

**It's
still
Free!**

BONAIRE

March 23 to April 6, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 13

The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

**Spotlight on
Turtle Conservation
Page 12**



Weighing in a Hawksbill turtle at Lac Bay: Gielmon "Funchi" Egrachts is assisted by STCB volunteer Tina Lindeken. Acting STCB President Andy Uhr and Lee Bray look on while Dr. Adriana Esmeijer, Director of the Prins Bernhard Culture Foundation from The Netherlands, snaps a photo.

photo by Wilna Gronenboom

Flotsam and Jetsam



Ank Bijleveld-Schouten
Internet photo

State Secretary for Kingdom Relations, Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, will be in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba from March 19 for 10 days on an official work visit. She will be visiting all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. Besides getting acquainted with the governors, the prime ministers and other dignitaries, the State Secretary will visit several projects and organizations that do work on combating poverty, providing education, conserving the environment, maintaining law, promoting economic development, offering health care and benefiting youth. She will be in Bonaire from Friday, March 23, until Sunday, March 25.

► In negotiations for Bonaire's new status with The Netherlands, Hans Hillen, advisor of Bonaire, former parliamentary journalist and Christian Democratic party member, thinks that **it is not wise to demand guarantees from the Netherlands up front.** He says that the island is better off negotiating well. If Bonaire plays its cards right in these negotiations, for one thing, it can easily refuse to perform gay marriages (currently an overblown election issue), Hillen told Radio Netherlands.

"Only five countries accept gay marriage, so you can't say that Bonaire is objecting to something that is normal worldwide. It is also not a European law."

► **The European Union is going to help Bonaire with infrastructure and social developments** in Antriol, Rincon, and Nikiboko via the European



DROB head Mingel Martis and Commissioner Jonchi Dortalina inspect the work. BVO photo

Development Fund. The purpose is to create better living conditions for local people, said Parliamentarian Anthony Nicolaas. Specific target areas are Antriol Pariba, Antriol Pabou, Rincon, Bario Mamparia Kutu (where road paving is already underway—see photo) and northeast Antriol. The costs of these projects total NAf7 million.

► One result of the mayors' meetings in Bonaire two weeks ago will be **discreet collaboration between the two Frisian islands and Bonaire, Statia, and Saba.** The intention is to create state paid trainee posts for civil servants, according to a story in the newspaper *Noordhollands Dagblad*.

This was announced by the mayors of Texel and Vlieland, Joke Geldorp and Baukje Galama, who visited Bonaire. The collaboration should take shape via the "Vliebes (Vlieland, Bonaire, Statia and Saba) Foundation." The two mayors as well as executives of Dutch and Antillean businesses will form a board to oversee the Foundation. Reportedly, Kees Storm (Chairman of the Board of KLM) will head the Vliebes board.

► **The Aruba Airport Authority N.V. has announced new departure tax fees,** a new transfer charge and parking rates effective April 1. US-bound departure tax remains \$37 per passenger and \$33.50 (a 50-cent increase) for other international flights. Children under two years are exempt.

A Transfer Charge of \$3 per transfer-

ring passenger for all passengers transferring to flights to non-US destinations will also be introduced as of April 1.

The AAA press release said that "passengers who departed from other airports (including Bonaire) and are traveling via Aruba to US destinations are considered to be departing from Aruba and are subject to the full standard check-in procedures and therefore all regular passenger charges are applicable."



Tiara Air
Amigo photo

► **Last Thursday Aruba's Aviation Administration grounded both Tiara Air Short aircraft** because irregularities were found during an administrative investigation of the company. One of the planes was already grounded for routine inspection. When this paper went to press, the director of Tiara Air, Alejandro Muyale, was still in discussion with the Aviation Administration. Tiara Air is Aruba's only airline and conducts ABC island and Venezuela flights.

► **The 100% drug check at Schiphol Amsterdam Airport was not affected by the Dutch Customs strike last week,** a spokesperson for Customs said.

They struck for a better collective labor agreement. Ten of the 120 Schiphol Customs officials did not strike. They did the checks of high risk flights.

Flights from Surinam, the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and Venezuela have been subject to 100% checks for drug smuggling since 2003. Not only passengers and freight are checked, but cabin personnel on these flights are also searched.

► According to a recent report,

BONAIRE The REPORTER

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"Investigation on Investments for Bonaire Airport," sent to the press by the opposition PDB Democratic Party, *the Algemene RekenkamerNederlandse Antillen* (Audit Office of the Netherlands Antilles, ARNA) **criticized the airport expansion project that was done on behalf of KLM.** In 1999 the airline brought up the weekly flight between the Netherlands and Bonaire for discussion. KLM said flights would only be profitable with 3 to 4 flights per week, but for this, the airport needed additional facilities. Between 2000 and 2004, a total of approximately NAf 24.9 million was invested in the airport according to the Audit Office.

(Continued on page 3)

coral glimpses

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



These two blennies are barely an inch long, and their weight would be insignificant to us. Yet all the coral polyps the blennies have touched, and some of the nearby ones, have withdrawn their tentacles as a result of the blennies' contact.

□ *Caption & photos by Dee Scarr.*



Flamingo airport departure area

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

Of the NAf 24.9 million, 5.3 million went to the enlargement of the runway; NAf 5.5 million to the prime apron for wide body airplanes; NAf 2.7 million for

the second apron; NAf 1.9 million for the new departure hall; and NAf 9.4 million to the fuel depot. According to the auditors, NAf 1.7 million was spent

(Continued on page 8)

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

Parrotfish can make or break a coral reef? Evidence presented by Dr. Peter Mumby, a world-renowned coral reef scientist, and others suggest that parrotfish populations can regulate the success of



Stoplight Parrot Jim Brandon photo

coral reefs. There is a constant battle among corals and algae for space on the reef. If given the chance, fast-growing algal species will overgrow corals. Luckily, on a healthy reef there are urchins, parrotfish and other grazers that act as lawnmowers, grazing algae down on a daily basis.

Dr. Mumby gave a public lecture recently here on Bonaire and presented a convincing argument that if parrotfish are overfished, coral reefs suffer. We're lucky in Bonaire since there isn't a history of intense parrotfish fishing and the local fishermen don't use traps (parrotfish are especially prone to be caught accidentally). Another reason parrotfish are extremely important is that long-spined black sea urchin populations plummeted in the early 80s due to a Caribbean-wide disease. These urchins were responsible for much of the grazing of algae before their die-off. There is often this type of redundancy (where different animals serve the same function) in coral reefs due to their high biodiversity. Since the urchins are still underpopulated, the parrotfish are extremely important.

So when someone asks why biodiversity is important, one of the reasons is this scheme of redundancy, so that if one animal suffers from a disease or dies off in a storm, others are there to carry out the same function. When you see (or hear) a parrotfish chomping the algae, remember that it's more than just a pretty face! □ CE

Caren Eckrich teaches Coral Reef Ecology and Scientific Diving to American University students at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. She's also the Director of Sea & Discover, a marine education center offering interactive learning programs to kids and adults. You can reach her at 717-5322 □ .



End of an Era

The **BONAIRE** REPORTER Secretly Sold

The *Bonaire Reporter* has been sold to a mystery buyer, rumored to be a well-known physiotherapist on the island. He granted the following interview on the condition that he not be identified, pending official announcement of the sale.

"No, I don't have any journalistic experience," he admitted, "but for years I've been unhappy with some of the publication policies of *The Reporter*. I feel someone should step in and set matters right." "First off, and most importantly," he continued, "I don't think the paper should print a person's photo without his permission. The current editors do that to me often, especially in the April Fool's edition."

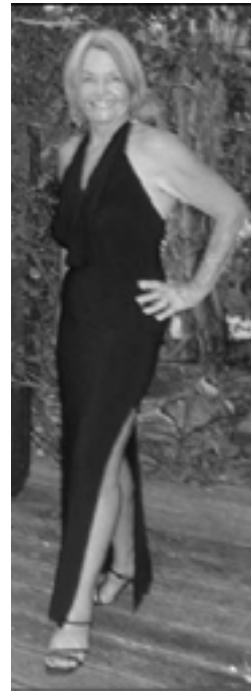
"They don't give enough coverage to turtles, either. They publish 48 issues a year, but probably no more than 20 include a turtle article. I am going to change the Born on Bonaire page to Hatched on Bonaire. Every week we will report on the whereabouts of a turtle as it travels through the Caribbean. I'm also suspicious of that parrot who keeps turning up in the paper. He doesn't look like a real lora to me."



George DeSalvo, photographed while spending 24 hours in piedra Bonaire becoming a true Bonairean.

"Everyone knows," the mystery buyer continued, "that eating is the number one cause of obesity. Yet *The Reporter* shills for food all the time. I'm going to put a stop to all those restaurant reviews, cooking school stories, and reports of Bonaireans going off to chef competitions. We're not going to have stories about bartending competitions either."

"I am unhappy about the total lack of sports coverage too. The U.S. papers wrote about the Super Bowl for weeks before and after the game was played, but *The Reporter* didn't have a single story. Now March Madness is going on.



Two views of Laura DeSalvo, a familiar figure on the island.

Where are the basketball scores? The paper doesn't even cover local sports, except for swimming now and then. As an avid sports fan, I'm going to correct that problem too."

At press time, George DeSalvo, publisher of *The Reporter*, and Laura DeSalvo, its editor had not seen this April 1st story, so no comment was available from them. They are sure to have something to say after they read it. DR/BL/



A lora



The secret buyer of The Bonaire Reporter. (Photo permission denied.)

Stichting Project Kids

Hands on Experience at Plaza and Buddy Dive



The youngsters participating in the Stichting project got a first hand opportunity to learn about Bonaire's number one industry: the hospitality business.

For their hospitality lessons the youngsters paid a visit to the Plaza Hotel and Buddy Dive. During the afternoon they helped in different areas in the hotel like the activity center, housekeeping, garden maintenance, reception, etc. The youngsters took it all very seriously and liked it very much. It really gave them an idea about the work in a hotel/resort. □ *Story & photos by Mick Schmit*



BONAIRE The REPORTER has moved!

The *Bonaire Reporter* has moved its headquarters to the Bolivia plantation area of Bonaire.

The new address is Bonaire Reporter, P.O. Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles.

The telephone numbers are: 786-6518 and 786-6125. Backup numbers are: 796-6125, 790-6518 and 790-8988. Email and website remain the same:

reporter@bonairenews.com

www.bonairereporter.com

REEF WINDOWS: HANDS OFF! 1977



Reef Windows: A series of stories about Bonaire's Dive Sites by Captain Don Stewart

This story is about Hands Off. It is from Captain Don's upcoming book, Reef Windows.

Captain Don

This story begins around 1965 at the Flamingo Beach Club when we were just getting into this diving thing. Although holding the title of manager, I was far more a diver than a resort manager. Perhaps this was a fortunate thing, as that positioned me to cater to our new diving fad that was just beginning to catch on.

Unknowingly, we were on the threshold of the future. Whatever doctrines we developed at that time would soon become history, though at the time I did not think of it that way. I was, however, fully aware that I was standing on the shores of a very magical place, where a watery field of gold lay before me. But to be

quite honest, I didn't entirely realize that what I did in those early days would set the standards of today.

I had been called a conservationist by some, but I felt I was not. However, I did see myself as a staunch environmentalist. I had come to know the word "conservationist" in the 1950s when it applied to tree huggers in California, always finding fault, but never a solution. I, on the other hand, believe that forests are meant to be cut, just as carrots are meant to be pulled and eaten. I am a builder and, like Frank Lloyd Wright, would prefer to build a house around a tree rather than cut it down. However, if I needed timber to build the house, then I would cut down the tree but would re-plant twice what I had taken. I have a strong dislike for anybody who willfully destroys.

I knew that when I placed divers into our reefs there would be some damage and corals were going to be hurt. I was not doing this diving thing for fun, but for hard revenue, for myself and for the island.

In those days Bonaire was considered a deprived island with only goats, charcoal and a little bit of salt to market. It was an island struggling to exist. International tourism was non-existent. However, I envisioned Bonaire's magnificent bay as a field of gold, still an untapped resource.

The coral reefs became the tools of our trade, and we fought with a vengeance to maintain their health, not only to protect nature, or because they were beautiful, but again because they were the tools of our trade. We were using our only resource, as West Virginia its coal, or California its gold, to promote revenue. However, we were fully aware that when humans enter any unspoiled environment, there would be a degree of impact.

Of course, our reefs were never used indiscriminately. When a damaged area was discovered, the site was closed for a "healing time." Later, when I launched the mooring program, it was my intention to have the moorings as close together as piano keys. When CURO (Council of Underwater Resort Operators) became a reality, it became their obligation to choose how to play the chords. Every quarter a new chord was to be struck, others rested, regardless of divers' laments. We were playing hardball.

I saw us using our reefs as a careful pimp uses his whores. They are his to sell, to watch over, and to care for. When they are sick, it is his duty to get them off the street and give them a rest, not to pine over, mollycoddle, or boohoo every temperature change. If you dislike the comparison here, give me a break! Those reefs were more alive than many humans I have known. Give me your money and go down to see and visit, but never disturb a polyp on the coral heads. Our industry cares about the reefs, and we busted our butts to maintain the ongoing health of the corals and to guarantee that our trespass had left no mark.

By the mid-1970s, the first of the bleeding heart conservationists began to descend on us. Most of them lived off fat grants, never understanding or wishing to understand the enormity of our industry or its needs. Several marine biologists suggested that we curtail further diving tourism. Some even suggested that

(Continued on page 16)



Picture Yourself With The Reporter Polish Border



Ivo Hauer from Boxmeer in The Netherlands writes, "This photograph was taken on the border between Poland and Belarus. You see the border post of Poland and of course myself. I was in Lublin, Poland, which was the site for the Rivercross meeting about the use of European rivers with participants from Greece, Poland, Germany and the Netherlands in attendance." □

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.) □

STRAIGHT TALK

It's all about dating, love, sex, friendship, and marriage - so let's talk. Email (betty@bonairenews.com) your relationship questions to my attention.



Betty Wills

Question from: He likes me...he likes me not...

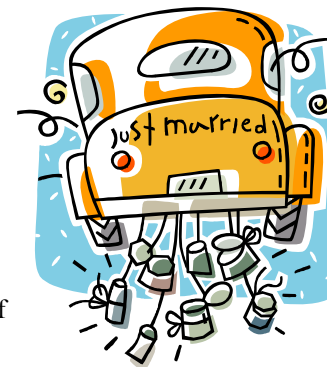
Dear Betty,

If a guy winks at you a lot and tends to give you attention each time you see him in a club, does that mean he digs you or is "Into you" even though he is dating someone else?

ANSWER: Perhaps the cigarette smoke in the club bothers his eyes, or it could be he's holding a drink in one hand and his date's hand in the other, so all he can do is wink to say "hi." Now then, if he's winking at you AND licking his lips, it could mean he hasn't had dinner, and wants you to buy, or it could mean he wants you for dinner. Regardless, it's a form of flirtation and rather harmless at this point. When a guy is really "into you," you'll know it. He'll be sitting at your table asking for your phone number, or leading you into a conversation that ends with an exchange of phone numbers unless he's planning to follow you home. Quick suggestion...go to the drugstore, buy a small bottle of Clear Eyes, and give it to him the next time he winks at you.

Facts To Know

- Gamophobia is the fear of marriage.
- On average, a woman will speak 7,000 words over the course of a day while a man will only speak 2,000 words in the same period of time.
- 35% of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.
- In a poll, American men and women were asked if they would marry the same person if they had it to do all over again.
 - 80% of the men responded that they would marry the same woman.
 - 50% of the women responded that they would marry the same man.
- Approximately 40% of weddings today are second marriages for one or both partners.



Statistics show that 75% of couples marrying today already share a home. □

Betty Wills

LETTERS

DAMMERS FAMILY CLEANUP AT PARKE PUBLICO

Each year the Dammers family gets together to do something as a group. This year the 35 family members decided to do a massive cleanup of the Parke Publico. One member of the family, Geraldine Dammers, is also the island's Commissioner of Education so they were joined by some of Bonaire's top officials, including UPB Party leader Ramonsito Booi, Commissioner Jonchi Dortalina and Senator Anthony Nicholas.

To capture the spirit here is part of a letter Juliette de Grijze, one of the family day organizers, wrote about the event:

About our family:

We usually organize family days to get together and talk about what is going on in each other's lives, and basically have some fun. We have gone camping for Easter in the past, gone to Isla di Yuana with Boy Antoin as our guide, have had Christmas dinners as a BIG family and we are also planning a cruise with the whole family (coming soon). There are a lot of things we do together. This time we chose to get together and clean up the yard at the Parke Publico where all our kids play. It was a very nice day, and because we were so many it was easy for all and we were done before noon!

Thanks to Goddard Catering group we had sandwiches, fruits and a lot of water and juice to lessen the thirst. As soon as I approached Goddard with the idea they were ready to help out in any way they could. The family was also quick to e-mail me back with positive feedback. I am happy that again they showed that having a big family is great when it comes to helping each other out. Besides family I also had some friends who volunteered to help out. One of my cousins who lives in Curaçao was also present. The brother of my aunt's husband also showed up to help without being asked or notified. I had an uncle who did not receive the e-mail, but was called the same morning and still showed up! Whoever said that goodwill in men is dead has to read this story in *The Bonaire Reporter*.

Juliette E. de Grijze



Family members



A trailer load of trash



Officials Dammers, Booi and Dortalina

NO SHARKS HERE?

Dear Editor:

Visiting diving friends often ask why they see no sharks on Bonaire. This question is reminiscent of another question, "Why does war favor sharks?" that was posed to Vito Volterra, Italy's leading physicist of the time after World War I. That question was asked because after the war it was observed that the number of sharks in the Adriatic Sea had increased. Mr. Volterra wrote down some equations, modeling the dynamics between prey and predator fish, and came up with the answer. The key to the answer was:

fishing.

Without going into the math, here is the intuitive explanation. Even if we assume that fishermen take fish indiscriminately, the prey and predator fish suffer different pressures. The prey fish get decimated by fishing directly, but this pressure is partially relaxed because of decrease in amount of their predators. On the other hand, the predator fish get decimated by fishing directly AND suffer additionally from a decrease in amount of their prey. So, fishing hits predators harder than it hits prey fish. Moreover, the higher on the food chain a predator, the harder the hit. Sharks, a top predator, suffer most.

So, what happened after World War I? The hostilities between the Austrian and Italian navies during the war disrupted fishing in the Adriatic Sea. The fishing pressure was released, and the fish started to come back to their natural balances. Sharks reappeared. □ *Genady Filkovsky.*

Genady Filkovsky, a frequent contributor to The Reporter letters column, is a retired Tel Aviv University professor living on Bonaire. He taught Analytical Methodology and applied it for systems development in US. He holds a Master's Degree in Applied Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Science.



What Do You Have to Say?

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

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)
on unnecessary extra expenses. Besides, the UPB/PABOSO-controlled Executive Council at that time did not sufficiently justify it or get competitive bids for the work.

► Despite the criticism of the airport improvement project **it was completed on schedule and KLM has been using the airport since completion of the improvements, one of its most efficient stations**, for its usual four-times daily landings/takeoffs. This has meant hundreds of new jobs, higher hotel room occupancy by air crews and the unparalleled convenience of daily connections to Europe and South America. Reportedly, despite the increase in departure taxes, the airport is losing millions of guilders a year. The Democrat faction on the Island Council has called for KLM to continue the Peru stopover and requested meetings to investigate how to attract new airport business and keep the jobs of support personnel at Goddard catering.



Air Jamaica photo

► Based on this report in the *Jamaica Observer*, Air Jamaica is in trouble: **“Two years and three months after the government took over from Gordon 'Butch' Stewart's Air Jamaica Acquisition Group (AJAG), service is no better.** The airline's loyal passenger base is evaporating due to its poor on-time performance. It has a reduced fleet with no significant reduction of its staff. The many value-added benefits that passengers enjoyed have been abandoned. For a year and a half Air Jamaica has been without a Chief Financial Officer. As a consequence the credibility of financial information coming out of Air Jamaica is suspect.

Maintenance has steadily deteriorated and has not registered any improvement since December 2004. Air Jamaica's marketing efforts are practically non-existent.

From 1994-2004, during 10 years of private ownership, Air Jamaica lost US\$700 million but contributed billions to the Jamaican economy, according to a non-partisan MIT report. In two years and three months since returning to government control, Air Jamaica is estimated to have lost approximately US\$350 million.

"All this talk about re-fleeting the airline with old Boeing planes will take Air Jamaica back to the dark ages," said a former senior Air Jamaica pilot. "It is madness. Any pilot will tell you that it is better and safer to fly modern aircraft with state-of-the-art features, not planes that are 20 years out of date." The month of March is traditionally one of the best for Air Jamaica. According to Air Jamaica sources the airline's load factor for the month is hovering around 50%.

► If you noticed a reduction in Bonaire's postal services you are not alone. **The amount of mail dispatched by New Post Netherlands Antilles (NPNA) decreased by 15% last year.** One reason for this is that much more mail is being sent electronically. NPNA is now said to be focusing on developing new services like express mail and parcel post, and also

on mail orders via Internet delivered to the post office or a post office box in the US, said Director Sidney Poulina and Corporate Affairs Director George Lichtveld.

"The fact that postal rates in the Antilles are higher than in Europe and the US has nothing to do with this," said Lichtveld, Canada Post International Limited, which owns all of the shares, has still not complied with the investment requirements of its initial agreement. But a lot still has to be done within the company. "At this moment, there won't be any layoffs," said Poulina. "We had to consider some options and decided to lower the operational costs by economizing in the fleet. That won't have impact on the mail delivery though."



Dutch emigration information both Internet photo

► **Many Dutchmen and women want to resettle in foreign countries.** More than half of people questioned say that they are thinking about exchanging the Netherlands for a cheaper, sunnier, or just another living place.

For the first time the Netherlands Antilles had an information booth at the 10th annual Emigration Fair that took place in Utrecht last week. It offered reading material about the requirements the Europeans have to comply with if they want to move to the Antilles.

One of the questions most asked by fairgoers was what exactly would the political changes mean for emigration to the islands. They ask whether they can move from Amsterdam to Bonaire as easy as they can move from Amsterdam to Rotterdam.

"Well, the answer to that is actually very difficult," said a spokesman for Antillean House, "because there is still very little clarity on the details. The outline of the new political structure is already clear, but specific issues are not. So, our advice to the people is to wait awhile and follow the developments, before they decide to move."

► **Christie Dovale, President of Amigoe di Tera, an environmental NGO affiliated with Friends of the Earth International (FOEI), wants to revitalize the organization.** Dormant for a few years it is restarting. A new board needs to be elected in order to start up the process.

A general meeting will be held at a Community Center (*Sentro di barrio*) in the near future for elections. "If you love Bonaire and have time on your hands, be at that meeting!" says Christie. "We will pass on more information as it becomes available."

► MCB is the first Dutch Caribbean bank that made its results public this year. After taxes and before the transferring to



► **In honor of the International Year of the Reef in 2008, Reef Check Foundation has issued an URGENT CALL TO ACTION** represented in the International Declaration of Reef Rights pictured here. Please go to <http://www.reefcheck.org/petition/petition.php> and sign the document today if you agree.

reserves, **the MCB-Group in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba made a profit of NAf 93.3 million guilders**, an increase of 10.1% compared to 2005. Curaçao's net grew by 7%; 2% in Aruba; **3% in Bonaire**; and 47% in St. Maarten. The result before taxes was NAf118.1 million, 10 million more than the year before. After transferring to the reserve for general bank risks, the profit was 84 million after taxes in 2006. That's an increase of 10.5% compared to 2005. The figures were approved by KPMG Accountants, BV.



Lionel 'Chicu' Capriles MCB photo

"It was satisfying once more that all the territories where we operate have contributed to the increase of the profit," stated President-Director Lionel "Chicu" Capriles in the report. Net loans and advances to customers increased by 11.9% to almost 2.6 billion at the end of last year, 275 million more than at the end of 2005. The number of commercial loans went up by 13.4%, and private ones by 11.9%. Customer deposits increased with more than 332 million to more than NAf3.8 billion or 9.4% more than in 2005.

MCB-Bonaire is the island's largest non-government local supporter of charitable and social support organizations according to Bonaire Reporter figures. MCB currently employs 1,362 people in the Antilles, 18 more than in 2005.

► **One of Bonaire's sources in the legal community has said that the "Sunset Divi Resort is moving forward,"** despite rumors to the contrary.

Some necessary papers were signed earlier this month.

► **Look for the defunct wind turbine at Sorobon to come down within 30 days** if the promises made by WEB are to be fulfilled. It is set to be replaced by a more powerful modern unit and connected to Bonaire's electrical network.

► **The Antilles General Pension Fund, APNA, sold 75% of its ASKA Insurance shares to the Multinational Seguros de Venezuela.** If approved by the Central Bank, Boy Bakmeijer (55), who has been working for Fatum Insurance since 1969, and current Director Eelke Stins (63), will become directors of the Antillean insurance company. ASKA has 20 employees.

► **The Fundashon Kuido pa Bista i Oido (FKBO), which is the Foundation for the Blind and Deaf, will be opening an office for the public soon and needs volunteers.** This Foundation, one of the most effective on Bonaire, has always remained low profile, but it now needs help as it goes forward to help even more people.

Since it generates no income on its own (money comes from donations or charitable organizations) it cannot afford to pay the volunteers to man its office. Most of its board members are employed elsewhere, so community help is needed. If you can spare a few hours a week call Roxanne Timp, FKBO Secretary, at 715-5552 or 785-0518, email: roxanne.timp@mcbbonaire.com; or fax 717-8584.

The Bonaire Reporter would like to make a special plea for our readers to help this worthy all-volunteer organization that does so much good.

(Continued on page 9)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 8)

► Ramon de Leon, Bonaire National Marine Park Manager, announced that starting Monday, March 26, **the Park will begin conducting the 5th round of the nutrient monitoring program** (just one to go). As usual, they will need help in collecting algae, water samples, fish count and laboratory work. If you are interested in participating please let him know by e-mail, marinepark@stinapa.org.

The next and last round will be held in the first week of July and then there will be a presentation of the findings.



Snow snorkler anxious for Bonaire

► The snowstorms early this month delayed a *Reporter* reader's arrival at Bonaire's Sorobon Beach Resort. We believe he was **so disappointed** he had to begin in his North American backyard and sent us this snorkeling photo.

► One of the reason foreigners invest in Bonaire real estate is **the even handed way land and property sales are handled**: essentially it makes no difference whether the buyer is a local or not. That's not the case elsewhere in the Caribbean. Take the situation in Anguilla, an ex-British island often compared with Bonaire. The Chief Minister's Office recently announced a 12-week moratorium on the issuing of Alien Land Holding Licenses for virtually all real estate. If you are not Anguillan you must have a government issued permit to own real estate.



Taking back batteries

► More and more people are helping Bonaire keep free of pollution. Here Scott and Sally Simons take more batteries collected by Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn back to the US. **Locals, give your used batteries to people returning** to developed countries where they can dispose of the batteries properly. Bonaire's landfill cannot process the toxic metals in the batteries. **Tourists, take them back home.**

► Sunday, April 1, join the **Walk through Plantation Bolivia area with historian-journalist-archivist Bòi Antoin**, sponsored by Top Health & Fitness. Meet at the site of the old airport on the Rincon Road, across from the license plate-flag display, at 6 am. The two to two and a half hour walk will be on flat

ground with information on history, flora and fauna. Bring your own water; there will be snacks along the way and hot soup at the end. The price is NAf7,50. Tickets are available at Top Health Fitness, open Monday through Friday, 5-9 pm. Saturdays 9-12noon. More information 567-1055 or 786-8908.

► **The Rotary Club of Bonaire has announced that their popular Ro-taRally will be held this Sunday, March 25.** Proceeds will go to support the many charitable works of Rotary like the greenhouse at the Rincon Disabilities Center (FKPD), School Breakfast Program and many other activities for children and the elderly.



The Rally will begin at 11 am at Seru LARGU and end at the Mangazina di Rei where the Diaz family will prepare a delicious BBQ and have a bar.

The cost of Rally participation is NAf25; the BBQ is NAf15. Tickets are available from Rotary members or call Orphaline Saleh at 715-5506 or Jules van Dongen at 786-5877. All are invited to participate and have fun for a worthy cause.



Restaurant Section

► **Last Bite Bakery, now known for their delicious NAf10 take-out lunches, has a new luncheon menu schedule.** Tuesdays, it's **Lasagna**. Wednesday is **Chicken and Dumplings**; Thursday, **Meatloaf with Mashed Potatoes**; and Friday, **Chili con Carne**. To avoid disappointment call ahead to reserve a plate. They go fast! Tel. 717-3293. Last Bite is across from Bon Fysio and next to Obersi Electronics.



New owner, Lee with Rosti Queen Susie and Rosti King Noldi

► After serving the most delectable Swiss food since April 2000, **Susie and Noldi of Swiss Chalet are closing their doors.** Last Thursday they had a gathering for friends at the venerable "Chalet" to say thank you and *auf Wiedersehen* for awhile. Susie says, "We have been very, very happy serving our customers over the years, many of whom have been repeat customers and who've also become good friends."

After their month sojourn in Switzerland many of us hope there is some way they will be able to make those wonderful

► **Hagen and Corinna (photo right) of Cactus Blue are now offering Caribbean "Gourmet Pizzas" that emerge from their brand new Blodgett pizza oven.**

"Each pizza begins with our fresh dough that is made daily," explains Hagen. "We then add only the highest quality ingredients, including our homemade pizza sauce, quality cheeses, ocean fresh fish, lean meats and fresh vegetables. We bake our thin crust Pizzas on special stones that give us the special flavors we are looking for." Some examples: "Jambalaya" - shrimp, spicy Chorizo sausage and chicken; "Jerk" - Jerk rubbed chicken breast, pineapple, mozzarella and cheddar cheese; "Bacon Double Cheese Burger" -seasoned beef, smoked bacon, onion, cheddar and mozzarella cheese. There is a nice selection of Vegetarian combos too. Pick from 26 toppings, three different sizes: 8", 12" or 16."

Prices start at only \$6.50 (NAf11,70). Order a large 16" take away pizza and get FREE 8" garlic bread! Saturday night is Pizza Night: order one 12" pizza and get the 2nd 12" pizza for only \$9.99 (NAf18). Cactus Blue is open Monday to Saturday 5 pm to 10 pm.



"rostis" again.

The new owner is Lee van Leeuwen, a recent arrival on Bonaire, who will open a music-oriented bar at the location in about a month.

► **There will be no issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* next week** in keeping with our policy of four issues a month (March has five Fridays). The next issue, dated April 6-13, maybe available as early as April 4th, will begin *The Reporter's* pre-island council election coverage. This year Feature Editor Greta Kooistra will not interview the party leaders as usual; instead she will interview their wives. □ G./L.D



Crew of Mambo Jambo
Wilna Gronenboom photo

► Wilfried and Jolanda who ran the restaurant at Yacht Club Apartments took over the former Mazani (nee Rendez-Vous) restaurant last Friday night. **It's called Mambo Jambo** and will serve an international menu, featuring Indonesian dishes and Rijstaffel.



► Due to great interest FORMA, the Bonaire Institute for adult education, **will start, on April 3rd, a second course in Papiamentu for beginners with English and Dutch as the instruction language from April 3rd to June 28th, twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 6:30-8 pm in comfortable air conditioned classrooms.** You may sign up for this class at FORMA, Kaya Korona 13 (between RBTT and Kooyman) during office hours. For more information call 717-6949 and ask for Margie Thodé or email: margiethode@fundashonforma.com.

SGB Students Aboard Ship



Hr. Ms. Zuiderkruis (Southern Cross),

Thanks to a suggestion by a reporter from this newspaper, SGB mechanical-vocational education students got a chance to closely inspect a Dutch navy ship.

On March 13, the Dutch naval vessel, *Hr. Ms. Zuiderkruis* (*Southern Cross*), captained by Commander van Lent, began her Bonaire port call. The 169-meter-long supply ship stayed until Saturday, March 17, to give the crew a little time off after a very busy period.

For example on Friday February 23, she

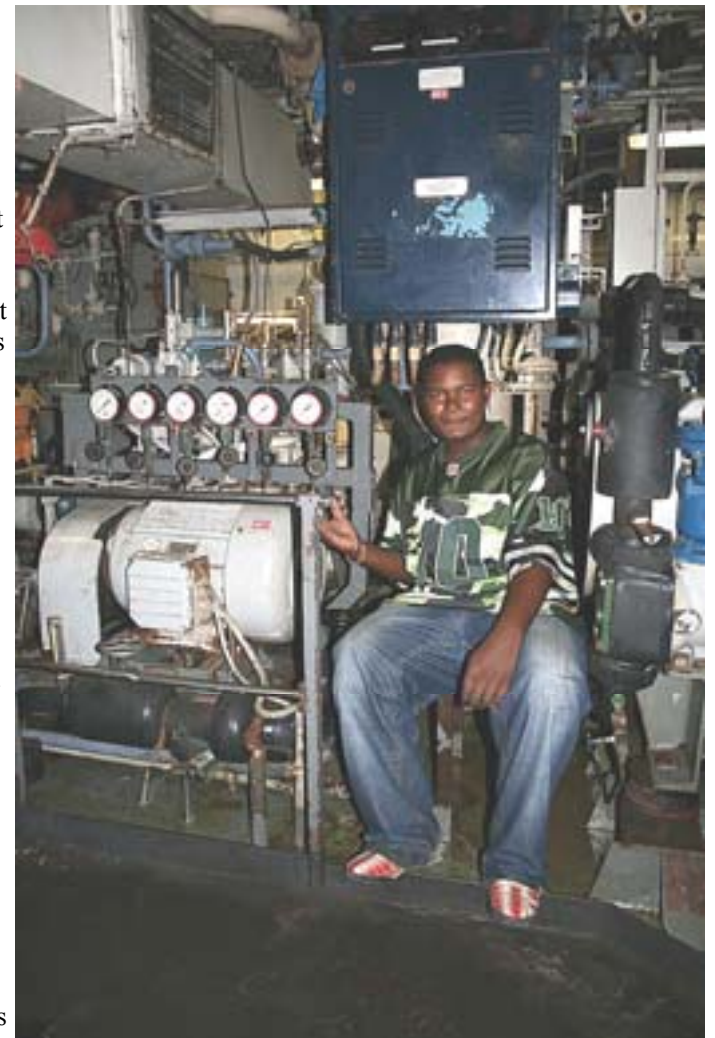
intercepted a “go-fast” boat with 530 kilos of drugs aboard, of which 123 kilos was cocaine. Finding cocaine on a go-fast boat is very unusual and the amount was a record for this area. The go-fast was apprehended by a coordinated action of the Dutch Marines and American and French forces. The five-month cruise of the *Hr. Ms. Zuiderkruis* started in the beginning of February and they will re-

turn to Holland around the beginning of July.

The boat is 32 years “old,” but she’s equipped with modern high tech instruments to fit her for the present duty. The function and the crew of the ship have changed in the last years. She initially was to supply other navy ships on the open sea. The supplies could be kerosene, diesel or water, but also fresh and dry food, clothes, spare parts and of course munitions

But her role has changed. Rescue patrols with her Westland Lynx Helicopter are one of her present tasks, in addition to drug and immigration control.

Interestingly, in the 80s, she was the first Dutch navy ship to have female crew on board. This was possible because the ship has a lot of space so they could arrange separate sleep and bathing (shower and toilets) facilities. Currently



SGB student Jean-Carlos Mena in the engine room.

(Continued on page 11)

(SGB Students Aboard Ship Continued from page 10)
 they have a total of 175 crewmembers on board of whom 38 are women, including four officers.

Even when the crew is having time off some work went on -specifically visits by Bonaire's officials and the public. On the 14th Governor Domacassé visited the ship twice - in the morning for the official presentations and later in the evening for a relaxing drink together with visitors from Bonaire.

Last Friday, the 16th, the SGB (high school) motor vehicle vocational education students had the chance to look inside the ship - the heart of the *Hr. Ms. Zuiderkruis* - the engine room. They encountered two big Stork diesel engines, totaling 21,000 HP, that give this ship the power to "move" at 21 knots. Besides all the other engines for making drinking water, cooling, heating etc. the SGB students had a close inspection of the Lynx helicopter.

This helicopter has two Rolls Royce GEM 42 motors, which gives it the ability to fly 220 km/hour. Its main task is to find submarines. For this job they use a dipping sonar which can go 100 meters underwater, radar and FLIR (forward-looking infrared) system. The helicopter can also carry two torpedoes or a light machine gun. However, these days rescuing people is her most usual task.

Later that day, the *Hr. Ms. Zuiderkruis* was open to the public. Many children with teachers and parents had a look. The helicopter got the most attention.

Hopefully, such a visit can inspire the youngsters to think about a job for the future.



The ship's crew with SGB students

On Saturday the 17th the *Hr. Ms. Zuiderkruis* left Bonaire at 9 am, going back to work, patrolling the Caribbean Sea. □ Story, photo & inspiration by Wilna Gronenboom



These kids didn't get aboard... but enjoyed themselves anyway

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COVER
STORY

Spotlight on Turtle Conservation



Help protect these beauties

Dr. Adriana Esmeijer, Director of the Prins Bernhard Culture Foundation of the Netherlands, Antilles and Aruba, decided to spend some time on Bonaire looking at the beneficial effect that the fund is having on the island..

She and her husband spent four days on Bonaire to observe firsthand “in the field” some of the projects the funds had helped with financial donations. At Mangasina di

Rei they sponsored the construction of two new traditionally built houses. At Washington Slagbaai Park they financed the Visitors Center. For Sea Turtle Conservation (STCB) they helped with publishing the new brochure.

On Friday evening they had a get-together at the Kas di Arte with Governor Domacassé and representatives of most of the foundations they supported on

(Continued on page 16)



Gielmon “Funchi” Egbrechts, Bonaire’s “turtle man,” tags a sea turtle

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The Fisherman and the Wheelbarrow



Two Bonairean fishermen: Benjamin “Kadóf” Soleana and Manuel “Walala” Portugues with a fresh caught barracuda and the hand-made wheelbarrow

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



Kadóf building a new boat

He is a fisherman, has always been a fisherman and will be a fisherman all his life, “*ku Dios ke*” (*Deo volente*-God willing). His name is Benjamin Soleana and it is his wheelbarrow parked along the sea every day that intrigued me.

Mr. Soleana, nicknamed Kadóf (nobody knows why, not even Mr. Soleana himself), lives in a small wooden house along Kaya Grandi in Kralendijk. His age is 63 and when I ask him in what year he was born it takes some time to remember the right year... 1943!

Every day of every year Kadóf wakes up at around five o’clock in the early morning. Kadóf is an uncomplicated man. He does not possess a watch. That’s not necessary for him; he just looks out of the window and watches the stars. His day starts.

(Continued on page 17)

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Fantastic Phantom bag-less cyclonic canister vacuum cleaner practically new, NAf100-. Call 786-3117.

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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 captronbon@yahoo.com. Include "BOAT" in the subject line.

NIKONOS III - Camera and Macro tube Set. Still the best UW camera for macro shots. Original owner. NEVER been flooded. Ideal back-up camera. Complete NAf200. Call George 786-6215.



Cars

For Sale: Toyota Corolla 1995, 8 valves, Insurance paid till December 2007. Engine in good condition; can be used as holiday car, and can be sold afterwards. Possibility to lease. 25 euro a day; minimum 7 days. Asking price; NAf 1.900, or 850 euro or \$1000. Contact: 529-0119

FIAT BARCHETTA Cabrio, 1997, yellow, with hard-top and windstop. Make an offer... Tel. 786-5591.



For Sale: Kia Spectra 2002, A/C, Radio, 4 doors. In very good condition. Price: NAf 9500,00. Call: 786-1230\

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Lost: Chanel sunglasses, brown with black, left hanging on a tree near by the oil tanker pier. It was given to me by a dearest friend! Call Marion 701-0505 email w.selfhout@flamingotv.net

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Part-time Administrator wanted. Must be multilingual-English, Papiamentu, Dutch. Call 512-6375. □

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Rental Wanted: SGB teacher looking to rent as of the 1st of August or the 1st of July an unfurnished or furnished APARTMENT for one person, one or two rooms. Rent will be paid automatically through the bank. Please call 529-0118. No problem paying a month guarantee.

Cricket Buddy Needed Do you have Direct TV / Satellite TV and will watch ICC World Cup Cricket (March 30-April)? I seek a cricket buddy as I do not have Direct TV. I can watch any games but am really keen on the Windies, India, Ireland and Bermuda. Please email ann@antiguacaribbean.com

Looking for Astarians in Bonaire to start a study group. Phone: 512-6375

Events

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ENGLISH/DUTCH/SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS (Level 1) Evening Classes start on May 14th 2007 From Monday to Thursday. For more information, please contact us. Tel: 717-3966 Fax: 717-3970 E-mail: nataliaferreira_xusombonaire@yahoo.com

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A Shrink Studies SCUBA

Panic

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Next September I will be the “ringmaster” of a workshop on diver panic in Johannesburg, South Africa, along with several experts at the invitation of DAN South Africa. Dr. Frans Cronje expects well over 120 instructors and divemasters to attend and one of the topics will be “Identifying anxiety and panic risk in divers.” As Frans and I discussed the workshop recently, I told him about a student diver.

Ron, a local Raleigh dive shop owner and very experienced PADI instructor, asked me to help out with open water check out dives at our local spring-fed quarry one weekend. He already had an excellent divemaster intern lined up to assist him with a large class, but he was concerned about one young woman in particular. “Susan” (not her real name) had struggled with extreme anxiety during the pool sessions and had required lots of extra attention which had slowed down the rest of the class. He thought

she could complete the OW check out dives but wanted some extra backup just in case.

When I arrived that Saturday morning at the quarry I was introduced to the class and was assigned to stay very close to this young woman who seemed somewhat nervous. Susan explained she just needed her cigarettes and coffee. We let the rest of the class wade in ahead of us and then she and I followed closely behind. After being underwater for a few minutes at less than 6 meters depth, she indicated she needed to surface immediately. We ascended with my holding her BC strap firmly to prevent a panicked rapid ascent. We inflated our BCs and I helped her calm herself with

(Continued on page 17)

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Today's tagging team

(Spotlight on Turtle Conservation. Continued from page 12)

Bonaire with their donations.

Dr. Esmeijer got some first hand experience in turtle research when Bonaire's turtle researcher, Gielmon

"Funchi" Egbrechts, took her on a tagging and exploration expedition in Lac Bay. It was part of STCB's two-week study to observe and catch sea turtles, measure and weigh them, take DNA samples and tag them with an ID. They get two tags - one metal and one plastic. If they lose one they'll still have one left, to show

which one is the more practical to use. This time Dr. Esmeijer did more than donate; she helped haul turtles out of the sea so they could be measured and tagged. □

Story & photos by Wilna Gronenboom

(Hands Off. Continued from page 5)

we should immediately abolish 50% of our diving because they thought it was the only solution to save the reefs. Several Ph.D's actually implied it would be far better if the government were to outlaw diving altogether. Their reasoning, of course, was to save the reefs for their future study.

Do you know that I never have understood the phrase, "Bleeding Heart Liberal?" Bleeding Heart, yes, a term I throw about like rice at a wedding. However, "Liberal!" That's another thing. It's a word I like because it is really "me." It baffles me how these perfectly

sound and meaningful words ever got together. "Bleeding heart" means pity, remorse, soft heart and lament. "Liberal" to me means free birth, not restricted, not bound by orthodox tenets or established forms. Our fledgling dive industry for some strange reason was attracting these "bleeding hearts." It was a stanch liberal attitude that held them at bay.

Biologists say, and I agree, that our oceans are in peril. Every thinking person must know this. However, the reefs of Bonaire, as lovely as they are, are

part of the grand total. Our reefs, like others around the world, are the canaries of the sea. When the reefs succumb, Mother Ocean is sick, perhaps dying. Struggling only to save the reefs is like treating the symptoms but not the cause.

"Our reefs, like others around the world, are the canaries of the sea. When the reefs succumb, Mother Ocean is sick, perhaps dying. Struggling only to save the reefs is like treating the symptoms but not the cause."

In answer to the debate over what damage, if any, our industry was causing we needed a control. For this I chose to open, on the south side of Klein Bonaire, a new window that I named **Hands Off**, a new site that had never seen a diver, where we would not allow new, unskilled divers or those with a camera to enter. I was out to prove a point, and it wasn't long before that point was clearly made. The truth of it all: Yes, some divers

are like bulls in a china shop. Some photographers would lie on the coral just to get a desired shot. Nine good divers and one clumsy beast. To the polyps, it was all the same. Ayo!

The Marine Park, in its formation, had set aside two Forbidden Zones. However, these totally closed areas were of no use in observing the controlled divers whom we allowed to enter **Hands Off**.


Hands Off proved that our responsibility was more than just running a good dive shop, and our industry shifted

gears. We dedicated ourselves to providing more training and really teaching people how to dive. The bicycle kick and flailing arms had to go. Buoyancy control became paramount. Actually, almost every diver was run through the hoops, so to speak, then turned loose. We knew our people. If they got unruly, mean with the reefs or with us when we enforced the rules necessary to protect the reefs, we pulled their tanks and suggested they find another island. Their flagrant violations meant blacklisting everywhere on Bonaire, and no shop would rent tanks to them.

More dive shops came to Bonaire, and Diving Freedom was on the horizon. While popular with divers and a hallmark of Bonaire, perhaps this was one of my greatest blunders. As more and more divers rent tanks and throw them into pickup trucks to dive wherever and whenever they please, the damage to the coral worsens. There are no longer dive guides dedicated to preserving the reefs with each group to ensure that our trespass shall leave no mark. Now, the care of Bonaire's reefs is up to each diver who enters her dive windows. The study conducted at **Hands Off** showed us that coral damage is lessened when only experienced, non-camera carrying divers are permitted to explore her reefs. Thus, divers who do not have good buoyancy control or who put the picture ahead of preserving the reefs damage Bonaire's "fields of gold" for us all. I have told you about Bonaire's past; her future is up to you.

□ -79- Captain Don

Did you enjoy this story? There are more at Captain Don's story site: <http://booksyarnsfairytales.com>



Captain Don adds, "This is the 40th and last story of Reef Windows. Finally the book is completed. Every story has been crafted and edited by Linda Cober. Enjoy this one because it's the last FREE reef story to be told. I expect the book "Reef Windows" to close at 334 pages with over 100 photographs."



Be an Angel ... Pass on The Reporter to a Friend

"KRUSA LAMAN" International Literature Festival

Next week Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30pm will be the 4th year that Bonaire will be organizing "The International Literature Festival - Crossing Seas 2007."

In Papiamentu it is called *Krusa Laman*. This time it will be held at Kas di Arte. We have authors from **Indonesia** - Nukila Amal; **South Africa**-Gabeba Baderoon; **Surinam**- Jit Narian; **Holland-Morocco**- Ramsey Nasr; and from **Curaçao** the popular Jazz, Tumba singer of the moment, Ezaline Calister. From **Bonaire** we have as authors: Frans Booi, Monica Clarinda and Annie Francees.

All these international authors of this festival will visit the S.G.B high school and will offer some workshops with the local authors. With this Festival we want to encourage The Art of Literature - to read, write, and publish more books of Bonaire on an international level, and of course, support all the future talented artists in this field. The entrance is free! But there will be a box for donations to help organize future events. □ Jackie Bernabela, *Kas di Arte*.

kas di arte

ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL FORMATION
KAYA J.N.E. CRAANE 34
BONAIRE N.A.

(A Shrink Studies SCUBA.
Continued from page 15)

diaphragmatic breathing while the rest of the class presumably went on to the submerged platforms to perform various tasks.

Susan talked about being worried about multiple psychosocial stressors in her life, including her job and family and personal finances and a conflicted relationship with her boyfriend. That was all well and good, but then she explained that she had decided to learn to scuba dive to overcome her claustrophobia. Unable to hold my tongue, I blurted out something to the effect that she should have come to somebody like me for treatment of the claustrophobia before taking up scuba diving! She admitted that she had deliberately hidden this little piece of medical information from her instructor after being turned away from another dive shop where she had filled in the student application form honestly.

The Recreational Scuba Training Council Medical Statement (2001) used by PADI and most training agencies specifically asks, "Have you ever had or do you currently have... Behavioral health, mental or psychological problems (Panic attack, fear of closed or open spaces)? A positive response to a question does not necessarily disqualify you from diving. A positive response means that there is a preexisting condition that may affect your safety while diving and you must seek the advice of your physician prior to engaging in dive activities." Susan had answered, "NO" at Ron's dive shop.

At that point I decided it was unlikely Susan was going to be able to catch up with the rest of the class and complete

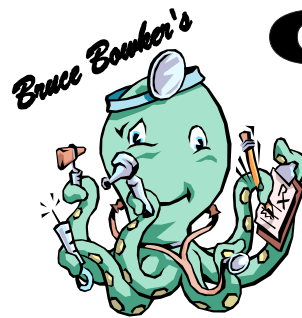
David F. Colvard, M.D., is a private psychiatrist and clinical investigator in Raleigh NC, and a divemaster. He hosts the website www.DivePsych.com which provides evidence-based information for divers on psychological and stress factors in scuba divers. □

Most photos supplied by author



her open water check out dive tasks that weekend. So, I focused instead on just helping her enjoy some casual diving with very close divemaster support with her instructor nearby. She made several fun dives that morning, remaining submerged up to 10 meters depth for over 20 minutes at a time. I later heard from one of her friends that she decided she was too busy to complete her scuba certification.

Susan's case illustrates an all too common problem faced by dive shop owners and instructors. Some scuba students willfully withhold critical health information for a variety of reasons, which potentially endangers them and their instructors and other divers in the water with them. In retrospect, Ron realized he would have been wise to have asked Susan more questions after he observed how much anxiety she had during the pool classes rather than just helping her tough it out. Then, maybe she could have been directed to professional help before failing to complete her open water certification. As it is, she is unlikely to retry, which may or may not have been for the best. □ Story & photos by Dr. David Colvard



Gear Doc

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

Beware of Your Dive Light!!

Dive lights and video lights are a lot brighter and therefore can be much hotter than an average household flashlight. Some manufactures of dive lights even say they should be used only underwater, the reason being that the water keeps them cooler. In other words, dive lights get hot, real hot. I mean really hot.

The first time I saw how hot this could be was when a diver was carrying a bag onto an airplane. Halfway to the steps, the bag was smoldering! In it was a very powerful European made dive light. If you have never seen one of these, they look like something made to carry plutonium. When he opened his case the inside of the bag was more or less a melted pile of plastics and other unrecognizable items. The light had only been on a few minutes! Imagine if this had been in the cargo space and happened after the plane took off with no one around to see it.

The other time was just a small dive light that was in checked-on baggage. When the diver opened his suitcase the next day, the little yellow light, which previously had a rather flat plastic lens, now had a very domed plastic lens and very dead batteries. The heat was so intense, and with the lower airplane pressure, it caused the plastic to bulge



out and discolor. Had something been close by with a low flash point, a fire could have easily started. One doesn't need much imagination to think what the result of that could have been. Also the light was packed with the switch in the locked position! So much for locks on the switches.

Don't ever travel with batteries in your lights. Don't trust the locks on the switches either. And if you feel you absolutely need to keep the batteries in the light because of space (a poor excuse though), at least remove the bulb or one battery.

One last tip. There are a lot of makers of lights and each manufacturer makes a lot of different lights so that makes one large amount of different bulbs. It is not reasonable for a dive shop to carry every light bulb for every light so bring one or two spares with you on each dive trip. □

Bruce Bowker

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



(The Fisherman and the wheelbarrow.
Continued from page 13)

He pushes his handmade wheelbarrow to the shore of Kralendijk. His wooden one-wheeler is registered: "3009 - B" and "B - 1964." Every car on the island has two license plates, so the wheelbarrow has two license plates too. Kadóf built his vehicle some 10 years ago. He bought an eight-inch rim and fitted a massive tire on it: no tube, no air, just solid rubber. Uncomplicated! He took some wooden beams and a piece of marine plywood and his carrier was ready.

So, every day he rolls to the coast, parks his vehicle along the boulevard and jumps into the *Trupial*, his handmade fishing boat, registered: NB 26. Then he starts his brand new and reliable Mercury 15 horsepower outboard engine, heading for Punt Vierkant and the Willemstoren (a lighthouse along the south coast of Bonaire), eagerly searching for barracuda. He feels no fear of the big blue sea. He is completely relaxed.

There are two impressive hooks on the fishing line. The hooks are connected with an iron wire. Mr. Soleana dismantled old cables from the hand brakes of a bike to connect the two hooks. Uncomplicated!

Every day the catch of the day is barracuda. Every day he catches fish from two to three feet long. The total weight of his catch is about 15 kilos. Then, around 11 in the morning, he returns to Playa. He puts the two buckets with the fresh fish on his wheelbarrow and rolls home. There he picks up his bicycle and pedals to Louis, the fishmonger in Antriol. Around noon Kadóf returns to his little home. The working day has come to an end. But, because of no hurry, no watch, no nothing, no nonsense, Mr. Soleana gathers his tools and continues working on a new fishing boat. He uses "saman," a very strong type of wood from Venezuela to construct the frame of his boat. This will be his 14th hand made fishing boat.

Mister Soleana is a happy man: a bike, a boat and a barrow. No car, no computer, no airco. Just the sea and some friends. Kadóf lives the right way of life that is so easy to practice on our small Caribbean island. □ Story & photos by J@n Brouwers



DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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

Complete solution on page 23.

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
3-23	4:52	1.9FT.	14:04	0.8FT.					85
3-24	5:56	1.9FT.	14:59	0.7FT.					74
3-25	6:54	2.0FT.	15:49	0.7FT.					62
3-26	7:50	1.9FT.	16:27	0.7FT.					52
3-27	8:37	1.9FT.	17:05	0.8FT.					48
3-28	9:28	1.8FT.	17:38	0.8FT.					50
3-29	2:43	1.2FT.	2:47	1.2FT.	10:08	1.8FT.	17:59	0.9FT.	
	23:46	1.3FT.							55
3-30	4:16	1.2FT.	10:48	1.6FT.	18:11	1.0FT.	23:48	1.4FT.	62
3-31	5:37	1.2FT.	11:33	1.5FT.	18:10	1.1FT.			69
4-01	0:21	1.5FT.	7:07	1.2FT.	12:10	1.4FT.	17:46	1.2FT.	73
4-02	0:52	1.6FT.	8:49	1.1FT.	13:01	1.3FT.	16:51	1.2FT.	76
4-03	1:23	1.7FT.	10:43	1.1FT.	14:34	1.1FT.	15:19	1.1FT.	77
4-04	1:57	1.7FT.	12:22	1.0FT.					77

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)

22/03 *The Good Shepherd* (R. De Niro)
29/03 *Ghost Rider* (Nicolas Cage)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

15/03 *Norbit*

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
March: Charlotte's Web

THIS WEEK

Saturday, March 24 at 5 am - Stations of the Cross in Nature in Rincon. Meet at the Church. Buses leave from all barrios beginning at 4 am from Tera Cora. After the walk there will be coffee in the parish hall, "Tia Sani." Don't forget a flashlight.

Sunday, March 25- Bonaire Rotary Club Rota Rally - Seru Largu to Magazina di Rei. NAf25, BBQ, NAf15. Orphaline Saleh at 715-5506 or Jules van Dongen at 786-5877. More: page 9

Until March 26 - Art Exhibit of works of Eefje van Twillert van der Straten, Kas di Arte, open 5-7:30 pm.

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

Tuesday, March 27- The International Literature Festival - Crossing Seas 2007 (Krusa Laman), 7:30pm, Kas di Arte. More: page 17

Sunday, April 1 - The 29th Kontest di Fli (Kite contest) in the field behind Kooyman's. All day from 9 am. Sign up at Flamingo Book Store. Entrance fee is NAf3,50 for children; NAf7,50 for adults.

Sunday April 1 - Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 1 - Walk through Plantation Bolivia area with Bòi Antoin, sponsored by Top Health & Fitness. Meet at site of old airport, Rincon Road, across from license plate-flag display, 6 am. The 2 to 2 1/2 hour walk will be on flat ground with information on history, flora and fauna. Bring your own water; there will be snacks along the way and hot soup at the end. NAf7,50. Tickets at Top Health Fitness open M-F, 5-9 pm. Saturdays 9-12noon. More information 567-1055 or 786-8908.

Monday, April 2 - Full moon

Tuesday, April 3rd - Papiamentu Class begins (until June 28), twice a week on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6.30 - 8pm. Sign up at FORMA, Kaya Korona 13 (in between RBTT and Kooyman) during office hours. For more information call 717-6949

Tuesday, April 3 - Passover

Friday, April 6 - Good Friday

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon:
Tues. Mar. 27 - *Lili Marleen, Veendam*;
Wed. April 4 - *Crown Princess*, Thurs.
Apr. 5 - *Queen Mary 2*;

COMING

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon:
Tues. Apr. 10 - *Lily Marlene, Sea Princess*

Sunday, April 8 - Easter
Saturday, April 28 - World Tai Chi Qigong Day - more information as date approaches

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 ambience 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**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

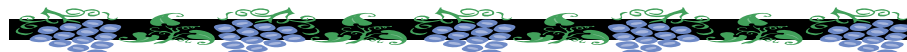
Send event info to:

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. Debrót 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. Debrót 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 780-1111
Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant At the lighthouse, Harbour Village Marina 717-7725	Moderate Lunch Tuesday-Friday Dinner Tuesday-Sunday	Authentic Argentinean Cuisine Owned and operated by the Pablo Palacios Family from Argentina The beef is here and more.
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.

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!**

NATURE EXPLORATION

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/abseiling 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.**

PHOTO SERVICES

Capture Photo at the Divi Flamingo. Photo classes, camera rental, digital processing, all state of the art!

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.**

SUPERMARKETS

Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

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

Email: reporter@bonairenews.com

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On the Island Since ... October 1995

Martina Gerling

“We came to live here when I was three years old; we came from Leiding, Saramakkapolder, in Surinam. First my dad, Guno, came to look for work and he found a job as an activity leader at Pasadia in Rincon. He set up the candle ‘factory’ at what now is the FKPD. One year later, my mom, Carmelita Gerling, my sister Romy, my brother Kevin and I came.

Fortunately, I’ve always been the youngest, and most of the time I got everything I wanted! I lived in Rincon for five years; I really loved it there, it was very cozy and quiet, but when we moved to Playa everything was completely different. It took me some months to get used to all the new people and then it was okay, until my sister and brother left elementary school and went to SGB high school and I had to do without their support. That wasn’t so great.

When I was eight they gave me a guitar, a small one which belonged to my brother, and my dad taught me the basics. I liked it instantly, but only when I was 13 did I start playing for real. Now my dad says ‘The student excels the teacher!’ When I was eight I wasn’t that interested; I liked singing much better because we also had a family band. Kevin played the small guitar, Romy and I would sing, my dad would play keyboards and my mom was the director! We would sing Surinam songs from the old days, pop songs from John Denver and compositions from Glenn van Windt, a very good friend of my dad. We played just for ourselves, at home in the evenings, to have a good time together.

Then for a while I didn’t do much with music anymore, but I did a lot of sports, especially judo, twice a week in Rincon. I liked it very much and I got the green belt, but when I was 12 I wanted to take a break, and eventually I stopped altogether. Then I started with keyboards. Our keyboard has a program so you don’t need a teacher, and that’s how I learned it all by myself, while Romy was playing the guitar. After a while I wanted to quit the keyboard and start again with the guitar, but my dad didn’t think it was such a clever thing to do, because I would end up knowing only a little bit of everything, but in the end,” she laughs, “I won the battle and then I started playing the guitar! My dad taught me the cords and from there on I went by myself.

After five months my dad finally found me a good teacher, Jeroen Fortuin. He’s a real good guitar player and he taught me for three months; it gave me a big boost. He taught me new styles, new ways to play and after three months I had my first performance. I was 13 then. It was at a Surinam party. A well-known singer

from Surinam, Maroef Amatstam, had come to Bonaire and I had to do the opening, I played two songs. About 75 people were there and they were all surprised because I’d never played in front of an audience and nobody knew I could do it! Even Maroef Amatstam coached me and told me to go on and whenever I come to Surinam I can play with him... that’s just ‘sick!’”

Martina Gerling (15) is an outstanding personality; she’s a sparkling girl, bright and talented with a beautiful disposition.

“Well, my second performance was in 2006 at the SGB high school graduation night where I was invited to sing the national hymn together with Tracy Dimsey. It was funny that both of us were invited to sing the national hymn because neither one of us is from Bonaire; Tracy is from Trinidad! When people heard it on the radio they could tell we weren’t Bonairean because of the accent. Oh! What a shame! At school one of the teachers approached me and told me, ‘Hey, Martina, shall I teach you some Papiamentu!’ I was shocked because I hadn’t noticed at all that I was pronouncing certain words the wrong way!

“Here I go around with kids of all nationalities - Dutch, Bonaireans and Latinos. At school those groups usually don’t mix, but there are always exceptions - people who are at ease with everyone and I am one of those people because I think it’s much more exciting.”

My next performance was again at a Surinamese party. I sang two songs. I always choose my own music. I like alternative rock, soft rock and I am also completely into the 60s, the Birds, the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Neil Young.

I know Jon Hilgers from SGB where he’s a sports teacher. We always talked about playing the guitar because he plays and sings too. Many times he’d invited me to come to his band training and I was always putting it off until I finally went but... that turned out to be the right moment, because it was just a couple of weeks before the Duofest Song festival. I didn’t know about it at all; it was just a coincidence. When I was at the band training, singing and playing some songs, Jon immediately said, ‘February 26



Martina Gerling

we’re going to compete at the Duofest!’ My first reaction was ‘oh, okay’ and I’m afraid to say I didn’t take it very seriously in the beginning, but when Jon started talking about the training I began to realize that it was a serious thing. He told me it would take place on the *Free-winds* and that it had to be a gospel song and our own composition. From the moment it was set that we would participate we rehearsed about 10 times and we played at the airport restaurant and Bistro de Paris to make me feel comfortable playing for an audience. That worked out fine because I felt less nervous afterwards. I felt confident; I felt, ‘This is about me!’ And when I have my guitar I am much more relaxed anyway.

Jon composed the song, ‘Silent Place,’ and we won ‘Best Performance’ and with the composition we won second place. It was a great experience. We never, ever expected to be the winners because we went with the intention of doing it for pleasure, for the experience. You see, Jon had also taught me that when you stand there and you have rehearsed and you’re performing, giving a show... then you are a winner... But when we really won we were totally speechless! Jon and I won two tickets to participate at the Duofest in Curaçao, an international gospel festival for all of the Caribbean on May 26th and it will also be on TV in Curaçao. Friday, two weeks ago, I performed at Coco’s together with Jon for half an hour at the International Women’s Day celebration.

Until now I play because I am totally in love with my guitar, but I never thought of doing it professionally. I still think I prefer to do it as a hobby, but I would like to make some money with it though...

What I really would like to become is a pediatrician. I think biology is fun and I love to be with children and also I like to study. To tell you the truth, now I’m in

doubt because I am also thinking of going to the conservatory, but that’s a risk because they are so exacting and they expect you to read music and I can’t because I am just doing it for fun. I think it’s risky to definitely choose music, but maybe I am thinking that way because many people tell me so... But, if I want something, I go for it and I am willing to make sacrifices.

I love to live on Bonaire, it’s so relaxed and I am allowed to do many things because it’s quite safe here. Everything is near and that’s good for a lazy-bones like me, because I can always get somewhere on time.

My dad works at SGB now. He’s a geography teacher (so he knows everything I am doing at school) and my mom works at CKB, a center where they help people set up their own company. On Bonaire I feel completely Surinamese, but put me in Surinam and I don’t feel Surinamese at all - maybe because I’ve been there only four times since we moved to Bonaire. Here I go around with kids of all nationalities - Dutch, Bonaireans and Latinos. At school those groups usually don’t mix, but there are always exceptions - people who are at ease with everyone and I am one of those people because I think it’s much more exciting.

My sister and brother are studying in Holland and when I am ready with HAVO I hope to go there too. They can’t wait for me to join them. However, Mom and Dad would love to have me here a bit longer and they would like me to go to VWO after HAVO.”

She smiles “We’ve talked about everything and I really enjoyed it. Is there anything else? Let me think... yeah... ‘boyology,’ but let’s keep that a secret!” □



Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Pet of the Week

This smiling, happy dog posing with young Shelter volunteer Zahid is "Lola."

She was brought into the Shelter with her sister who has already been adopted. Both dogs were given up by their previous owners because they said they didn't have enough time to spend with them. And that was probably a wise decision on the owners' part because spending and enjoying time with your pet is extremely important, and there is a terrific side effect. It not only benefits the pet but benefits you as well. Ask anyone who has a close relationship with his or her dog or cat. It's something that money can't buy.

Lola is a dog with a fine character and as you can see from the look on her face in this photo, she is very appreciative of attention. She's about a year and a half and of course, as are all the other pets up for adoption, in perfect health. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoon Road, open Monday through Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.



Shelter volunteer Zahid with "Lola"

Jago.

It's puppy season now and people are still dumping their unwanted dogs (and cats) by the side of the road. It's cruel especially when you know it will be a long, lingering death for the pet, but perhaps it's ignorance on the part of the dumper. It is so much better to bring the pets to the Shelter where they can have a chance for a decent life. The Shelter accepts all pets; there are no questions asked; and it costs nothing. If you know someone who needs to get rid of their pets, give them this information. . □L.D.



"Duo Dulsera" – Wesley St. Jago and Dynaida Figaroa Paul Wichers Photo

Very Good News: The Fundraiser show on the Freewinds last Sunday evening brought in NA f5.450 to benefit the Shelter's Sterilization Fund! Thanks especially to Dabney Lassiter who sold the majority of the tickets. It's volunteers like Dabney who make the Shelter a place than can still exist, and in this case a place where people with little financial means can bring their pets to be sterilized.

Shelter Board Director Paul Wichers said the show was great and that special guests were Duo Fest third runners up: "Duo Dulsera" – Dynaida Figaroa and Wesley St.

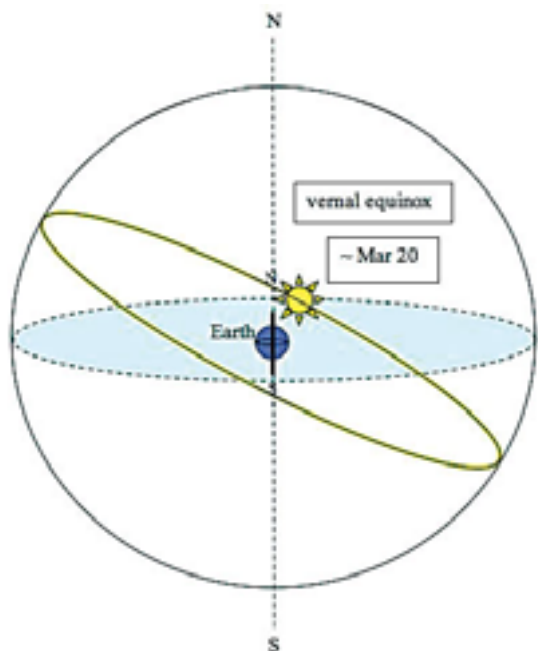


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Vernal Equinox

Happy spring of the leaf and happy spring of the year! Because this Tuesday **March 20th** was the official **spring of the leaf day** and this Sunday **March 25th** is the **old official spring of the year day**. Know what I'm talking about? Well, they're both related to the **Vernal Equinox** which occurred this week on Tuesday March 20th at 8:07 pm Sky Park Time, which is more commonly known as the very first moment of spring. But have you ever wondered why we call spring, spring? Well, that word spring is simply short for the phrases, "spring of the leaf" and "spring of the year." Now spring of the leaf is pretty obvious because at this time of the year leaves, at least up north, literally do spring up out of branches, and grass springs up out of the ground, and that's why we call spring, spring.



But what does spring of the year mean? Well, believe it or not, before 1752 in England and America the **new year** officially began when spring began on March 25th. Or to put it quite simply the new year sprang up at the same time the leaves and grass did.

But lest we forget, the first day of spring is strictly speaking an astronomical event, which celebrates one of the two days when our sun is smack dab on the **celestial equator**, the other day being the first day of autumn. When this happens in September we call it the **Autumnal Equinox**, and when it happens in March we call it the **Vernal Equinox**. And these are the only two days of the year when the **Sun** rises exactly due east and sets due west.

Now although most people today don't keep track of the Sun and its movements throughout the seasons like our ancestors did, nevertheless it's a lot of fun to watch the Sun change its place on the horizon every day from equinox to equinox. In fact, starting this week, if you make note of where the Sun rises and sets on the horizon each day using landmarks like trees or buildings for guides you will notice that the Sun will rise just a little bit farther north of east each successive day and will set a little bit farther north of west each successive day and that it will continue moving northward week after week until June 21st, the first day of summer, the day of the **Summer Solstice** when it will rise its farthest north of east and set its farthest north of west after which it will start to move southward week after week until once again it will rise due east and set due west on the autumnal equinox, the first day of **Autumn** in September.

Coming up in April: **Venus** passes south of the **Pleiades**, and the star cluster's diminutive sparkles make quite a sight in binoculars. Not far off, **Comet 2P/Encke** makes a month-long hook through **Aries** and **Cetus**. Once Venus sets, **Saturn** rules the night — until **Jupiter** rises in the hours before dawn. □

Jack Horkheimer

DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

And the solution is:
(puzzle and directions on page 14)

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



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, March 18 to Saturday, March 24

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Stand up and propose your ideas, and you'll be surprised how many people will follow you. You will enjoy events that lean toward theater, art, or music this week. Purchases will be well worth it and they will last a long time. Channel your energy into decorating or household chores. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You may find that depression is causing you to feel lonely and insecure. Take the time to close deals that have been up in the air. Entertain those who can provide you with valuable information and knowledge. Your energy will be high. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Try to get others to stand behind your good judgment. Don't rely on others to do your work. This is a great day to mingle with people you would like to impress. Try not to argue about trivial matters. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will learn valuable skills if you sign up for seminars this week. Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. Pamper yourself this week. Do things because you want to, not because someone else thinks you should. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Try to keep your opinions to yourself. Emotional disputes will only end in sorrow. Take a long look at your present direction and consider your professional options. Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Need some adventure in your life? Exotic destinations beckon you. Put your efforts into physical fitness programs or competitive sports. You can convince others to follow suit. Be diplomatic when dealing with in-law. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. Look into making changes to your personal papers and don't neglect those bills that have been piling up. Be careful not to lead someone on if you truly have no interest. You may overspend if you travel this week; however, the trip will be one to remember. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) If you go shopping, only take what you can afford to part with. You won't be able to keep a secret. Depression may be likely if you're away from home. Travel for business purposes may bring the highest returns. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your ability to talk circles around your colleagues will help you forge ahead in the workforce. Trips should be your choice. Pleasure trips will bring you into contact with new and interesting people. In-laws or older individuals may give you a bit of a hard time this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may want to invest in something that will grow in value. Don't back down but don't ignite the situation. Your ideas are right on the mark and your work commendable. You will be too quick to point your finger at your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Make sure that you have all the pertinent information before any reprisals or making any moves. Focus on your domestic scene. Get together with friends or relatives. Get thinking about prolonging longevity. Try not to spend too much on children or entertainment. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You should be putting in some overtime. You will have a tendency to put on pounds. You can make progress if you deal with the right individuals. Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about romance. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. □