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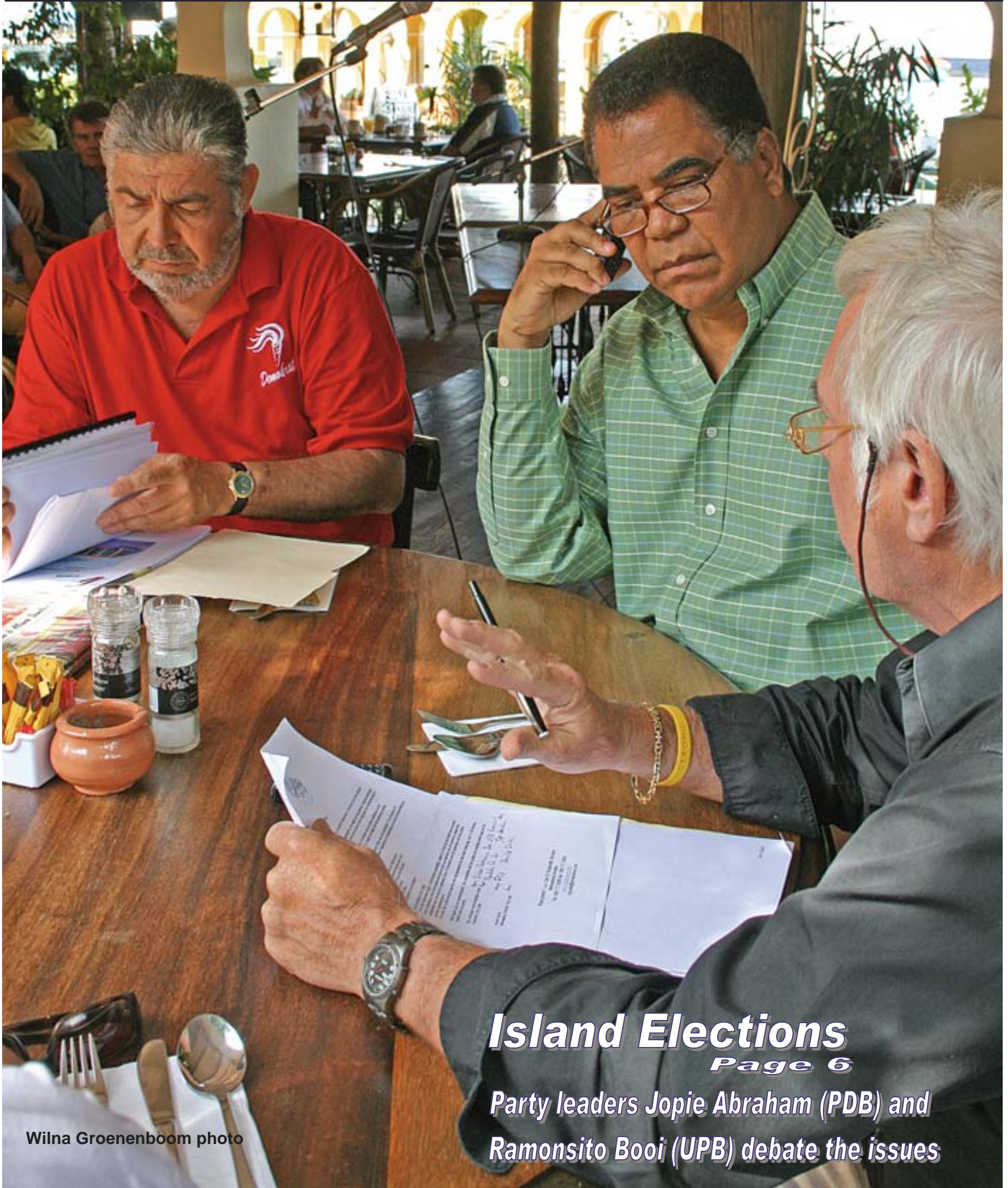
BONAIRE

April 20 to April 27, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 16

The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Island Elections *Page 6*

*Party leaders Jopie Abraham (PDB) and
Ramonsito Booi (UPB) debate the issues*

Wilna Groenenboom photo

Flotsam and Jetsam

The last Bonaire Island Council election will be held this Friday, April 20. Once Bonaire links directly with Holland the island government structure is expected to change to more closely match a Dutch village with an elected mayor in charge. In contrast with past years, **bars will not be closed** and alcoholic beverages may be sold, but island leaders are recommending moderation, especially on the election day. Look in this issue for additional election coverage.

► **The Jamaican Government will guarantee Air Jamaica's efforts to raise US\$124 million this year to finance the struggling carrier's long-term development**, says Minister of Finance and Planning Dr. Omar Davies. It's an election year in Jamaica.

► **The problem of health insurance for Dutch pensioners living in Netherlands Antilles has been resolved** by an agreement between the Dutch Ministry of Public Health and the Netherlands Antilles Minister of Health. Now Dutch pensioners will receive the right to medical care according to the Antillean social health insurance regulations, Dutch State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten informed the Dutch Parliament.

Dutch pensioners have to pay a health insurance premium to the Central Government and their right to health insurance will be the same as that of Central Government civil servants. The law is scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2008.

► **As of May 1 Dutch borders could be fully open to people from countries that joined the EU in 2004**, Social Affairs Minister Piet Hein Donner told Parliament.

At the moment workers from Poland and other Eastern European countries must have work permits to be legally employed in the Netherlands.

► **During a holiday visit with his family to the Antilles and Aruba, General Luís Felipe Acosta Carles, Governor of the Venezuelan state of Carabobo, promised that a new boat line between Bonaire and his state will start soon.** In the past Carabobo signed an agreement with the island regarding tourism, health and finance. Carles: "This agreement has been honored by Bonaire and that satisfies me." Transportation should be the next step according to the Governor. "In the future we should begin discussions about shipping between Puerto Cabello and the island. For Carabobo, Bonaire is a very important connection between the ABC islands. However, Bonaire, becoming a part of The European Union brings new possibilities for the province." The governor also says that there are plans to place a distribution center in Bonaire for products coming from Carabobo. Socialist entrepreneurs in Carabobo want to use Bonaire as a port to bring products to Aruba and Curaçao. What is also important for Carles are the contacts regarding culture and sports between his state and Bonaire.



► **Crown prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Maxima of the Netherlands welcomed a third daughter last week.** The Crown Prince proudly showed off his little girl to the press. She was born Tuesday night at 10 pm. The little girl is another sister for three year old Amalia and Alexia, who turns two in June. Not surprisingly the name of this third child also starts with an A: Ariana Wilhelmina Máxima Ines.

► **Each year Bonaire produces about 330,000 liters of waste oil and other hazardous material.** That's about four containers, 40 feet long, filled with oil. This amount is increasing due to the growing number of citizens, cars, boats and machines. Of course if this oil goes into the sea or the ground it will be catastrophic, not only for the environment, but it will also cause health problems to people living on the island. To make sure the increasing amount of waste on Bonaire will not flow into the sea or in the ground, the Department of Development and Environment, (*Dienst Ruimtelijke Ontwik-*

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know... Cowfish turn blue when they're in love?

Well, it may not be true love, but it's the closest they're going to get to it. When I teach about fish courtship, I always include a quick explanation of cowfish courtship, but rarely get to see it when I'm with a group in the water. Well, on a beautiful dive last year in front of Yellow Submarine, I pointed out a brown cowfish to my group of three divers and right when everyone saw the boxy, triangular-shaped cowfish with its two little 'horns', it turned bright blue and raced towards another cowfish a short distance away. Needless to say, and quite shamelessly I admit, we followed and watched the very arduous and determined mating ritual of the male cowfish. He prodded and bumped the female until she also put on a glowing and gorgeous blue hue. They circled around each other again and again and rose until they were just below the surface. She released her eggs and he fertilized them with his milt (we assume, since it's very difficult to see the milky evidence) and they both returned to the reef. They separated and went their own ways and acted like nothing had happened. We, on the other hand, were left with goofy grins stretching from ear to ear. The divers were convinced that I had the reef animals acting on cue. If Mother Nature is generous and you know a bit about how fish act and what to look for, just about any reef just about anywhere will have the same daily dramas, just with different characters. So when you're down and have the blues, think of what those frisky cowfish do when they're blue, and perhaps it will cheer you up! □ *Photo & story by Caren Eckrich*



Cowfish courtship

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 □ .



Picture Yourself With The Reporter

St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles



Iraidha Coffie sent us this photo of her son, **Naygel Coffie**, taken with *The Reporter* in St. Maarten. Naygel traveled there in March as part of Bonaire's judo team and won second place in his category. He returned to Bonaire with two silver medals! □

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.) □

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) *keling en Beheer- DROB*) made a long-term agreement with the environmental service from the Province of Breda in Holland. They will help to make sure the waste will be collected properly and shipped off the island.

Most of the used oil is already collected and taken to BOPEC for processing. Yet, for the smaller and bigger service stations on the island, the chance for accidents can be reduced with a few simple measures, like putting barrels with used oil in an oil trough.

Two employees from the Breda service are on the island for the first project that has started: safely collecting the waste coming from service stations. The project is the initiative of the Association of Netherlands Communities (*Nederlandse Gemeenten*) and SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management company. Research made by the Environmental Department and SELIBON revealed that in auto repair shops other waste is also created, such as from batteries, brake oil, and gas used for air conditioning. A solution for these is also needed. SELIBON investigations showed that many repair shops are willing to participate in the projects.

► Public Health Commissioner James Kroon, the Renata Institute and the Mariadal Foundation, which manages Bonaire's **San Francisco Hospital**, signed a **statement of intent last week to have cardiac and lung patients treated on Bonaire**. Currently, these patients have to go to Curaçao for treatment, which is inconvenient and expensive. The head of the Mariadal Foundation, Dr. Giovanni Frans, called this a historic moment for the island.

► The High Court in The Hague has concluded that **same-sex marriages conducted in the Netherlands must be recognized in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba**, in the case filed by two lesbians who came to Aruba from Holland, but were not allowed to register as being wed.

The women, one of them originally from Aruba, have to be registered as married, said the court, based on article 40 of the Dutch Kingdom Charter.

► Last week former Minister **Sybilla Dekker** (left) visited **Plenipotentiary Minister of the Dutch Antilles, Paul Clemencia** (right). She was recently named president of the *Antilliaanse Medefinancieringsorganisatie* (AMFO). AMFO finances social-educative projects in The Antilles out of the treasury of Kingdom relations. The Netherlands have given NAf 23 million to end serious poverty on the islands.

Readers might remember that several



years ago AMFO was based on Bonaire and responsible for delivering financial aid to many needy Bonaireans. It was shut down because of so-called sloppy accounting practices.

► **The village of Rincon has invited politicians from all political parties to talk at Rincon's community organization.** Rincon is known in Bonaire for its very active community and structure and may provide an example for other Bonaire communities. The village has a very structured organization. The reason for this is based on its location: remote from Kralendijk.

Plataforma Rincon, the village's organization, has a great influence on what happens in the community. To make clear to all the political parties what *Plataforma Rincon* exactly is all about, the political parties have been invited to Rincon to talk about the future of this community. Not a coincidence of course, with the island elections coming on the 20th of April.

Plataforma Rincon wants to know from the political parties what their plans are regarding Rincon's future. But also what the situation will be for Rincon when the island becomes closer to Holland.

► **Rincon Day is coming up on the 30th of April, when the rest of the Dutch Kingdom celebrates Queens Day.** Rincon Day is very popular with tourists as well. Community leader Maritza Dan Pedro writes, "The authenticity of Rincon is strong. Rinconeros want to live like they have always lived. Tourists are attracted to this." Of course, there are also disadvantages to this isolated system according to her "For example, courses are mainly given in Kralendijk, far away from Rincon."

► **Bonaire remains a very popular destination for Dutch people, according to Minister Paul Clemencia.** He says that many tourists who arrive in Curaçao take a plane to hop over to Bonaire. But not only are more tourists becoming interested in the island. Increasingly, Dutch people wanting to relocate chose for Bonaire as a destination. That's why next year Bonaire will expand their stand in Utrecht during the

► On the evening of April 7, over 40 people gathered at Gielmon "Funchi" Egbrechts' kunuku near Washikema to honor **Imre Esser, former President of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** and say goodbye to him and his family. They will be leaving Bonaire and returning to the Netherlands around April 18.



Janet Thibault and Captain Don Stewart (Accolade Foundation), Imre Esser, Caren Eckrich (Accolade Foundation), and Jan Kloos and Andy Uhr (STCB President)

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Accolade Award to Imre for his work with STCB. Among its many goals, the Accolade Foundation strives to encourage marine conservation by recognizing individuals who have made significant contributions to protecting the oceans. □ *STCB press release & photo*

Emigration Show. Clemencia added, "We will also encourage the other islands to take part in this. For tourists as well as for people looking for a second home Bonaire can be a perfect alternative."

► **Barbara and Charles Birdsey, founding members of the Pegasus Foundation based in Concord, New Hampshire (US), have donated \$9,000 to Bonaire's Donkey Sanctuary.** According to Marina Melis, executive director of the Donkey Sanctuary, the funds will be used to purchase materials to fence in an additional 20 hectares of land in order to expand the sanctuary and to take in more donkeys. Currently the Donkey Sanctuary has

352 donkeys, but from May 13 to June 13, Dr. Thijs Flahou, a veterinarian who formerly worked on Bonaire, will be assisting Melis in rescuing more donkeys.

The non-profit Pegasus Foundation has several focuses for funding: wildlife and habitat protection; companion animal programs; and education and outreach primarily in the Caribbean. In February, the Birdseys met with a number of key environmental and animal organizations on Bonaire, including Sea Turtle Conservation, the Animal Shelter, Animal Welfare, Aliansa Naturalesa, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, and Save the Lorans. Hopefully these organizations will also be receiving

(Continued on page 13)

► **Once again the Bonaire Rotary's annual RotaRally was an unqualified success.** The Rally started at Seru Largo and cruised the roads from Santa Barbara to Rincon, ending at Mangazina di Rei. A total of 71 automobiles and 200 people participated. A delicious



At the start on Seru Largo Rotary photo

BBQ prepared by Bertje Diaz with music by the local reggae band, "Up Rising," followed. The winner of the rally was Aniek Schouten and Joyce Bosveld. Second was the family team of Coffie/Lucia under the leadership of veteran Glenn Coffie, and third was the De Jong couple. Winners received an MCB Kompa Leon Money-Card sponsored by Sunbelt Realty. The Rotary thanks all who helped make the RotaRally a success. □

Guest Editorial expresses the opinions of the writer

SAVE OUR BAYS

In the April 6 - 14 issue of *The Reporter* marine biologist Caren Eckrich wrote about the importance of mangroves. Caren mentioned many reasons for their importance to our environment, of course one of them being the fact that they serve as a nursery and habitat for juvenile fish. She also mentioned that it is a scientific fact that reefs near mangroves have more fish than reefs with no mangroves nearby. All this becomes very clear when one snorkels in the mangroves and outside of Lac Bay. Not only are the juveniles plentiful, but so are the large schools of full size snappers, barracudas and other fish that find a refuge in the mangroves. Also, the huge number of reef fish on the reef separating Lac from the ocean is proof of the importance of mangroves for the general fish population of the island.

It is generally known that the number of fish in our waters has been declining steadily, mostly due to over fishing. Two small "No Fish Zones" are now being proposed by STINAPA in order to slow or halt this decline. This measure may help some. However, there is no question that a significant increase in the number of mangroves would have a significant positive effect on the fish population of the island.

In order to grow many more mangrove trees and to really make a positive difference in our fish population it is suggested that our closed-to-the sea bays (e.g. Gotomeer, Slagbaai, Wayaca, Bartool, Playa Chikitu and others) be opened up to the sea by the relatively easy job of removing the coral dikes that separate the bays from the sea. A bulldozer can do this in a day. If there is a road, a simple pipe(s) will suffice to allow traffic to pass.

Biologists may say: "Blasphemy! Never! Don't do it; never interfere with nature; the present situation is the natural one; you don't realize the negative effects this will have," and "it will hurt the flamingos, it will kill off the coral reefs outside the bay, etc, etc."

Let's take a close and objective look at these potential negatives:

Don't interfere with nature: It is highly questionable whether the existence of the coral dike separating these bays from the sea is natural. The bays themselves were formed by fresh water finding an escape route from the inland to the sea. Therefore, the natural condition of the bays would be open to the sea. The fact that some are now closed off by a coral dike, probably formed by coral debris being thrown up into a dike during storms, does not mean that the closed state is the natural one. One could even argue that the storms that closed off the bays may not be natural as they may, at least to some extent, be an effect of human interference on our climate. Removal of the separation dikes brings the bay back to its natural state!

Opening up the bays would kill off the coral reef by the deposition of silt. There is plenty of evidence that this statement is not correct. Look at the examples: Lac bay is open to the sea and its boca has plenty of corals. The huge bay of Spanish Water in Curaçao is open to the sea and coral right by its boca are plentiful. Several years ago Wayaca (in Washington Park) was temporarily opened to the sea. Six months later only a very narrow band of corals right by

the opening had died, but the number of fish inside and outside the bay was simply phenomenal! It is also believed that the corals would return after the initial silt, thrown on the coral upon the opening the bay, had disappeared. Because of their ability to "dust" themselves off corals have a high survivorship to silt deposition if this is periodic and not chronic.

Opening up the bays would be detrimental to the flamingos. (The author of this article for many years managed the flamingo sanctuary in the salt works). Although it is true that the highly saline environment of the closed-off bays, such as Gotomeer and Slagbaai, are conducive to several species of flamingo food such as brine shrimp and artemia, we notice that in the salt works the flamingos forage more in the Pekelmeer, which is at or near sea salinity, than in the high salinity ponds. This is strong evidence that flamingos would simply change their diet in these opened up areas from the high salt species to larvae, small crabs, shells and other creatures that live in seawater. After all, such is also the case with flamingos that forage in the Pekelmeer, Lac Bay and in the huge Venezuelan area of Chichirivichi where our flamingos regularly commute to. Note that when Wayaca was opened to the sea, the number of flamingos in the area went from zero to a significant number.

The author suggests that the advantages of opening up our bays to the sea (mangrove growth and the resulting huge increase in our fish population, big and small) far outweigh the potential disadvantages. Experience in the Pekelmeer when it was opened up to the sea (1969) shows how quickly the mangroves will grow, especially if planted. A discussion of pros and cons of the idea is encouraged, hopefully leading to a consensus.

If the pros outnumber the cons we could consider doing a test by opening up one of our bays and monitor the effects thereof. If the test results were to be negative these could easily be reversed by reclosing the separating dike. Caren Eckrich points to the importance of our mangroves...let's DO something about it...let's grow more!□

René Hakkenberg



Young mangroves United Nations photo

Celebrating our
25th Anniversary
Rotary Club of Bonaire

"Support our Breakfast
in Schools Program"




Photo Copyright 2006 Anessa Thompson

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

2007 Island Council Election Debate



Ramonsito Booi, Lucky Popp and Jopie Abraham represented their parties in Sunday's debate at City Café.

With the elections coming up on Friday, April 20th, the debate held last Sunday morning in City Café could be considered as one of the most important to win votes. In addition to the debate itself, it was very interesting to see how citizens feel about the welfare of their island. What will be the future of Bonaire? Who knows?

There is a computer game that can be played on a PC called "Tropico." In this game you're a sort of Fidel Castro who takes control of a tropical island and starts from scratch with only a single fisherman's wharf available. The main goal of the game is to make sure you create a system that works, such as building enough hotels to keep the tourists coming. The start of the game is easy, as there is enough capital to use for building and creating the desired structure. But as the island develops, also the problems start, especially if you run out of money. Decisions have to be made regarding the environment, where to place schools and hotels. Sometimes wages have to be cut to the minimum. If you make one wrong decision, the paradise you have created becomes a horror island.

The game might be talking about Bonaire. In a two-hour-long debate held in City Café last Sunday morning many subjects described above were discussed. Are citizens happy about what's happening on the island and are the parties listening enough to the voters? What will become of Bonaire in the future, environmentally and socially? And what will happen to Bonaire once it becomes a municipality of Holland? Many questions that all had to be answered during the debate.

The debate was between three of the four political parties on the island: the currently ruling party leader, Ramonsito Booi from the Union Patriotiko Boneriano UPB (green); Jopie Abraham from the Democratic Alliance party Bonaire ADB (red); and Lucky Pop from the Partido Alerta Boneriano (white). Absent was the party, Partido Pro Desaroyo, PRO, (orange) with Benito Dirks as party leader. Moderator of the debate was Jack Visser.

The debate was held early on Sunday morning. The turnout wasn't huge; about 50 attended the debate and it was clear that many people haven't decided which party to vote for yet. Also their participation in the debate was enthusiastic, as many audience members asked very critical questions during the discussions. The answers given by the party leaders were not always satisfying to the audience, as shown by raised eyebrows and sometimes even shouting.

The main points discussed during the debate were four propositions:

- Political structure of Bonaire,
- Economic policy,
- Environment
- Youth and crime.

Each party got five minutes to present his or her opinions and afterwards the audience got the opportunity to ask questions. Not surprisingly, most questions raised by the audience were about the environment and the preservation of it. But what was obvious was that all the three parties didn't really offer clear answers to this issue, mostly because they didn't know what was going to happen after Bonaire becomes a municipality of Holland. Frequently the answers given by the parties were that they need time to come up with a structure and to investigate what the solutions should be.

Of course, the green party had the most difficult job during the debate, as they have been sitting with a majority in the Island Council during the last two terms and had to defend their policy. The opposition parties had an easier job by telling what should be done better and especially what the green party did wrong.

A summary of the debate:

Political structure of Bonaire

As Bonaire will become a special municipality of the Netherlands soon, the political structure of Bonaire is a very important subject during the election.

Green Party: Mr. Booi explained that it's very important that the decision has been made to become closer to The Netherlands

as it will give more structure to Bonaire, and many problems such as the huge debts Bonaire has will disappear, and many problems on infrastructure and health care will improve. He also says that the poverty status of many citizens will be reduced in Bonaire when it becomes part of Holland.

White Party: Lucky Pop also says that the party is positive towards a closer link with Holland, but also thinks that the decision has been made too quickly. In her opinion the negotiations have been settled too fast and she thinks that it would have been better if the council had waited to make the agreements after the elections and that it would have been better to have a time period to discuss about it until December 2007.

Red Party: To Abraham it's not clear what the agreement will mean for Bonaire. He wants the Bonairean citizens to be able to continue their lifestyle without interruption from the Dutch government. He thinks it's necessary to have a healthy representation of the culture of Bonaire in the new constitution.

Economic policy

Red: Abraham says he wants the environment to become a part of the economic policy. He also wants the Bonairean culture to be considered in reference to economics. His concern is also poverty on the island as

20.5% of the population has wages below 1.000 Euros a month and 6.5% even lie below 500 Euros. He thinks it's necessary to have a better balance between rich and poor. But economic growth should not mean that the culture and nature should be harmed by reaching that goal. He's afraid that the chicken who lays the golden eggs will be slaughtered that way.

White: Pop wants what is generated by the island to be divided under the entire population. Otherwise she thinks the rich will get richer, and the poor poorer

Green: To the Green party the most important is to have trust in the economic policy. Investments need to help the citizens of the island. That Bonaireans don't make much money is not foreign to him. It has always been like that. He thinks this problem will always exist. He also adds that: "We need cruise ships to be able to dock, for a flow of tourism, but that also presents problems for supermarkets that aren't able to fill their stocks because of that. He also thinks these problems will always exist. He hopes that by working together with Holland a solution should be found for this and many other problems regarding economics.

Environment

Green: To preserve the environment we
(Continued on page 7)

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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

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

The Multi-purpose Kunuku Vehicle of Jos and Astrid

Jos and Astrid live on their huge kunuku on Kaya Nieuw Amsterdam. To find the kunuku you only have to follow the small signs with an arrow, saying: "Jos." Every Sunday their "snack" is open from 4 in the afternoon until the last visitor is completely satisfied and leaves the area. Jos started his snack in 2002. Everything is constructed from found materials. Jos' Snack is permanently under construction. It's famous for its low prices and perfect grilled sàtè. Every Sunday a porch sale is held and every Sunday evening there is a bonfire.

Jos' vehicle was born, once upon a time, as a Toyota Lite Ace. Jos: "It is a diesel powered, four-cylinder van, manufactured in 1980 or so, I guess. This lovely dependable little van is also under permanent construction. We painted it more or less green and brown. It's a driving picture, showing donkeys, goats, trupial birds and cactus trees. My car is fitted with original Nato tires. They're perfect for the outback of the kunuku. I fitted this van with a poor man's airco: when I turn the ignition key on, a large fan mounted on the dash board starts blowing. I presume this is the only car with a hitch ball, fitted with a



Jos and Astrid

radio. It still works. The hitch ball I mean. The radio cassette could not cope with the dust of the unpaved roads of Bonaire."

Then Jos tries to start the engine of his van. It takes some time. The battery is OK but the glow plugs are a bit slow. Clouds of unburned diesel fuel cover the van. Then, finally, the engine runs and Jos maneuvers his car to the right location for some pictures. Yes, he would like to be portrayed with his partner Astrid and the reliable van. Jos and Astrid are really happy. They love their life on Bonaire, they love each other, they love their snack and all the organized activities in and around the snack.

Jos opens the hatch back of the B - 3500 registered van. Jos: "We also sleep in this little car. There is a bed in it for two adults and a water supply and the car is fitted with a large sun screen. We also built a trailer - a

(Election Debate. Continued from page 6)

need money, which we don't have. For this we shouldn't be asking Holland as well. It's up to us, Bonaireans, to find a solution to this and to work together. If we need to sacrifice a small piece of the island by building hotels, to preserve the other part, so be it."

White: People who want to invest in our island need to know that this can't be at the cost of the environment. Our coastline is already full of hotels; a solution could be that we make the hotel buildings higher.

Red: We need to invest in tourism, that's for sure, but not by having projects that are doomed to fail. Parts of Bonaire are filled with holes because of monster projects that have failed because of bankruptcy, at the cost of the environment. We don't believe in these monster projects at all.

A remark from an audience member to all parties: "You talk a lot, but the answers you give to our questions even raise more questions. You're not listening to us! Everybody is talking about building more and more, but that's completely the wrong interpretation. Tourists are coming to this

island because there isn't anything. If you build, the result will be that fewer tourists will come!"

Youth and Crime

White: Our school system has many loopholes in it. This should be improved. Teachers who come from overseas don't understand our culture; they should be educated to know how to work with our youth. A solution to criminal youth should be sending them to boot camps.

Green: There is a shortage in housing for youth in Bonaire. Together with Holland we'll find a solution to this. They work with a good system and should provide us with information to make a change to the problems we have with youth.

Red: Youth is the future of Bonaire. There is a lack of youth policy. Youth crime is up 18% so that's a big problem that has to be changed.

Who the winner was of this debate is not sure. But what is for sure is that there isn't any certainty yet which party will win the election on Friday. □ *David Radomisili, photo by Wilna Gronenboom*

bar for drinking on wheels -nicknamed the Blò Blò. And we also built a weird boat on wheels." Then Astrid asks, "Don't you like my car?" It's a greenish painted little van with flowers on it; a good subject for a story in the future.

Then I order a grilled sàtè and another beer. I start strolling around the large kunuku. All kinds of small buildings, containers, found material, a definitely stranded American pickup. No wheels anymore, fitted with small bulbs supplied from a generator. The American flag is proudly waving in the wind. The bonfire is waiting. The Jos kunuku is another



The unique radio trailer hitch

very nice place on the island of Bonaire to spend some hours of our happy island life. □ *Story & photos by J@n Brower*

Tympanums Antique Living Houses of Bonaire Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage

by Wilna Groenenboom



Tympanums in Architecture

After more than 30 *Antique Living Houses of Bonaire* articles this will be the last in the series - not that there isn't anything more to write about, but there is a time for coming and a time for going.....

Looking over the past articles you see in these antique houses many influences not only from Africa but also from Western Europe. In many old houses we see pillars and "tympanums" which appear to come from the old Greek and Roman architectural period, 300BC to 200AD. (According to Webster, a "tympanum" is the recessed face of a pediment within the frame made by the upper and lower cornices, being usually triangular) In Greek temple architecture the tympanums and pillars served more of a more constructive rather than a decorative function, but of course the decoration was also important.

The decorative way in which the tympanums and pillars are used on Bonaire shows that this style comes from a younger architectural period, the Baroque, which flourished in Western Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. The photo shows the façade of the Hesus' Sint-Michielskerk in Leuven, Belgium, constructed in 1650-1666. The façade is called "The altar outside the church." On top we see a tympanum. Because there are so many Greek and Roman influences in it it's also called the "Classic" Baroque. The name Baroque comes from the Portuguese word, "Barroco" (irregular formed/pearl shaped).

The Baroque style in The Netherlands was completely different from that in the southern European regions. The Dutch used the Baroque style in a more formal, sober, Calvinistic and less exuberant way, as we can



see in the photo of the former palace, "The Mauritshuis," in Den Hage. The tympanum is placed in the middle of the roof and smaller tympanums appear above each window. It was done in a similar way on the Herrera house in Kralendijk. It has no curls and looks very sober, like the Dutch Baroque.

The door of the *Ofisina Gobierno di Bonaire/Bestuurskantoor* (government office) is very decorative and is typically Dutch Baroque (top left photo). The same can be said of the windows of the Maduro travel building (top right photo). All these beautiful details make the buildings interesting and worth a second look.



The two tympanums (below left photos in the collage) are also in the center of Kralendijk, on Kaya Gen. C.M. Piar and Kaya Gob. Nicolaas Debrot. The Kas di Hadry is on the Kaya P.L. Brion. The tympanum is hidden behind some banana trees. If you come from the parking lot by the shopping mall, you will pass it on the right by going to the Kaya Simon Bolivar. It's a very unique tympana, literally and figuratively, nearly hidden from view.

Probably everybody knows the photos showed in the collage. Some readers may pass these buildings several times a day but not recognize them. As a reader wrote to me: "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." (Proust). I hope people can open their eyes to see the beautiful buildings still on Bonaire because every month we are losing them - some of them by neglect and others because they are being torn down and replaced by new buildings.

How beautiful is the tympanum in the right photo below? From my point of view, even for Bonaire it's unusual with the three Roman style arches. Look well at this beautiful old building on the Boulevard Julio A. Abrahams because next week it can be gone. As you may have heard, the old "Blue Moon" building will be replaced by a new "Blue Moon" - three stories high! Why not build the new and save the old façade? Are the tourists interested in seeing all the same square-shaped buildings they can see on all the other islands? I am afraid that in five years' time the whole coastline and center of Bonaire will be rebuilt with these uninteresting buildings without character. Build for the tourist and not for the residents of Bonaire and then where can we find the soul, the history, of our old beautiful architectural houses of Bonaire?

Particularly in the area around The Blue Moon are some old houses with so much character that they are worth saving and restoring to preserve for the next generation.

I hope that some people will realize that in the long term the historical value is much more valuable than just money. □ Story & photos by Wilna Groenenboom

Wilna Groenenboom is an artist and photographer who teaches art at the SGB high school



DIVING with DEE Earth Day for All of Us

Sunday, April 22nd is Earth Day, the day we celebrate the glory of our planet.

There will be beach cleanups, shoreline cleanups and possibly inland cleanups scheduled on Bonaire. There will be underwater cleanups, for Dive In to Earth Day. And yeah, by the third or 10th cleanup, maybe you're beginning to wonder *Why am I spending time cleaning up areas that will be re-trashed in a month?*

Here's one answer: Remember that we're not cleaning up for the people who trashed the place. We're cleaning up so we oldsters can remember how whole shorelines used to be, and so the kids can see how wonderful everything looks when it's not covered with trash. Cleanups are not as elegant a solution as educating everyone on the planet so that trash is never discarded into the natural world, but they're much more achievable.

On Saturday, the 14th of April, Nettech/Yellow Submarine's underwater cleanup kicked off our Earth Day activities. (see report elsewhere in *The Reporter*)

One can celebrate Earth Day and Dive In to Earth Day on Bonaire in other ways besides cleanups, of course. One example was participating in the Critter Patrol for the cleanup on the 14th. Underwater cleanups inevitably result in some creatures be-



Through STINAPA's educational programs, these kids created an interactive billboard about the various times it takes different kinds of trash to degrade underwater.

ing accidentally brought up with the debris they live in or upon. Critter Patrollers examine the collected debris for creatures, such as shrimp and little crabs, and return them to hospitable underwater habitats.

Another way to celebrate Earth Day is to learn more about the Earth and how things are changing on our planet. One way to do this is to see the film *An Inconvenient Truth*, which will be sponsored by STINAPA Bonaire and available free to the public on Sunday, April 22. (See Happenings section on page 15)

Underwater, I'm organizing two Dive In to Earth Day activities. One will be a line removal dive at either the North or South Pier, if we can schedule a date and time with the Harbormaster's Office. Fishing line ends up underwater because of the nature of the activity, not the carelessness

of its practitioners, but once down it can be fatal to sea turtles that become entangled in it. A little turtle drowned in fishing line at the pier a few years ago. Line collection is meticulous work but doesn't entail carrying much extra weight or bulk. If you'd like to participate in a line collection dive, call (717-8529) or e-mail me at dee@touchthesea.com.



The sharp edges on the brain coral can be seen in this photo. A parrotfish has munched on the coral, giving us the view of the sharp blades and the thin skin over them.

The second activity I think will be fun is an underwater invertebrate survey. REEF (the Reef Environmental Educational Foundation; www.reef.org), best known for its fish surveys, will be inaugurating an invertebrate survey sometime soon – but why not celebrate Earth Day here on Bonaire by getting a baseline for our underwater invertebrates? It'll also be a way to help figure out various ways the surveys might be done. One could concentrate on a certain group, such as shrimp, or just record every

invertebrate one could positively identify, or anywhere in between. Participating in the invertebrate survey requires a good knowledge of creatures -- or an underwater camera to enable you to identify them later. **On Monday, the 23rd of April, I'll bring critter identification books to my slide show (Captain Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm).** After the regular show we can immerse ourselves in identifying the "mystery creatures" in photos.

Bonaire has chosen to make nature its life; many of us have chosen to live on Bonaire for that very reason. On our relatively "tiny" island we have all sorts of ways to experience nature, and we probably have more Earth Day activities scheduled than cities with 10 times our population.

What will **you** do to celebrate Earth Day?
□ *Story & photos by Dee Scarr*

Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her slide show "Touch the Sea" at Capt. Don's Habitat, Mondays, 8:30 pm.



Sand Dollar's Reef Balls were placed in January of 2006, so they've been down for 15 months. A snorkel or scuba dive around them will show you the wonderful "sea change" that they've undergone since this photo was taken.

Pets of the Week

It's puppy season at the Bonaire Animal Shelter and there are 12 pups ready to be adopted. During a visit to the new arrivals cage we found three of the cutest very interested in posing for us: "Alex," "Felicia" and "Aaron." Alex and Aaron are brothers who came in with their sister Alice. They were found cuddled up in a box dropped in front of the Shelter gate one morning by the staff when they came in to work. How fortunate for them that they weren't just dropped off by the side of the road or in the *mondi* where they surely would have starved to death. Felicia was brought in with her sister Franny by the dogcatcher. Now all the pups are happy, cuddly, well fed, peppy and fun. All of them have been checked out by the vet, given their shots, worming and pronounced healthy and robust. You may see them at

the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

The Shelter reports that as of this week there have been **45 adoptions** since the first of the year! Congratulations to all the new owners and their pets!

Other good news is that there have been **30 sterilizations** this year so far, thanks to the contributions made to the Shelter Sterilization Fund which helps to subsidize sterilizations for those pet owners who cannot afford the full price. Think of how many unwanted puppies this has eliminated! You can help this fine project. Any amount will help. Donate to the Sterilization Fund," MCB Account #10616410 or via Support Bonaire, Inc.: www.supportbonaire.org. □ L.D.



"Alex," "Felicia" and "Aaron."

**Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— Are still free
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Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):
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Call 786-6518 or 7866125 or email ads@bonairereporter.com

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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

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Bonaire Images

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

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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



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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 due to departure.....

Furniture – books, many books-surround sound / tv - glass cupboard – hammocks- Moroccan and Tunisian carpets- art – little thingies –clothes- kitchen stuff – Big plant pots – dining table w chairs – tools – tank/ dive set – tent- bag.....more. **Just call: 786-3558 for appointment after 1800.**

Moving Sale- Saturday, April 21, 10:00 to 2:00 Sabadeco Villas 11, 717-2208 Framed pictures, queen and twin bedspreads, bed sheets, VCR player, small painted bench, potted plants, 4 (80 cu ft) dive tanks, garden tools, 7' stepladder, halogen floor lamp, miscellaneous items.

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

GE Side by Side Refrigerator/Freezer w/icemaker Water and ice in the door, 4 years old Like new 110 – 127 V/60 Hz Sell for \$950. 717-8876

26' CENTURY (Eduardono) Boat & 26'GalvanizedTrailer Year Manufacture: 1999/2000 Open Bow/center console, Twin 200 HP Yamaha engines/Under 500 hours on engines, Anti foul painting, Porta-potti, Fresh water sink and shower, strong Bimini top, Stainless Steel ladder, Live-well, Well maintained \$60,000. 717-8876.

Real American pillowtop mattress set for sale. Please see at J.A. Abraham #10 (behind Cactus Blue Restaurant)

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.**

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,

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

Email: Nataliaferreira_xusombonaire@yahoo.com

Soap Stone Carving Class. Four weeks, starts Friday, April 20. Small classes of five to six students; space for two more.. NAf 165, includes materials. Call artist Edith Fox. Tel. 717-2337.

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 – 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

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**

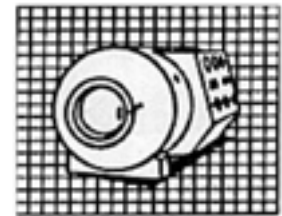
Property

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

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Historic home for rent, tastefully renovated 4 bedroom, 3 bath, living room, family room dining, foyer, laundry room with side and back patio, yard, short term and monthly. Fully furnished. Reasonable rates. See thecraanehouse.com for photos. **Contact us at reservations@thecraanehouse.com.**

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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

Wanted: Second hand books for our sale on Dia di Rincon. Special youth books are very welcome, but we can use all books in English and Dutch! The profit is for the youth clubs of *Hubentut pa Kristu* of Rincon. You can give a call to **Elly 717-3227 or Carla 717-7256.**

Reporter staff member wishes to house sit long-term starting now. 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 ques-

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4) support and funds in the future.



► Workers installed “sleeping policemen,” also called speed bumps or *drem-pels* on **Kaya Korona** to slow down traffic, especially around the high school. However they were just as quickly removed as drivers complained. Be advised, the warning sign is still there,

► On Saturday, April 28th at 8:30 pm, the **Randal Corsen Quartet** will give a concert at the **Tipsy Seagull restaurant at Plaza Resort Bonaire**. The concert celebrates the release of Randal’s newest CD “Armonia” that was recorded in 2006. Admission to the concert on April 28 is NAf25 per person. Also a VIP package is available at a price of NAf117.50, this package include the entrance to the concert, a 3 course dinner prior to the concert at the Topsy Seagull restaurant and 10 drink vouchers. Tickets are now for sale at the reception of Plaza Resort Bonaire.

“We are very proud to have Randal Corsen perform at Plaza Resort Bonaire at the end of this month” says Boudewijn “Bous” Scholts, director of sales and marketing of the resort. “This is a beautiful prelude for the 3rd Bonaire Heineken Jazz and Salsa Festival in May and we are looking forward to a great event here on the beach.”



► As in other places, **World Tai Chi en Qigong Day** is now also an official day in **Bonaire**. Last Friday, James Kroon, Commissioner of Health and Social Affairs, signed a proclamation, offered by WTBA Accredited Instructor Yang Style Tai Chi, Ron Sewell (above with Commissioner Kroon). World Tai Chi en Qigong Day takes place every year on the last Saturday of the month in cities all over the world, and Kralendijk is now one of them. The reason Sewell has introduced Tai Chi to Bonaire is to try to make people more aware of the advantages of Tai Chi and Qigong. Tai Chi is an ancient exercise system that is one of the world’s most popular exercises and is practiced by millions of people of all ages. Finding new members is not the main objective for Sewell. He particularly wants to get health and fitness instructors interested in the life style and include it in their work-out programs. World Tai Chi and Qigong Day will be celebrated with a demonstration and clinic in the Parke Publiko (behind the hospital) on Saturday, April 28th, starting at 10am. Current Tai Chi practitioners on Bonaire will be present to demonstrate Tai Chi. Anyone interested tin seeing or learning about Tai Chi for health and fitness of mind and body will be welcome to come to the



► It was a welcome preview for next month's Jazz Festival . **Famous Dutch saxophonist Hans Dulfer** put on a great show at **City Cafe** last week with a lot of different styles of music. According to reports it was really swinging; the roof was coming off the place.
Photo: Wilna Groenenboom

Park and watch. People will be available to talk to and answer questions. Photographs of last year’s Bonaire event can be seen on the web at the following address: <http://www.worldtaichiday.org/photos/2006WTCQD/2006Photos/BonaireCaribbean2006.html>

► This Sunday, April 22nd. **The Dutch Dixies** are performing again at **KonTiki** in co-operation with Rotary Bonaire starting at 5 pm and playing until 9 pm. This free benefit concert will support the project Breakfast in Schools. From 6 pm on KonTiki will offer a special meal for \$15 per person including tax

► **Correction:** last weeks advertisement for Harbourtown Realty’s exciting new oceanfront development, El Pueblo, inadvertently left out the last sentence, “Turn

key at its best.” □ D.R./G./L. D

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www.bonairejazz.com

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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

Complete solution on page 19.

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
4-20	3:13	2.0FT.	12:42	0.7FT.					96
4-21	4:10	2.0FT.	13:40	0.6FT.					87
4-22	5:15	2.0FT.	14:22	0.6FT.					75
4-23	6:10	1.9FT.	15:02	0.7FT.					63
4-24	7:09	1.8FT.	15:38	0.7FT.					51
4-25	1:08	1.4FT.	7:59	1.7FT.	16:01	0.8FT.	23:46	1.4FT.	44
4-26	3:25	1.3FT.	8:46	1.6FT.	16:16	0.9FT.	23:02	1.4FT.	42
4-27	4:45	1.3FT.	9:38	1.5FT.	16:21	1.0FT.	22:55	1.5FT.	46

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



□ Ron Sewell

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 & 9PM
MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8PM

SATURDAY 4 PM
March: Charlotte's Web

-THIS WEEK

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

Sunday, April 22—Dutch Dixies, Kontiki 5-9 pm, to benefit Bonaire Rotary Club's "Breakfast in Schools" program. See page 13

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon: **Visiting Days** starting 10 am to early afternoon: Thursday, April 26- *Silver Wind*; Wednesday, May 2 - *Crown Princess* (last ship of the season)

Earth Day events—See page 10

April 22-May22—Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival—See list of activities on page 18.

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, includes beverages and Caribbean buffet. Tickets or information call Pieter Groenendal 786-6447, Marisela Croes 560-7863, or any Rotary member.

COMING

Saturday, April 28 - World Tai Chi en Qigong Day—Demonstration and clinic in the Parke Publiko (behind the hospital) on Saturday, April 28th, starting at 10am. Current Tai Chi practitioners on Bonaire will be present to demonstrate Tai Chi. See page 13

Saturday, April 28—Randal Corsin Quartet concert, Topsy Seagull, Plaza Hotel. See page 13

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.

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 ambiance 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

Saturday April 28 -World Tai Chi Qigong Day

Bonaire will join the world wide event to promote health and fitness at Parke Publico starting at 10 am. Current Tai Chi practitioners will be present to receive further instruction for their art and anyone interested to see or learn about Tai Chi for health and fitness of mind and body is welcome. Photographs of last year's Bonaire event can be seen on the web at the following address:

<http://www.worldtaichiday.org/photos/2006WTCOD/2006Photos/BonaireCaribbean2006.html> □ Ron Sewell

- 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 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. 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.

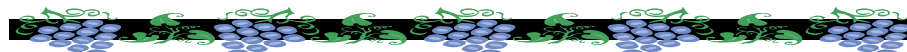
Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk - Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 . **Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

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



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.

NATURE EXPLORATION

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

PHOTO FINISHING

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

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.

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.

Valeries Airport Shops — Convenient shopping for unique items, magazines, gifts and more.

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

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

Candidate's Wife Speaks

Rianne Abraham-Jansen

Born in the Netherlands, January 22, 1971.

Religion: Roman Catholic.

Education: "HAVO, Tourist Management Education and during the last three years I'm studying psychology at the Open University. I have at least four more years to go."

Career: "I came to Bonaire in 1989 when I was 18 and I worked in several restaurants until I took over the Blue Moon restaurant in 1999. I did that for four years until 2003 and now I've picked up my psychology study again."

Relationship with Jopi Abraham since: "2001 and we got married February 14, 2005, here on Bonaire."

What made you fall for him? "He is very charming. I've known him for a long time, since 1989 when I worked at Zeezicht restaurant. There has always been some sort of tension between us."

What do you think made him fall for you? "We always had a real good time together; we could chat for hours. But what it was that made him fall for me? Good question - I wouldn't know."

Children: "Our son, Dante Ernesto. He was born November 15, 2006."

How much are you involved in your husband's political work? "I am more in the background, but we do talk a lot about his work and we discuss what's happening and he also asks for my opinion and of course I support him in every way. However, I also think it's important not to talk about politics all the time when we're at home, especially now with the baby. Quality time for the three of us is also important."

What is to you the most important issue on DP's party program?

"Especially the issues considering youth problems, education, crime and help and support for victims of a crime - in fact it's all related."

What does the island mean to you?

"For me it's an island of charm and friendliness and it's relaxed. The first day I fell in love with it, head over heels, and I hope that feeling will stay in spite of all the changes. I hope the island won't lose its character. I hope the Bonairean won't become a second rate citizen on his own island. I hope nature will be preserved and that they won't develop the nature areas. Development is okay, but with the conservation of nature and culture. It's also the island where I met my husband and where Dante was born, so I'm even moored stronger here."

What would you like to change? "I would like to see the government pay more attention to people who can barely make it, to youth unemployment, and we also need better care for the elderly, a better health care and social care system."

What would you not like to change?

"Culture and nature. And please, no high rise hotels and other buildings."

What's your opinion about the situation of the Bonairean women? "I think women here work very hard and they carry a lot of responsibility; they're taking care of their family and sometimes they even have two jobs. I think in many cases their life is tougher than the men's life. I find they should stand up for themselves more. Jopi has always encouraged me to study and especially to do things to develop myself and to do the things I like; I think it's also important for a relationship."

What's the most important thing in your life? "My husband, my child, my parents; family. Now that I have a baby I see how important family really is and also the fact that my parents came to live here made my life super cozy."

How do you see your future? "Very positive and for sure here on Bonaire. My wish is to finish my studies, and by working as a psychologist I hope to contribute something to the island."

How do you see the island's future? "Kind of positive, especially when the

"I think women here work very hard and they carry a lot of responsibility; they're taking care of their family and sometimes they even have two jobs. I think in many cases their life is tougher than the men's life..."

Democrats will win the elections because I trust them to protect the island. It will be developed but not at all costs. If we don't want to be fully integrated I think it's very important to vote for the Democratic alliance."

What's the best thing you want to see when Holland takes over? "When Holland takes over? That sounds very creepy! It would be nice if Holland would help and we need help in certain things, but it is every country's ambition to be as autonomous as possible, and I think it can go together very well."

And the worst thing in your opinion? "As I said before, that the Bonairean will become a second rate citizen on his own island."

What's your strongest point? "I am patient."

What's your husband's strongest point? "He's got several, but the best thing about him is that he always tries to help everybody and always takes time to listen to someone."

How do you spend your time together? "We go out for dinner and leave the telephone at home and chat about all

the daily things in life."

Do you have girlfriends whom you know are not voting for your husband? "Probably they say they're voting Democrat! I'm joking, but... you know I'm not talking politics with my girlfriends all the time."

What's the influence of the negative sides of your partner's work on your life? "That privacy is being disrupted, but it happens mostly around election time."

How do you see life? "Life is wonderful and everyone is doing it his own way and I think we should give each other the space to do so."

What do you think about the situation of youth on Bonaire? "I think FORMA is doing a great job with the teenage moms. Further, I would like to see the government do something about youth unemployment and also that they could find better care and guidance for people who are released from prison."

What does your own life look like? "At the moment it's all about the baby (and the political campaign), but I am enjoying it! Being a mom is wonderful and great, but I really would like to do something more in the future."

How important is the environment to you? "Very important, because we live with nature. Without nature we're nothing and all of us should realize that a bit more often and they should educate the children at school much more about nature."

What do you think about development and growth? "We have to put a stop to the amount of cars on the island and to the development of the rural areas. Twenty thousand people is the maximum for me and I hope that growth will occur in harmony between all these different people."

How do you feel about foreigners living here? "I think everyone who is capable of giving a positive contribution to the island is welcome, but foreigners should always adjust to the local way of life. When Antilleans move to Holland they have to adjust themselves there, but when Dutch people come to live here they have to do the same."

What do you think about the situation of the elderly? "It could be improved a great deal! AOW should be increased and the facilities for the elderly should be improved. I just think the old people here are great! We can learn a lot



Rianne Abraham-Jansen

from them, especially the way they handle the environment. The elderly deserve better; we should pay them more respect."

What is the Bonairean identity? "Lust for life, warmth, the way they live with nature."

What responsibilities do parents have towards their children? "It's very important to raise them with warmth so that they will know you will always be there. You also have to be honest and you have to teach them to share."

What would you like to have become? "A tennis pro. I was going to go to a tennis school to become a professional, but because of problems with my shoulder it was put off. Sports have always fascinated me and they still do... I never thought I would marry a politician!"

How do you cope with the fact that your husband is a public figure? "As relaxed as possible, but now and then it's not so easy."

What are your hobbies? "Running and swimming; sports in general. I love to read, to eat nice things and to sleep... something I am short of nowadays!"

What does friendship mean to you? "Honesty and being always there for each other and accepting each other the way we are."

What was the best time you ever had with your partner? "The delivery! That's the most beautiful thing that happened in my life. Especially the moment the baby was born and the fact that the three of us were there in all togetherness."

Does your husband give you the space to do your own thing?

"Absolutely. He even encourages me to do so and everything I undertake he thinks is great." □



Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival in Bonaire



Prikichi

Did you know that the Prikichi is a subspecies of a Conure that is found on Bonaire and no where else? Or that the Yellow Oriole, familiar to our gardens, is restricted to the ABC islands?

Whether you did or not but want to find out more about Bonaire's diverse bird life there will be plenty of opportunity over the next month as Bonaire participates in

the **Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival**.

The festival runs from Earth Day on the 22nd of April until International migratory bird day on the 22nd of May with events coordinated across 13 Caribbean islands. Over the month there will be a series of talks in English and Papiamentu, Lora nest finding trips and an Oriole count alongside other events celebrating Bonaire's bird life. For the schedule see below.

This year, particular emphasis will be placed on the Lora, as Bonaire supports one of the last strongholds of this globally vulnerable species. To coincide with the Festival 10 biologists will be visiting Bonaire to assist with an island-wide census of the breeding activity of the Lora. This effort will give us a really good idea of the reproductive health of the Lora population on Bonaire. Look out for the Parrot team around the island throughout the month!

The festival kicks off with a talk on the 'Caribbean Parrot Crisis' by Sam Williams at Captain Don's Habitat on Wednesday 25th April. We look forward to seeing you there! □ *Story by Rowan Martin,*

Photos by Sam Williams

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Lora Nest Finding

5th May meet at Washington-Slagbaai National Park entrance at 5:45am

Talks

Captain Don's at 7pm:

25th April 'The Caribbean Parrot crisis'

Sam Williams

2nd May 'Bonaire's birds' Jerry Li-

gon

9th May 'The Sex Lives of Parrots!'

Rowan Martin

Rose Inn at 7pm

7th May 'Lora di Boneiru' Odette Doest

(Papiamentu)

Oriole Count

13th May Island wide - details on

megafm.com □



Yellow oriole



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Watch the Moon Visit Gemini, Saturn and Leo Next Week

This Saturday, April 21st, just after sunset, face west where you'll see the brightest planet of them all, 8,000-mile-wide, Earth-sized **Venus** which goes through phases just like our **Moon**. And this weekend it will look like a tiny gibbous Moon. And speaking of the Moon you'll also see a beautiful, not-quite-first-quarter Moon directly above Venus. And if you've never seen it through a telescope when it's in this phase it will knock your socks off. Next, if you look southwest you'll see another bright light which is the ringed planet, 75,000-mile-wide **Saturn**.

Starting Saturday night you can watch the Moon pay a visit to several cosmic objects.

This Sunday, April 22nd, an almost-first-quarter Moon will be parked right underneath the two brightest stars of **Gemini** the Twins, **Pollux and Castor**, and will make a wonderful cosmic triangle with them. And if you look closely at Pollux you'll notice that it is a different color than blue-white Castor and that's because it's a much cooler star and has a yellowish orange tinge.

Besides, on Monday, April 23rd, there will be a chance for excellent meteor showers since the Moon should be out of the night sky during peak meteor shower observation time for observing the **Lyrid swarm**, the only springtime meteor shower.

On the next night Tuesday, the 24th, you can use the Moon as a Saturn finder because it will be parked just to the right of it. But as close as the Moon is to Saturn on Tuesday, on Wednesday it will be even closer to the brightest star of **Leo the Lion**, the very hot blue white star **Regulus**, which marks his heart.

So there you have it. Earth and the Moon in the west on Saturday night. And on Sunday the Moon visits Castor and Pollux, on Tuesday it visits Saturn and on Wednesday the heart of Leo the Lion. 0 Jack Horkheimer

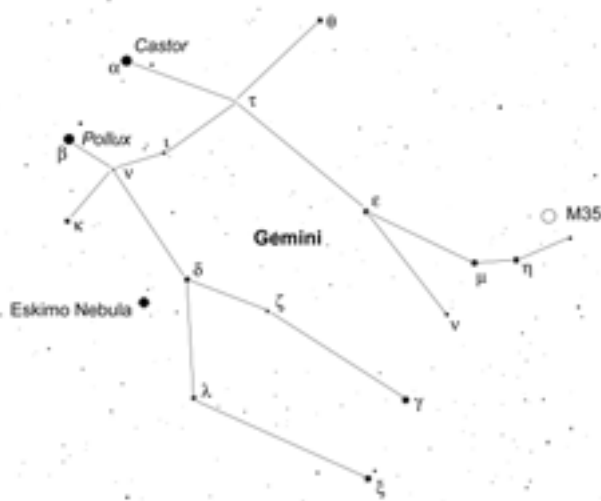


Photo: Gemini



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, April 22 to Saturday, April 28

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Secret enemies will be eager to spread rumors about you. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. Problems with ear, nose, or the throat are likely. Visit friends you don't get to see that often. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Set a limit, or you'll wind up on a tight budget. You may find yourself caught in a triangle. Opportunities for romance may develop through dealing with groups that have a purpose. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your creative input will be appreciated by your boss. Losses could occur if you haven't been careful when dealing with joint financial ventures. Talking to those you trust and respect will help you sort out any problems. In return, the satisfaction you get is enough for you. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Listen, but don't make any rash decisions. You need to be around friends and family. Don't fall into the trap. You should be looking at ways to spoil yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Look into career choices and courses being offered. You can make new friends and get involved in new hobbies successfully. Put your thoughts into action. Exercise discipline when it comes to controlling bad habits. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Be sure to think twice before you say something that might hurt your partner's feelings. You'll find it easy to upgrade your environment by redecorating or changing your residence. Satisfy your passionate mood. You need to do your own thing and work on making yourself the best you can be. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Look out for those wanting to push you into a disagreement. You are ready to blow up and your stress level has gone into over drive. Do whatever your mate wants; it really doesn't matter as long as you're together. Unexpected bills will be impossible for you to pay. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) The key to feeling good about yourself will be to do something about it. You are in a high cycle where travel, education, and creative endeavors are concerned. You will need to finalize important deals this week. Educational courses will be stimulating and successful. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can make money if you are careful not to let it trickle through your fingers. Correspondence may not clear up issues. New hair, new outfit, new you. Spend some time with the one you love. Pleasure trips will be satisfying. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Business trips might prove unproductive. Restrictions may be difficult for you to live with, but try to do things by the book. Enlist the aid of family members and consider the feelings of your mate. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Exercise discipline when it comes to controlling bad habits. Make changes to your home that will be pleasing to everyone involved. Your greatest gains will come through your creative ideas. Be careful not to take on other people's problems. You may find yourself in a financial bind. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can easily impress others with your generous nature. Think twice before you agree to take on any new projects. Try to be understanding. You need a change of pace. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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