long-range 777 impractical). In spite of this airport officials expect more passengers because of the new weekly Continental flight from Newark, the two-flight increase of **American Eagle to San Juan service (now daily)**, a weekly ArkeFly flight and more DAE flights - six flights daily to Curaçao.

This spring Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) will move its head office from Bonaire to Curaçao. (*Aviation News*).

► **Air Jamaica, will add Sunday flights between Montego Bay and Curaçao,** beginning March 11 in direct response to increased demand. The airline said it would continue to provide service between Montego Bay and Curaçao every Tuesday and Thursday, with the Tuesday return flight operating nonstop to Kingston. (*Jamaica Observer*)

► **Anticipating a spike in construction projects on the island, UPB politi-**

cal leader Ramonsito Booi recently invited Bonaire's Latino people to a meeting at the Antrio Community Center. Craftsmen and laborers from

Latin America, particularly Peru, Colombia and Venezuela, make up a large part of Bonaire's construction workers. Last year the Government granted admission to a large number of foreign workers specifically for the building trades. Construction workers with family members already on Bonaire will be given priority for admission under a new Labor Department policy, said Booi. The meeting's purpose was to exchange ideas with the community, and the results were most positive, according to a press release from the UPB. Bonaire Latino residents who might know of workers interested in construction work on the island were invited to visit UPB Headquarters in Sabana to sign up. For more information call Ewald Abdul at 786-6867.

► **And you think Bonaire is being developed?** Donald J. Trump has signed a US\$2 billion partnership agreement with Cap Cana, SA in the Dominican Republic to build a tourism resort spanning 30,000 acres and three miles of white sand beaches. It is said to be the largest development ever in the region.

► **The Natalee Holloway case continues to echo in the ABC islands.** Paul van der Sloop, father of the main suspect in the Natalee Holloway case in Aruba, has not been awarded any damages by the court. The decision cannot be appealed. He was detained from June 23 to 26 in 2005, in connection with the disappearance of the American high school graduate. Last year the court initially ruled that he should be granted damages of 40,000 Aruban guilders.

Eighteen-year-old Holloway disappeared after a night out on May 30, 2005. She left a nightclub with three young men and was never found. The police have arrested a total of 10 people since her disappearance but all have since been released.

► An American television production crew is in Aruba to **shoot footage of the sites where Natalee Holloway is believed to have been** before she disap-

peared during a class trip to the island. The material is meant for the program "Haunting Evidence," in which three persons with paranormal gifts try to solve crimes.

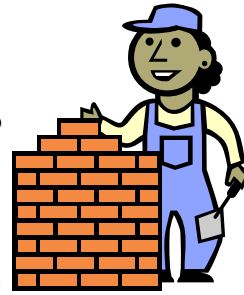
► **Peter Pan peanut butter with the code (2111) on the lid has been found on the shelves of many Bonaire markets.** An outbreak of 288 cases of Salmonella illness in 39 states has been linked with consumption of peanut butter produced at a single facility in Georgia and which have a product code on the lid that begins with "2111." The manufacturer has issued a recall. Who's going to pay us back for all the half-eaten jars?

► Windsurfing is the unofficial national sport on the island of Bonaire. Elvis Martinus, co-owner of the Bonaire Windsurf Place, has been coaching, mentoring and supporting local kids for over 20 years in windsurfing. He, along with Ann Phelan, co-founded "King of the Caribbean," the popular PWA freestyle event. As the event grew Elvis decided to add to run a "Pro Kids" competition where kids from around the world could participate. Elvis's dream came true when he and a small group of local volunteers put on the first Pro Kids Freestyle Worlds two years ago. Last year over 100 kids competed for the coveted title of Pro Kid.

This year's event is slated for August 1-5 when over 150 kids are expected to compete. To learn more about the event click on <http://www.prokidsfreestyle.com/>. For event or travel information contact Ann Phelan at ann@bonaiecaribbean.com.

► **After the success of Dive Into Adventure Bonaire 2006, it has been decided to take the event that started last year one step further by expanding it into a summer-long program.** With this in mind, visitors to the island will be able to experience Bonaire's natural treasures in four different categories: Family, Photography, Fish & Fun! It will run from June 3 to September 29, 2007. Each week of the summer will feature a guest speaker or special event that will focus on one of the four topics. Additionally, in September many hotels will host special activities and events for single travelers, so during this month the activities and guest speak-

(Continued on page 7)



SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL AND THE SGB

I think that every year most people are surprised by the high quality of the costumes and the magnitude of the School Carnival parade. I know that a lot of work is done by teachers, volunteers and parents to make the event so great. Many children look forward to it for months ahead. They are prepared to walk for two hours through the center of Kralendijk, watched by family, friends and neighbors. And each year, as an art teacher, I am sad and surprised that our SGB (high school) students don't get the chance to see this beautiful, enthusiastic parade "officially."

Parents tell me that their high school age children want to skip class to see the parade. Some high-schoolers don't go to school because they have an official "function" in the parade. As a teacher it is sometimes very difficult to do your work because in some classes from 10% to 50% of the student don't show up that day. As a teacher at the SGB you get many questions why they aren't allowed to go the parade, asking if it is not possible to go accompanied by their teachers.

The SSV guards at school have problems keeping the students inside the school. And since some students really want to get out, you might spot a few climbing over the fence around the school. This can be dangerous.

As an art teacher, one of the things you try to teach your students is "creativity." Children's Carnival is an opportunity to see a lot of creativity, fantasy and a time to have fun. Why don't SGB students have school on Monday, the day after the Grand Karnaval Parade on Sunday and give them a free day on Friday when the Children's Carnival is held? Another possibility is to schedule an official "Carnival Break" from 9 till 11 am. Or a special program in the SGB auditorium. Or, why not participate in the parade itself? Many options for a little bit of creativity.

I hope that the government can be more creative in finding a way to realize a better compromise for this unworkable situation for parent, teachers, guards and of course the SGB students themselves.

Inspired Art Teacher
Photos by author



School Carnival photos



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Not even a week after Valentines Day, Hell froze over, men from Mars walked the streets and the Bonaire's red and green parties joined forces.

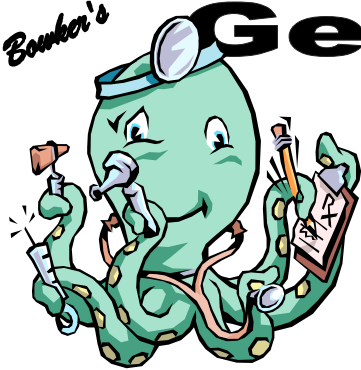
And Larry Bailie and Janice Huckaby got married. They then threw a great party at Jibe City.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Bruce Bowker's

Gear Doc



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

Regulator Hoses – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

Regulator hoses are not normally checked during a routine maintenance program. No dive shop that I know has a machine for checking whether or not these things will work for another week, month or year. I even had a brand new hose, never used, straight out of the box, blow out the second I turned the regulator on - a one-off incident, but it did happen. Other hoses have lasted for 20 years or more.

Cracks in the outer rubber cover do not necessarily mean a hose is bad. Under that usually black rubber cover is a woven mesh which is really the strength of the hose. If you look closely at this rubber hose cover you will see, as on most hoses, tiny pin holes about every 1 to 2 inches apart down the entire length of the hose. These are to allow air to escape in the event the crimp fails, instead of the hose cover blowing up like a balloon and breaking with a sound like a .22 pistol going off.

What can happen, though, is that under water pressure, a small amount of water can get forced into these holes. The next time you turn on your regulator, the hose will expand slightly, forcing this water out in the form of small bubbles or tiny foam. Again, this does not mean the hose is bad. Only if you get a continuous flow of air bubbles while under water is the hose bad. That hose needs to be replaced.

Another thing to check would be the area around the metal crimps on each end. Sometimes these are all too well hidden under hose protectors. I am not convinced these protectors really help since I have seen so many hoses break under them before the user could catch it. On the other hand, without the protector, perhaps the hose would have broken sooner. Regardless (or for those who are English teachers - irregardless), pull those protectors back often to see how things look. Is the hose spongy at that point? Can you squeeze the hose (not just the rubber cover) completely shut? If yes - the hose is bad.

Some problems appear to be bad hoses when they are really something else. If you are getting a small air leak nearest the 2nd stage of the regulator, more specifically at the swivel, the o-ring needs to be replaced or perhaps just cleaned. With two wrenches, one on the regulator 2nd

stage and one on the hose, unscrew the hose. Inside that fitting is an o-ring which is not easy to see and can be a bit of a problem removing even with a good pick (dental tool) of some sort. Sometimes a cleaning and some o-ring grease will correct this problem.

I have seen high and low pressure hoses blow underwater - rare, but it can happen. The high pressure hose can look like the end of the world when it goes, but I think it is quite pretty in a strange way - tons of air bubbles that look like a vanilla milkshake for a giant! Even so, the tank does not empty in 1 second. You should have more than enough time to make a safe ascent to the surface, but at the surface the noise will really start. Turn your tank off as soon as you can. Because the hole in most regulator high pressure ports is only a pin hole, along with a pin hole in the hose end, it is doubtful any water will enter the first stage. As you know, you never want water in your first stage!

Should a low pressure hose go, you can switch to your alternate air source and bend the broken hose shut if it is long enough before the break, just as some



This picture shows a hose outer rubber cover – or lack thereof. Although not recommended, this hose is still being used daily and has functioned this way for years!

people do with garden hoses. When safely on the surface, turn off the tank as soon as possible. Water can get into the tank through the larger port if the tank drains completely.

If a hose is going to break, it almost always happens above water. But if you've experienced a hose breaking under water, have your first stage checked for water damage when you get the hose replaced as well as the tank. □ Story & photo by Bruce Bowker

Since 1980 Bruce Bowker has been the owner-operator of the Padi 5 Star Gold Palm Carib Inn. Tel. 717-8819.



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.



Better to rise than to fall in love.

Dear Betty,

Here are a few things I like to talk about:

First, how many relationships do you know that are based upon true love, not economics? How good or bad is it when a relationship is based upon mutual understanding, not on "love?" Most women cannot work and have kids at the same time. Family planning is still not well applied in our countries so most women tolerate the behavior of the man who provides the funds, although she would like him to be exclusively hers alone.

ANSWER: True love, or at least what some couples initially perceived as true love, has been the basis for almost every relationship I know. In several instances, other reasons came into play after they sobered up and had to pay the bar bill.

Without a doubt, finances play a significant role in relationships, but more often than not, they are a negative influence on those who are economically stressed, particularly women who, as you put it, "tolerate the behavior of the man who provides the funds." A significant number of women in the free world have enabled themselves through proper education, and as a result, have become financially independent. Their numbers are increasing, while at the same time, the tolerance level for what society once considered acceptable behavior for men (the age old double standard) has definitely decreased. The free world has undergone a paradigm shift, and as a result, we're beginning to see fewer women tolerate men as they once did. Granted, there is still a substantial number of men who harbor the old mindset, and/or religious belief that women are chattel, and as such, must tolerate whatever their "owner" or "provider" dishes out simply because he brings home a paycheck. I won't even attempt to address religious beliefs, but I do know when a woman yells, "Oh, God, Oh, God" during sex, it is not considered a substitute for attending church, although it is a form of worship.

Having a partner means you're involved in a "partnership," and successful partnerships are the toughest ships to sail. You are equals, each complimenting the other - one may be strong where the other is weak, and vice versa. You build on each other's strengths and compensate each other's weaknesses. Neither has the right to take advantage of the other's weakness for unfair advantage. A woman's place in a loving relationship isn't any less important because her contribution to her partner and/or family isn't monetary. No one should be forced to tolerate anything they consider hurtful or abusive in any relationship. I don't know of any marital vows or verbalized commitments made by loving couples in the free world which grant the money-earner any special treatment. Doing so places a monetary value on "love," and quite frankly that falls in the category of slavery, or prostitution - a good segue in answer to your next question.

The way I see it, a relationship based upon mutual understanding rather than love is more like a business venture than a

marriage or union of love and is probably how brothels originated. Religious convictions aside, lasting, loving relationships are customarily based on mutual understanding, love, and trust, and are sexually monogamous unless **both partners agree** to a non-traditional arrangement. I realize some men perceive themselves as farmers with lots of seeds to plant, but they must also reap what they sow and take equal responsibility for the resulting crop. In many instances, *dead beat dads (and moms)* inadvertently contribute to *kids gone wild*, not to mention the rising costs of social welfare; costs which become tax burdens for hard working individuals and married couples who are fulfilling their moral and social obligations and responsibilities to their families. Furthermore, a person who is having sex outside a committed relationship is acting unfairly for selfish reasons. They are hunting or farming new territory that, more often than not, takes something away from the territory to which they originally committed. Being unfaithful, and/or deceitful is a far greater trespass than jealousy, and when you stop to think about it, jealousy is nothing more than one's instinctual need to preserve and protect. Cheating and/or having multiple sex partners also tends to expose one's partner to unnecessary risk, including potentially serious, and sometimes-fatal STDs, regardless of protection - and that my friend is reason enough to maintain a monogamous relationship.

I will address your other questions in a future column, so please stay tuned. *B.W.*

JOKE OF THE DAY

In the beginning, God created earth and rested.

Then God created man and rested.

Then God created woman.

Since then, neither God nor man has rested. □



► Last week Bonaire hosted the governors of all Antillean islands for a series of discussions. Shown above: Herbert Domacassé, mr. Franklyn Richards, mr. Lizzanne Richards-Dindial, Haydn Gittens and Sidney Sorton. BVO photo (The prefix mr. is Dutch for an attorney. Ed.)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)

ers will be geared towards those traveling solo. Bonaire Dive Into Summer will feature specially priced packages, specialty topics and one-of-a-kind events. There is no registration fee participation for Bonaire Dive Into Summer and a free coupon book (valid 6/3-9/29/07) filled with valuable discounts for hotels, restaurants, shopping, activities, rentals and more will be given to all visitors to the island. For more information visit the event's official website at

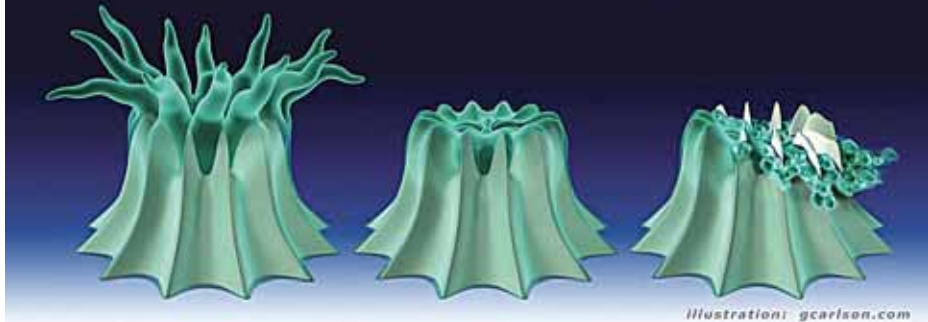
www.bonairediveintosummer.com. □

L./G.D.



LETTERS

Living with a Razor-Sharp Skeleton



“SHARP SKELETON KILLS CORAL” -FALLACY?

Dear Editor,

An image of a sharp coral skeleton is sometimes invoked to explain why living corals should not be touched. For example, a beautiful marine life photography web site (www.marinelifephotography.com/corals/corals.htm) says, "Please take care to avoid touching living corals; their delicate flesh may be injured if pressed (even lightly) against the razor-sharp skeleton..." The recently distributed stickers in dive shops on Bonaire illustrate "how the fragile tissue of each polyp rests on top of each own sharp skeleton" and show "the damage a diver would cause by brushing against it, smashing the soft polyp against its stony skeleton." I doubt this.

The notion of coral flesh injured by its sharp skeleton raises the question: what is the evolutionary advantage of such self-endangering morphology? Coral polyps

build their own skeleton: why would they make it so dangerously sharp for themselves? Is its own skeleton really so hazardous to the coral?

The edges of dead coral skeleton look and feel sharp to us, humans. But the corals are very small. What do they "see?" The living coral tissue on the top of underlying skeleton consists of four layers of cells (yes, just four living cells!) with collagen in between. It is about 40 microns thick (0.00004 mm). Coral skeletal material, which is calcium carbonate like chalk, is much softer than steel and hence cannot literally be "razor-sharp." Its thinnest edges are about 50 microns thick. In other words, they are about as thick as the living tissue that covers them.

This means that pressing a living coral tissue against its skeleton is not like pressing soft flesh against sharp blades as artistically depicted by the stickers mentioned

coral glimpses

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

This little flower coral formation was knocked over onto an irregular surface, and the damage includes blade edges with the living tissue peeled off and chipped blades.

Captions & photos by Dee Scarr.



above. It's rather more like pressing a brick of butter against a tennis ball. Even by pressing hard it would not be easy to cut the butter this way. Corals don't really make their own skeleton dangerous to themselves. The image of coral flesh ripped by its sharp skeleton is misleading.

Genady Filkovsky.

P.S. However, living corals still should not be touched!

COUNTERPOINT: LIVING WITH A RAZOR SHARP SKELETON

Dear Mr. Filkovsky,
The editor referred your letter to me, and -- being behind the *Living with a Razor*

Sharp Skeleton decal -- I was very interested to read it. I'm glad we're in complete agreement about the most important part of the issue: that living coral shouldn't be touched!

The most direct response to your belief that coral cannot be damaged against its own skeleton is this one: every time a person's skin is cut by coral, as bare-skinned people are when they make contact with living coral, the coral tissue must also be cut, or the skeleton couldn't cut the person! Every single diver (who's able to see small things), can see how contact with living stony coral scrapes

(Continued on page 9)

(Letter. Continued from page 8)

the live tissue against its own skeleton. You yourself point out how sharp the coral skeleton is, by pointing out how thin it is.

I can think of only one way that your "pressing a stick of butter against a tennis ball" analogy makes sense: if contact was made at the side of a coral blade, the coral tissue would be much less affected by the skeleton, since it wouldn't be pressed against a sharp edge. Unfortunately, for almost every type of reef-building coral, the razor-sharp blades are too close together for contact to be made between them. Instead, contact occurs on the top of the living coral, pressing the thin coral tissue against the sharp edges of its own skeleton, just as described in the sticker. Harder contact also crushes the thin blades of the skeleton, damaging even more coral tissue of course and making healing less likely.

Believe me, I'd be delighted if you were right. But despite your doubt that coral tissue is cut by its own skeleton, evidence of that has been seen by every divemaster on Bonaire and will be in a Coral Glimpse photo in this issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*, showing the tissue peeled back from the blades of a flower coral which had been knocked over. If you'd like to see the effect of diver contact specifically, I'll be happy to email you some photos.

If I've missed your point, please contact me again. The supporters of the Action in Behalf of Coral Project know, personally, how diver contact affects coral -- Gary Carlson created the illustration for the decal at my instruction -- and I believe strongly that the people do not understand this are the ones who make the most damaging contact with living coral.

I've added a section about coral to my slide show on Monday nights at Captain Don's Habitat -- please join us to discuss this further! (I won't be doing the show for the Mondays of 26 Feb and 5 March as I'll be speaking off-island.)

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. (not Feb 26 & March 5)



Friends or Foes?

Seahorses and Frogfish: Friend or Foe for coral reef conservation in Bonaire?

Coral reefs are popular with ecotourists, but the impact of divers on reefs is cause for concern. A new study has shown that even divers who do not normally touch corals can forget themselves in the excitement of finding charismatic fish, such as seahorses or frogfish. Loss of buoyancy control and camera use play a major role in the presence of these fish in increasing the number of contacts with the reef, resulting in damage. However, according to divemasters and scientific literature this damage is avoidable.

Bonaire, described as one of the 10 top dive sites in the world and famous for having some of the best reefs in the Caribbean, has also been reported to have "relatively" high numbers of seahorses (*Hippocampus reidi*) and frogfish (*Antennarius multiocellatus*). Unfortunately, this does not make them any easier to find for the average diver. Seahorses and frogfish have well developed cryptic skills, which allow them to hide from predators and also from divers' eyes. Thus, it is not just their charisma but also the challenge of finding one of these fish that makes people so determined to see them.

Some experienced divemasters have developed the ability to find these cryptic fish over the years. They will show them to tourists, expecting to please them, and maybe hoping to obtain some tips. The fact that either seahorses or frogfish can barely

swim and therefore, remain in the same area for a long time (even longer than 18 months), helps divemasters to show or describe to divers where some of these individuals are found. The negative part of this story is that repeatedly bringing divers to the same place over long periods of time may not be such a good idea. Seahorses and frogfish live camouflaged on the reef, and when divers get close to the coral to observe them they can make damaging contacts.

In 2006 (July to October), with the help of divemasters from several dive shops, I identified 10 locations where either a seahorse or a frogfish was present, at the following dive sites: Small Wall, Andrea I, Cliff, Reef Scientifico, Oil Slick Leap, Town Pier, Salt Pier, Windsock, Rock Pile and Carl's Hill. At those locations, I recorded information on the general condition of the reef (e.g. amounts of live coral, dead coral and coral rubble) and the number of colonies with diver-related scars or breakage at a range of distances away from the fish. I also collected the same information at nearby locations without seahorses or frogfish, to be able to make comparisons that would show what kinds of impact divers have at these sites.

Unfortunately, the results of comparisons between sites with and without seahorses/frogfish indicated that sites with seahorses and frogfish had less live coral, more dead coral, and more damaged coral, with more scars and broken colonies. However, the good news is that the damage was very localized; there was no sign of any damage beyond 5 meters away from the fish.



Hippocampus reidi
(Longsnout seahorse)

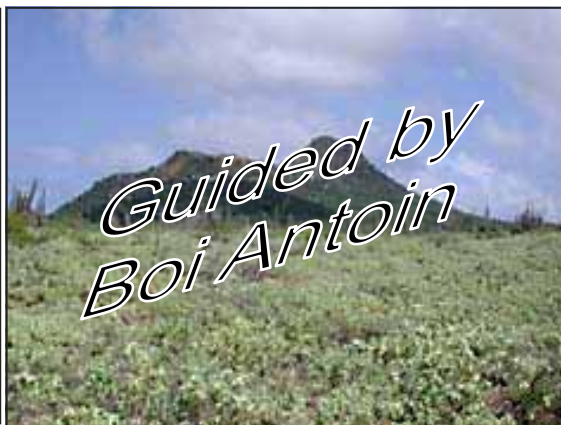
Interested in the causes for the damage, we also observed the behaviour of 28 divers when they were alerted to the presence of either a seahorse or a frogfish, and compared this with their behaviour under normal conditions. As we expected, their behaviour changed enormously. In the presence of any of these fish, divers lost their usual awareness, and made continuous contact with the reef. This was usually done with careless fins (59%), gauges (13%) and hands (12%), because divers forgot their surroundings as they focused only on the fish (46%), on taking photographs (26%), and on maintaining their buoyancy (22%).

Even though the spatial damage around seahorses and frogfish is limited, and these fish were known from only 23 sites on Bonaire, any damage from careless divers could be avoided entirely. According to

(Continued on page 13)

Top Health
Fitness Center
Nature Walk
Seru Largu -
Bolivia
25 February 2007
This weekend!

Price NAf7,50



Start 6:15 am at the Cross on top of Seru Largu
Includes fruit and cookies—Bring water to drink
Call 786-8908 or 567-1055 to sign up

Karnaval '07

Most colorful
in memory





Picture Yourself with The Reporter

The Great Wall of China



A cooperative German man took this photo of part-time Bonaireans, Mary and Brad Smart, with *The Bonaire Reporter* at The Great Wall of China.

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2007 photos are eligible.)

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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!

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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) 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**



DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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

Complete solution on page 19.

For Sale

Sailing Yacht for sale-41 Ft. Hans Christian, blue-water ready. Immaculate condition. Completely refit rigging, instrumentation, etc. 2005-too much to list here. Located in Bonaire. Serious Inquires only please. Contact Ron at capron-bon@yahoo.com. Include "BOAT" in the subject line.

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!

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 1:3.5-5.6D; 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 \$750. Call **717-2050.**



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**

Cars For Sale

FIAT BARCHETTA Cabrio, 1997, yellow, with hardtop 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**



Property, Sales & Rentals

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

Free

Free **HP printer cartridges/HP 57 and 58.** Call **786-3134**

Wanted

Nanny/Babysitter Needed for windsurf clients. Must love kids, be reliable, love the beach and have references. Call **786-3134.**

Goldfish and a private detective. Call Alex **700-0515**

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

Bonaire's coziest resort is looking for full time colleagues in the restaurant/bar kitchen. Preferably speaking Dutch/ English/ German. Experience is required!

Do you want to be part of our team? Call **717-7901** or send an email to: info@caribbeanclubbonaire.com



For Sale: All (furniture, pots & pans, mattresses, dive gear, printer/scanner, clothes, plumbing tools and much more); **porch sales 3rd+10th March at Kaya Mercurius 2, Belnem.** 9:00 till 16:30. Call 717-4494 for an appointment.



Antennarius multiocellatus
(Longlure frogfish)

(Friend or Foe. Continued from page 9)

scientific advice, and the valuable suggestions of 56 dive masters from all of the Bonaire's dive shops, diver damage to the reef may be avoided by following the guidelines below:

If you are a diver...

1. Remember at all times to keep yourself away from the reef, and be especially aware of your fins.
2. No photograph will be worth damaging the reef.
3. If seahorses and frogfish do not move much, it is because they are not meant to do so. So keep your hands to yourself, instead of scaring them into moving.
5. Excitement when seeing wildlife is great, but make sure that it does not affect your underwater behavior.
4. If you find problems on keeping your buoyancy right, ask for advice in your dive shop or take the "Peak Buoyancy Control Course" or an equivalent.

If you are a divemaster...

1. If it is likely that you are going to be seeing either a seahorse or frogfish, tell divers beforehand how to behave underwater, so they become more aware of their fin movements.
2. Consider the number of divers and their abilities before deciding whether or not to show them a seahorse or frogfish.
3. No monetary tip will be worth exposing the reefs to damage.
4. When showing a seahorse or frogfish, make sure divers do not rush towards the fish at the same time. Seahorses and frogfish will not swim away! (Unless stressed).
5. Be extra careful when divers are taking photographs, as excitement and underwater photography are a bad mix for corals!
6. Move divers away from the reef when you see them making contact. You have already warned them to keep their distance from the bottom, so do not be afraid.
7. Suggest buoyancy control courses to divers who need a little extra buoyancy help.

Applying any of all these measures will



Second Kiteboarder Crossing

After last year's success, Kiteboarding Bonaire organized a 2nd down-winder from Atlantis to Klein Bonaire on February 11th. The event started at 9:30 am at Sunset Beach, where all 25 participants were picked up by the "kitebus." They were transported to Atlantis Beach, where the kiteboarders rigged their kites and prepared

for the crossing. At noon the starting signal was given, and all headed off to Klein Bonaire. Wind conditions were a little light in the beginning, but after 15 minutes the wind picked up to a solid 20 knots; perfect weather for all riders to make it safely to Klein Bonaire in about 1½ hours. The group was guided by 3 safety boats, which had to pick up 2 unfortunate riders who

experienced some technical problems.

Once everybody landed and packed their kites, the BBQ was lit, and everybody enjoyed a great dinner on the beach. At 6 pm the watertaxi came, and brought participants back to Sunset beach, to finish the day with some refreshing drinks. □Story & Photo by Roan Jaspars

help to keep the reefs in good condition, protect seahorse and frogfish habitat, stop the fish from moving to other sites (and being exposed to predators) and hopefully ensure future tips!

An article with this information and much more has just been published in the scientific journal *Biological Conservation* (Uyarra, M.C. & Côte, I.M. 2007) Cryptic creatures and coral contacts: impacts of species-focused diving on coral reefs. *Biological Conservation*, 136: 77-84). For more information, or a copy of the article, please email mcaluya@hotmail.com. We wanted to share these results with you, as it is everyone's responsibility to protect the reefs of Bonaire, and to ensure the diving tourism of this island.

We are very thankful to: Bonaire National Marine Park; all of the dive shops on the island; divemasters who showed us the locations of seahorses and frogfish, and who took divers to those sites so we could carry out behavioral observations; divemasters who anonymously answered our questionnaire; and the tourists that agreed to let us use the information we collected on them. Thank you so much also to Chile and Linda Ridley and Jokin del Amo, who volunteered with data collection, and Allison Perry who reviewed this article. The British Ecological

Society funded this research. Story & photos by Maria Uyarra

Maria C. Uyarra holds a Masters degree in Applied Ecology and Conservation at the University of East Anglia, UK. In 2006 she did extensive fieldwork in Bonaire. She has worked as a scientist in academia, with NGOs, government, and the European Commission. She is now in her second year of a PhD looking at the interactions between tourism, fishing and conservation on coral reef ecosystems, trying to find the balance between economic and conservation interests of different societal sectors (government, fishing communities, management of marine protected areas, tourism industry, and local people).



DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
2-23	6:38	1.9FT.	15:32	0.9FT.					71
2-24	7:34	2.0FT.	16:24	0.8FT.					60
2-25	8:20	2.0FT.	17:15	0.7FT.					54
2-26	9:09	2.1FT.	17:59	0.7FT.					53
2-27	9:53	2.0FT.	18:36	0.7FT.					57
2-28	10:32	2.0FT.	19:16	0.8FT.					64
3-01	11:15	1.9FT.	19:48	0.9FT.					72
3-02	1:55	1.2FT.	2:55	1.1FT.	11:52	1.8FT.	20:10	1.0FT.	77
3-03	1:44	1.3FT.	4:24	1.2FT.	12:25	1.7FT.	20:25	1.0FT.	80
3-04	2:07	1.3FT.	6:00	1.3FT.	13:05	1.5FT.	20:29	1.1FT.	81
3-05	2:40	1.4FT.	8:19	1.3FT.	13:40	1.4FT.	20:02	1.2FT.	79
3-06	3:24	1.5FT.	12:02	1.2FT.	14:08	1.3FT.	18:48	1.2FT.	76

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Pet of the Week

This beautiful, all white cat, "Francine," came into the Bonaire Animal Shelter with her brother, "Floyd." Both brother and sister are gorgeous, white, super plush furred kitties. Their white fur is complemented by their golden eyes and little pink ears. What knockouts! The two were brought to the Shelter because their owners had to move to a new place where they were allowed to have only one cat. Francine and Floyd were well taken care of and are not only lovely to look at but they're sweet, affectionate and smart. Both have been sterilized, have been tested and examined by the vet, had their shots and are ready to go. These two won't last long so hurry down and see them at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.



"Francine"

Don't forget when you're doing your "spring cleaning" that the Shelter can use all the things you don't need or want anymore – like books, clothing, odds and ends. Drop them off at the Shelter where they'll be taken to be sold at the **monthly Flea Market** at the Parke Public on the first Saturday of every month. The next one is Saturday, March 3, from 3 to 7 pm.

Another Shelter event is the **Fundraising Show aboard the Freewinds** to benefit the **Shelter's Sterilization Program**. It's Sunday, March 4 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are NAf25 and are available at the Shelter. L.D.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Blood Diamond
(Leonardo DiCaprio)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

The Holiday
(Cameron Diaz)

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

Monday, February 26 - DuoFest – Festival of Bonairean talent with brand new songs, sponsored by Fundashon for Bonairean Art & Culture, *Freewinds*, 7:30 pm. Tickets NAf25 for sale at Rose Inn, Boutique Vita, Flamingo Bookstore. More information call 786-6420

Sunday, February 25 – Nature Walk with Bòi Antoin – Seru Largu to Bolivia. Meet at cross on Seru Largu at 6:15 am. Tickets NAf7.50. Includes fruit and biscuits. Bring your own water. For sale at Top Health, open Monday-Friday, 5-9 pm. More information call 786-8908 or 567-1055.

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:

COMING

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.

Sunday, March 4 – Art Exhibit Opening - Eefje van Twillert van der Straten. Kas di Arte, 6 pm. Exhibit continues until March 26. Opening hours 5-7:30 pm

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
- **Begining 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.**
- 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

Thursdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7
- **“Admiral’s Hour” for yachtsmen and others**, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7
- **Buddy’s Bingo Show** - Buddy Dive Resort, 8- 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 565-5225
- **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. (No show Feb 26 and March 5)
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.
Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272
Cancer Survivor Support Group Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.
Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi’s - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.
Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the FORMA Building on Kaya Korona, across

Foundation for Bonaire Art & Culture
Presents onboard the Freewinds

Tickets: fl 25.00

at Rose Inn, Boutique Vita
& Flamingo Bookstore

Info: 786-6420/7176420

DUOfest '07

Song Festival of Bonairean talent bringing their brand new songs



Feb. 26, 7:30pm

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

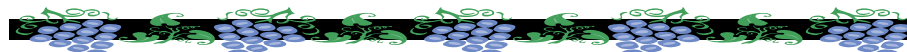
Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on Sundays at 10 am.
Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am.
Children’s club every Saturday at 5 pm in Kralendijk.
Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. 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 Antriol, in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.
Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am.**
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email_reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

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

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Born on Bonaire

Emmy Schermer

"I was born in Rincon in 1942. My mother, Antonia Schermer, born Martinus, was a descendant of one of the daughters of Cornelis Marten, 'Papa Cornes,' a man from Curaçao who was very important to Antriol. We were five children and mother was a homemaker.

I think one of the reasons why everything has changed and why there are so many problems with children nowadays is the fact that mothers are not at home anymore. There used to be serenity for the children, they were satisfied. You can't turn back the times, but you have to look for a solution because many children are being left to their own devices. Also a child needs to rest. I do respect the crèche leaders and I know they do their work with love, but is it necessary to put a seven-week-old baby in a crèche (child care)? Children are better off with their parents.

My father was a lighthouse keeper at Seroe Bentana in Washington Park and he worked as a substitute at Spelonk. When Hurricane Janet passed by in 1954 the lighthouse in Seroe Bentana was struck by lightning and burned down completely. My dad was lucky; he wasn't there when it happened, but somebody was burned alive and another one was severely injured. After the tragedy my father started working in Willemstoren.

We had a carefree childhood. We spent a lot of time enjoying nature in the Washington and Slagbaai plantations, when it wasn't a national park. We also owned a kunuku, like practically everybody else did. Ours was at *Subi Blanco*, halfway between Rincon and Playa. We had goats and grew corn, pumpkins, watermelons and beans which we sold. It was a very serious thing.

After elementary school when I was 12 I had to go to boarding school in Curaçao because there was no high school on the island. I was homesick and became very quiet, but eventually I got used to it like you get used to everything.

At 16 I went to Holland, to Breda, to the Maria Kweekschool where I studied teaching. I lived with a family with small children. I think that period subconsciously marked my future because that's the work I'm doing now. I am an *orthopedagoog*, a child therapist, someone who works with children with disturbed development. I specialize in children with learning disorders (children with normal capabilities, but somehow they can't make it) and children with behavioral problems. It's a healing process and I am a follower of the humane approach because a child has to

learn to recognize why he or she is behaving in a certain way. It's not like input=output.

People used to think genetics and environment were the two factors that would mold a person. Nowadays they say you have to look at the 'child factors', like intelligence, character, temper, motives etc; the factors of the child's up bringers- like those of the father, the mother, the family and the teachers (with all the different up bringers a child has these days, it has become confusing and less clear for the child)- and last but not least, the environment of the child - the neighborhood, friends and the social setting. The most recent theory to explain behavioral development includes all these factors and their interactions.

After four years in Breda I became a teacher. I had not been in Bonaire all those years and I hadn't seen my family either, but we kept in close touch by correspondence. I went to Curaçao and worked at a primary school for one year and then I returned to Bonaire where I

"Once a boy asked me very seriously, 'Don't you have children?'"

I answered, 'Almost all the children of Bonaire are my children'..."

started teaching at the Saint Dominicus School, Bonaire's first friar school. At the same time I was very much involved in scouting. It was a good combination; I learned a lot - a bright student could turn out to be very clumsy, and a child who wasn't so brilliant suddenly showed good leadership and that made a balance. I stayed on Bonaire for six years and then I went on leave to Holland and decided to stay there to do extra studying.

Going back to school was an eye opener. I had matured; I knew what they were talking about; at the same time it was very new. I lived in Groningen, a university city in the north and it was sizzling - very modern and lots of new views. It was a studious year. I started working as a teacher at a school in a low-income neighborhood. The children were difficult; they were restless and

stressed and irritated because of all the problems they were facing at home. It was a school like many other big city schools. I learned a lot working with these children. The way I see it now is that it defined my life's course.

I think I have a talent for it and the circumstances made it happen too, but if you do your work with love and dedication everything falls in its place. However, you don't get it for nothing; you have to work very hard. Many children come to school with lots of worries. They go through so many things at home and it depresses them and makes them sad and they are not themselves. If they have a teacher who's dedicated and loving, they will feel happier and it helps them and it works curatively and preventively. A teacher like that can make a child strong."

Emmy Schermer is a very special person; she's extremely passionate about her work. When you think about it, you know that she must have seen lots of misery and ugliness, but it never touched her, for Emmy has no malice or trace of bitterness. She's an angel, a wise and beautiful person.

"I taught at that school for four years, and at the same time I was doing more advanced studies in education. It was a beautiful time. After five years in Groningen I returned to Bonaire. I wanted to be with my parents and my family, and I was longing for my country. They needed me here.

I started working for the Department of Education for seven years at the pedagogic didactic bureau as a teacher's guide, after that for three years as an inspector at kindergarden, elementary schools and for special education. In the meantime I was studying MO-B, more advanced education, through Curaçao, and I decided, after having been on Bonaire for 10 years, to finish studying in Holland. I went back to Groningen where I was advised to get a university degree as a child therapist. But soon after I'd started I had to return to Bonaire because my mother became severely ill. Before she died she told me, 'You have to go on!' When she passed away in May 1986 I went back to Holland. I finished my studies in three and a half years, with a scholarship, and returned to Bonaire where I started working for SEK (Educational and Cultural Service) in diagnostics, testing



Emmy Schermer

children with learning disorders. I did that until I retired. But... I never really stopped;" *she laughs* "it just went on!

Now I'm working part time, counseling youngsters and sometimes their parents, and for the last few years I've worked for the SGB high school, where they have a special class for children who have problems fitting in. It's very intense and I often worry about Bonaire, about its future and its youth. Children have become tougher and more indifferent. When there's a lack of love and attention it causes irreparable damage to the child, and parents should be more conscious of that.

I thank God for the talent he gave me. I'm grateful when I see a child improving. That's the reward. I'm still learning and I study every day. It's an ongoing process. But I would like to have some more time to be with my people, my family, time for myself and to be with my boyfriend in Curaçao. However, so far Bonaire is keeping me too busy! I know by now that it wouldn't be the end of the world if I'd stop working, but I wish there were more people interested in doing this work so they could take over. I never dreamt I would become a child therapist, but I know for sure that if I'd had children of my own, I never would have worked. I would have stayed at home with them! Some things just happen to you, and life takes its course. Once, a boy asked me very seriously, 'Don't you have children?' I answered, 'Almost all the children of Bonaire are my children'..." *Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*

This is a reprint of an article that appeared in *The Reporter* in 2005. Greta Kooistra is temporarily off island.

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



Pegasus Foundation Visits

On Wednesday, February 14, Marina Melis, founder of Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire, introduced members of the Pegasus Foundation to representatives of Bonaire's environmental and animal welfare organizations involved in the Bonaire Nature Alliance (ALIANSA) in hopes of getting funding and support for their very important work.



Charles Birdsey (Pegasus Foundation), Alex Brown, Peter Montanus, Barbara Birdsey (Pegasus Foundation), Marina Melis, Paul Wichers, Elsmarie Beukenboom, Kalli De-Meyer, Mabel Nava kneeling

Based in New Hampshire, the non-profit Pegasus Foundation has several focuses for funding: wildlife and habitat protection; companion animal programs; and education and outreach. Their Caribbean Animal Welfare Initiative launched in 2002 aims to provide funding for companion animal welfare programs in the Bahamas and the Caribbean, to expand communication with and among all island-based animal welfare organizations, and to provide additional resources and training opportunities to increase the capacity of Caribbean animal welfare organizations. As part of this mission, the Pegasus Foundation sponsors a major training conference every two years in the Caribbean with past conferences held in Miami, St. Croix, and Antigua.

Barbara Birdsey and Charles Birdsey, the two members of the Pegasus Foundation visiting Bonaire, not only toured the Donkey Sanctuary but also learned about other key projects and organizations on Bonaire: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire from Mabel Nava; the Animal Shelter from Paul Wichers; the Animal Welfare group from Alex Brown; STINAPA and Aliansa Naturalesa di Bonaire from Elsmarie Beukenboom; the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance from Kalli De Meyer; and Save the Lora from Peter Montanus. After her visit, Ms. Birdsey remarked, "We were extremely impressed with the structure, dedication, and professionalism of the Aliansa. It is certainly an excellent model of community collaboration and, as such, could be very useful to other areas of the Caribbean and elsewhere. Bonaire should be proud of this endeavor."

Birdsey promised that "we and the Pegasus staff will look forward to working together on various land and marine animal protection programs, potential land protection cooperative projects, and collaborative efforts to promote responsible tourism initiatives."

As for her tour of the Donkey Sanctuary, Birdsey raved about her "heartwarming tour of the wonderful sanctuary, a place no visitor should miss!" □ *Pauline E. Kayes*



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

Henk's White-striped Red Hot Chevrolet El Camino

In 1994 Henk Schippers started working on Curaçao. While living on that island he fell in love with a Chevrolet El Camino. Henk, born in the Netherlands, had never before seen a car like this: part sedan, part sports wagon, part truck. A muscle car, however, that's for sure, powered by a huge V8-engine of 350 cubic inches / 5.7 liters.

Henk: "You love this type of car or you don't. There's no in between. And I just completely fell for the model. She is about 25 years old. I spent a small fortune on her and I don't intend to sell her ever. And if I do sell her - because of importing another El Camino from the States - I'll sell her to someone abroad. I can't imagine seeing someone driving my former white striped red Chevrolet El Camino!"

When Schippers came to Bonaire his Chevrolet El Camino came with him of course. On our island he met a very good mechanic by the name of Enchie from Tera Cora. Henk: "Enchie maintains my car. He adjusted the engine and the carburetor. In the beginning the car used one liter of gasoline every four kilometers! Now, with the expertise of Enchie I'm getting almost 10 kilometers out of a liter. Enchie really knows what he is doing. I'm very glad I met him on the island!"

The first Chevrolet El Camino was produced in the States for Chevrolet's 1959 model year in response to the success of the rival Ford Ranchero. This first generation El Camino was based on the Chevrolet Impala.

Henk's El Camino was produced in 1981. It's a fifth generation El Camino, related to the Malibu and the Monte Carlo. The license plate is numbered: V-2500. The Super Sport-model is equipped with a huge and impressive V8-engine, producing an unknown amount of horsepower. The top



speed is also unknown. Once, during those days on Curaçao, Henk revved the car to reach the top speed, but then the mileage gauge cable snapped.

The car is equipped with more or less open "cherry bombs" and twin exhausts. There is a lot of rubber on the five-spoke, 15-inch rims. The tires only just fit in the wheel arches. There's less than one inch free play left. In all those years Henk (and Enchie of course) replaced the engine, mounted a reconditioned gearbox, changed the brakes, renewed the rear air-suspension and fitted a tornado filter in the air cleaner to obtain better mileage.

The car can be seen on the Bonairean roads every day. Henk is a busy entrepreneur visiting his clients all day with his red and white El Camino. He has a wholesale business in food service items and is director of Shoppers Bonaire (www.shoppersbonaire.com), a company that upon request locates, buys and imports virtually any product from the US. There's also a Chevrolet Astro used to deliver to the clients, but Henk prefers to drive his El Camino. Henk: "I got completely hooked on this particular car!" □ *Jan Brouwers*



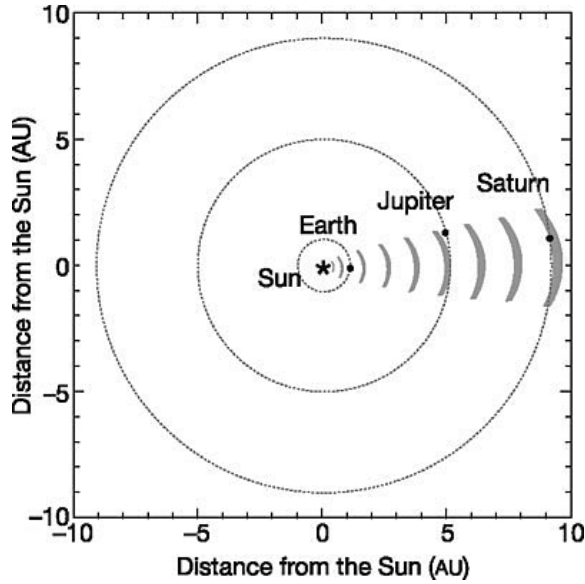
BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Some Fun Stuff about Saturn Which Is Still At Its Biggest, Brightest and Almost Closest For the Entire Year

Although Saturn was officially at **opposition** and at its biggest, brightest and closest in the Sky Park for the entire year on February 10th, it is nevertheless still just as good this week for viewing purposes. So let me give you some more fun facts and nitty gritty on this cosmic "Lord of the Rings."

In its order out from the Sun Saturn is planet #6, but its distance from the Sun is almost twice that of Jupiter. Whereas Jupiter is on average almost 500 million miles away, Saturn is twice that -



almost one billion miles away. So even though it is almost as big as Jupiter, being 75,000 miles in diameter versus Jupiter's 88,000-mile diameter, it nevertheless is many times dimmer than the "King of the Planets." Although in all fairness to Saturn, if we counted Saturn's rings as part of the planet measurement Saturn would actually be twice the diameter of Jupiter and would make Saturn the king.

And if we remember that old rule that the farther a planet is from the Sun the slower it travels here's a real good example. Whereas it takes Jupiter only 12 years to make one trip around our Sun it takes Saturn 29 and 1/2 years to make one trip. And it's an absolutely fascinating trip because it constantly changes its appearance as seen from Earth, a fact which was noted over 300 years ago by the Dutch astronomer, **Christian Huygens**. Indeed the diagram he drew in 1659 is still pretty accurate. To simplify it a bit, Saturn's rings are tilted in respect to its orbit, and in the course of its 29½ year orbit it looks as if it's wobbling, tilting up and down. Part of the time we look at the rings from above, at their north side. And part of the time we look at them from below, at their southern face. But approximately every 15 years Saturn will present its rings edge on to us, at which time they seem to disappear. And several of its 56 moons were discovered during this edge-on phase when there was no glare from the rings to hide them. And it's this changing position of the rings that makes Saturn unique regarding its brightness.

You see, usually when a planet is at opposition, it's at its closest and thus always brightest. But because Saturn's rings are a huge factor in reflecting sunlight Saturn can actually be brighter when it's not at its closest to Earth if its rings are wide open as astronomers say, reflecting a lot more sunlight. In fact even though Saturn won't be this close again until 2029, it will be as bright as it is right now in only 8 years in 2015 because of the tilt of its rings. To see it right now I suggest looking east about one to two hours after sunset. Then go out every hour and watch it as it slowly climbs higher and higher. Between midnight and one o'clock it will be at its highest due south and then you can watch it descend hour after hour and set in the west as the Sun rises in the east. And speaking of the Sun you'd never get a sun tan on Saturn because the Sun as seen from Saturn is only 1% as bright as seen from Earth.

Jack Horkheimer

DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

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

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



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, February 18 to Saturday, February 24

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) They may cost you dearly. You need to take a long, hard look at yourself and your personal situation. You need activity. It's time to get yourself back on track. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Your charm will be captivating. You must consider yourself for a change. You can anger others quickly this week. Avoid overspending on items for your home. Strength will come from your ability to overtake just about any one. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are apparent. Opportunities for romance will develop through activities with large groups. Don't let coworkers get wind of your ideas or they might try to take credit for your hard work. You could be blind to the defects of those you love. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Curl up with a good book or go for a drive in the country. Try to understand both sides of the issue before taking sides. Old friends may not like your choices. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Someone you live with could be frustrated and upset. Get promises in writing or you will be disappointed. Your devotion will be persuasive. Take time to catch up on gossip and make plans to do a little adventure travel. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Problems with fire, gas, or oil may cause disruptions and annoyances. Advancement can be yours if you put your efforts into work related matters. Opportunities to get ahead will be evident. Join humanitarian groups and let your leadership ability take over. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Now is the time to concentrate on building a strong financial future for your family. You will be extremely sentimental, and if pushed by others you may hold a lasting grudge. You may find that you are a little lucky this week. Emotional deception will cause friction on the home front. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't let relatives make demands of you. Major job changes or opportunities to get ahead professionally are apparent. Someone you work with may be withholding valuable information. You will find that unfinished projects at home will be most satisfying. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be careful how you handle friends and relatives, they may take things the wrong way. Too much talk will lead to disputes. You will get drawn into groups that are not favorable to you. Much knowledge can be obtained through the experiences you have. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may be overreacting to a situation at hand. Your ability to charm others will put you in the limelight at social functions. Your partner could make you angry if they steal your thunder or embarrass you in front of others. Talk to those in a position of power about your intentions. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Organizations may cost you more than you can afford. Don't let someone you work with put words in your mouth. You should focus on moneymaking matters and stay away from emotional disputes. It might be best not to spend your money on luxuries this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Put your efforts into making constructive improvements to your environment and to your state of mind. Realize that you don't have to do everything yourself. However, you must not neglect your family. You will meet some interesting people if you attend promotional functions. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.