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still
Free!

BONAIRE

April 13 to April 20, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 15

The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Simidan

Harvest time Begins

Page 3

Wilna Groenenboom photo

FKPD troupe in traditional dress

Flotsam and Jetsam

Police in Bonaire have reorganized to focus on neighborhood policing. A coordinator has been assigned to the island's main districts to take law enforcement "closer to the people" and prevent problems from escalating by detecting them at an earlier stage to increase the safety and livability in the barrios/neighborhoods. The barrio leader is responsible for his/her neighborhood and is on the scene. This project falls under the revised Netherlands Antilles Safety Plan.



The five police department barrio leaders from left to right: Ibi Statie, Urwin Juaquin, Alejandrina Sambo, Jose Antonio Rosales and Aquiles Francis Lopez
BVO photo

The barrio leaders were appointed after a selection procedure: Urwin Juaquin for Amboina, Nikiboko, Bario Wanapa, Manaparia Kutu, and Lagun Hill; Ibi Statie for Antriol, Den Stashi, Bario Seleisi, Bario Mexico and Mexico; Jose Antonio Rosales for Rincon, Seru di Suit and Playa Grandi; Aquiles Francis Lopez for Nort di Saliña, Nawati, Republiek, Hato and Sabadeco; and Alejandrina Sambo for Tera Kora, Belnem, Den Chefi, Senkuria, Sabana, Sabal Palm and Punt Vierkant.

► To cope with increased demand on the Curaçao-St. Maarten route, **Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) will add a second jet flight** to its Friday itinerary to St. Maarten. The new schedule went into effect last Friday. Up to now the flight was operated with an ATR prop jet.

DAE's second Fokker 100 jet arrived in Curaçao from Brazil last Saturday. The airline intends to start flying to Bogotá, Port-of-Spain, Santo Domingo and Port-au-Prince. DAE began flying to Caracas on March 20.

► New Aircraft, New Look, New Name for Interisland Service Provider

It took some maneuvering, arm twisting fighting and dealing and a lot of waiting, but EZAir finally gets airborne.

In keeping with its plans for expansion and growth, EZAir announced the addition of two new planes to its fleet and a new overall look and feel. Capt. Rene Winkel, EZAir's founder and CEO, confirmed that the additional planes will increase EZAir's seat capacity by 150%. All aircraft will have new, state-of-the-art, fuel saving wing-

lets installed, along with updated electronics that reduce fuel use. "Such savings will be passed on to our customers," said Winkel. Aircraft will be equipped with air conditioning and all new seating equivalent to most carriers' first class seats – all window and aisles."

"Acquiring two more aircraft is just the first step EZAir is taking towards increasing its service to island residents," Winkel said. He added that EZAir has filed a request with the Department of Transportation to become a regularly scheduled airline.

"We are excited about bringing low air fares back to inter-island travel." Suyenne Dammerman, EZAir's Chief Operating Officer, said. "These additional aircraft will allow us continue to offer first class, affordable and safe travel with increased frequency." She added, "And this is just the beginning."

With the planes coming on line and the intent for EZAir to become a scheduled airline, Dammerman said a change of name seemed in keeping with the company's expansion plans. EZAir currently provides inter-island scheduled charter service between Curaçao and Bonaire, via Kini kini air express TBA Easy air, as well as circle

island tours of the island. Dammerman says the increased seat capacity will allow EZAir to begin providing more service to the current demand at certain hours to the under-served islands.

► In 2006, **5.6% more US tourists visited Bonaire compared to 2005 and all North America tourism grew 6.7%**. Two primary factors contribute to that growth: 1- Bonaire's US marketing campaign that targets the affluent, leading edge baby boomers, and 2- Additional airlift, specifically the addition of two more American Eagle flights per week, bringing American Eagle to a total of five round trip flights a week (which were increased to seven when demand was there) and the inauguration of the Continental non-stop flight from Houston to Bonaire. Commencing service on December 17th, 2005, and operating at an exceptional 86% annual average load factor, the Continental flight was a success from the beginning. Frequently upgraded from a 124-seat aircraft to a 155-seat aircraft, the success of the Houston flight paved the way for a second non-stop flight from the all-important New York area. A Continental Saturday/Sunday flight from Newark began on December 17th, 2006.

► Discussions on the sale of RBTT Financial Holdings to the regional subsidiary of Canadian bank CIBC are very far advanced and a final decision is im-

(Continued on page 4)

BONAIRE The REPORTER

Table of Contents

Simidan!	3
Where to Find the Reporter	5
Guest Editorial (Open Letter to All Bonairean Political Parties)	6
Letter (Poverty Alleviation through Tourism)	6
Bonaire Ambassadors (Schmidt Award and Magocs Award)	7
Gear Doc (BCD)	7
Easter Weekend	
Fun for Kids	8
Camping	10
Live Music Everywhere	10
Shrink Studies SCUBA (Clearing Nasal Passages-nasal rinse)	9
Snorkeler's Notebook (Spirituality on the Reef)	13
WEEKLY FEATURES:	
Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Biologist's Bubbles (Coral Sunscreen)	3
Pet of the Week ("Dorothy")	9
Classifieds	12
Sudoku Puzzle	14
Tide Table	14
Reporter Masthead	14
What's Happening	15
Movieland Film Schedule	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
Candidate's' Partner's: (Esmeralda Huerta)	17
Picture Yourself (Maui, Hawaii & San Diego, California)	18
Sky Park (Venus, Aldebaran & the Moon)	19
The Stars Have It	19
Sudoku Answer	19



COVER STORY

Simidan!

Simidan, the harvest festival, started off in Rincon last weekend. It's one of Bonaire's most exciting events, with music, dancing, feasting and drinking. The season ends on April 30, Rincon Day, amidst much celebration and a festive and exuberant parade of everyone – locals and visitors alike – linked together, arms around each other, singing and dancing in the streets.

photos and story by Wilna Groenenboom



some animals eat MAA-rich foods and then relocate the MAAs into their skin (evidence in crown-of-thorn starfish and some sea cucumbers)! As you might have guessed, there is ongoing research on these compounds to develop them into sunscreens for humans. So, for those of you who believe sunscreens are for sissies, take a look at the clever work of Mother Nature and think again! Photo & story by Caren Eckrich



Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...Corals need sunscreen too?

Scientists have recently discovered that corals produce their own natural sunscreens, called MAAs, that protect them from harmful ultraviolet radiation. What is really cool is that these MAAs are thought to be produced and translocated into the coral's tissues by the coral's symbiotic algae (their *zooxanthellae*). MAAs are found in a wide variety of marine organisms living in shallow environments including blue-green algae, fungi, invertebrates and fishes. It is also hypothesized that

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 .



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)
minent, the *Trinidad Guardian* reported Thursday. In a statement to the *Guardian* Tuesday, a senior RBTT official said, "While it is RBTT's policy not to comment on market speculation or to disclose the nature of any commercial discussions, I confirm that RBTT has not, I repeat, not agreed to the sale of the bank or to a merger with any third party." RBTT has a branch on Bonaire.

► Just when we thought we had it figured out. **Both Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten and Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin said during last Wednesday's debate in the Dutch Parliament that there is confusion within the Parliament on the future constitutional status for Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius.**

They emphasized that, as often said before, the three islands **would not become a Dutch "municipality," but a "public entity."**

Hirsch Ballin said that the confusion has been caused by the media. "I believe a letter from former Minister of Kingdom Relations, Atzo Nicolaï, to Parliament was too difficult for the media to summarize and they decided to make municipality out of it. But, it is in essence something else."

Parliament member Cynthia Ortega-Martijn said it was the easy way out to put the blame on the press and pointed out that the final conclusions of the Mini-conference of October 10 and 11, 2006, uses the terminology of "Dutch municipality."

Bijleveld-Schouten said that in the Netherlands Antilles there is no confusion about the future status of Bonaire, Statia and Saba. Another Member of Parliament wanted to know when the process would be completed. Bijleveld-Schouten: "That's difficult for me to say, but we hope to achieve a lot during the upcoming four years this cabinet has in office."

Hirsch Ballin explained that it was not about negotiating the new constitutional status but rather of working out agreements already made. "It's all very detailed, but we must not overestimate it all."

► According to an election poll in Curaçao done by Key Research of the University of the Dutch Caribbean in cooperation with the Dutch research bureau Interview NSS, the PAR party, which currently leads the Central Gov-

ernment, will win the most votes in the April 20 Curaçao Island Council. However 34.1% of the interviewees said they do not know yet who they are going to vote for.

Fourteen youngsters telephoned 550 people to do the survey. They recorded that PAR would win 18% of the vote (8 seats), followed by MAN with 9.6% (4 seats), PNP with 4.7% (2 seats), Pueblo Soberano with 4.3% (2 seats), the Democratic Party with 4.1% (2 seats), Forsa Kòrsou with 4% (1 seat), NPA with 2.9% (1 seat). The FOL, Anthony Godett's party, the leader in the last island elections, would garner 4% (1 seat). **If the survey holds for the actual elections, the parties in favor of the final statement (Slotverklaring) defining the breakup of the Antilles will just have a majority.**

► In its March 2007 report the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), which provides country, industry and management analysis on more than 200 countries, expects **economic growth for the Netherlands Antilles in 2007-2008 to remain low, at 1.5 to 2.5% cent.**

When the split of the Netherlands Antilles goes ahead, the Dutch offer to assume all the public debt of the islands will provide a boost to the economies of all the islands beginning in 2009. The deadline for establishing the new constitutional status of the islands has been put back from July 2007 to December 15, 2008. Four of the islands have signed an agreement with the Dutch government that will see St Maarten reduce its ties with Holland by becoming an autonomous state within the Kingdom of the Netherlands with Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba strengthening their links with the Dutch, through gaining a new status which is equivalent to that of Dutch municipalities (or "public entities" – see above). Curaçao is demanding the renegotiation of the November 2, 2006, final agreement (*Slotverklaring*), which established the broad approach which the Netherlands Antilles would be broken up. The accord envisages Curaçao, as with St Maarten, becoming fully self-governing, except in matters of defense, foreign policy and law enforcement, which would continue to be the responsibility of the Dutch government. Curaçao is seeking greater fiscal and legal autonomy than currently envisaged. It is unclear how the situation will be resolved, but any resolution is unlikely before Curaçao Island Council elections on April 20.



Empty shelves Warehouse photo

► Bonaire's limited seaport facilities became apparent last week when the **cruise ships calling on the island blocked the delivery of cement and food.** House builders laid off workers because the cement needed to construct new buildings wasn't available. Roland Verbeek, Manager of Warehouse Bonaire, Bonaire's busiest supermarket, had to apologize to customers for his empty shelves. He asked the government to study the problem and take positive action to resolve it.

There is approval for a plan to relocate the commercial port near BOPEC and keep the cruise ships downtown.



On hand for the renewal of the Italia Accord were Bonaire's Commissioner of Education Geraldine Dammers and Economics Minister Burney el Hage shown here flanking Paola Mancini, representative of the Emilia-Romagna region. BVO photo

► Late last month the accord that **allows Bonaire SGB high school culinary students to continue their studies in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy was renewed.**

Sara Matera, the general manager of the Divi Resort, is, and has been, the coordinator of the project for the Nether-

lands Antilles. The current group of students will be chaperoned on their trip by Moreno Bellini and his wife, who own the airport restaurants.



► The trend continues. As more people read in *The Reporter* that others are **taking batteries off Bonaire**, more people go to the Carib Inn to help. Here Susan Urban from New York saves Bonaire from more toxic waste.

► **Support Bonaire, Inc., a U.S. non-profit organization, US tax deductible, created to help support Bonaire's non-profit social and environmental efforts announced that its 2006 grants to various Bonaire non-profit organizations was \$60,271.** Funding for Support Bonaire's grants comes solely from individual donors who select from one of a series of special projects Support Bonaire has created to focus on particular needs on Bonaire.

During 2006, the top recipients of grants from Support Bonaire were two non-profit, non-governmental educational institutions – **Unicollege and Stichting Leren is Leuk** (which runs the Pelikaan School). Both organizations received these much needed funds thanks to the generosity of American individuals with a strong commitment to the future of Bonaire's children. Other programs which educate the youth of Bonaire which received grant funding were Jong Bonaire and the Bonaire Marine Park's youth education program.

Social programs for children and young adults which received smaller grants were the Maria Hoppner Stichting, the Stichting Project, and Stichting AVST (Wowo di Bario).

Non-profit organizations which protect and promote Bonaire's natural resources also received targeted grants, led by Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) and the Donkey Sanctuary. The Bonaire Animal Shelter, Foundation Animal Welfare Bonaire, the Bonaire Marine Park, and

(Continued on page 5)

BONAIRE
The REPORTER has moved!

The Bonaire Reporter has moved its headquarters to the Bolivia plantation area of Bonaire. Latitude 12° 11.281 North
Longitude 68° 14.809 West

The new address is Bonaire Reporter, Kunuku Shimaruku, P.O. Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. (AN)

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

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)
Fundashon pa Bon Koral also received grants.

A majority of the donations to Support Bonaire to support these varied causes were donated on-line, via the Internet, at the Support Bonaire web site – www.SupportBonaire.org – where donations by credit card are accepted. **100% of all donations go directly to the target charities on Bonaire**, as a small endowment received by Support Bonaire, Inc. some years ago is used to cover all administrative expenses.

► The seismic jolt that unleashed the deadly Solomon Islands tsunami this week lifted an entire island meters out of the sea, destroying some of the world's most pristine coral reefs. The 7.6 magnitude earthquake last Monday forced the island of Ranongga up three meters (10 ft.). As a result **the reefs that once attracted scuba divers lie exposed and dying**. The island is 32 kilometers (20 miles) long and 8 kilometers (5 miles) wide, slightly smaller than Bonaire.

Danny Kennedy, a dive operator in the provincial capital Gizo, said the earthquake had damaged coral reefs throughout the Solomon Islands' western province. He said dive sites once ranked among the best in the world were dying because the tremors had upset the fragile natural ecosystem. "Some of the most



beautiful corals are the most delicate and those are the ones that have been affected," he told the Associated Press. (Neil Sands -AP)

► To celebrate **its retail shop's One Year Anniversary, Last Bite Bakery** will be offering NAf1 slices of their outrageously delicious cakes on **Tuesday, April 17 only**. (Last Bite has been in business for a total of six years, but the last year as a retail shop). Also, due to popular demand the Burrito is back on the NAf10 luncheon take out menu. Tuesday—Lasagna, Wednesday—Chicken Burrito with beans and Spanish

rice, Thursday— Meatloaf and mashed potatoes, Friday—Chili con carne. Last Bite is at Kaya Grandi 70, across from BonFysio.

► **Some say it's proof that the US has lost the lead in the world economic race.** For the first time since World War I, the value of European stocks eclipsed those in the US. According to data from Thomson Financial, Europe's 24 stock markets, including Russia, now boast a market capitalization of \$15.7 billion, edging out the US's \$15.6 billion. The narrowing differential is largely due to strong European performance.

► On Friday April 27 the **Bonaire Rotary Club** is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a **fund raising auction** for the Breakfast in Schools Program and other youth projects.

Tickets are now on sale for this intense high speed and fun auction of extravagant and extraordinary items.

Location: Plaza Resort Bonaire, Caribbean Point Restaurant at 7:00 p.m.

Dress, tropical elegant. Price: NAf 125, including beverages and Caribbean buffet.

For tickets or information please contact Pieter Groenendal 786-6447, Marisela Croes mobile 560-7863, or

any Rotary member. □ G./L./D.



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

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

- | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Car Rental Agencies: ■ At the Airport ■ Airlines: ■ Aboard Divi Divi Air ■ Banks: ■ MCB (Playa & Hato branches) ■ Restaurants: ■ Bistro de Paris ■ Cactus Blue ■ Capriccio ■ City Café ■ Lover's Ice Cream ■ Papaya Moon ■ Pasa Bon Pizza ■ Patagonia ■ Dive Shops: ■ Yellow Submarine ■ WannaDive ■ Carib Inn ■ Shops: ■ Benetton ■ Best Buddies & Pearls ■ Bonaire Gift Shop ■ Chat 'n' Browse ■ City Shop ■ DeFreewieler ■ Exito Bakery ■ INPO ■ Last Bite Bakery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Paradise Photo Photo Tours, Playa Plantation Furniture ■ Hotels: ■ Buddy Dive ■ Capt. Don's Habitat ■ Carib Inn ■ Divi Flamingo ■ Eden Beach Hotel ■ Golden Reef Inn ■ The Great Escape ■ Plaza Resort ■ Sand Dollar Resort ■ Supermarkets: ■ Cultimara ■ Consales Cash & Carry ■ Montecatini ■ Progresso ■ Sand Dollar Grocery Warehouse Bonaire ■ Government: ■ Bestuurscollege ■ Customs ■ Parliament Office BVO ■ Others: ■ Bonfysio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Botika Korona ■ Caribbean Laundry ■ Fit 4 Life - Plaza ■ Hair Affair ■ Harbour Village Marina ■ Rocargo ■ San Francisco Hospital ■ SGB (High School) ■ TCB ■ Telbo ■ Bookstores: ■ Bonaire Boekhandel, Flamingo Bookstore ■ Realty Offices: ■ Caribbean Homes ■ Harbourtown ■ Re/Max ■ Sunbelt ■ RINCON: ■ Chinese Store ■ Joi Fruit Store ■ Lemari Grocery ■ Rincon Bakery ■ Rose Inn |
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Guest Editorial expresses the opinions of the writer

OPEN LETTER TO ALL BONAIRE POLITICAL PARTIES

Most political parties have published their Action Programs. These programs all use expressions such as "Our party stands for sustained development while preserving our environment and our culture." There are many people on our island who are unsure of the meaning of such phrases. There are also many citizens and residents who have noticed the beginning of uncontrolled, excessive growth on the island, resulting in exorbitant prices for housing, construction etc. They feel that such growth may soon be unstoppable and would lead to Aruba or St Maarten type conditions. In order to obtain clarification on the political parties' position on such matters, questions are asked below. Clear responses to these questions, either through a press release, brochure or letter to the editor of our newspapers, would help many voters in deciding which party to vote for.



1. Is your party aware of the "1992 Pourier Report" on the development of the island, and if so, what is the opinion of your party on the report's vision on the future, and in particular should any of the report be made into law?
2. Does your party favor the construction of more hotels and if so, how many? Is there a total number of additional rooms in hotels, apartments, etc. that your party favors or is this unlimited?
3. Does your party aim for a maximum total number of annual tourists and if so what is that number or is this number unlimited? Is there to be a limit of the number of annual dives on our reefs?
4. Is there a maximum number of cruise ship tourists your party strives for and if so, what is that number?
5. Does your party favor a height limit for all future construction on the island and especially in Kralendijk? If so, what height?
6. Should the number of cars on the island be allowed to grow indefinitely and if so, do you favor the installation of traffic lights?
7. Once we become part of the Netherlands does your party favor unlimited immigration of Dutch people or should there be constraints?
8. Does your party favor unlimited immigration of workers, especially in the construction and hotel/restaurant fields? If so, how does your party intend to solve the related problems of health care, housing shortage, education of these workers' children, road congestion, etc?
9. What would your party's demands be for any future hotel operator as far as the number of foreign workers allowed to work in the facility, training of local workers and local access to the hotel's beach?
10. What is your party's view on the stoppage of work on the Mangrove Village Project?
11. Does your party favor no-fish zones as presently proposed by STINAPA?
12. Would your party, if in power, allow the practice of the removal of sand and stone from our Eastern and Northern coastlines to continue?
13. As far as our roads are concerned, would your party favor building additional new asphalt roads after first repairing the existing roads or vice versa?
14. Does your party favor development of the Karpata area with some kind of an eco-village?
15. Does your party favor a clear vision for the future of our island, so that all development must strictly adhere to known rules and regulations, including zoning (city, industrial, natural areas and parks)?

Rene Hakkenberg

LETTERS

POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH TOURISM

According to the World Resources Institute, at the beginning of 1990 tourism was growing at a rate of 4% a year. Between 1990 and 2002, International tourist arrivals increased by 54% globally, and the World Tourism Organization estimates that tourist arrivals will exceed 1 billion worldwide by the year 2010.

There are several different types of tourism activity, often characterized by the specific interests of the tourists themselves. These range from special interest tourism such as culture, nature, religious and event tourism to name a few, to the more general mass tourism.

Ecotourism, a form of nature tourism, is reported to be one of the most rapidly increasing segments of the tourism industry. **Though the figures on ecotourism are difficult to compile, the WTO estimates that global spending on ecotourism is increasing steadily by 20% per year, approximately five times the growth rate of the tourism industry as a whole.**

The increased demand for ecotourism can be attributed in part to the wave of global environmental consciousness. Ecotourism, defined as "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and sustains the well being of local people," is nature based, supports the well being of local communities, and promotes local ownership. Ecotourism is also the type of tourism that presents some of the best opportunities, when compared to other sectors, for the direct and long term economic impacts on poor communities.

While the tourism industry presents excellent opportunities for improving economic conditions, some of the major challenges are to match tourism income to tourism arrivals and to deliver direct benefits to the local people.

The direct economic impact of tourist spending is compromised when businesses have to obtain goods and services from outside the area, thus creating "leakage" from the economy. Unfortunately many tourism projects have a high rate of leakage and often the profits flow to overseas investors without benefiting the local population directly.

Additionally, over the past two decades ecotourism has shown promise as an important catalyst for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. □ *Adapted from a newsletter by Jasmin Garraway, Sustainable Tourism Director of the Association of Caribbean States.*



One idea: Revive Donkey tourism?
Internet photo

Bonaire Ambassadors

**Congratulations to:
Carol and Bob Schmidt**

Gold Ambassadors (20 years visiting) Carol and Bob Schmidt say Bonaire is a paradise in terms of underwater adventures. They love the friendliness and warmth of the Bonairean people. Here is their little story:

“Family members who own a seaside house invited us to Bonaire in 1986 and we have been coming annually since then. We enjoy everything about this quiet, unpretentious island: its climate and terrain, its bird and animal life, its local customs, its food, its crystal clear turquoise-blue water. We dive and snorkel and Bonaire is a paradise in terms of underwater adventure. The island offers endless opportunities to discover the beautiful world of the fishes and corals.

Another thing that lures us to Bonaire is the friendliness and warmth of the Bonairean people.”



Carol and Bob Schmidt

**And congratulations to:
Steve and Lajos Magocs**

Lajos and his father, Steve, enjoy visiting Bonaire. They both enjoy the natural beauty of the island, snorkeling, diving, walking in the desert, and even watching the waves on the south-east coast.

Lajos is 10 and became a certified diver on Bonaire in late 2005 (Thanks, Wannadive!). He already has over 60 dives logged. Steven was certified in Holland and even speaks a little Dutch which can make some funny translations. Their favorite dive sites are Angel City, Oil Slick

Leap and Eden Beach. The shore diving on Bonaire gives divers the chance to closely examine sea life in a way you can't do from a boat dive.

On the island they stay with Lajos' grandparents at Eden Beach Resort. Staff and management there are very helpful and friendly.

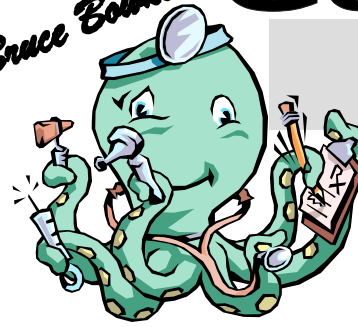
They say Bonaire is a great place to visit with plenty of outdoor activities. The Magocs family looks forward to visiting Bonaire again. They were awarded Bronze Ambassador medals to recognize their 10 years of visiting Bonaire. □ *TCB*



TCB's Rico Martis, Lajos and Steve Magocs

Bruce Bowker's Gear Doc

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



o-ring setup. Some have a “tilt” sort of valve. Seriously, the list is quite long of the many types.



BCDs

If you are diving and find yourself emptying air from your BCD a few times per dive and you have not put air in it, the auto-inflator is leaking. This is usually a simple repair and should be done as soon as possible. With most BCDs, the inflator along with the corrugated hose can be removed from the BCD by unscrewing it at the top. I prefer working on them this way as it is much easier than with the entire BCD. If you do this make sure you do not lose any o-rings or a flat rubber ring.

Repairing an inflator yourself is not impossible by any means, but there are as many types of inflators as stars in a galaxy – almost. Many have a Schrader valve which is a tire tube valve and within this style there are at least 3 different Schrader valves. Others have a simple

Like swivels in the high pressure hoses, BCD inflators usually are not part of an overall service and therefore are prone to corrosion and eventual failure. Since there are so many types of inflators it is best to have a professional repair these. Maintenance wise it is really difficult to get a good freshwater flushing of all the parts. Soaking will help some but sooner or later all BCD's will start to auto-inflate.

While diving the best first aid is to simply disconnect the inflator hose and orally inflate the BCD if necessary - like a lot of us used to do. □ *Bruce Bowker*

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



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Fun for kids

Sunday was a day of religious services, family gatherings and Easter egg hunts.

Some of the best action was at local resorts where special activities were scheduled for the huge turnout of overseas visitors during the *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) vacation. At Petra and Jos' Sunrise Restaurant at the Sand Dollar Resort there was a nice buffet and games for the children. The children painted hard boiled eggs, colored Easter pictures and hid the eggs. □ *photos & story by Wilna Groenenboom*

More Easter stories on page 10 & 11.



A Shrink Studies SCUBA Clearing

www.DivePsych.com

Nasal Irrigation Helps Divers Clear Ears Naturally

Middle "ear squeeze" caused by difficulty equalizing the pressure in middle ears during descent and ascent is among the most common problems in recreational scuba divers. A recent study showed that buffered saline nasal irrigation can help naturally.

Many divers use pre-dive oral or spray decongestants to help equalize pressure in their middle ears and sinuses. NeilMed Pharmaceuticals, Inc. of Santa Rosa, California, sponsored the study to determine the efficacy and safety of buffered saline nasal irrigation among experienced divers to help equalize pressure in their middle ears and reduce their use of decongestants.

Between November 2005 and September 2006, 100 experienced scuba divers completed web-based "Before" and "After" questionnaires. They were invited to participate after reporting difficulty equalizing the pressure in their middle ears or using decongestants in an earlier diver safety survey conducted by myself (Dr. Colvard). After completing the "Before" questionnaire, the study participants were sent free samples of NeilMed's SINUS RINSE™ buffered saline nasal irrigation system. They completed the "After" questionnaire after using the product and diving.

Forty-four (44.0%) reported less nasal congestion after using SINUS RINSE™ and 10 (10.0%) reported more nasal congestion. Sixty-nine (69.0%) reported less frequent difficulty in clearing or equalizing their ears and five (5%) reported more frequent difficulty. Forty-one of 68 divers (60.3%) for whom use of oral decongestants were applicable reported decreased or discontinued use. Twenty-one of 38 divers (55.3%) for whom use of decongestant sprays or drops were applicable reported decreased or discontinued use. None reported increased use of decongestants in any form. Seventy-two (72.0%) would recommend the SINUS RINSE™ system to other divers and three (3%) would not.

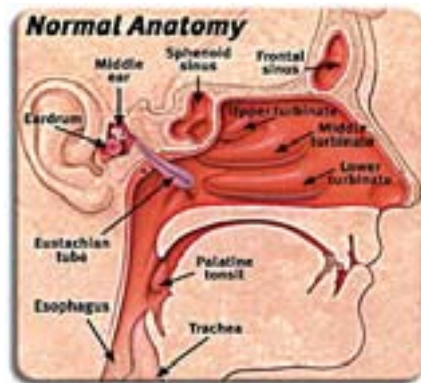
Experienced scuba divers continue to dive despite the medical risk of nasal congestion and difficulty clearing or equalizing the pressure in their middle ears. Buffered saline nasal irrigation can effectively and safely reduce nasal congestion and decrease the frequency and difficulty in clearing or equalizing the pressure in the middle ears of many divers. Additionally, nasal irrigation can decrease the use of decongestants, either oral or spray or drops, and reduce the risk of re-



Nasal rinse Both graphics ©2000 – 2005 NeilMed Pharmaceuticals

bound congestion and reverse middle ear squeeze during or after a dive when the effect of the decongestants may have worn off.

A buffered saline nasal irrigation system like NeilMed's SINUS RINSE™ appears to be an economical, convenient, safe, and effective natural alternative to decongestants for many recreational divers who have nasal congestion and difficulty equalizing pressure in their middle ears. The same may be true for airline passengers and flight crews, but that group has not been studied yet.



WARNING: DO NOT RINSE IF NASAL PASSAGE IS COMPLETELY BLOCKED OR IF YOU HAVE AN EAR INFECTION OR BLOCKED EARS.

Q: Can nasal rinses prevent or reduce a head cold and/or flu symptoms?

A: Saline rinses, in the very earliest stages of a head cold and/or flu, may reduce the incidence and duration of symptoms of the sinus and nasal infection.

Q: What is the advantage of nasal rinses?

A: Some amount of mucus production from the nasal and sinus lining is normal. Allergies and infections will cause excessive mucus production. This will create nasal and sinus symptoms such as runny and stuffy nose and post nasal drip. When the nasal rinse is performed, you wash away mucus, allergy causing particles and irritants such as pollens, dust particles, pollutants and bacteria, thus reducing the inflammation of the mucus membrane. Normal mucosa will fight infections and allergies better and symptoms will be reduced.

Pet of the Week

"Dorothy" was found under a container with her mom and brother, "Dilan." The puppies were in reasonably good shape, but the mom was in such bad condition, starving and emaciated, that she had to be put to sleep. But the pups were rescued just in time and now they're roly poly cuties. Dorothy should grow up to be a medium sized dog. She's a lot of fun, smart and very affectionate. And she should take to training well and quickly. As are all the other pets up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter Dorothy is healthy, has had her shots, worming and testing and will be sterilized when she's old enough. All that is covered in the NAf105 adoption fee. It's the best pet deal in town and not only are you saving the life of a little animal but you know you're getting a superior pet, one that's healthy and social!



"Dorothy"

The Shelter is on the Lagoon Road, open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

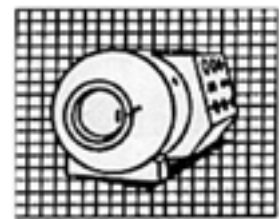
This year marks the 10th year for this column, "Pet of the Week." Although the name of this newspaper changed from *Port Call* to *The Bonaire Reporter* in January 2000, the name of the column has remained the same. Some things never change! Thanks to all Shelter staff that I've worked with over the years and most of all thanks to the terrific pets who took the time to pose for the camera. I'm happy to say that a majority of them found good and loving homes. □ L.D.

You can check Sinus Rinse™ out at <http://www.neilmed.com>. □ David F Colvard, MD

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



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Camping

Camping is a big Bonaire pastime, especially during the Easter holiday. And what better place than along the seaside.

This year there was a great variety of tents – some new ones, an army tent as well as the “traditional style” built of recycled shipping pallets. Camping out didn’t stop the cooks who dished up traditional fare under relatively primitive conditions. □photos and story by Wilna Groenenboom

Live Music Everywhere



The Dijk in concert at Little Havana

Kalendijk on Easter Sunday night was particularly notable for its live music. All over town there were people partying and enjoying live shows, which were being offered in various places. Because of the great variety of music probably everyone was able to find tunes to their liking by the end of the night.

At Wilhelmina Plaza many Bonaireans found their salvation by listening to religious live music and preachers. The square was packed with island residents and all were praying, dancing and eating together. The slogan projected in big letters on the backside of the square said it all: *Bonaire nobu huntu, Ku Kristu,*

ajejera awe i sempre (A new Bonaire. Together with Christ, yesterday, today and forever).

Of course, Easter is a Dutch holiday too. That’s why, after a 13-day world tour, the Dutch jazz group, the Dijk (Dike), couldn’t have found a better place to conclude their tour than Bonaire. Although the band is probably not well known outside of The Netherlands, in Holland the group is world famous.

At Little Havana, a bar that’s actually a little too small for a group of this caliber, The Dijk managed to give a performance that will probably not be forgotten soon by the hundreds of spectators. The street

(Continued on page 11)

(A Celebration of Live Music. Continued from page 10)

outside the bar was packed. People were even trying to get a glimpse of Huub van der Lubbe, lead singer of the band, through the little back window of the bar. Their effort wasn't in vain, as Van der Lubbe turned his back on the partying crowd at the end of the concert and gave an almost private show to a girl watching from behind the steel barred window. Her tears showed her gratitude for his action.

For Little Havana the performance of the Dijk wasn't a one-shot deal, as a day before the also equally famous Dutch group, De Liefde (The Love), put on a great show as well. The management of the bar announced that these performances are just the beginning of bringing overseas bands to Bonaire every month.

The people who weren't into Antillean church music or Dutch jazz could find their needs met in City Cafe. There the music group, Chispa, from Curaçao was playing. They were hot and played Meringue, Salsa and Reggae.

All in all, a very good night for all music lovers and very promising for upcoming weeks. The Bonaire Jazz Festival is set for next month and many other great performances are on the horizon. □ *David Radomisli/photos Wilna Groenenboom*



*Music fans at
Little Havana*

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Call 786-6518 or 7866125 or email ads@bonairereporter.com**

JANART GALLERY

Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

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BONAIRENET

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

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

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

Bonaire Images

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

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LUNCH TO GO

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

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

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Cozy guest cottage available

Studio with kitchen, airco, cable TV, two single beds (or



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

SUPPORT BONAIRE

The Island you love could use your help! Support Bonaire, Inc. provides support to Bonaire's non-profits. To learn more about making a US tax deductible donation visit www.supportbonaire.org and help make a difference!

A beautiful natural stone floor? I offer first class travertine tiles. Size: 18" x 18" x 1/2" (45 x 45 cm) Color: Walnut Price: NAf 85, Call: 796-2234

For Sale

FOR SALE: Computer table – Excellent condition - NAf75, **Computer Keyboard NAf 25 Phillips Computer Monitor with cables, etc.** – NAf 150. Call anytime 786-4136

Looking for a 1st stage regulator to fill flat tires? Carib Inn has 2 now available at only \$65 each. These are used but rebuilt and include LP hose. These are not to be used for diving. Call 717-8819 or stop by the Carib Inn.

Windsurf equipment for sale: 108 l Hifly board, 5.5 m Gaastra sail, complete with boom and mast NOW ONLY NAf 400 Tel. 701-1224 after 6 pm

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

For Sale: Sony Digital Camcorder, boxed and unused, Model DCR HC96E in PAL format, takes Mini DV tapes has widescreen, 3 Mega pixel still camera, Carl Zeiss Lens, 2 Years guarantee, includes new case, tapes etc. Unwanted gift \$720, Call: 717-2675

Selling dive gear, printer/scanner, pots & pans, bed/bath linen, Benetton clothes, tables & chairs and much more. Call 717-4494.

Fantastic Phantom bag-less cyclonic

canister vacuum cleaner practically new, NAf100-. Call 786-3117.

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: captron-bon@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 & Scooters

For sale



Van Mercedes Benz Aña 1999 poko kore / Diesel Alarma Kompletu Pa mas informashon yama na 717-8975

For sale – 2003 red Chevrolet Celta. In excellent condition, great mileage. Asking NAf 10,000 ONO. Call 795-9409

For sale – 1999 Nissan, 4 -door, diesel pick up, special rust coated, NAf 8500 791-6272

Kymco 50cc Scooter Large enough for 2 persons Good condition NAf 1.850. Tel: 786-8648

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

Property

Harbour Village Marina Front Condo

For Sale- Large one bedroom, 2 bath apartment located in a secluded all condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. www.luxurybonaire.com



HOUSE FOR RENT: 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, open kitchen-living room. Nikiboko-Sabana. Call 717-7741 (9am-noon, 3-6 pm) NAf1.000 per month plus deposit.

Wanted Jobs

Cleaning lady (speaking Spanish and Papiamentu) is looking for part-time work. Please call J@n Brouwer: 796 - 3637 digitalis1956@hotmail.com

MAINTENANCE EXCELLENT AND PERFECT A sincere Bonairean expert is offering you his services in maintenance, house, roof and framework painting. Just call 560-6287. We are at your service.

Wanted Staff

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

Wanted

Experienced Pet/House Sitter available Experienced Bonaire visitor (20 years) available to take care of your pets and watch your house water plants etc. In exchange for place to stay and use of vehicle for shore diving, I will pay my own air-food-diving etc. References upon request. Contact by email: Joe@therhythmdogs.com

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.

Reporter staff member wishes to house sit long-term. Call David 700-7536, email= dradomisli@hotmail.com.

Events

Holistic 3 day Retreat Planned June 2007 by visiting expert on Ayurveda, involving yoga, massage & diet. Direct questions to email fhummingbird@yahoo.com

REWARD RECOMPENSA

COCO IS MISSING PLEASE HELP BELNEM AREA

OUR MACAW LET HER SELF OUT OF HER CAGE SOMETIME AFTER NOON ON 21 MARCH. SHE IS JUST UNDER ONE METER TALL. HER FAVORITE SAYING IS "HELLO COCO" AND SHE LOVES TO WHISTLE! SHE IS 3 YEARS OLD, AND AFFECTIONATE, LOVING. SHE IS VERY PRECIOUS TO US.



HER CHEST AND LEGS ARE ORANGE / RED AND HER WINGS ARE GREEN TURNING TO BLUE. HER TAIL FEATHERS ARE BLUE AND GOLD

IF YOU SEE COCO OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CAPTURE PLEASE CALL ANYTIME OF DAY OR NIGHT:

ED: 786-6875 OR 717-5759

Snorkeler's Notebook: Spirituality on the reef

Every time I pass the huge mural on the side of the Transworld Radio Building, I ponder the caption, "Behold the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep." Yes, the wonders of creation in the deep are bound to inspire spiritual reflection if your soul is in the mood for being awed and enlightened.

After years of the strictures of organized religion, my spirituality was almost lost until my first snorkel on St. John in the US Virgin Islands. In those moments, I was transformed into a pantheist making spiritual connections in nature that alluded me in the church dominated by rules, regulations, and dogma. Many, many snorkels later, mostly on Bonaire, and I still realize tiny epiphanies in each moment of floating and every turn of the head: at Invisibles, the fire coral fingers shelter the precious juveniles battling the odds of survival; at Witches Hut, a young Hawksbill turtle gulps a breath of air while following a prehistoric path; at Ol' Blue, sleek barracuda patrol the shallows



exhibiting the fine design of the predator. During each snorkel, I encounter a myriad of spiritual teachers in the shapes of a fire-worm, a sea urchin, an octopus, a dolphin, each with its own integrity, each with its own path.

As I worship today at Hidden Beach, lines from English poet William Blake's "Auguries of Innocence" keep surfacing: "To see a world in a grain of sand, a heaven in a wildflower, hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour."

Silently I compose a snorkeler's version of the same poem: "To see a world in a rock beauty's eye, a heaven in a gorgonian, hold infinity on the tips of your fins, and eternity in the darting of a silverside."

Here in Mother Nature's temple, I pray fervently that more and more humans will resurrect their spiritual affinity for the sea and all its creatures so we will not be written down in history as the generation that stood idly by as the oceans became devoid of life. On this upcoming Earth Day, we should all become pantheists willing to rediscover the mysteries of life transcendent in nature before nature indeed becomes a memory fading like the colors and images of the Transworld mural. On this Earth Day, let us sing together the lyric of Irish musician Van Morrison, "No guru, no method, only you, me, and nature in the garden." □ *Pauline Kayes*

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

Complete solution on page 19.


Celebrating our 25th Anniversary
Rotary Club of Bonaire

“Support our Breakfast in Schools Program”



Photo Copyright 2008 Anissa Thurnissen

Rotary Bonaire Foundation
 PO Box 240, Kralendijk, Bonaire N.A.
 Acct. 114.238.08 with MCB Bonaire

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
4-13	2:43	1.2FT.	9:32	1.7FT.	16:40	1.0FT.	22:28	1.4FT.	58
4-14	4:17	1.1FT.	10:23	1.6FT.	16:41	1.1FT.	22:42	1.5FT.	70
4-15	5:46	1.1FT.	11:29	1.5FT.	16:38	1.1FT.	23:12	1.6FT.	82
4-16	7:16	1.0FT.	12:32	1.3FT.	16:28	1.1FT.	23:57	1.8FT.	93
4-17	0:32	1.9FT.	8:48	0.9FT.	14:22	1.2FT.	15:49	1.1FT.	100
4-18	1:20	1.9FT.	10:19	0.8FT.					103
4-19	2:13	2.0FT.	11:42	0.8FT.					102
4-20	3:13	2.0FT.	12:42	0.7FT.					96

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)

Norbit
(Eddie Murphy)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
Ghost Rider
(Nicolas Cage)

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 & 9 PM
MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8 PM

SATURDAY 4 PM
March: Charlotte's Web

-THIS WEEK

Friday, April 13, Hans Dulfer and his Band, "All About Jazz" - at City Cafe, live in concert- 9 pm. Tickets NAf15 in advance at City cafe, at door NAf20

Friday, April 20 -Dutch Dixies at Buddy Dive Resort to benefit the Bonaire Rotary Club. 6:30-8 pm

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon: Tuesday April 17 - *Summit*; Wednesday, April 18- *Crown Princess*

COMING

Sunday, April 22—Earth Day - Free Showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" Al Gore's movie, sponsored by STINAPA, BONHATA and Accolade Foundation. 8:30 pm, Movieland

Friday, April 27 - Bonaire Rotary Club 25th Anniversary Fund Raising Auction for Breakfast in Schools program, Plaza Resort, 7 pm. Dress, tropical elegant. Price: NAf 125. including beverages and Caribbean buffet. Tickets or information call Pieter Groenendal 786-6447, Marisela Croes 560-7863, or any Rotary member. More on page 5.

Saturday, April 28 - World Tai Chi Qigong Day

April 30 - Rincon Day—One of Bonaire's biggest parties!

Friday, May 11 -Mother's Day fund raising party at Don Paranda for the FKPD (foundation that assists persons with disabilities) 8 pm. Three musical groups and a dance group will entertain. Bar, snacks and salad are included in the NAf50 price. Tickets available from FKPD staff, at Angelo's and the Bonaire Bookstore in downtown Kralendijk.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon:

Thursday, April 26- *Silver Wind*;
Wednesday, May 2 - *Crown Princess*
(last ship of the season)

May 17-20—3rd Annual Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival. More information: www.bonairejazz.com

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
- **Mondays**
- **Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10. Buddy Dive Resort**, 6 -9:30 pm
- **Reporter writer Albert Bianculli presents his Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday"** at 6:30pm, 7:30 pm or 8:30pm, Casablanca Argentinean Grill
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 5-7 Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine, 5-7, Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Buy a Bucket of Beer & get free chicken wings, 5-7, Cactus Blue**

- **Caribbean Gas Training free** "Beyond Gravity - An Evening with DIR," 6 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure 786-5073.

Wednesdays

- **Open Mike Night** with Moogie, 7-9, **Cactus Blue...** usually a real blast
- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **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.
- **Tuesdays & Wednesdays—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Buddy Dive Resort (717-3802) at 7:00pm. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at the Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8817) at 7:00pm.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

- **Kas Kriyo Rincon**—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9-12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.
- **Mangasina di Rei, Rincon**. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018
- **Bonaire Museum** on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868
- **Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center**. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

CLUBS and MEETINGS

- **AA meetings - every Wednesday**; Phone 717-6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.
- **Al-Anon meetings - every Monday** evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272
- **Cancer Survivor Support Group** Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.
- **Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering** and

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the FORMA Building on Kaya Korona, across 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

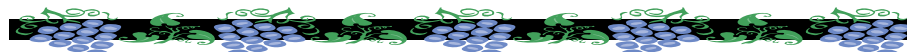
Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arto Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 7117
The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451; Valarie@telbonet.an
Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.
Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.
Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.
Jong Bonaire (Youth Center)- 717-4303.
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. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English on Sundays 10 am.
Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am.
Children's club Saturday 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 - 11:30am. 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.
Hilltop Restaurant At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
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



<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BEAUTY PARLOR Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>NATURE EXPLORATION Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com</p> <p>PHOTO FINISHING Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . Full digital services.</p> <p>PHOTO SERVICES Capture Photo at the Divi Flamingo. Photo classes, camera rental, digital processing, all state of the art!</p> <p>REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor, " specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.</p> <p>Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's most experienced real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RESORTS & ACTIVITIES Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.</p> <p>RETAIL Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.</p> <p>Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jew-</p>	<p>elry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.</p> <p>The Touch Skin & Body—Birkenstock shoes for men and women.</p> <p>Valeries Airport Shops — Convenient shopping for unique items, magazines, gifts and more.</p> <p>SECURITY Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.</p> <p>SHIPPING Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. FedEx agent.</p> <p>SUPERMARKETS Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.</p> <p>WATER TAXI Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the <i>Kantika di Amor</i> or <i>Skiffy</i>. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN: Put your ad in The Bonaire Reporter. Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125 Email: reporter@bonairenews.com</p> <p>Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for weekly advertisers?</p>
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Candidate's Partner Speaks Esmeralda Huerta

This is the second in the series of interviews of the women behind the men who are the party leaders of Bonaire's three contending parties: PRO headed by Benito Dirks; UPB, led by Ramonsito Booi, and the PDB's Jopie Abraham. All the women have been asked similar questions. Elections take place on Friday, April 20.

Born on Curaçao, December 16, 1957.

Religion: Roman Catholic.

Education: Maria Immaculata Lyceum, secretarial training, judicial assistant training and various bank trainings.

Career: "I started working for ABN Bank, later on for ABN-AMRO Bank where I had several positions, the last one as assistant manager. Then I worked for Manrique Capriles as their Bonaire manager for a year. In 2005 I bought Bahia, a souvenir/gift shop. Now we're located at Kaya Grandi # 11, across from Banco di Caribe."

Relationship with Ramonsito Booi since: "I met him at Kunuku Warahama at the 35th anniversary party of the late Carlos Pourier in October 1997. Two months later I met him again in Discotheque Fantasy and from that day on our relationship gradually developed. I moved in with him after my children left to study on Curaçao, August last year."

What made you fall for him? "He is a fine figure of a man; he has a beautiful tall figure. He reminded me of Atahualpa, the last chief of the Incas."

What do you think made him fall for you? "I think I am more or less his prototype woman, physically speaking; it must have been that at the first meeting."

Children: "My eldest, Marie-Cristine, is 19 and she is doing a judicial study at ZOG in Curaçao. In the evenings she works as a judicial assistant. The little one is Eleonore-Celeste (16) and she's doing HAVO-4 at Maria Immaculata Lyceum in Curaçao."

How much are you involved in your partner's political work? "I follow all the news and discuss it with him and also I am an intermediary for many people who don't approach him directly for whatever reason."

What is to you the most important issue on UPB's party program? "As a mother, the fact that they want to improve education and educational possibilities. Further, they are pushing the economy and that's important to create more jobs. To be honest, money isn't everything, but you can't live without it. Also they're thinking about our elderly and working on a better pension arrangement because the amount of money the elderly are getting now is a disgrace."

What does the island mean to you? "I was born and raised on Curaçao in the kunuku and it was quiet, and when I came here for the first time the thing that attracted me most was the tranquility. I think Bonaire should keep its own identity: the beauty of its nature, the way people are and no traffic lights. But I also think that people should be open for changes to come be-

cause everything that's happening outside the island is also affecting us and we have to live with that."

What would you like to change? "Nothing."

What would you not like to change? "There are things that will change by themselves and there are things that will never change. I don't want jet ways at the airport because I really enjoy feeling the breeze the moment you get off the plane."

What's your opinion about the situation of the Bonairean women? "The Bonairean woman could pay a bit more attention to her appearance. I would like them to pamper themselves a bit more and they should read more and become more conscious of what's happening outside Bonaire. Also, there are too many young girls getting pregnant, not finishing their schooling and ending up in simple jobs. That should change."

What's the most important thing in your life? "My children, in the first place, and my partner."

How do you cope with the fact that your partner is a public figure?

"I was a public figure when I worked at the bank and I was a beauty queen once – I was a public person then, so it's something I can deal with."

How do you see your future? "Of course with ups and downs, but very rosy, because I am a very positive person so I can't imagine things in a different way."

How do you see the island's future? "The way things are now – very good. With the plans they have for the island I think Bonaire will have a good future."

What's the best thing you want to see when Holland takes over? "That the Bonairean citizen will have the same rights as a Dutchman in Holland and of course you have to consider the conditions that come with them. But because we're in the tropics and we have a different culture not all the norms on Bonaire are equal to those in Holland. It will be a give and take for both parties."

And the worst thing in your opinion? "That Holland will apply everything in Bonaire equally as they do in Holland; that can't be."

What's your strongest point? "I am very flexible and positive and very energetic."

What's your partner's strongest point? "He can endure a lot and absorb a lot and still stay calm and realistic, thinking about

solutions. I think that's very good of him."

How do you spend your time together? "Most of our time together is quality time. We won't let a moment pass without showing the affection and love we feel for each other, and we talk a lot about our children, about Bonaire and what's happening around us."

Do you have girlfriends whom you know are not voting for your partner? "Could be; you can never be sure of people."

What's the influence of the negative sides of your partner's work on your life? "When we were not living together it was difficult because he was gone so often for work. But now I know and understand that what he wants for his island and its people takes a lot of energy from him."

How do you see life? "Very positive. Of course there are always problems, but ups and downs make the balance. It's going to be okay."

What do you think about the situation of youth on Bonaire? "Of course it can be much better. The government should do more about education and recreation possibilities, but also the parents should be more involved in their children's upbringing."

What does your own life look like? "Very busy, exciting; I've got a lot to do, but I am also a person who has to stay busy."

How important is the environment to you? "Protection is good because Bonaire's economy depends on its nature and that makes the environment very important. However, now and then I think they go too far when it comes to protection, especially when the donkeys are considered."

What do you think about development and growth? "I think Bonaire has to go with the flow of the world, but it could do a little bit less. The best thing about Bonaire is that it's still primitive and quite undamaged and we have to keep it that way because that's what makes Bonaire unique."

How do you feel about foreigners living here? "I myself am not a Bonairean, but my children's grandfather is Bonairean and I've got cousins who are Bonaireans. You have to adjust to the community and the way people are and you should not try to change it."

What do you think about the situation of the elderly? "It could be much better, as I said before, especially when it comes to their pensions and also the facilities for the elderly are not sufficient."

What is the Bonairean identity? "The true Bonairean is simple; they love their kunuku, they love to fish and they love iguana and they really like to celebrate their holidays like Dia di Rincon."



Esmeralda Huerta

What responsibilities to parents have towards their children? "Every day when I pray I ask Him to give me life and strength to work and provide my children with everything they need, not only money-wise, but also spiritually. Further, that I can contribute in their development as a human being and when I close my eyes my heart will be at peace, knowing I did my part and they can go on without me."

What would you like to have become? "A history professor at a university or a judge."

How do you cope with the fact that your partner is a public figure? "I was a public figure when I worked at the bank and I was a beauty queen once – I was a public person then, so it's something I can deal with."

What are your hobbies? "I have my own radio show about fashion and beauty on Radio Digital, I love to read, I am painting and I really, really love to dance!"

What does friendship mean to you? "Friendship is very important; you need someone when you're sad or when you're happy, but you also have to be there when your friend needs you."

What was the best time you ever had with your partner? "A trip we went on to Medellin, Colombia."

Does your partner give you the space to do your thing? "Yes, absolutely! And he helped me a lot to mature and I am also a big support to him. We complete each other; you always have to express your love in words and deeds and that counts for everyone, not only when it comes to your partner, but also to your children and your friends." □ *Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*

Note: In last week's Candidates' Wives' Speak, due to a publishing error, the ending of the interview with Marisol Dirks was missing. It should have read:

Does your husband give you the space to do your own thing? "Yes, as you can see!"



Picture Yourself With The Reporter

San Diego, California Maui, Hawaii



Sammy Sellars might just be the youngest person to fall asleep while reading *The Reporter*. He's just four weeks old. Mom, Sara and Dad, Matt, son of *The Reporter's* editor, read on dutifully. □



Here's annual Bonaire visitor, Pat Ingram-Vogel, on a boat trip to Molikini Crater, Maui, Hawaii, with *The Reporter*. She says she loves Bonaire. □

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

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Venus, Aldebaran and the Moon



Aldebaran credit: Cosmonova- Tom Callen

Next week, on Thursday, April 19, one hour after sunset, face west where the most dazzling thing you'll see will be the brightest planet of them all **Earth-sized Venus**. And parked just down to its right is an exquisite crescent **Moon** complete with **earthshine**, which will look like a grey-black full Moon nestled within the crescent. And down to Venus' left is the **red star** which marks the eye of **Taurus the Bull, Aldebaran**. And as you can easily see, if we draw lines between them they make an exquisite cosmic triangle and a very instructive one because these three objects are as different as three objects can be.

Venus for instance is a planet about the same size as our Earth, 8,000 miles wide, whereas our Moon is a natural **satellite of a planet**, our planet Earth, and is only 2,000 miles wide. And while both our Moon and Venus appear to shine extremely bright they do not in reality make their own light, but only shine by the reflected light of a star, the closest star our **Sun**. Indeed all stars make their own light. So when we look at Aldebaran we are seeing a self-luminous cosmic body.

Now although Aldebaran, Venus and the Moon appear close to each other from our perspective, nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact on the 19th the Moon will be only 225,000 miles away, whereas Venus will be 102 million miles away. Aldebaran, on the other hand, will be 382 trillion miles away. Or to put it this way, since light travels at a constant speed of 186,000 miles per second, when we look at the Moon on the 19th we will see the light that left it about a second and a half ago. But we'll see the light that left Venus about nine minutes ago. Aldebaran, on the other hand, is so incredibly far away that we see the light left it 65 years ago!

The only reason we can see Aldebaran at all from this distance is because it is so extremely huge. In fact, it's 40 times as wide as our one-million-mile-wide Sun!

So don't miss this exquisite sight Thursday night. And if you have a small telescope please use it because you'll be able to see that Venus goes through phases just like our Moon does and currently looks like a very tiny **gibbous Moon**. Aldebaran, on the other hand, won't look any bigger through a telescope, only much brighter, although you'll be able to see how really red it is. But in case you're clouded out on Thursday the 19th, on Friday the 20th a slightly larger crescent Moon will be parked above Venus, making yet another although much bigger cosmic triangle. But Thursday, the 19th, is the night you don't want to miss! Three very different cosmic objects await your viewing pleasure. □ *Jack Horkheimer*

DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

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

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



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, April 8 to Saturday, April 14

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Empty promises will cause confusion. Tell it like it is. Try to be tolerant of the moods of those around you. Uncertainties about your personal life are probable. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) A change is as good as a rest. Don't go looking for change. You may have more to do with children this week; keep an open mind. You are best to work at home, clearing up overdue projects. Rewards for past good deeds will be yours. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Catch up on your reading and correspondence. You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. You need a change and you need to earn more cash. Someone around you may not be trustworthy. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Good friends will give you honest answers. Jealousy may be a contributing factor to your emotional ups and downs. You can get into self awareness groups or look into physical enhancement programs. New love connections can be made through group associations. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Someone envious of your popularity may challenge you to a debate. Travel for business will not only bring you valuable information but also profits as well. Secret affairs will come back to haunt you. Don't blame every thing on your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can come up with ways of earning extra cash. Be creative in your efforts. Be sure to keep communication open with those you live with. Go out with friends and avoid the situation on the home front. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Be cautious while traveling; minor accidents are evident. Keep your wits about you and be sure that you can trust those you confide in. Relationships have not been the best for you lately and it's left you somewhat gun shy. Keep an open mind when listening to the opinions of others. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Older family members may take advantage of you by making you feel guilty. You will profit from home improvement projects and real estate deals. Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. Use your creative talent in order to accomplish your goals. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't get so wrapped up in being rich that you overlook the fact that your plan may not be as solid as you thought. Someone you live with could be frustrated and upset. Disappointments are likely if your mate embarrasses you in front of friends. Partners may try to argue with you; however, you must stand your ground. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Opportunities to get ahead will be evident. You can pick up some overtime this week. Concentrate on spending quality time with children and friends. You will meet new and exciting people if you attend social activities or sporting events. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can't lock your partner up and if you keep restricting their freedom you may be left out in the cold. Your mate will be pushing you to do things that you really don't want to do. You are best to put your efforts into redecorating or inviting friends over. You will be accident prone if you aren't careful this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You may be likely to have difficulties with females. Romantic opportunities are evident. This will not be the best day to initiate change. There might be a problem with a will or with an insurance policy. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □