

**It's
still
Free!**

**Rincon
Day
Issue**

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Rincon Day
Bonaire's Biggest Party

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Flotsam and Jetsam



► The first of the wind turbines destined to help make Bonaire independent of fossil fuels has arrived. Photographer Wilna Groenenboom spotted them in the port on Rincon day.

► Incredibly, it appears that **Anthony Godett's FOL party will form a coalition with Emily de Jong's PAR** and the PNP party to form a Curaçao Island Government. If it happens it would help Curaçao as well as the other islands. FOL leader Anthony Godett was still in jail when his party's faction in the Island Council repudiated the Final Statement (*Slotverkaring*) that outlines the restructuring of The Antilles. However, he indicated then that he did not have a big problem with the agreement.

► Island builders periodically run out of cement to make concrete and mortar for block construction. **It seems the cement shortage is endemic in the ABC islands** since Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez recently issued an export ban for all the cement factories in Venezuela. "This will be a mega-problem," predicts Ronald Philipse, director of Curaçao contractor Janssen de Jong. Kurt Kooijman, who is in charge of purchasing for Kooijman Caribbean, said, "We received a new batch of 2,400 tons last Monday. Be-

cause Bonaire was totally out, Kooijman gave us preference." Curaçao has some local sources. Construction projects are at an all-time high on Bonaire.

Kooijman has stopped purchasing cement from Venezuela. Formerly the majority of island cement supplies came from Cumarebo and Maracaibo. Kooijman now buys cement from the Dominican Republic. **The wholesale cost of cement has increased by \$10/ton**. A house recently completed by Bonaire's Josan Builders had to use cement from Venezuela, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Denmark. The house was delivered on time despite the shortages.

► **The Netherlands Antilles, along with 33 other islands/countries, appears on a recent bill proposed by three American senators who want to activate the Levin-Coleman-Obama Stop Tax Haven Abuses Act.**

Antillean Secretary of State Alex Rosaria says that the government in Willemstad is doing everything possible via diplomatic channels to get the Antilles removed from this list. "The law is not enacted yet, but we also do not want this to assume a life of its own." He points out that the US has recently ratified the treaty in connection with exchanging tax information. Meanwhile, Rosaria has contact with the American Consulate-General in Curaçao, Robert Sorenson, about this and says that Finance and Foreign Affairs in The Hague are aware of it and that Minister Plenipotentiary Norberto Ribeiro at the Dutch embassy in Washington has gotten involved.

The Antilles have been changing laws so as not to be labeled as a tax haven. For example, the New Fiscal Outline

(NFR) for the entire tax system, especially in regard to the international financial service, has been revised.

Aruba also appears on the challenged list. The 34 jurisdictions mentioned in the bill were provided by the IRS which identified these countries as possible locations for evasion of American taxes.

► **Curaçao's Insel Air wants to start flying non-stop to the US before summer.** The decision whether to fly to Miami or Fort Lauderdale has not yet been made. The process to obtain landing rights in the US is underway but it takes three months, says Insel Air Director Albert Kluyver.

► **Continental Airlines posted a higher-than-expected first-quarter profit** helped by fuller planes, higher fares and a slight decline in fuel prices. It was the first time the airline reported a profit in the seasonally weak first quarter since 2001, marking another milestone in the recovery of long-suffering US airlines, which began in earnest last summer.

Aggressive cost cutting and resurgent demand for air travel have helped airlines post profits, in many cases for the first time in years. AMR, the parent of American Airlines, reported a similar earnings turnaround last week. Continental reported a net income of \$22 million, compared with a year-earlier net loss of \$66 million. The two major carriers made a profit despite the seasonally sluggish period for air travel.

Both Continental and American fly between Bonaire and US destinations.

BONAIRE The REPORTER

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► **KLM will cancel some flights to Bonaire this summer.** Besides Bonaire, flights to Aruba and India will be cancelled. The reason for the cancellation is a shortage of cockpit crew. Since the introduction of the Airbus A330 and the Boeing 777 many pilots need training on the new aircraft. Passengers will be rerouted to other flights.

► **Four employees of WEB,**
(Continued on page 4)

Life and Death in the Blue Water

If you haven't been in the sea with a mask on for the last couple of weeks, grab that mask (and your snorkel, or your scuba gear, or whatever, but make sure you can see), bop out beyond the dropoff, and look around. If conditions are as

blue water, but it felt like hovering in outer space. Except that instead of planets and stars millions of miles away, I was seeing tunicates moving through the three-dimensional blue like ghostly snakes.

Knowing that these creatures are "pelagic tunicates" isn't especially useful, so let's deal with that. "Pelagic" means "living in the open ocean." Tunicates are a little trickier to explain. They're considered the most advanced of the invertebrates because, in their larval stages, they possess a primitive spinal cord.

In its solitary, attached form, a tunicate looks like a small two-tubed sponge. If you move closer to it, though, the tubes will pucker up and close, a defense mechanism not available to sponges. A small two-



Trying to photograph the beauty of these tunicate chains is like trying to photograph a sunset. Nothing can compare to seeing them in person.

tubed sponge would be a colony of hundreds of cells capable of individual life, but a tunicate is a single organism with one intake tube and one exhaust tube.

Well, unless the tunicate itself is of the colonial type. Then it might have a single exhaust with multiple intakes, or a single intake with multiple exhausts, or be at-

tached in a cluster. The stuff that smothered coral like dripping candle wax a few years ago, that we called "devil's vomit," is the Overgrowing Mat tunicate. One of the most beautiful underwater creatures is also a tunicate, the Painted Tunicate, whose clusters contain translucent individuals with delicate color accents.

There's one practical reason it's useful to know that a jelly creature is a tunicate rather than a true jellyfish: tunicates don't sting. We can observe these gracefully-moving sea snake-like tunicate chains without worrying about becoming entangled in invisible stinging tentacles – while being respectful of their space, of course, and not handling them.



The areas where the polyps are open show the shape of the almost invisible tunicate they're holding.

like a swimming snake. Unlike a swimming snake, however, tunicate chains don't react to the presence of a diver, so they move unconcernedly all around us. If they get too close to the reef, though, the situation changes dramatically. A surprising variety of fishes munch eagerly on pelagic tunicates: I've watched sergeant-majors, wrasses, trunkfish, and surgeonfish – among others – surrounding the chains. All these diners go for the reddish/greenish ball, about the size of a roller skate ball bearing, within every transparent tunicate.



A circular pelagic tunicate colony (the angel food cake).

Reef Creatures identifies that ball as the tunicate's cerebral ganglion, essentially the tunicate's brain. I wonder if its color is a result of commensal algae; a little photosynthesis would help provide food for the host tunicates, which other-

A close look shows us that these creatures inhale water from one end and exhale it from the other, which also jet propels them through the water; as the attached members of the chain pump water, the chain moves through the water just

(Continued on page 14)

(Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 2)

Theodora, Patrick Spong, Jurgen Boezem and Alvin Hellburg, are on the way to Dubai for "upgrading" for the maintenance and operation of the generating gear supplied by Agrekko, which has contracted with WEB to run the electric power plant. They are shown above with Roy Silberie and Ibi de Palm of WEB management.



► **According to the European Parliament in Strasbourg there won't be any practical problems when Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba become new members of the European Union.** The Parliament demands that the islands decide for themselves whether to become part of the Union and that they have made sure they really want to become a member. The Dutch government is investigating what the consequences will be when the islands join the EU. After that Holland will make a decision in cooperation with the islands whether a new membership of the Union will be possible. Minister Plenipotentiary Paul Clemenencia has already pointed out the advantages of this new status and hopes a positive decision will be made.

► According to CBS (Central Bureau of Statistics) in December last year, **prices for consumers rose 0.2% in Bonaire.** The largest price rise were in the areas of house supplies, transport and communication where prices have risen 0.4%. Reasons for the rise are, for one, that the price for oil has risen, and the tariff for mail has gone up.

► **The Coast Guard of the Dutch Antilles and Aruba confiscated 23 kilos of marihuana near the coast of Sint Maarten.** On April 24th the Coast Guard discovered the stack of marihuana during a check on the ship *The Ocean Princess*. The marihuana was hidden between containers of bananas. The marihuana has been handed to customs.

► **Bonaire is the first island to officially open a Victims Help Unit in The Antilles and Aruba.** Last Friday the opening ceremony took place in front of the new police station in Amboina. Nine volunteers were introduced, who will help victims of crimes and car accidents. The project has help from experts from Holland in this area. During the presentation of the new office, Bonaire Public Prosecutor Van Delft explained why it is so important to have a victims unit on the island: "It's a great step towards emancipation. The problem we had in Holland as well was that when a crime was committed all the attention is focused on the suspect. He is the one who has rights and can defend himself and has the right to a lawyer. But the victim always stands alone and doesn't have any rights. Of course this isn't correct. This new victims unit will help the victims and take care of them."

During the opening also the new symbol



of the unit was presented - the so-called comforting teddy bear (*troostbeertje*) that is given to all the victims as a token of comfort to them.

Minister of Justice David Dick said during his opening speech he hopes other islands will follow with a similar project. Bonaire Chief of Police Van der Straten used the occasion of the opening of the victims unit to **introduce five new barrijo detectives.** He hopes that this will improve the safety in the barrios and will give more understanding and a feeling of safety to the citizens in Bonaire.

► **Senator Ramonsito Booi, leader of the UPB party, said on Bon FM that the functions in his party will be re-assigned.** Some members of the party resigned because they didn't agree with its leaders. Booi: "We have to look at every position and who will have what functions. There will be positions in the party from Minister and Secretary of State to Commissioners who operate on the island level. Appointing the commissioners who work on the island level is especially important when we become a part of Holland." With a plurality of 51.5% of the ballots, Booi says he feels a great responsibility to run the island.

► **Dutch police continue to search for a solution to the Natalee Holloway disappearance.** About 20 forensic experts from the Netherlands began searching the family home last week of Joran van der Sloot, who remains the lead suspect. About 20 forensic-technical experts from the Netherlands are conducting the search. The investigation of the disappearance of Holloway, which has been ongoing since May 30, 2005, received new impetus on April 16th, said the Public Prosecutor. The national police service (KLPD) in the Netherlands has investigated the file and came up with additional findings. Experts of the Dutch Forensic Institute, among others, are combing the house and the grounds around it and dogs are being used. The local authorities, the FBI, and officials of the Dutch Forensic Institute have already searched the house on numerous occasions before and have confiscated several items and the two cars belonging to the Van der Sloots.

► **Princess Máxima is the most popular member of the Dutch royal family,** with 26% of the population voting for her, a full 10% ahead of Queen Beatrix. Crown Prince Willem Alexander comes in third place with 15% of the votes.

The survey was carried out among 24,000 people for the TV show, "Een



► **The Bonaire Reporter celebrated its 13th year of publication last week at a rousing party at Pasa Bon Pizza with staff, friends and colleagues.** Starting as *Port Call* in 1994, the paper changed its name to *The Bonaire Reporter* and grew into a tabloid format in 2000. And "It's Still Free!"

Vandaag." Some 73% of the Dutch support the continuation of the monarchy. The survey also showed that six out of 10 people believe Máxima should surrender her Argentine passport if she becomes queen. Máxima currently holds both Argentine and Dutch nationality. Crown Prince Willem Alexander celebrated his birthday last Friday. He's 40.

► Several Bonaire-based readers wrote that they have received a "phishing fax" from the US tax service. **The false form is "IRS Form W-8BEN" and asks to fax back a copy of your passport, bank account numbers, and other personal information.** Readers are advised that there is no such form for US citizens living overseas. Do not respond to the fax.

► On Sunday, 22nd of April, the world celebrated Earth Day. **On this special occasion Buddy Dive opened its own underwater park.** The park features two routes under water on Buddy's Reef. The first route is shallow for the less experienced divers, and the deep route takes you down to 80 feet. The underwater park guides you over the reef and shows you the different types of corals that make Bonaire's reefs special. Underwater signs show a picture of the coral, the common name and the scientific name. "With this underwater park we try to combine fun with education," says Augusto Montbrun, Buddy Dive's Dive Operation Manager. "People coming out of the water telling us they saw a beautiful yellow rock made us aware of the necessity of teaching our guests a little more about the importance of our corals to the reef," Augusto adds.

► **Rock n Roll is on the menu at the Sunrise Sports and Pool Bar, at Sand Dollar this Sunday** when the popular band Flamingo Rockers will be joined by local talent Bert Poyck, Rhonda Bennet, Rollin Petresie, and a band of local youngsters called Monkey Suit for an evening of pure enjoyment. There's no admission charge, smacks and special prices on

beer. The great evening begins at 6 pm and will be repeated monthly.



► **Recently Plaza Resort Bonaire started an awareness campaign requesting its guests take home their used batteries to be recycled properly** because Bonaire does not recycle batteries. In the photo Plaza's **Christie Dovale is with former Bonaire resident, Enit Scholtens and her daughter, Ava,** who were the first to take used batteries back with to Holland with them. □ G. D./L.D./D.R.

Guest Editorial expresses the opinions of the writer

UNICOLLEGE BONAIRE STUDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

On the 23rd of April 2007 UniCollege began another "UniCollege week." Our theme for the week was the environment. We came up with the idea because it was Earth Day last Sunday and we thought it was important to know what is going on with our planet we call 'home'.

Our task was to inform other classmates about global warming by making and presenting something unusual, like making a play or a miniature wind mill. We got to do a lot of fun things, like on Monday we went to see "An Inconvenient Truth" at Movieland; on Thursday we had a debate about global warming and the environment, and we had a drama workshop on Friday by Jules Croiset.

Here are the comments about "An Inconvenient Truth":

Nathan Croes: "I think it's true what Al Gore says and I think we should do something about it."

Rocca Chin-On: "The movie really made an impact on me and I think global warming is really happening fast. I think we should all do little things to help the environment."

Sarah Ann Maartense: "I think Al Gore is telling something that makes people feel guilty and he wants to make them see what's happening."

We learned that global warming is going really fast and that we must try to stop polluting the environment. Here are some tips that you can use to help:

1. Turn the light(s) off when you leave a room.
2. Recycle
3. Use less warm water.
4. Plant a tree.
5. Turn electronics off when you leave the room.

And remember: 'Think globally, act locally'.

Sarah Ann Maartense and Rocca Chin-On



STRAIGHT TALK

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



Question from: A concerned widow...

Betty Wills

Dear Betty,

Life has been pretty difficult for me since my husband passed away over a year ago. I only recently started getting out of the house again and going to church functions. About a month ago I met a really nice man who invited me out to dinner, and I accepted. It was wonderful. He made me feel alive and beautiful. We've been out a couple more times, and each time we really enjoyed our time together. I want to invite him to my house for dinner, but I'm afraid if I do, he might want to have sex. We live in a very small community where everyone knows everyone, and I don't want to people to get the wrong impression of me. Besides, I haven't been with anyone but my late husband for the past 25 years, and to be honest, I'm scared to death. What should I do?

ANSWER: To quote Dr. Phil - *you wouldn't be as concerned about what other people thought of you if you knew how little they did.* Besides, people already know you won't be wearing the symbolic white dress to your wedding. In fact, there may never be another wedding, so relax and enjoy life.

Inviting a gentleman caller to your home doesn't obligate you in any way. There's nothing wrong with feeling alive and beautiful, so if he does that for you, indulge yourself. I do think it's better to go slow, but not so slow cobwebs grow on your underwear. □



Bonaire Bartender Competition



Jane Coffie, winner, with Mama Smile and Bonaire's best bartenders

And the Winner is
Two years in a row.....Past Caribbean Hotel Association Gold Medal winner.....Divi Flamingo's Jane Coffie from Rincon! Runner Up for a close second place was Cynthia Winklaar also Divi Flamingo Beach Resort and Casino.

As winner of the Balashi Beer Bartender Competition Jane Coffie will be part of Bonaire's Culinary/Bartender Team who will attend the "Taste of the Caribbean" competition in Miami in June. The team will be competing for the Gold against teams from all over the Caribbean.

Last year at the "Taste," competing against many more experienced bartenders Jane won a Gold Medal for Bartender of the Caribbean. Impressing the judges with her skills she was awarded, by unanimous consent, "The Most Creative Overall Drinks" for her three drinks: "Caribbean Breeze," (non-alcoholic), "Calabas Reef" (vodka) and Divi Melon Coconut Cocktail (rum).

Although Jane has been a bartender for only three years she shows great poise, talent and charisma. Taste her drinks at the Culinary Team's Fund Raising Dinners. See page 9 for more information. □

L.D.

Bubbles from the Biologist



Did You Know...Global warming could spell the end for coral reefs as we know them?

As many of you know, the burning of fossil fuels is causing a dramatic increase in the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere. This, in turn, is absorbed by the world's oceans and is affecting the pH of the oceans. Scientists are worried that the decrease in pH (sometimes termed oceanic acidification) will make it more difficult for corals to form their calcium carbonate skeletons. Any organisms that builds its own shell or skeleton, especially small planktonic organisms, will also have a difficult time of it. Presently, carbonate ions are supersaturated in the oceans, but as the concentration of Hydrogen ions increase and pH decreases, carbonate ions may become under saturated, making it much more difficult, if not impossible, for some calcifying organisms to create their shell or skeleton. In fact, some structures made of calcium carbonate start dissolving. Scientists have demonstrated that corals experience reduced calcification or enhanced dissolution with elevated levels of CO₂. It's one more impact that our lifestyle is going to have on this gorgeous ecosystem. If you haven't seen the film, "An Inconvenient

Truth", it's high time you did so that you understand the science and predicted impacts of Global Warming and decide to make a difference in your impact on our future. I'm trying and so can you!

WEBSITES ON GLOBAL WARMING:

<http://www.climateark.org/overview> - scientific explanations and references about global warming
<http://epa.gov/climatechange/index.html> - has info on science, emissions, health and environment, US climate policy, what you can do (at home, office, school, etc), and other resources.
www.climatecrisis.net - home site for An Inconvenient Truth <http://www.nextgenerationearth.org/facts> - fast climate facts
<http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/overview> - global warming explained
<http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/tenthings/> - ten things you can do to help curb global warming
<http://cha-cast.com> - sustainable tourism site

AWARD Program for Bonaire:

Harvard University Marine Ecology Project (George Buckley, Director) is awarding \$50 to the best student essay or presentation titled, "Change the World, Start with Yourself – What I Can Do to Stop Global Warming". Students are encouraged to think locally - to give examples consistent with living in Bonaire.

TWOTHINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP STOP GLOBAL WARMING:

Change a Light – replacing one regular bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Check your tires – Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3%. □ C.E.

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 □ .



Quality Jazz Display

Last year they were admired at the Jazz Festival on Bonaire. This year they are not on the performers' list, but Randal Corsen and his band made up for it by playing two weeks ahead of the festival in the small setting of the Topsy Seagull at the Plaza Resort last Saturday. Their performance could be seen as a perfect warming up to the festival. If the bands during the Jazz Festival are as good as this one, we can expect a lot.



Randal Corsen plays piano like nobody can

Some band members had a hard time getting to Bonaire. They all traveled by boat from Curaçao to Bonaire, but because of the big waves some band members weren't feeling so well when they arrived on the island. Band leader Randal Corsen wasn't one of them and made some jokes about it during the concert. The band members didn't seem to find it very funny though, as they were still looking a little sick. Luckily this couldn't be noticed in their magnificent way of playing. The music is influenced by Latin jazz.

That evening Corsen was celebrating his new album named **Armonia**. Randal was accompanied by Scott Colley on bass, Antonio Sanchez on drums and Pernel Saturnino on percussion. All the band members have a long history in the jazz scene. According to Corsen, Scott Colley can be seen as the biggest promoter of jazz in Holland. Saturnino has been nominated for a Grammy Award in New York for his percussion talents, and Sanchez is the most frequently asked for performer by jazz groups in Holland. As the setting was small for the band, the audience wasn't very big as well. About 50 jazz lovers didn't seem to mind the small set-up and clearly enjoyed the show. Corsen and his crew gave. □ *David Radomisli*

Royal Honors



Governor Domacassé pins the ribbon on Evert Piar

Seven Bonaire citizens were honored on April 27 with royal decorations from the queen. The honors recognized their contribution to the Bonaire community.

They included:

Miriam Celsa Frans
Minhela Dolores Helmyr
Felicia Henriette Provence
Patricio Mariano Thomas
Evert Lucas Piar
Bartolomeo Rolando Pourier
Raymundo Pedro Saleh

Member in the Order of Oranje-Nassau
Member in the Order of Oranje-Nassau
Member in the Order of Oranje-Nassau
Member in the Order of Oranje-Nassau
Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau -
Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau
Officer in the Order of Oranje-Nassau. □

Press release

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS FROM THE CRÈCHE

Recently we put an advertisement in *The Bonaire Reporter* for the need of toys for our new after school program.

We had some wonderful reactions and people passing by bringing donations. In the picture you see some of the donations.

We would like to thank all the people that have been giving us donations for our new after-school program. The new class will be ready by the end of May.

Thank you very much.



Kresh Bon Kwido

PRAISE FOR AUTHOR BIANCULLI:

Dear Albert:

I have now subscribed to *The "Bonaire Reporter"*. I look forward to seeing your fabulous photos and articles...you are so talented. Ted and I are having a struggle to re-acclimate to Canada. We would love to live a stressful life in Bonaire and we hope to return as soon as possible. As promised, I have included some pictures. One is a photo of Ted and I,



Lisa Rogers, Toronto.

We are including this letter especially because, in the next edition of The Reporter, Albert Bianculli will begin a new undersea series, with a quite different slant from his past efforts. □

Bonaire Brims with Talented Young Musicians

During the upcoming Jazz Festival starting on the 17th of May it's become a tradition to give a student band from Bonaire the opportunity to show what they can do in front of a large audience. Also this year students from the local Music School and the local high school SGB in Bonaire will give performances at the festival. All this is coordinated by two professionals; one of them is James 'Boy' Janga.

Percussionist and music teacher Boy Janga could be seen as the perfect role model and example for these young musicians - that it's actually possible to reach the top for a musician with his roots in Bonaire. Boy started playing at a very young age, and soon he toured as a band member of some world famous artists, for example Janet Jackson. He'd probably still be doing that, but the Bonairean way of life attracted him more. Another reason he came back to the island was that some people asked him to start giving music lessons to young musicians at the music school and he wanted to give something back to the island that had given him so much.

At the upcoming festival students from this music school have the opportunity to show what they have learned from Janga and what they can do. A band consisting of six musicians (two conga players, a bongo player, a timbales player, drummer, a piano/ bass-player) have been put together to give a show at the festival. The band will be joined by two professional

brass men: Franklin Granadillo on trumpet and Scott Katzev on saxophone. After that also a less advanced student band will perform. During the break one of the students of the music school, Rolin Petresie, will perform a solo on the drums. Petresie is one of the talented musicians who really looks forward to a future in music. His plan is to go to Holland and apply at the conservatory.

When the question is asked if there are actually any talented young musicians on the island, Boy Janga is very resolute: "Absolutely! The island is bubbling with young talented musicians." To have the feeling for music is of course very important, according to Janga. But what brings talented kids to the top is to be able to read music as well. That's where the music school comes in. "We have a kid now who's seven years old who is amazing with instruments, but he also reads music now and that really makes the difference."

The problem that Boy finds is that many talents go to waste because of lack of discipline and he blames especially the parents of the children for this. Janga: "If a kid says he wants to learn how to play an instrument, many parents don't react and



Boy Janga with a student

just forget about it. So you can't blame the kids that they never develop their talent. It's crucial that they are supported by their parents. We try to encourage children to attend this music school with discounts of 10% if they sign up before the summer holiday, but of course the parents are the ones who have the money to pay for the lessons." □ David Radomisli

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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

Complete solution on page 16.

Bonaire's Team Gears up for the Culinary Olympics



Setting up the main course

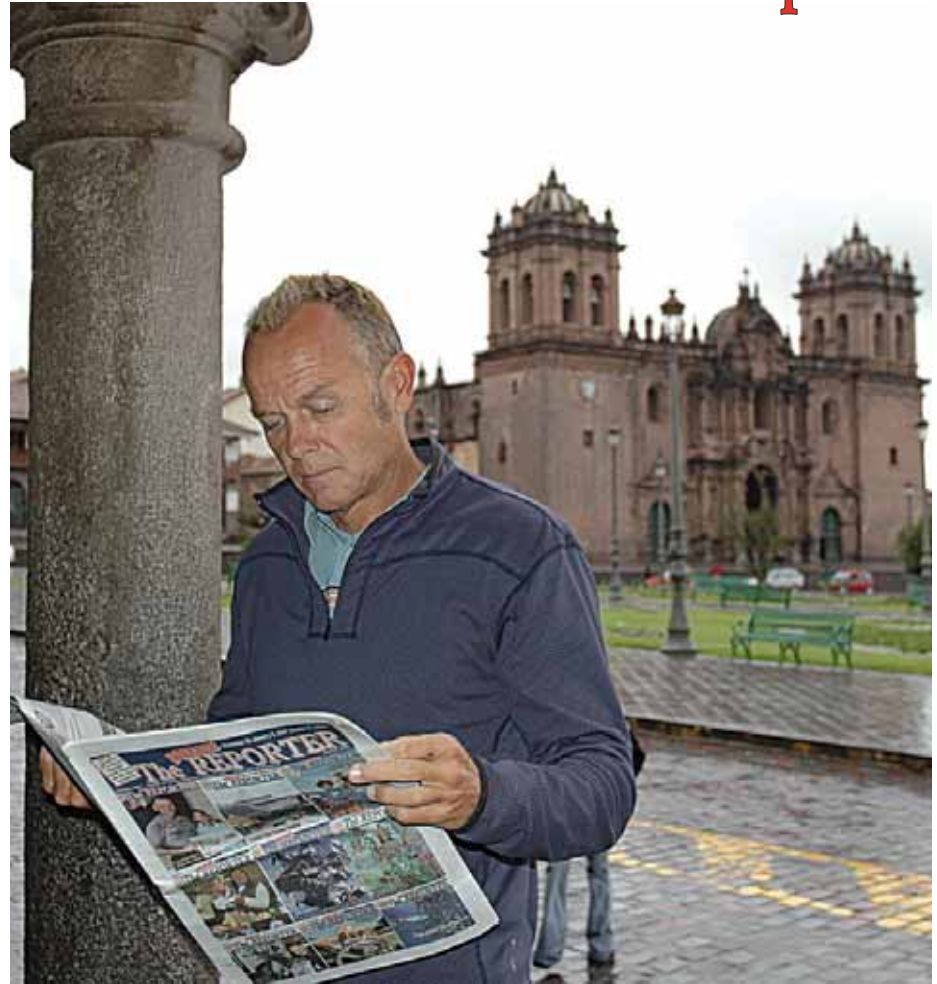
Wonder why Bonaire has so many fine restaurants? One of the reasons is that many of her chefs are top notch and have competed against the best chef teams throughout the Caribbean every year since the last century in the "Taste of the Caribbean" culinary Olympics, this year being held in Miami. This high standard of culinary artistry, manifested by our team, has filtered down to many of the restaurants on the island where pride of profession is high when creating menus for the diners.

This year's team has been gearing up and practicing and will be tweaking their final three-course meal entry, going for the Gold, during five Sunday evenings. You will have an opportunity to help support the team and to have an award-winning three course meal with wine on Sundays at the SGB high school restaurant, Chez Nous at 7 pm. These practice evenings are always fun. The team will be happy to hear your comments and suggestions to incorporate into their final menu. The donation, which will go towards sending our team to Miami for the competition, is NAf50 (\$29).

The Sundays are May 6, 13 and 27, June 3 and 10.

There are only 30 seats available each evening, so reserve now. Call Margreth Kloos, tel: 717-2897 or email Margreth@bonaireyellowsubmarine.com □ *L.D.*

Picture Yourself With The Reporter



Cusco, Peru

Namthip Paine writes, "My husband Mark and I went to Peru to see the lost city of Inca named Machu Picchu. We were in Peru for a week. We flew (from Bonaire) to Lima, then Cusco, and then took a train to Aguas Calientes. This picture of Mark was taken in Cusco. So far, Cusco is the favorite city that I've traveled to. It's small but unique, with interesting architecture and good food." □

Rincon Day 2007



Old-time Rincon restored



Angelique and Marugia's stand



Alvin, more than a dive manager

Rincon Day 2007

Rincon Day just gets better and better. When the powers that be think about ways to increase tourism they should take a good long look at what the people of Rincon have been doing for the last 19 years. They offer a deep human experience of people meeting people. This is what people from other stress-loaded countries yearn for – a place to relax and just be a real person, accepted by the community that opens its doors to them.

Rincon Day's atmosphere is festive, warm and so friendly. It's so much fun that fellow Antilleans come from other islands, costumed and ready to perform and join the parade. Everyone strolls the streets, stopping for a drink, a snack or a chat. Music is everywhere. All ages feel part of the action and there are smiles all over, even from the hard-working stand holders who always have time to stop and visit.

This year the members of the Kanta Orkidia created a wonderful exhibit – "Rinconcito" – little Rincon – complete with church, houses, demonstrations of kalki (lime), aloe and karbon processing. They created a trip back in time for us. As the afternoon cooled the annual Simidan (harvest) parade began with people of all nationalities linking arms, singing and dancing to the traditional Simidan song.

Congratulations and thank you to the tireless members of the Rincon Day Committee. You should all be very proud of yourselves for putting on another people-to-people event, one that comes from your hearts! L.D.



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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!

For Sale

Last chance sale: Dining table, 5.0 surround sound system, DVD multi system, radio receiver, dive set, Tunisian carpets-top quality, Portuguese blanket, African, L- Am, Maltese, French, CR, Argentinean & Russian paintings (original and prints), Vodka collection, Bikes, dive set, sportsbox, tent, many books (Ludlum, Puzo, chronicle of WW 2 etc), diff. bags, iron board.....**Simply call for appointment. 786-3558**

MOVING SALE - The following items are for sale due to leaving the island; Power Tools - Exercise Equipment - Dive Wear - Scooter - Hi-Fi Equipment - TV - Etc Etc. Too many items to list, please ring for details. **786-8648**

For Sale - 3 only - 80 cubic ft aluminum tanks. Only NAF 100 each
Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm or visit Carib Inn

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

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

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

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.



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

Cars & Scooters

FIAT BARCHETTA Cabrio, 1997, yellow, with hard-top and windstop. Make an offer... Tel. 796-5591.



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

Luxurious apartment for two persons for rent. NAf1.500 per month, all including clean linen. Phone: 717 - 2529 or 796 - 2529.

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. 845-676-3812. Email Joe@therhythmdogs.com

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 questions to email fhummingbird@yahoo.com

For Sale

Bed for sale NAf400.00, phone after 6 pm please 717 2791



Put your ad here next week

CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FESTIVAL

The Difference Between Yellow Orioles and Troupials

CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FESTIVAL
Bonaire
April 22nd – May 22nd

Events:

Talks
Captain Don's at 7pm:
25th April 'The Caribbean parrot crisis' Sam Williams
2nd May 'Bonaire's birds' Jerry Ligon
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

Lora Nest Finding
5th May meet at National Park entrance at 5:45am

30 years ago the troupial was introduced to Bonaire and ever since it has flourished. The yellow oriole has always lived on this island and is quite a difficult one to spot because there aren't that many of them. The bird count is a way for us to gain an idea of the numbers of these two species.

The troupial and oriole are cousins and so look quite similar and both fill a similar niche on Bonaire. It is possible that because they are so similar, and the troupial is an introduced species, the oriole has declined in numbers because of the competition. This is the main reason we want to have the count, but we need lots of participants to make this work.

Appearance and Voice

The troupial and oriole are definitely two of the most colourful birds on the island. The troupial is a neon bright orange bird with black wings and a black head and a flash of white on the wings. It can often be heard calling early

in the morning and has a loud melodic song. The oriole is more subtle in colour than the troupial but is still striking with its bright yellow body and head. It has a black tail and wings and a black throat patch. Some people have suggested that the orioles call is similar to the sound of rusty door hinges but I have only heard a pleasant melodious song from an oriole! It is soft in volume and is often structured in a pattern of trios, like



Oriole



Troupial

'chit chit chit'. However, it is not common to hear the oriole's song at all in Bonaire.

Habitat

The troupial is seen all over Bonaire, frequently visiting urban areas and gardens. It is also seen in the cacti forests and thorny scrub around Bonaire.

The oriole is generally found in open habitat such as the cacti scrub and arid thorny forests. It has been spotted in the mangroves of Bonaire but is not common there. It is often seen along roadsides and in urban areas but because of its shy nature it stays well hidden. The nests of the oriole are very distinctive. It is a delicately weaved hanging basket in the tops of trees. The hard work of building a new nest each year is shared between both sexes and is made from grasses, palm fibers and sometimes paper or cloth! The troupial often takes over these oriole-built nests.

Food

The troupial eats all kind of fruits found on Bonaire and is often attracted to a bowl of fruit suitably placed in a garden. It also eats insects and sometimes eggs of other birds. The staple diet of an oriole consists primarily of insects. Because of its shy nature it is difficult to entice the oriole to a feeding station in a garden.

So, now you know the differences between these two colourful birds and, hopefully, will be able to spot them easily around Bonaire. **It would be great if you would like to take part in the count and join us at the Washington-Slagbaai National Park entrance at 06:00 on the 13th of May. We are also interested in how frequent orioles visit people's gardens and so if you spot one around your house let us know by e-mailing sam@parrotwatch.org.**

Come join us and enjoy the beautiful birds of Bonaire! □ Sophie Williams

The Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival is taking place on Bonaire from April 22 to May 22 with loads of activities happening during this time. It's going to be a celebration of the beautiful birds that live here on the island with us and throughout the Caribbean. There will be guided bird walks, talks and competitions for everyone to join. One of the events taking place is the yellow oriole and troupial count. Around

Pet of the Week

Here's little "Bessie" getting herself all cleaned up and checked over by volunteer Edith

Fox. She got her fur brushed, her ears cleaned and lots of love and attention from Edith who volunteers at the Bonaire Animal Shelter every Monday. It's people like Edith who take the time to spend with the pets not only to keep them clean but to keep them "social" and friendly with us humans.

Little Bessie certainly was enjoying her "beauty treatment!" This adorable black and white pup is about 10 weeks old. She's a little shy but she's a fine dog and not aggressive. You might say she is a little lover type. As are the other adoptees at the Shelter, Bessie is in top health, having been given her tests, worming and shots. She'll be sterilized when she's old enough. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.



More good news! Last week's Pet, "Jessica," was adopted after her new mistress saw her photo in this column. We hear Jessica is totally at home in her new place and gets along wonderfully with her "brother" pup who was happy to greet her as he'd become very lonesome after his other "sister" passed away recently. Congratulations to all the family!

Want the most "In" tee shirt on the island and support the Animal Shelter at the same time? Get yours or one or more for gifts at Carib Inn, Dive Inn, Coco Palm Gardens and the Shelter. They're also for sale at the Manager's Cocktail Parties: Capt. Don's Habitat - Monday, 6 to 7, and Buddy Dive, Friday, 5:30 to 7. They're only \$12 for adults; \$8 for children. □L.D.

Life and Death in the Blue Water (Continued from page 3)

wise must survive on the plankton they filter from the water as they breathe.

If the ganglion is filled with algae it might be especially desirable to herbivores such as blue tangs, which might be why that's the part of the tunicate the fishes bite. As I snorkel at the surface, I'm passed by dozens of barely-pumping, ragged tunicates who all have one thing in common: their ganglion has been bitten away. I wondered if fishes ate the sphere because it was the part of the tunicate that they could see! But they make no effort to eat the rest of it.

I've seen one animal eating the ganglion-less (or intact) tunicates: coral! When the tunicates drift up against stony coral, the polyps feast.

Another type of pelagic tunicate I've seen this week is the one that looks like an angel food cake. Since the individuals are attached in a circle, the colony moves more like a jellyfish.

And, speaking of jellyfish, they're around these days too. Jellyfish are members of the same group as the corals, and they all possess stingers. This week I saw several siphonophores (I think they should be called "fiery siphonophores," for the feel of their sting!). The bell is clear and lobed, about one to two inches high. It drifts through midwater followed by thin tentacles up to two feet long. Even though the tentacles have red dots, they're not easily visible.

While snorkeling in the blue water looking at tunicates, I've seen two moon jellies. The pelagic tunicate "bloom" has also been accompanied by warty jellyfish, another creature with a painful sting. These true jellyfish may be feeding on the tunicates - there was a cerebral ganglion sphere along the tentacles of one of the moon jellies.

Usually the blue water is just that: blue water, empty of anything to focus on. At other times the "empty" water fills. Now is one of those times. Don't let this opportunity to see unusual marine animals drift past you. □ 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.



First Winners In the Smile Competition



Bonaire's new Tourism Awareness Program held its first Smile Contest on April 24 at City Cafe. The living symbol of the campaign, Mama Smile (Poppy Rodriguez), was on hand to invite people to have their smiling photo snapped. She also visited the Kristu Bon Warador school to begin to get the children involved.



Helen Thode of the TCB had the difficult task of choosing the winners but named Sra. Raquel Mercera the winner of two nights at Captain Don's Habitat.

Second place went to Francesca Arra who won a dinner for two at the Patagonia Restaurant. □ Press release

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire Annual Report

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire issued its annual report last week. Quoting from the report, "Building upon prior years' accomplishments, 2006 was another successful year for Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire. With an ever increasing core of dedicated volunteers, STCB's small staff continued moving us forward in all project areas

In the area of research, we observed sea turtle nesting in 2006 at lower levels than during 2005, with a total of 74 nests recorded for all the beaches of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. The in-water surveys on the turtle foraging grounds yielded a total of 181 turtles handled, of which 22 were recaptures from previous years. Satellite tracking of breeding turtles was not as successful as in prior years. Plans called for us to track two turtles, but we eventually only tracked one. Tracking maps and information regarding the tracked turtle were regularly generated and sent out via our news e-letter to the public, creating awareness about the situation of the sea turtles around the globe. The turtle ended up at the Los Roques archipelago and provided STCB with our first chance to collaborate with our conservation counterparts in Los Roques, Venezuela. In the area of education and public awareness, STCB continued working with the STINAPA NME (Nature and Education Coordinator) developing and delivering the elementary school nature program as well as working with the high school and other NGO's on the island on the education front. News releases of important events continued to be generated in our effort to bring attention to sea turtle conservation and alert the public to vital is-



Funchi tags a turtle

sues. Volunteer support and assistance continued to grow and was a significant reason why we were able to cover more territory than ever before in our in-water survey and tagging project. Our website and electronic newsletters continued to be important and effective tools for us to share information about the endangered sea turtles and inform about our continuing efforts to protect these animals. They also proved to be effective in our fund raising effort." □ STCB Press release

Screaming Skoda

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

Chris Ockeloen, aged (for sure) citizen of Bonaire, is the very proud owner of the one and only Škoda on the island of Bonaire. In fact he is the one and only owner of a screaming yellow-sprayed Škoda Felicia Fun. The two-seater/four-seater “convertible” pick up truck was manufactured in Czechoslovakia in 1999. It’s a Czechoslovakian design, fitted with a sturdy and lively Volkswagen Golf 1.6l. engine, delivered by the factories from Wolfsburg, Germany, with an overhead camshaft, a single barrel carburetor and a five-speed gearbox, delivering the engine power to the leaf-sprung rear axle.

Chris: “As a professional diver I love the color of this car. The body is sprayed yellow, the light alloy wheels are sprayed yellow, as are the bull bar and the spoiler. Everything on this car is yellow, except the tires, the wheels and the exhaust emission, which is light grey. And, of course, the license plate – B 1671 – is colored blue.”

And indeed, everything on this car is colored “diving yellow:” the body, the wheels, the leather steering wheel, the gear shift, the gauges in the dashboard,

the crown on the frogs on the vinyl and the carpet. It’s yellow all over the place.

Chris lives in a yellow painted house in the barrio of Hato, situated up north of



The Škoda Felicia Fun: Chris' Yellow Devil in two views

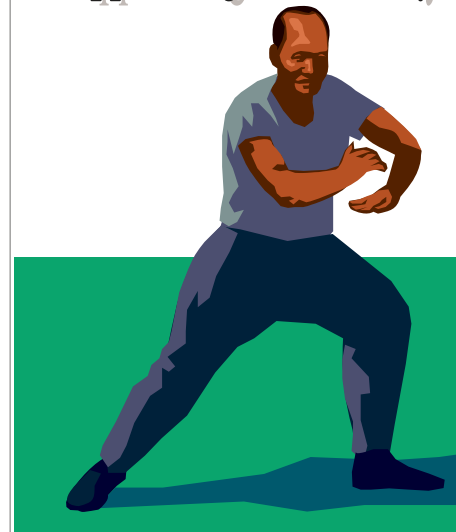
Kralendijk. He loves his work as a rescue diver at Yellow Submarine at Playa. Chris came to the Dutch Antilles in 1995 for the first time. Chris: “In those days we spent our holiday on Curaçao, learning scuba diving. They told us Bonaire was the place to be, speaking of diving, so we started visiting Bonaire during our next holidays. At this moment Bonaire is my home. I love my island, my privately owned house and my work, and I intend to stay here forever!

My Škoda Felicia Fun is perfectly equipped for the life on our island. It’s an ordinary pick up which is not ordinary. I can easily convert it from a two seater into a four seater! The car is made of solid European steel and high tech artificial material and well protected against the influences of the elements. In those days there were only seven cars like this in the Netherlands. Now, there are only six...”

Chris laughs. He is a spontaneous, serious and ludicrous man who loves life. Chris has earned membership into the Bonairean society. Please, stay on our island! □ J@n Brouwer

The 12th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire’s interesting vehicles that are “on wheels.”

Disappointing Tai Chi Day



What was planned as a relatively large event to demonstrate the practice of Tai Chi turned into a bit of a disappointment for organizer Ron Sewell because few people showed up. Bonaire seemed clearly not ready to embrace the health art that brings a balance between body and mind.

All over the world Tai Chi exercises are done by thousands of people during World Tai Chi and Qigong Day. This is a yearly event on the last Saturday of April to emphasize on the positive effects that comes with the practice of Tai Chi and Qigong. For the first time Bonaire held the event at Parke Publiko.

Tai Chi instructor Sewell was to present Tai Chi to a broad Bonaire audience by giving a Tai Chi demonstration with his students and give the audience the possibility to participate. It took the Englishman weeks to organize, network, and to construct a fitting work-out program for the event. A proclamation was even signed by Commissioner James Kroon to make it an official day. Sewell did all this because he expected many people to be interested in it and expected almost 100 spectators; but only 12 showed up. The Park Publiko venue was a disappointment for Sewell. Tai Chi should be practiced in silence, and in relaxed circumstances. But Parke Publiko was very noisy, as the playground next to it was filled with playing children. Sewell:

If there will be another Tai Chi event next year is not sure.” For more information about world Tai Chi Day visit www.worldtaichiday.org. □

David Radomisli



A Shrink Looks At SCUBA

Looking For Another Reason To Stay Hydrated?



Guest Shrink: Robert Mankoff, PhD, Associate Professor of Medical Psychology, Medical University of the Americas, Nevis, West Indies

“Dr. Bob” has been diving since 1974 and has visited Bonaire several times.

Since your first dive, instructors, dive masters, store owners, boat operators, and your buddy have probably been nagging you about staying hydrated. Drink water between dives, avoid diuretics (things that encourage urination like coffee or alcohol), and drink more water when you get home.

Dehydration is thought to increase the likelihood of decompression sickness and is a relatively easy condition to remedy. Some divers (and I’ll plead guilty to believing this in the past) think that if you come to the boat well hydrated and sober, then replacing fluid after a single dive is not particularly important.

Other divers have a certain reluctance to drinking fluids on the boat because it leads to... well, a smelly wetsuit that you really don’t really want to pack with the rest of your vacation clothing.

You know the old saying: There are two kinds of divers. Those who pee in their wetsuits and those who lie about it. On the other hand, my dive buddy David says it can speed things up at Flamingo Airport when the pre-board officer gets a whiff while inspecting your luggage.

Sometimes the case is made that you need to drink because you are sweating in the heat, loaded down with gear, but in locations like Bonaire where boat rides are short (which usually means smaller boats without a head) and you aren’t sitting around sweating before your dive, it is tempting to forego drinks of water between dives. You had water with breakfast, you drink throughout the rest of the day, and you don’t really sweat a lot when you’re diving, right?

It turns out that you still need to drink between dives. Finally, there is hard scientific evidence that diving itself increases dehydration. It’s not just the sweating before you dive that causes dehydration. Submersion itself causes increased urine output and dehydration. So, that inter-dive watering is more than just a good thought.

A recent piece of research by Williams, Prior, and Bryson (Wilderness & Environmental Medicine, 2007 Spring; 18 [1]; pp 48-53) reveals that the act of diving itself appears to cause dehydration, even on recreational dives in warm water (e.g., tropical Caribbean) destinations. Across even a single dive in warm water, divers showed signs of increased dehydration in blood samples. They measured blood hematocrit from venous blood (a standard and precise way of determining level of hydration) following a single dive to less than 14 meters. Blood samples were taken 12 minutes before entering the water and a few minutes after leaving, so the loss wasn’t just caused by sweating as the divers waited. Deeper dives appeared to increase the level of dehydration. The amount of loss did not appear to be dramatic. They concluded that there is no reason to

change typical protocol, but it does lend support to the notion that you SHOULD have a drink of water between dives.

Obviously, all divers are concerned with preventing decompression illness, and many of our routines are designed to lower



Contributing author Bob Mankoff cave diving

the chances of DCI I and II. Some are superstition (I knew a fellow who ate a lemon every morning to ward off DCI), while some are backed up with good science (such as controlled ascent rate and precautionary decompress –safety stops), and some are just common sense. □

Story & photo from David Colvard, M.D.

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.



Sudoku Answer/Solution: Puzzle on page 4

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

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
5-04	1:47	1.9FT.	12:36	0.7FT.					79
5-05	2:27	1.9FT.	13:16	0.7FT.					78
5-06	3:15	1.9FT.	13:50	0.7FT.					75
5-07	4:02	1.9FT.	14:16	0.7FT.					70
5-08	5:03	1.8FT.	14:39	0.8FT.					63
5-09	5:59	1.8FT.	14:57	0.8FT.					56
5-10	7:04	1.7FT.	15:05	0.9FT.	23:08	1.3FT.	23:40	1.4FT.	51
5-11	2:31	1.3FT.	8:02	1.5FT.	15:03	1.0FT.	21:44	1.5FT.	51

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show (Usually 9 pm)
Call to make sure
I Think I Love My Wife
(Chris Rock)
Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
300
(Gerard Butler)

Kaya Prinses Marie Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400
Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)
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
May: A Night at the Museum

THIS WEEK

Saturday, May 5 - Big Monthly Rincon Marshé—Now a Bonairean tradition – stands selling gifts, fruits and vegetables, candles, drinks, BBQ, local foods and sweets, music, friendly people, 6 am to 2 pm. In the center of Rincon. www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

Saturday, May 5 – Monthly Flea Market at Parke Publico 3 – 8 pm. Special this week will be food from around the world. For only NAf5 you may purchase a “Worldly Plate” which includes samples of foods from Mexico, India, Bonaire and Italy. There will be stands selling clothes, books, bric-a-brac and more. Two NGOs, the Blind Foundation and the Bonaire Animal Shelter, have stands there as well and all proceeds go to the foundations. More information 787-0466.

Sunday, May 6 – First Bonaire Culinary Team Fundraising Dinner, Chez Nous at the high school—more information on page 9. Get tickets early.

Sunday, May 6- Rock n Roll Party at Sunrise Sports and Pool Bar, 4pm - 7:30pm. Flamingo Rockers plus special guest musicians, Bert Poyck, Rhonda Bennet, Rollin Petresie, and a band of local youngsters called Monkey Suit. There will be special price beers and snacks. Repeated on the first Sunday of every month.

Wednesday, May 9 - “The Sex Lives of Parrots” - talk by Rowan Martin, Capt. Don’s Habitat, 7 pm

Wednesday, May 9 - “Lora di Boneiru” - talk by Odette Doest (in Papiamentu), Rose Inn, 7 pm

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.

COMING

Sunday, May 13—Island wide Oriole Count—details on page 19 & MegaFM

Sunday, May 13 - 4th BWC Mountain Bike Tour Program: 3:45 pm Registration Starts, 4:10 Discussion of the Route, 4:15 Tour Starts at the Eden Beach Resort NAf15 per person (includes drink + fruits). Helmets are compulsory.

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 Rock-**

ers, 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 Krijo 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 Shop-

ping 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, Bridge Club: Wednesday 7.30 p.m. at Flamingo Airport (Technobar), airco, all levels, NAf2,50. **Call Joop 717-5903, or be there in time (7.15 p.m.)**

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

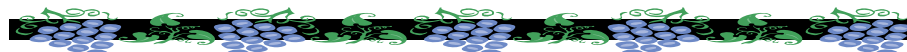
CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Kralendijk, Wilhelminalplein. 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. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 pm	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Cactus Blue Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564	Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday	Trend Setting Menu Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
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. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 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 Cafe 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?

On The Island Since January 2005

Ronella Croes

“I was born on Aruba, October 14th 1977. I am the eldest child. My dad was working at the department of labor affairs until he retired last February. As well as his regular job he always had his own business. Now he’s the owner of a party boat, a catamaran called *Tattoo*. My mom has always been a teacher: Dutch, history and Spanish at high school. My brother and sister are both studying.

I had a very active childhood; I played basketball and tennis, I did gymnastics, athletics and scouting, I swam, I did ballet, I sang in a choir and I had piano lessons. Hats off for my mom! She always took me everywhere. I have a very big family, lots of cousins, and we see each other frequently at every birthday party, and every Sunday we’re all at my grandmother’s. That’s the kind of family I have, really cozy. As a family we also organize all kinds of activities. We stayed for a weekend on a boat at a reef, we organized a game night and kiting competitions, things like that.

I had a great childhood. In my teenage years I was allowed to do a lot, but on one condition, that everything went well at school. I went out with my cousins who were my age and sometimes even with my dad! My parents trusted me; they weren’t strict at all; but if you blew it, you got yourself a real problem!

At school all went well and at 17 I was ready with HAVO and then, oh! I had to leave for Holland. I lived in a student apartment building in Rotterdam all by myself. I did HES (Higher Economy School), studying management, economics and law. I liked Holland instantly and wasn’t homesick. I’m someone who can live alone; I’m a go-getter. I finished my Higher Professional Education in five years, then started my MBA (Master’s in Business Administration).

After the first year in Rotterdam I moved to the east part of Holland, to a town called Arnhem. Rotterdam was too hectic for me; I like to ride my bicycle and that was easy to do in Arnhem. Life was less complicated there. I attended the same type of school as in Rotterdam. For my Masters I traveled every day from Arnhem to Enschede, three hours by train. MBA is a tough study, everybody knows that, but I did it in two years, including the the dissertation.

While I was studying I often had to work as a trainee – in the tourist industry on Aruba and for Aruba’s Hotel Association, AHATA, where I worked for my Master’s as a trainee on a higher level. The title of my dissertation was ‘An Expiration and Examination of the Tourism Industry of Aruba,’ focusing on how to attract affluent tourists.

I also studied tourism and obtained my

IATA diploma as well. I always wanted to work in the tourist industry; it has diversity, it’s never standard; it’s a dynamic industry and also you realize that it’s the most important source of income for your island.

After my studies I first started working in communications for Digicel Aruba. I was the first one to be hired because they’d just started. It was a great experience and a speed-course in everything. I traveled to many of the Caribbean islands, and during that time I felt I wouldn’t mind building up a career in one of those places. I set up a project on Barbados where I worked for three months. During that time I heard that Bonaire was looking for a director for TCB, the tourist office. I’d done practically everything regarding marketing for Digicel, and there was a possibility they’d send me to other islands to set up projects like I’d done on Barbados, but there was the vacancy on Bonaire and I still wanted to do something in tourism. So, I applied and spoke to Deputy Burney Elhage on

“But there’s also another side to it, Bonaire has to develop economically and not always all the decisions should be taken 100% in favor of nature and culture, because there has to be employment, people have to eat and there have to be more facilities for the people of Bonaire.”

Aruba, where he was to interview several candidates. After a few months they called me. All the finalists came to Bonaire for interviews. I got the job and started working here January 3rd, 2005, as the Director of TCB. I was and still am very motivated and completely focused on the job.

I work more than eight hours a day and on the weekends. That’s the person I am. I keep myself busy. I’m not homesick here because I met my fiancée, Elvis Tjin Asjoe, on Bonaire, and we’re going to get married this year on December 15.

I found my life. I need dynamic work with a lot of things going on, that’s how it stays fun for me! I’m associated with several organizations: Bonaire Jazz Foundation and as a member of the board of STINAPA and Mangazina di Rei. Every day I ride my bicycle for 30 minutes before work; what I started in Holland is still working for me! I am completely used to how it is here. When I am in Aruba I think it’s too busy! I’ve



Ronella Croes

learned to appreciate life on Bonaire and when I don’t have it, I miss it! I also need my social life. Friday night happy hour creates the balance, and the next day I can take it easy, I can choose.

I’ve got all the components for a well-balanced life. The island fits me and I think it’s beautiful. I feel Bonaire has great potential; it’s a very attractive destination and professionally, I think it’s time for a master plan. The Pourier Report gave an indication of the number of tourists Bonaire can tolerate without affecting its flora and fauna in a negative way. I think such an approach is the right one. We should take into consideration all the time what the consequences of our actions will be. However, I think it would be ideal if there would be a master plan in which all the parties involved would make it clear as from now on, how far we can and will go in the years to come. For instance STINAPA, BONHATA, BHG (hotel association), the Chamber of Commerce, DEZA, DROB, CKB, the Taxi Union, BIA (the airport), WEB and Telbo. Each one of those parties should think now about what the consequences would be for his company. I also think that it’s important for everyone to know where we’re heading. Luckily I think all that will happen soon because Holland also wants to know what Bonaire’s plans for the future are.

Of course we should stick to Bonaire’s philosophy, ‘Growth while maintaining nature and culture,’ meaning that we don’t want mass tourism but quality tourism; so we can make the same income or more with fewer tourists. I think we can do it. We still can shape the future.”

Ronella Croes is a professional, she’s

young and she’s the boss and therefore she has to be tough, but underneath all that there’s a very cute young lady who’s open to whatever life may bring.

“Since I arrived on Bonaire I’ve learned a lot about environment and it touched me, and I do think that people should be more educated when it comes to nature, because, indeed, one day there will be little left. I really think Bonaire did a great job in the past, and the other islands could take it as an example. But there’s also another side to it, Bonaire has to develop economically and not always all the decisions should be taken a 100% in favor of nature and culture, because there has to be employment, people have to eat and there have to be more facilities for the people of Bonaire. Sustainable tourism is the key. There has to be a balance. It’s going well and it’s going fast and we’re going with the flow, but we have to steer well and make sure in the end there won’t be any negative effects on Bonaire’s philosophy.

I can see my future here, although you never know, but we’re going to build a house now and... yes, I’m thinking of children. I want to start a family, and 30 is a good age to begin. I am a super organized perfectionist, a go-getter, a hard worker and a very social person. I am tough, but I am also soft-hearted. I am not someone who makes decisions easily. I always have to think things over for quite a while. I am a Libra, but when I met Elvis, my fiancée, it felt right immediately and I am proud of that.” □



Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Parrot Watch



Parrots nesting in cliffs. The first eggs of the season are expected
ParrotWatch photo

Rats, hunters, feathers for ceremonial dresses, crop pests, trapping - these hazards are just a few of the examples parrots have to go through nowadays. Some parrot species couldn't handle this as a result that they are already extinct. Luckily not all, as there are some parrot species left in some countries. The Lora in Bonaire, for instance, is one of them. But also the Lora is on the verge of extinction. Members of the Parrot Watch, consisting of 10 volunteers at the moment, used the Caribbean Bird Festival (which started April 22nd), to address people on the problems of life and death for this beautiful and intelligent bird.

With their hope for a better understanding of these birds, the volunteers spoke about the parrot crisis in the Caribbean last Wednesday and they will do so again over the next few weeks. In English, but also in Papiamentu, they hope to reach the entire population of the island.

To become a parrot watcher you need to have devotion and a lot of patience. The usual time the watchers will search for new nests and check on chicks is 5:30 am, with a chance of not finding any the entire morning. But if they find one they keep track of them and study and take care of the parrots until the chicks leave the nests. They also re-search the parrots to have a better understanding and what's the cause of conflicts that sometimes occur between a male and female.

It's already made some positive changes in the population for the parrots, but what they tried to make clear during the presentation was that it is impossible to do it all by themselves. They need islanders to help them with it, for example by planting fruit trees in their gardens so parrots can feed themselves.

The conference is not the only way the Parrot Watch is using to make citizens of Bonaire become aware of the problem. They have also been on the radio at Mega and Bon FM and have ads going on BoTV. They also take out school children to interest them in the subject and they write articles for several newspapers, *The Bonaire Reporter* one of them.

They will also launch a new website (www.parrotwatch.org) where people can sponsor by donating an amount of \$8. As some sort of compensation sponsors have the opportunity to see the development of the parrot eggs and chicks on video. □

David Radomisli





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Spring's Royal Sphinx Dominates Early Evening Skies

I'd like to suggest that sometime during this lovely month of May you go out and get a look at the most famous constellation of spring which for thousands of years has almost universally been associated with royalty and regal majesty. I'm talking about **Leo the Lion**.

On any clear night an hour or two after sunset face south

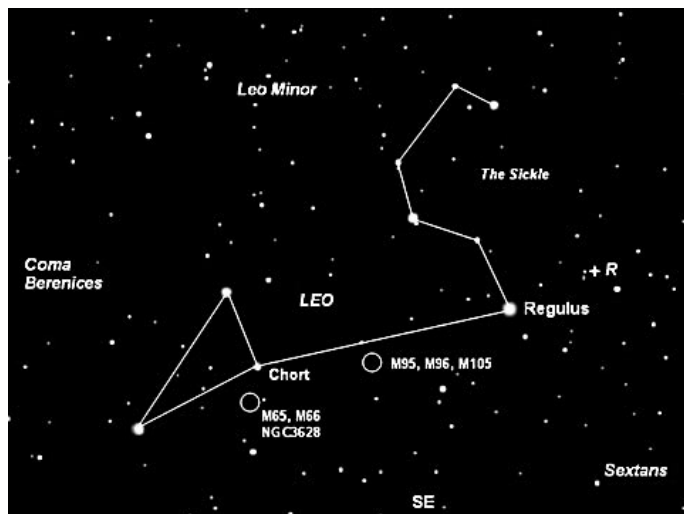
where approximately two thirds of the way up from the horizon to the zenith you will see the stars which make up the very ancient star pattern we call Leo. He is frequently depicted as a reclining sphinx with his two paws out in front of him, and I'm sure that many an ancient Egyptian drew a correlation between this heavenly sphinx and their earthly monumental statue. A very bright backward question mark or sickle shaped group of stars marks his head, mane and forepaws, and a bright triangle of stars marks his rear. Leo's brightest star **Regulus**, which means the little king, marks the place where his heart should be. In fact Regulus' second, though lesser known, name in Latin is Cor Leonis, which means the heart of the lion. The Roman Pliny referred to it as the royal one, and in ancient Greece it was called the king's star. And in ancient Mesopotamia it represented Amil-gal-ur, a legendary king of the celestial sphere who in mythology ruled before the Great Flood.

But what our ancestors couldn't know about this royal heart of the king of the beasts and what modern astronomy tells us is that it is a star two times the size of our million-mile-wide **Sun** but so much hotter than our yellow Sun that it shines blue white hot and 140 times brighter! And whereas it takes only 8 1/3 minutes for the light from our Sun to reach **Earth**, Regulus is so far away that it takes its light 77 years to reach us. How's that for royal grandeur?

The second brightest star of Leo is the end star of his rear end triangle. It marks Leo's tail and is appropriately named **Denebola**, which means the lion's tail. It too is a great star although not as great as Regulus, being only 1 1/2 times the size of our Sun and 14 times brighter. But it is twice as close to us as Regulus as it takes Denebola's light only 36 years to reach us.

So there you have it: one of the most ancient constellations, always associated with royalty and as regal looking as the Sphinx itself. In fact as important as the Sphinx was to the early Egyptians this cosmic Sphinx was even more important and was actually worshipped by them because the annual rise of the Nile River occurred every year when the **Sun** moved into Leo.

So get outside to see this ancient lion king and ponder how many hundreds of generations have gazed up at these very same stars over the millennia. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



Leo



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, April 29 to Saturday, May 5 2007

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) If you're in the mood, go out and socialize, or get involved in sports activities. Look into attending seminars that can expand your perception. Visit friends you don't get to see that often. Get involved in a competitive sport that will bring the challenges you thrive on. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Avoid lovers who already have a relationship, even if it is a bad one. Risky ventures may turn in your favor. Minor accidents could cause trauma and major setbacks. You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Dead end projects could plague you. You may have problems with those you live with. Your ability to talk circles around your colleagues will help you forge ahead in the workforce. You may have been too nice to a friend who just wanted to take advantage of you. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Consider applying for a job in another part of the world. You can get ahead if you play your cards right. If you are not already, think about going into business for yourself. You can help them more than they can help you. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 2) Entertainment should include the whole family or a lot of your friends. Question your mate if you must. Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. You might find added popularity with those around you this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Be careful that you don't spend too much time with a person belonging to someone else. Your talents might just be discovered. Tell them to get out of the mess they are in and then you'll consider getting together with them. Be cautious while traveling to foreign countries. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Abrupt action will cause difficulties with relatives. Professionalism will be of utmost importance. Be sure to take care of the needs of your immediate loved ones first. Expect your workload to be heavy. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Be careful when dealing with loved ones. You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. Do not let the reactions of others get you going. Your ideas are right on the mark and your work commendable. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Deception and confusion regarding your status in society is likely. For now just do the best you can. Younger relatives may seek your advice. Be inquisitive about unfamiliar circumstances. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Anger could lead to problems. You must try to help. You have a tendency to think that no one else will do things properly. Do not invest in ventures that only appear to be lucrative. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Work quietly on your own. You should be in business for yourself. You have a real need to be vocal. Social activities that involve the whole family will be enjoyable. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will need a little competition this week. Get involved in activities that will stretch your stamina. Be willing to listen, but don't be fooled. Don't forget to let your mate know how much you care. Your charm will be captivating. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □