

**It's
still
Free!**

**Jazz Fest
This Week**

BONAIRE

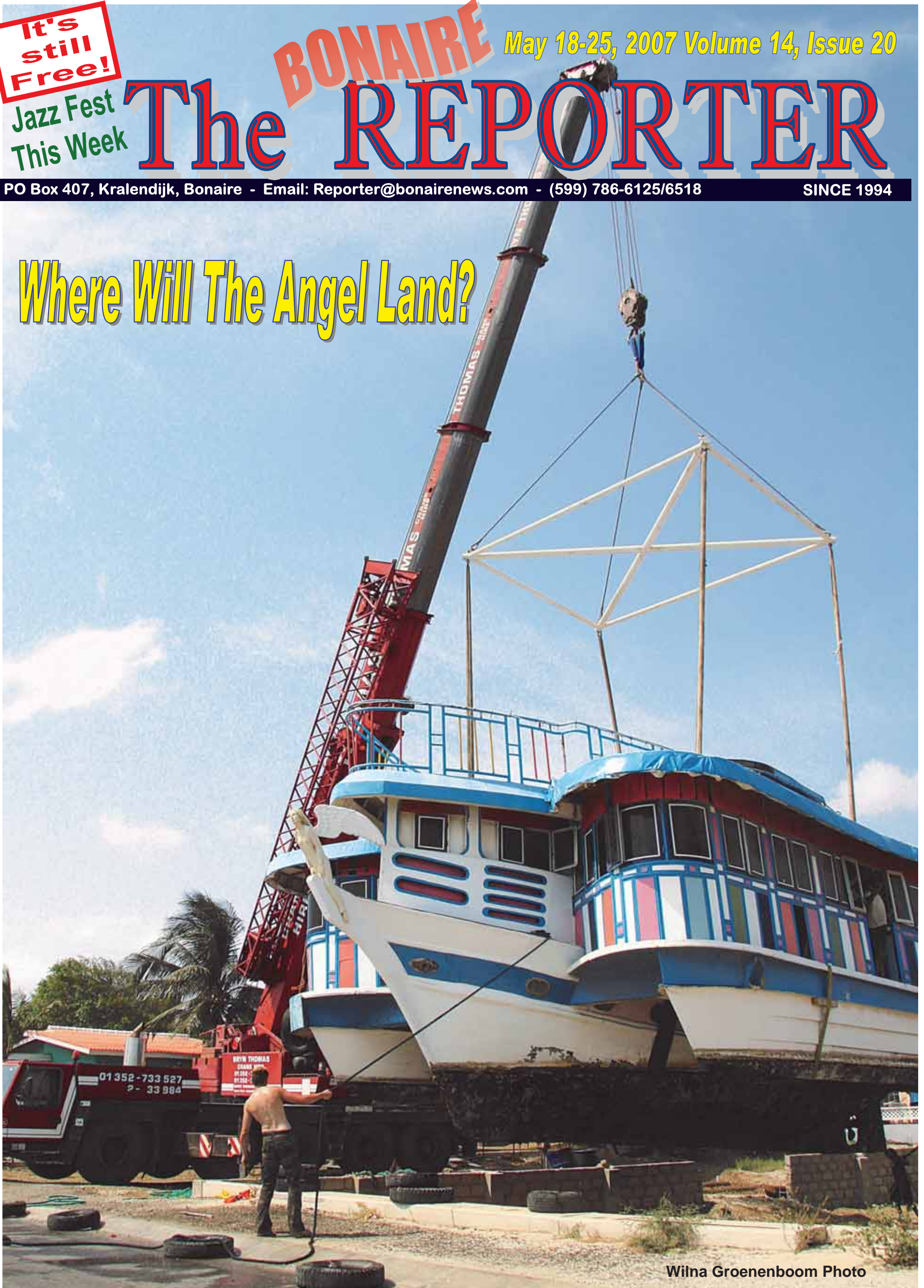
May 18-25, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 20

The REPORTER

PO Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 786-6125/6518

SINCE 1994

Where Will The Angel Land?



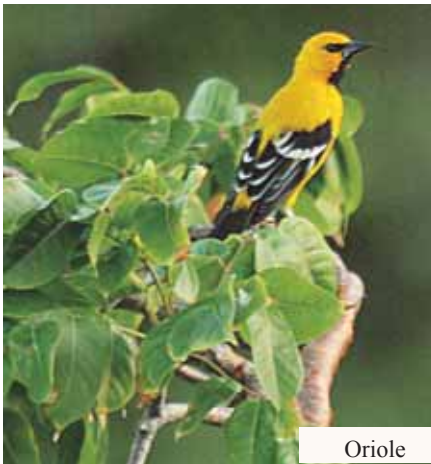
Wilna Groenenboom Photo

Flotsam and Jetsam

The REPORTER

Table of Contents

- Flotsam & Jetsam
- Bonaire Windsurfer Reports (Euro Cup & Rap)
- Heineken Jazz Festival Now!
- Parrot Watch Update
- Mama Smile: The Movie
- Boat That Can't Sink (*Angel*)
- Pes Monitors Lac Bai
- Shrink Looks at Scuba (Nitrogen Narcosis)
- Picture Yourself (Paris, France)
- Letters to the Editor (Congratulations & Thanks, Unhappy with beached boat)
- Classifieds
- Pet of the Week ("James")
- Tide Table
- Reporter Masthead
- What's Happening
- Movieland Film Schedule
- Shopping & Dining Guides
- Sky Park (Earthshine)
- The Stars Have It
- Bonaire on Wheels
- Morris Minor Pickup
- On the Island Since (Jona Chirino-Felida)



Oriole



Troupial

At 7 am last Sunday morning dedicated people all over Bonaire were poised, alert and watching out for the Troupials and Yellow Orioles around them. Many relished the excuse to forget everything else and tune in to the wildlife that so often gets overlooked. Some were a little more bleary-eyed than others but everyone had the common goal of contributing important data on two of Bonaire's most spectacular birds.

The count was conducted to assess the status of these two closely related species on Bonaire. The Yellow Oriole has always been here but many have noted a decline in numbers in recent years. The Troupial, in contrast, was introduced in the 1970s and its numbers have been increasing ever since. Troupial are aggressive competitors for food and nests and may well be contributing to the decline in Yellow Orioles. Basic surveys like this are crucial for detecting potential conservation problems before it is too late.

The results of the count are still coming in. We will let you know what we have found as soon as we do. For now it remains to give a big thank you to everyone who has helped with this effort. The Troupial/Oriole count was organized by Rowan Martin and Sam Williams along with STINAPA as part of the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival on Bonaire. *By Rowan Martin; Sophie Williams photos*

► This was the first time **Bonaire participated in the festival of domestic birds of the Caribbean region.** There's a lot of diversity of birds in this region, that can't be found in other parts of the world. The Yellow Oriole or *Trupiaal kachó* in Papiamentu is a local bird native to Bonaire. The question that rises during the festival though, is what the reason is why the amount of this bird specie decreasing. STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom says she is also looking for an answer to this. So

last Sunday morning's count will report how many *Trupiaal Kachó's* were seen. On Monday morning people started calling in the number of birds they spotted.

► The European Committee expects the European economy to continue showing a strong growth. **However, the Dutch figures dragged it down by 0.1% because it plans to take over a major part of the Antillean debt.**

The economic growth of the European Union for 2007 has been projected at 2.9% while the growth for the 13 countries with the Euro as currency has been projected at 2.6%. The growth for 2008 has been projected at 2.7% and 2.5%, the European Committee announced on Monday.



► **The first of the new wind turbines for Bonaire is off the ground.** It replaces the defunct machine that stood at Sorobon for 10 years and never produced a watt. This turbine will be first used for training the technicians who will install and maintain the wind farm at Morotin near Rincon. The big blades are being installed this week.

► Want to know the **schedule for HBO and Cinemax programs?** A reader told us it's <http://www.hbo.com/guidepdf/> and choose the Eastern time zone.



► **Suku Design Foundation, led by Nicole Chirino, will present 43 works of art in the 'Polyrhythmik' exposition in the Kas di Arte this week.** The exposition is part of the Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2007 that begins on May 16.

Several artists who live in the Antilles will show their work. Participating artists from Bonaire are Nochi Coffie, Renate van der Bijl, Henk Roozendaal, Marjolein Verhoef de Fonseca, Adrie van de Ven, Anna Kleimer and Nicole

Chirino. The exposition opens Wednesday, May 16, at 5 pm and continues from 10 am to noon and from 2 to 8 pm for the remainder of the festival. For more on the Jazz Festival, a not-to-be-missed Bonaire event, see article on this page and page 8.

► The controversial investor/developer (Kura Hulanda) **Jacob Gelt Dekker's** speech during the lunch at the Caribbean Investors' Conference (CHTIC) in Curaçao certainly got attention. **Dekker called Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez the biggest drug baron in the world.** According to reports, after his speech Dekker received thunderous applause and a standing ovation. However, it caused great consternation at the highest levels of the Antillean government and a disavowal of his remarks by the Curaçao Tourism Board. Dekker summarized his remarks about highlighting the problem in his closing words: "If there is an elephant in your house and you have guests, you can't tell your housemates and personnel that they have to be quiet about the elephant. That won't work."



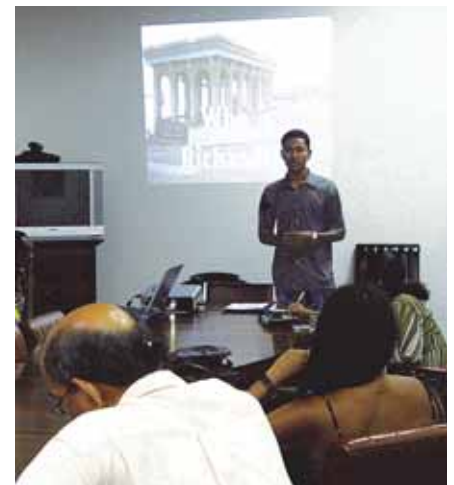
► According to a recent joint report of the United Nations and the World Bank **80% of all crime committed in the Netherlands Antilles are drug-related** and some 60% of all the cocaine seized in the Caribbean in 2004 was seized in the Netherlands Antilles.

► Minister of Justice David Dick says the **situation in the Bonaire jail-house is very bad.** It was built for about 50 people but can't accommodate that many because there aren't enough personnel to guard it. Also there aren't any facilities for the prisoners' recreation. Together with Holland, Bonaire will try to improve this situation. Bonaire needs NAf15 million to do it. A request for this money has been sent. The jail will stay as is for now, but some prisoners will have to serve out their time in Curaçao.

► The Lt. governors of Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire recently discussed the **formation of a special police organization for their islands** when a closer union with Holland is complete. Lt. Governors Herbert Domacassé of Bonaire, Sydney Sorton of Saba and Hyden Gittens of Statia believe the creation of a specific police force for the three islands would be of benefit. All three Lt. governors think the islands should form the 27th police region of the Netherlands. Holland is presently divided into 26 police regions.

► **Sheloutska Martinus, Director of the Crime Victims Unit is very busy.** The unit, which has been opened for only a couple of weeks, is making itself known. Domestic violence is the biggest problem on the island according to Martinus: "In many cases emotional violence has taken place for many

years. The victims must take the initiative themselves to seek help, but they are too afraid to take action because they think the situation will worsen." At the victims' unit volunteers take time to talk to the victims. Most of the victims want to stay anonymous; the victim unit respects this request. **Many victims say they have the feeling they are finally being taken seriously.**



Richardro Emerenciana makes his presentation

► On Friday, May 4th **three young candidates gave presentations on topics concerning youth problems, hoping to be chosen to represent the Dutch Antilles during the Unesco Youth Forum in Paris in October.**

One of the candidates was Richardro Emerenciana from Bonaire. The SGB student did his PowerPoint presentation on the situation at the SGB high school. He proposed that SGB students should be able to join in discussions on improvement with the management of the school. Unfortunately, Richardro was not chosen to be the Antillean representative. The jury had a hard time deciding who would be the lucky ones. In the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

end first place went to Peggy Ottenhof from Curaçao, who talked about cultural diversity on our islands. In second place was Ruthaidith Rudolfina from St. Maarten, who discussed youth violence. Richardro will be a standby. By *Johannetta Brower, photo by BVO*

► **The first named storm of the year formed last Wednesday** off the southeastern US coast, more than three weeks before the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season, forecasters said. Senior hurricane specialist Jack Beven said it wasn't unusual for the storm to form in May, outside the hurricane season that starts June 1 and ends November 30. "What we call the hurricane season is a totally manmade creation. Nature doesn't always pay attention to that," Beven said.

Eighteen tropical storms and four hurricanes have been recorded in that month since 1851. Private and university forecasters have predicted the 2007 season will be especially active, producing up to 17 tropical storms and hurricanes and a "well above average" possibility of at least one striking the US. The US government plans to release its predictions May 22.

► **The Cayman Islands, like Bonaire, has a coral reef-driven tourism industry.** Often previously ranked among the top 10 scuba diving destinations in the world, the reef system of the western Caribbean territory has lost 50% of its hard corals in the last 10 years. Because of global warming, Carrie Manfrino, president of the Central Caribbean Marine Institute said, "We are at a very critical time in the history of coral reefs. It is like working with a sick patient. How well we treat that patient will determine if that patient survives. We could potentially see the end of hard coral reefs in our lifetime." Bonaire could be similarly affected.

A UN panel- the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - has warned that the world must make sweeping cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to avoid a rise in temperatures that could inundate islands and coastlines under rising seas and kill off the world's temperature-sensitive coral reefs. In a report issued on Friday, the IPCC said keeping the increase in temperatures within 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) would only cost 0.12% of the world's annual gross domestic product.

To places that depend on dive tourism that would be a small investment if it were enough to save the coral reefs. Global warming is heating sea water, which leads to coral bleaching and white plague, a disease sweeping and killing coral around the world. (Reuters)

► **City Café is going all out to celebrate their 10th anniversary with 10 days of fun, entertainment, sports events, a car show and biker parade, a jump up, a market festival**



and more. Things get going on Friday June 1 with free cake, discounts on dinner and entertainment by the Foyan Boys and Equal Rights & Justice. The aim is for fun as well as fund raising for a sound and PA system for Jong Bonaire, says City's Huub de Groot. There will be music, local folkloric events every day from 6 to 9 pm across the street. "And," de Groot continues, "we want to get a lot of the groups to

play who've performed at City in the last 10 years." What an awesome task!

There will be games, clowns, a kids' disco and a free lunch for the elder folk – all part of a community outreach. "We want to work for and with the Bonairean people," says the energetic and entrepreneurial de Groot. See the schedule in the City Cafe ad on page 9.

► You read it first in *The Reporter*. On the heels of their successful Angel Eyes rock concert last year the Fundashon Bonaire Entertainment plans to have a **Soul night during Regatta Week this year.** It will be an Open Concert with no entrance fee.



The evening will feature a Soul Band, a Soul DJ and as main act, **George "Rock Your Baby" McCrae.**

► The Bonaire Entertainment Foundation, in cooperation with SKAL and the TCB, **proudly announces the start of the Week Market.** Just because the cruise ship season ended they thought that the popular Cruise Ship Market shouldn't have to end too. In a meeting held on Friday 11th of May at CKB (Small Business Bureau), 14 vendors and participants of the Cruise Ship Market decided to continue with a weekly market every Friday. It will be held in Wilhelmina Plaza beginning this Friday, May 18 (if the permits are approved in time). The market opens at 10am and will close at 7pm. To become a participant of the Week Market you must join the Foundation. For more information call: 717-2749 or 786-5136.



► We couldn't help but notice that on this past Sunday, **Mother's Day**, local restaurants were serving many meals, the beaches had lots of people and the picnic spots were full. Here's a group of mothers enjoying themselves at Sorobon.

► **The Good Hearted Kids, Hóbenan di Bon Kurason, of the Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation, are continuing their project, 'Let's Drive Away Poverty Together.'** Their aim is to stimulate Bonaire youngsters to contribute to the community by working as volunteers. The project began last year with the distribution of Christmas presents to underprivileged children. Now, the teens, under guidance, are going to repair houses of people who need this work but cannot do it themselves, like the elderly, single mothers and the handicapped.

Last Saturday they began the restoration of two houses. This project is partly financed by Usona. Sunbelt Realty and Playa Trading have also contributed to the project. If you want to help or are young and want to work, contact coordinator Sheloutska Martinus at 796-5566.

► **Class VWO 4 (Pre-University**

Class) of the SGB High School, often called "the guinea pigs" since they are the first pre-university class started in Bonaire's high school, held a carwash on Saturday, 28th of April, to help raise money for their "Dream Trip to the Netherlands." Warehouse Bonaire provided the location and water.



They are seeking financial support for the trip where they will visit universities and places of interest to help them understand the country, Holland, where they will be studying. Often that has been a problem for students from the Antilles going to Holland. *Item & photo contributed by Vicky Bississar*



► Janneke of Hair Affair writes: "**How sad.** She is leaving and we will **miss Martine** at the Hair Affair beauty parlor. We wish her all the best on her journey around the world. However, the person on the right in the picture above is already replacing Martine. Her name is **Bärbel**. She is also a very good hairdresser with lots of experience at the famous Richard Coffijenberg hairdressing salon in Amsterdam. Bärbel has done lots of hair styling and make up for TV as well. Want a makeover? She's also done many makeovers so if you want to try, stop in at Hair Affair to make yourself beautiful. Of course, shop owner Janneke is still there and keeps in touch with the newest developments in hair dressing and make up. Visit Bärbell and Janneke soon at Hair Affair on Kaya Bonaire 4B (between Little Havana Bar and LaGuernica) Tel: 717-5990.

► **The short documentary on Bonaire's landfill and waste water dumping that was produced by Hendrik Wuyts of ScubaVision and Sean Peyton of Pirate Radio,** which we reported about can now be seen on the Internet at WWW.ForumAntilles.com which will give you a link to youtube.com. □

G. D./L.D./D.R.

3rd Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival Now!

If you are on Bonaire this week spend all or part of your waking hours listening to fine jazz. Some concerts are free, others are only a modest charge. The sounds of Jazz are already being heard around town as musicians get ready for the Third Annual Bonaire Jazz Festival. The three main nights of the Festival (listed below) are totally filled with musical opportunities.

Wednesday, May 16- 5-7 Opening of Polyrythmik Exposition at Kas di Art
Thursday, May 17, Festival opening evening starting at 7:30pm jazz-and-poetry concert in Fort Oranje (free). After that, festival bands will perform on the Promenade across from City Café. Every night there are free sessions beginning around 10 pm at Little Havana.

Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19 - Main concerts on the beach of the Plaza Resort near Topsy Seagull Restaurant -

- The Paoli Mejias Quintet from Puerto Rico
- The WES Group from Washington, DC.
- Gerardo Rosales Mongomania, a sextet from Venezuela,
- Trio Yuri Honing
- Oswin "Chin" Behilia joined by a quartet
 - Ivan Jansen's quartet

- from Aruba
- The Jean Jacques Rojer trio of Curaçao with Paquito d'Rivera
- Stingray
- The Happy Band

Plus on **Saturday, May 19,** the student orchestra of the SGB high school and the local music school reinforced with festival musicians Franklin Granadillo and Scott Katzev will perform on the main stage.

Sunday, May 20- Jazz brunch at Divi Flamingo Beach party at Bongos Beach at 5 pm with the Freewinds Band
 Little Havana Jazz from 10pm on.

Every day of the festival the "Polyrhythmic" art exhibition will be going on in Kas di Arte with live music and wine-tasting.

For more information on the festival, the artists, special packages, and accommodations, go to the website www.bonairejazz.com.

The special musical guests for the Festival are: Scott Katzev from the US on tenor saxophone; Boy Janga from Bonaire, percussion; Franklin Granadillo from Aruba on trumpet; and Linda Anthony from Bonaire, vocals. □ *G.D./Press release*

Tickets for all three concerts are NAf50 or NAf30 per session. Tickets for sale at Plaza Resort, Kontiki, City Café, Bongos Beach, TCB, Bonaire Boekhandel and at the gates of the main concert.



Parrot Watch



Bonaire's ParrotWatch Update

There has been much happening in the lora world so there is plenty to mention for our first *Bonaire Reporter*-sponsored ParrotWatch update. The most exciting news is not, however, from any of the three lora nests we will be following at ParrotWatch.org. They seem to be in no rush to start breeding this year.

The parrot team have been busy in far flung places all over the island and between us we've found a few new nests which now have eggs! With the help of STINAPA we have been able to focus more on the Park this year, but when you are trying to find parrots the Park suddenly becomes a very big place! We've seen lots of aggression where pairs are disputing who's going to use the nest site and Sophie even saw one pair being evicted by another. The dominant birds were literally dragging the others out of the nest by their beaks!

"Oswald" and "Olivia" from the overhang nest are the only Parrotwatch birds that have so far have been caught on camera (see video capture frame above). First Oswald was inside in the nest checking the place out and making a few adjustments in preparation for three months habitation. Then Olivia joined him and it got all funky! Something we've never seen before took place but to find out exactly what it was you'll have to support the project and go to www.parrotwatch.org. □

Story & photo by Sam Williams

A Shrink Looks at SCUBA



A dive student performing a timed puzzle task on Bari Reef with instructor Benji Schaub. The purpose of the task is to demonstrate how much longer it takes a person to perform the task while breathing high pressure nitrogen at depth compared to the surface. Breathing compressed air at depth affects a person's problem solving abilities and manual dexterity.

Nitrogen narcosis, or "rapture of the deep," is one of those things that some divers like to joke about but really is no laughing matter. (Pun intended) While a recreational diver is far more likely to experience nitrogen narcosis than decompression illness, we know much less about the exact physiological mechanism of nitrogen narcosis than that of DCI. Unfortunately, both can result in a diver fatality, the first from being bubbly drunk and foolish and the second from being bubbled up.

So, when we were on Bonaire a few years ago on Father's Day and my daughter Stacy gave me a T-shirt that read, "I've got nitrogen narcosis. What's your excuse?" I was not quite sure how to take the message. I assumed it might have been a critique of my fanatical diving. Surely, she could not have been referring to my charming personality.

That is one of the big problems with nitrogen narcosis. You probably don't even know you have it at the time. In 1935 Behnke et al found that even at just 66 feet (3 ATM), breathing compressed air produced "euphoria, retardation of the higher mental processes and impaired neuromuscular coordination." At 100 feet (4 ATM) he found even more impairment in divers. What is especially scary is that it occurred from the very beginning of exposure to compressed air and did not change with time at depth. In other words, breathing compressed air at depth makes you stupid and slow and clumsy, not exactly worthy goals.

In the winter of 2004 I conducted a poll of 1,984 divers and asked, "In 2003 did you experience nitrogen narcosis on any dive? (light-headedness, euphoria, elation, laughter, poor coordination, slowed thinking, poor judgment, or reckless be-

Nitrogen Narcosis www.DivePsych.com

havior)" and at what depth they began to experience it. Only 20% of males (n=1,523) and 18% of females (n=461) admitted to having any signs or symptoms of nitrogen narcosis while diving in 2003 and most of those reported that it began when they were deeper than 90 feet.

Is it possible that all the other divers stayed above 60 feet on all their dives in 2003? Not likely. It is far more likely that they under-reported their symptoms, either because they either failed to recognize them or to remember them. There can be wide individual susceptibility to nitrogen narcosis. That is another good reason to dive with a reliable buddy so you can check on each other. Just make sure he/she is less susceptible than you.

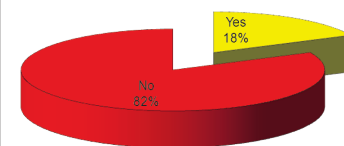
Fortunately, the impairment from nitrogen narcosis resolves rapidly with decompression. Of course, this assumes you have not already gotten yourself into trouble thinking you are invincible.

Next week: How to tell if your dive buddy is narced, since it is not likely you will recognize it in yourself. And hopefully, your buddy will return the favor if it is not already too late. □

David Colvard, M.D.

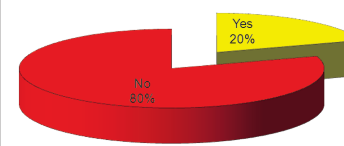


Female Divers' Self-Reports of Nitrogen Narcosis in 2003 (N=461)



Ever Narced? Female Divers

Male Divers' Self-Reports of Nitrogen Narcosis in 2003 (N=1,523)



Ever Narced? Male Divers

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.



Picture Yourself With The Reporter

Paris - France



Bonaire resident artist Avy Benhamron shows his friend, Karen, who arrived on Bonaire this week, the *Bonaire Reporter* in the rain before they ascend the Eiffel Tower in Paris

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

Letters to the Editor

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS

Dear Editors,

On behalf of my fellow board members of the Foundation of the Blind, especially Elka and Wicha, we wish to congratulate you on your 13th anniversary, for a job well-done.

We are more than pleased to have your already well-known and accepted newspaper on the island. You and your team's continuous hard work has made the newspaper to be one of the most successful ones here in Bonaire.

We thank you for doing a great job and for your support throughout the years to our organization.

Masha Pabien and Thanks !

Fundashon Kuido pa Bista i Oido
Roxanne Timp
Management Secretary

UNHAPPY ABOUT THE BEACHED BOAT

Translated from Dutch: (Graag wil ik mijn ongenoegen uiten over het achter ons huis geplaatste) See pg. 11

Dear Editor:

Hereby I want to use the occasion to express my dissatisfaction about the 'boat restaurant' that has been placed behind my house. I live on Kaya Grandi 75. My backyard had a full view on the sea until last week. Because of the placement of the 'boat/ restaurant' *The Angel*, I lost half of my view and the boat I'm looking at now is a dreadful sight.

Of course I understand that this piece of land was meant to be built on. I know Bonaire is working hard to get a new status. Project developers, businesswise and privately, people invest a lot of money in condominiums and houses. So probably the use of this piece of

ground was unavoidable for the future.

What amazes us though, and is quite regretful, is that the government has provided a license to someone with a project as *The Angel*. *Continued from Column 1*

This boat is absolutely disgraceful and very ugly. It doesn't add anything to the Bonairean culture or nostalgia. Better to say, it looks like a piece of junk that has been thrown on the island by a huge wave.

I heard that the owner wants to contribute something to widen the boulevard of Kralendijk, so that tourists move a little further on the seaside to drink and eat at a 'very special' location. But after the knowledge of the boat/restaurant being a fiasco on water; is it necessary to try it again, on land?

The owner hopes he'll get a lot of guests. But if he really wants that, I have some super advice for him. If he would have had it sink it would have probably been a very attractive dive site for tourists and would attract more people than the restaurant will ever attract. Maybe a t-shirt with the text, "I have dived the *Angel* underwater restaurant," would make more money than the attempt of the owner now.

I also find it very egocentric of the people who have given him a license to build on this ground, but also of the owner to place such an ugly object, straight in someone's back yard. What would the gentlemen think of it themselves if something like this would happen to them, and that something like this would be built 10 meters from their house? In Holland something like this is called horizontal pollution. It's a law against degeneration of the neighborhood. Of course, I know Bonaire isn't Holland, but the island could use this law as an example.

We hope as neighbor occupants that we won't get any nuisance from loud music and other noises when the bar stays open until late.

Mama Smile: The Movie



Mama Smile at the Premiere

Somebody passing by Movieland and not being aware of the occasion last Wednesday could have easily mistaken the setting for the premiere of "Mama Smile" as the premiere of a huge Hollywood movie, first to be shown on Bonaire.

Many people showed up in suits, and the hall of the cinema was packed with distinguished people. Movie star of the night was Mama Smile (Poppy

Rodreguiz) who arrived on the red carpet just a few minutes before the start of the movie. In traditional Bonairean dress she welcomed all the guests and took the time to chat with everyone.

The premiere of "Mama Smile" was a touch of the Tourism Awareness Program (TAP). An issue with some tourists when they visit the island concerns the attitude of Bonaireans, or better to say, the lack of it. But for the locals themselves it's vice versa. They find a lot of tourists very rude and impatient on an island where everything should be easy going. *Poco Poco* is their motto, translated: slowly slowly, and they don't think tourists adjust enough to their way of life. This can result in tourists staying away from the island and locals treating the tourists with the same lack of respect that they sense they are being treated by tourists.

So the start of the TAP was no coincidence. The goal of the program is to stimulate touristic development on Bonaire by increasing the knowledge and conscience of locals, to improve the image of tourists to the locals, to improve the quality of the service offered on Bonaire, and to enlarge the labor force participation of locals in the touristic sectors.

The main reason for the movie is to show local Bonaireans the main attractions for tourists and how beautiful the island actually can be for visitors and how much there is to do on it. The slogan used in the project and which frequently is spoken by Mama Smile was, "Smile!

Bonaire ta dushi (Smile! Bonaire is sweet!)" Poppy as a Bonairean role model is a perfect choice by the TAP organization as her smile is contagious and her personality heartwarming.

During the 30-minute promotional film, *Mama Smile* visits all the tourist attractions on a quad. Her first destination is Washington Slagbaai National Park, where she exchanges the quad for a mountain bike, to ride the dirt roads in the park. This scene is hilarious and the audience reacts accordingly. It appears that it was probably the first time for Poppy to ride a bike, and with a dress that size, it was impossible for her to stay balanced, resulting in a lot of falling off the bike. Probably quite bruised she could still manage to smile and repeat the slogan again.

After her visit to Washington Slagbaai her trip continues to Pink Beach to go diving. The destination after that was Sorobon Beach, where a *Mama Smile* stand-in wearing the dress did some acrobatic moves on a windsurf board. This scene caused a lot of laughter from the audience as well. *Mama smile* continues her adventures to go kite surfing and is chased by donkeys at the Donkey sanctuary. The trip ends with land sailing and a kayaking trip in the mangroves. Poppy explained after the movie that it wasn't easy for her to participate in it,



Mama Smile and film makers Maarten Post en Jarl Piepers

and that it was mainly thanks to the film makers that the movie could be shown this night: "Filmmakers Maarten Post and Jarl Piepers convinced me to do the craziest things, also some things I thought I was too afraid to do, for example, riding on a quad. But Post and Piepers convinced me to do all this crazy stuff and made sure *Mama Smile* kept smiling." □

Story & photos by David Radomisli



The Boat That Can't Sink



The huge crane lifts the boat across Kaya Kachi Craane photo W. Gronenboom

The *Angel* began its career as a classic wood sailboat, reportedly built in Brazil. It was bought by its current owner and first converted to a high-sided powerboat, but when that proved too unstable two pontoons were added. For the next years it served as a floating restaurant, once leading the Regatta parade, hosting weddings, sailing sunset cruises and much more. After considerable expense, including transporting a mammoth crane and steel sling from Curaçao, she's ashore, seaside, to continue her career. A kitchen and toilet facilities will be nearby to meet sanitary codes but the flavor and style unique to *The Angel* will be preserved.

Page 6

The company is called Bonaire Dream NV, and the Director and only current employee is Felix (Eki) Keller. Keller has some dreams that he wants to let come true in his life. One of those dreams of having a boat restaurant on land is on its way to becoming true, by putting his boat *Angel* on dry land in Kralendijk to start a breakfast/dining restaurant and piano bar. His plan is to open it on the first day of the Regatta. A nice dream, but whether his neighbors are happy about it is another question. They are afraid it will become a warehouse. The sight of the boat is peculiar and attracts a lot of attention from people passing by. Some people yell encouraging words to Keller. Other people just stare at the new attraction of the island without saying a word. The boat, weighing about 27 tons, was carried in and placed next to Kaya Kachi Craane last Saturday. This didn't go without any problems. Keller, who says everybody calls him Captain Felix, lost a piece of his tooth during the transport by hitting his mouth on the steering wheel.

Although the sight of the boat isn't very pretty at the moment, the plan Felix has with it seems quite promising. In front of the boat he will build a beach with parasols and beach chairs and where guests will be

welcomed by waiters in captain's clothing. The inside of the boat will be filled with tables where people can have breakfast or dinner. Felix: "The menu will consist mainly of local seafood and something special. What that will be is still a secret." On the roof (top deck) of the boat will be an area for dancing and a corner for more romantic dancing. "The view is amazing from there. I will have some music, but it will be very quiet. My plan is to keep this place as quiet as possible. I don't want to make the same noise as the other bars on the coastline. My place should be for people who want to relax and enjoy the cozy atmosphere. And of course I don't want to disturb my neighbors. That's why my bar will only stay open until 2 am."

To become the owner of the land wasn't easy for Keller. It was the same for those people adjacent to the property who have been trying for many years to

own the land themselves. The property lies next to a drainage waterway which he will be responsible for. Keller: "I applied for it in 2002/2003 and presented my plan to the authorities. They seemed fond of it, with the motivation that they like innovation, and that a boat as a restaurant would attract more tourism to that part of the coastline of Kralendijk. My plan is also unique because nobody has ever put a boat on dry land to make a restaurant out of it on the ABC islands. It took one year before I got permission to put my boat there."

Keller knows that placing a boat next to a drainage waterway has its responsibilities. "One of the conditions of placing a boat next to it is to keep the waterway clean, and I'll make sure that will happen. People are worrying that I will use it to pour my own wastewater in it. But I won't do that, I'll use a septic tank for that. I'll also make sure that with heavy rain, nothing will happen to the surrounding houses, and nothing will get flooded." The neighbors aren't very happy about his plans though. Keller: "They have tried to stop it with a court case. But they lost that on all points. I can understand that some neighbors aren't happy that their view is blocked now because of my plans. But that's not my problem; I took all the steps to own this piece of land legally and rightfully. If they have a problem with it, they should go to the government and not to me." □

David Radomisli

Bonaire Reporter -



The Angel in her new spot



**Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— Are still free
Got something to buy or sell?**

**Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):
Free ads run for 2 weeks.**

**Commercial Ads only NAf0.80 per word, per week.
Call 786-6518 or 7866125 or email ads@bonairereporter.com**

JANART GALLERY

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

IS YOUR HOUSE NEW TO YOU?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Also interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-9332.

BONAIRENET

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

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

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

Bonaire Images

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

Searching For GOOD Maid Service?

**For Quality House Cleaning
CALL JRA**

Serving Bonaire for more than 14 years. Honest, Reliable, Efficient, Thorough, Low rates, References. One time or many. Phone 785-9041 ... and relax

LUNCH TO GO

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

OUTDOOR SPORTS



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

JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. Phone 786-4651

Vacation Rental

Cozy guest cottage available

Studio with kitchen, airco, cable

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



FOR RENT- 2 bedroom fully furnished apartment available at the end of June, Kaya Mandolin 2. Call after 6pm 795-3456

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

MARES, H.U.B. fully integrated medium, BCD, 3-yrs,old,100 dives, includes: 1st Stage, 2nd stage, octopus, inflation/deflation control, all hoses, Gauges, console and weight system, black & gray. New \$1,999, E-Bay \$1,124. Bonaire \$500. Phone, 791-2214

Once again, if you have an empty bottle of **Sea Gold or Sea Drops**, for a limited time only, **Carib Inn will fill these for half price!!**

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.

All must go!! Saturday 1000-1300. please call for address 786-3558

Iron board and iron / dining table / wine rack / beach mat //3 jackets / books...so many Dutch books / shopping cart / bar stool/Tunisian rug & Portuguese blanket/ 2 backpacks / kitchen stuff-cutlery / excl Vodka collection / toaster/tuner radio/clothes/ baby bed / antique wagon wheel. **Pass the word around!!!**

Cars & Scooters

Chevy Blazer, 1993, techn. good condition, body double anti-rust protection, NAf 6.500. Tel. 796-5582

Toyota Corolla (1992) for sale! It's in good condition and has been well maintained! With automatic gear-change and power steering. NAf4.250. Tel. 700-8253 or 511-7492.

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 traf-

fic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. www.luxurybonaire.com.

For rent: Luxurious new apartment for two persons. NAf1.500 per month. Dishwasher, washing machine, boiler, kitchen machines, outside place to cook, including weekly linen. monique@infobonaire.com, 717 - 2529.

Nice apartment for rent, NAf500,00 all inclusive, one living/ sleeping room, one bathroom, quiet neighborhood. Contact: digital-is1956@hotmail.com or call: 796 - 3637.

Housesitting

Two responsible and dedicated parrot researchers looking for **housesitting from June 8th - July 1st**. Many references available. **If you can help call 717-2675 or email r.o.martin@sheffield.ac.uk**

Bonaire experienced house sitters with references available 3-8 July & 22-27 July. Contact roben@dds.nl

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 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

Lost

LOST ITEM - REWARD!!! I've lost my **MP3-Player/Recording device "Iriver,"** color: black. I've lost important data... If you have found or seen it, please let me know and you will be rewarded! Call me at 511-7492 or 700-8253 or send an email to iriver_lost@hotmail.com

JOBS

AB Carrental is looking for Rental Agents. Forthright, customer orientated, experience with computers and administration. Written and spoken communication in Dutch, excellent, spoken communication in English good. Spanish and Papiamentu desirable. Owner-drivers license. tel: 09-5112561

PES Monitors Lac Bai



Flamingoes at Lac Photo courtesy O. Bartels

Progressive Environmental Solutions (PES) is a not-for-profit organization currently working for the long-term sustainability of Lac. Lac is the 700-hectare area that includes the mangrove stands, Cai and Sorobon, to name a few well-known spots. Founded in 2006, by Carina Kalke and Kris Kats, PES's purpose is to conserve and restore aquatic environments that are under threat and/or in decline. Through research, monitoring, and publishing its findings, PES seeks to find sustainable solutions that are economically sound and environmentally responsible. The decision to focus on Lac is due to Lac's unique habitat. It is home to one of the last remaining mangrove areas of its kind in the Netherlands Antilles. This intricately woven ecosystem provides a nursery for many species of juvenile fish, a feeding area for larger predatory fish, a

foraging area for sea turtles, a feeding and roosting area for many species of birds, not to mention the green house gas reducing properties and coastline protection that the mangrove trees themselves provide. Its natural beauty is a daily attraction for horseback riders, kayakers, snorkelers, beach goers and of course windsurfers, while also being of great importance to the health of Bonaire's reefs and in turn Bonaire's number one attraction: diving. So, you might be asking,

"Why does anything need to be done for Lac? Isn't it pretty healthy?" While Bonaire is a leader in its conservation practices, economic and environmental pressures are increasing dramatically. Where there was once open land, today there is an increasing number of newly built houses and hotels that have become home to a growing tourist trade and second homeowners. While this may be good for the economy of Bonaire, PES seeks to take steps to protect the natural resources that bring people so much enjoyment and keep them returning to Bonaire. Until recently, Bonaire has not grown as quickly as its island neighbors. It stands at an important crossroad. It can learn from other's mistakes and missed opportunities. PES's objective is to implement monitoring before problems are visible or are imminent. Through early monitoring and early detection of environmental

changes, we have the opportunity to prevent or take corrective action that both protects the habitat and maintains its economic sustainability. We believe the best way to solve environmental degradation around Lac is to prevent it. To that end, in January of 2007, Progressive Environmental Solutions began conducting a year-long monitoring program in Lac. The information gathered from this monitoring will form a thorough baseline or "snapshot" of current conditions. The baseline documentation will include: water temperature, rainfall, water levels, salinity, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and nutrients as well as speed and direction of predominant currents. GPS and aerial photography are being used to document fresh water inflow and areas of mangrove growth and dieback. Work will also be done to understand the sedimentation patterns and flow in the bay, specifically in the popular windsurf area of Sorobon. By beginning this monitoring program now, while the system is relatively healthy, PES is creating a frame of reference, which can be referred to as changes occur, making us better equipped to assess and respond to those changes. As with any ecosystem, each species living within Lac has a function and many are interdependent. This means that the decline of one species can have unexpected adverse effects on other aspects of the system. Through PES's work, we can go beyond monitoring the numbers and health of a single desirable species like conch and turtles and monitor the overall health of the



Volunteers Danny and his intern, Alex

PES photo

system, on which these and many other species depend. Parameters such as nutrients, water temperature and salinity can serve as an early indicator for certain problems within the system. Habitat protection is integral for species protection in the area. With pressure from building and tourism mounting, it is necessary to have a complete set of data for the current conditions. This will make detection and early response to environmental degradation possible. It equips Bonaire and its leaders with solid data that can inform decision making for the best management strategy not only in the short term but ultimately to protect the area for future generations so Bonaire can always be unhurried, unspoiled and unforgettable. □

Carina Kalke

For more information visit www.proes.org or send an email to info@proes.org



BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The Morris Minor Mighty Mouse

The 13th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brower, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Kevin Williams is the owner of The Great Escape, a cozy 10-room hotel in Belnem. "The tropical hideaway in a tropical wonderland" is secluded and quiet. It is the ideal place to relax, not to rush. The hotel is famous for having no fewer than 32 different brands of beer!

Mr. Williams is also the owner of an army green Morris Minor pickup, built in 1960. Kevin: "It is the rarest Morris Minor. There were 1.7 million Morris Minors made. Only 30,000 of them were pickups. All the other ones were saloons or vans or station wagons. (The so called "woodies"/JB). Of the pickups about 2,000 were left hand drive and 200 of those were shipped to the US. Nineteen out of those 200 are still running. One of them has been exported to Bonaire. Of course, that one is mine. So in fact in the States there are 18 running Minor pickups now. I know there are some vans in Chile that are running, and up until 1986 there was a running pickup on Curaçao. Some older visitors from Curaçao think they recognize my truck as the vehicle from their island."

In the States English cars were popular. People liked Jaguars and MGs, and for families, Morris. Most people don't realize that MG stood for "Morris Garages." It was the sports car division of Morris.

Kevin: "I just like small cars. This is my Page 8

third Morris. I bought it in 1999 from a car collector. My first Morris was a Minor Traveler. It was painted black and had wood paneling. The car had been fitted with a real 1098 cc. cast iron straight four cylinder overhead valve engine in line. It was a car with a right hand side steering wheel, so the wheel was on the "wrong" side for the US roads. My second Morris was also fitted with the wheel on the wrong side. It was an island bright blue Morris Mini, built in 1972 and fitted with a 998 cc. engine, very similar to the old Minor engine. Those Minis were real handlers. They won the famous Rally de Monte Carlo for several years!"

He shows a scale model of his black Morris Minor Traveler. He also owns a very small model of his Mini. Same color: island blue!

"This army green sprayed Morris Minor pickup is my first left hand drive Morris so I hesitated slightly before I decided to buy it. The car was built in 1960. It has been fitted with a 948 c.c. engine. After a rebuild it grew to 972 cc.! The truck is supercharged with a Shorrock supercharger kit. The supercharger is belt driven from the crankshaft and is about a third of the size of the complete engine. My truck does about 85 miles an hour. That is about 135 kilometers an hour which is more than enough for this small car on our small island. As you may

understand, I really love my little compressor mouse. I have it sanded and re-sprayed by Akkermans every year so that rust won't eat it alive. This car is very easy to maintain, easy to work on and there are plenty of parts left in the world, especially in Europe."

Mr. Williams knows a lot about British cars, especially about all kinds of Morris cars and British Leyland A- and B-series engines. What he does not know is that the island of Bonaire is keeping the body of a secret Morris Minor Saloon in a hidden place. I'll find the place again and tell Mr. Williams!

For more information about the Morris and The Great Escape:

www.bonairegreatescape.com. □

J@n Brower



The Morris Minor Mighty Mouse

Bonaire Windsurfer Reports

Euro Cup... and Rap

By Bonaire's Ruben Petrisie



Ruben does a loop photo courtesy The Loft

After the EFPT (European Freestyle Professional Tour) event in Tarifa, Spain, I stayed for some practice and testing together with some of the Loft team riders. I did some Slalom sessions which felt great, just like back in the old days. I have not done racing for a long while but was surprisingly faster against most of my own team riders, even Monty the Boss himself who is a very experienced sailor.

After a week of training and testing it was

time to go for the first slalom event of The Euro Cup. Together with some of the team riders we drove from Spain to France for about 12 hours, all the way up to Leucate. We arrived a few days early to do some secret training and tuning.

The event kicked off with a huge entry list. Somehow I also was entered as one of the big names next to Antoin Albau, Steve Allen, Ross Williams, Finian Manyard and many more. What a surprise really because I am more well known on the windsurf freestyle scene.

First day of the event started off with no wind at all and the forecast looked really bad for the whole week. But on the other hand it was well organized with lots of activities for the spectators and visitors who did not seem to get bored at all.

It was super sunny and lots of people got out to feel the early summer vibes here in Europe which is very rare for this time of year. Some of us took the time for the media and got exposure for our sponsors.

I was approached by a new Dutch company that just launched a new website for extreme sports: www.zriders.tv. They will have windsurf reports and event movie clips in the near future. So the first Euro Cup Slalom event ended with no results. But we all had a wonderful time in France. I was a bit sad because I really wanted to do some slalom sailing to compare my skills against them big boys. After the event we drove back to Spain.

We did a Loft photo shoot and also worked on a new pattern for our slalom sails. It was really cool to see how many parts you have to put together to have a working race sail. I was really stoked to actually help build a sail.

Windsurf Rap Music

After Spain I moved to Munich, Germany, where I visited one of my producers, Podersdorf, to finalize tracks for the Austrian EFPT event. Since last winter I started with windsurfing Rap music, an idea and a dream that developed into reality. I hooked up with a Turkish windsurf instructor, Serkan, who is a Rap star. He introduced me to his producer Yasin



Meeting fans in Belgium

Herman_Maes photo

who is known as the number one MC (he creates the best beats) in Turkey, followed by Harun "Roonbeat" in Germany. And they all have been extremely helpful to me. We shared our thoughts and ideas and somehow it all clicked together. The boys at the Base-Mode studio were helpful and happy to have me along. We have many plans and projects we're working on now. I am sure that you will hear more from us soon. We are just getting started.

The event organizers in Austria heard about me; they were the first to give me a chance to present our projects to the windsurfing fans. So I organized some copies of my tracks for the press, media and magazines. I chose five songs out of my early collection to give the fans a taste of what I have been up to lately.

Next up is the second EFPT event in Podersdorf, Austria. Also you get to hear about how I took 5,000 fans on my first performance in one night. □ Ruben Petrisie



You can't windsurf all the time Herman Maes

Pet of the Week

Caught between catnaps "James" shows just what a relaxed and mellow cat he is. James is about a year old and he's a proven "really nice cat." He gets along with everyone: the other cats in the cat cage, the Shelter staff and volunteers and he even seems not to mind the dogs and puppies nearby. He's a fine specimen of a Tabby with his handsome stripes, white paws, stomach and chest, and beautiful amber colored eyes. He's in excellent health, has



"James"

been wormed, tested for feline leukemia, has had his shots and is sterilized. You may see James at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

People often wonder whether to adopt a kitten or an adult cat. Although kittens are adorable one has to realize that caring for it is much like caring for a baby. They need almost constant supervision (keeping them away from electrical cords, household cleaners, etc) and have endless energy, often displayed at night! An adult cat, on the other hand, is usually much calmer and less likely to get into trouble. And its personality and appearance are already defined – does it like to sit on your lap? How does it get along with others? The best part of adopting an adult cat is that you're literally saving a life. Because most people want to adopt a kitten the chances for an older cat to be adopted decreases with age and its chances of being put down increases. Most of these cats would make wonderful pets if they're just given a chance. James is a perfect example! □L.D.

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
5-18	1:50	2.1FT.	11:36	0.6FT.					101
5-19	2:43	2.1FT.	12:22	0.6FT.					96
5-20	3:38	2.0FT.	13:06	0.6FT.					88
5-21	4:28	1.9FT.	13:44	0.7FT.					76
5-22	5:27	1.8FT.	14:11	0.7FT.					64
5-23	0:51	1.5FT.	6:15	1.6FT.	14:33	0.8FT.	23:32	1.5FT.	51
5-24	3:19	1.4FT.	7:12	1.5FT.	14:48	0.9FT.	22:24	1.5FT.	41
5-25	4:42	1.3FT.	7:58	1.4FT.	14:48	1.0FT.	22:11	1.6FT.	36

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—Subscribe Yearly Mail to US \$110; On-line \$35
Published weekly. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, phone (599) 786-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: Reporter@bonairenews.com
The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: www.bonairereporter.com
Reporters: Vicky Bississar, J@n Brower, Johanetta Brower, David Colvard, Wilna Groenenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Carina Kalke, Greta Kooistra, Rowan Martin, Ruben Petrisie, David Radomisli, Michael Thiessen, Sam Williams
Features Editor: Greta Kooistra **Art Editor:** Wilna Groenenboom **Translations:** Peggy Bakker **Production:** Evelyne van de Poel **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** JRA . **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show (Usually 9 pm)
Call to make sure
The Lookout
(Joseph Gordon-Levitt)
Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
I Think I Love My Wife
(Chris Rock)

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 & 9 PM
MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8 PM
SATURDAY 4 PM

THIS WEEK

May 17-20 -Jazz Festival Schedule
See more on pages 4 & 8. More information: www.bonairejazz.com

Thursday, May 17 – Ascension Day
Holiday, Banks, Govt., shops close

Friday, May 18—First “Week Market,” Wilhelmina Park, 10 am-7 pm. Every Friday. Info 717-2749, 786-5136

COMING

Sundays, May 27, June 3 & 10 – Bonaire Culinary Team invites you to a tasting of their competition 3-course meal with cocktails and wine. At the SGB's Chez Nous, 7 pm. All proceeds help to send the team to the Taste of the Caribbean Culinary Olympics in Miami in June. Tickets NAf50 (\$29), Margreth Kloos, Tel. 717-2897 or email mar-greth@bonaireyellowsubmarine.com. Reserve early; only 30 tickets per evening.

Thursday, May 31 – Full “Blue” Moon

June 1-10 – City Café goes all out to celebrate its 10th anniversary with 10 days and nights of activities and celebrations – See page 9

Sunday, June 3 – 38th Anniversary of Washington-Slagbaai Park Celebration – at the entrance to the park, all day. Entertainment, games, music, stands from the Rincon Marché, guided tours, mountain biking. More information call STINAPA 717-8444.

Sunday, July 1 – 15th Annual Dia di Arte in Wilhelmina Park – All day and evening starting at 10 am. Artists, musicians, craftsmen and top notch local foods and drinks. Participants: sign by starting May 31. Call Edwin Martijn 786-8400, Mishuylu Sint Jago 786-2292

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30
 - **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.
- **Wine Tasting at AWC's** warehouse, **2nd Saturday of the month**, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.
- **Flea Market every first Saturday of the month** from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers**, 5-7 **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine**, 5-7, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Caribbean Gas Training free** “Beyond Gravity – An Evening with DIR,” 6 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure 786-5073.

Wednesdays

- **Live music by Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm

Thursdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7
- **“Admiral’s Hour” for yachtsmen and others**, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7
- **Buddy's Bingo Show - Buddy Dive Resort**, 8- 9:30 pm

Fridays

- **Mixed Level Yoga** 8:30am, Buddy Dive 786-6416
- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 - 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225
- **Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers” Divi Flamingo**, Balashi Beach Bar, 5 -7 pm
 - **Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sunrise Poolbar and Sportsclub, for children 0 – 18.
- **Manager’s Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, **Divi Flamingo**, 5-7 pm
- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm) & All-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

- **Saturday- “Discover Our Diversity”** slide show-pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 7 pm, 717-5080
- **Monday—Dee Scarr’s “Touch the Sea”** Slide Show, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. Call 717-8290.
- **Tuesdays & Wednesdays—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Buddy Dive Resort (717-3802) at 7:00pm. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at the Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8817) at 7:00pm.

BONAIRE’S TRADITIONS

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

CLUBS and MEETINGS

- **AA meetings** - every **Wednesday**; Phone 717 -6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.
- **Al-Anon meetings** - every **Monday** evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272
- **Cancer Survivor Support Group** Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.
- **Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm** - call 567-0655 for directions.
- **Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 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, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English on Sundays 10 am. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am. Children's club Saturday 5 pm in Kralendijk.
Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.
New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.
International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30am. In Papiamentu, Spanish and English.
Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 . **Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, **in English.** Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.
Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

Send event info to:
The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125



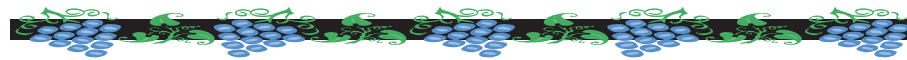
Celebrating our
25th Anniversary
Rotary Club of Bonaire

“Support our Breakfast
in Schools Program”



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

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
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.
Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm
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?



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

A Venus-Moon Spectacular this Saturday and the Moon Visits Saturn and Regulus on Tuesday

Mark two dates on your calendar. This Saturday, May 19th, just after sunset is the night when the **Moon** and the most brilliant planet of all will make one of the most exquisite sky pictures you'll ever see. And also mark Tuesday night, May 22nd, as the night you'll be able to use the Moon to find both the ringed planet **Saturn** and the brightest star of **Leo the Lion**.



A spectacular photo taken of Earthshine

On Saturday night, May 19th, just after it gets dark out face west where, if its not cloudy, you will see an absolutely exquisite pairing of our 2,000-mile-wide Moon in exquisite crescent form with 8,000-mile-wide **Venus** which is right now shining extremely brightly. And you'll notice immediately without any prompting that this is the kind of sky pairing that is so dramatic that it takes most people's breath away and has done so for thousands of years for as long as men, women and children have looked up at the heavens. So don't miss this please.

And look also for what appears to be a dark full Moon nestled within the bright crescent. This is called **Earthshine** because unlike the bright crescent which is lit by direct sunlight from the **Sun**, the greyish black, dim, almost-full Moon is sunlight bouncing off our **Earth** onto the unlighted portion of the Moon and back to Earth again, thus the name Earthshine, which is also poetically called "**the Old Moon in the New Moon's arms.**"

Now while this is an absolute knockout to the naked eye, if you have a pair of binoculars you'll be totally blown away. And if you have a small telescope you'll notice that Venus looks like a tiny last quarter Moon. And 24 hours later, on Sunday the 20th, it will be much higher and on a straight line with the two brightest stars of **Gemini - Pollux and Castor**.

And on Monday the 21st, it's heading for its next stop and is getting ready to close in on the ringed planet. Indeed, on Tuesday the 22nd, an absolutely exquisite Moon will be parked just to the left of and so close to Saturn you'll be able to use it as a Saturn finder. And once again, if you have a telescope, take a look at Saturn now because it's truly wonderful. Plus if you look just to the left of the Moon you'll see one of spring-time's brightest stars, the hot blue-white star **Regulus** which marks the heart of Leo the Lion.

Once again: this Saturday an exquisite Moon complete with Earthshine is parked right next to Venus, and on Sunday is parked on a straight line with Gemini's Pollux and Castor. On Monday it's zeroing in on Saturn and on Tuesday you can use the Moon to find both Saturn and the heart of the cosmic lion king. But if I had to pick only one night, I'd pick Saturday the 19th because Venus and the Moon will be truly awesome. I guarantee it. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, May 13 to Saturday, May 19 2007

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will easily charm members of the opposite sex. Voice your opinions and contribute to the debate. Avoid any over indulgences. Do not yield to children or relatives when they really don't deserve it. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Travel and communication will be lucrative for you. You may have a hidden adversary who would love to prove you wrong. Monitor your budget carefully to avoid unnecessary stress. Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You will have good ideas for home improvement projects. Keep your thoughts to yourself for the time being. You can find out interesting information if you get a chance to talk to people you respect. Don't blame others for your own stubbornness. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Visit friends or relatives who have been confirmed. Changes at home will be necessary. Now is a good time to ask for favors. Travel will promote new romantic encounters. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) It's time to make professional changes. You can enjoy social events and meet new potential mates; however, avoid being lavish. You will have a great day if you just say what you feel. It might be best to keep your ideas to yourself this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will be erratic and quite likely to make personal mistakes. You may find that family members may not be too easy to get along with. You will have to make some changes regarding your direction if you wish to keep on top of your career expectations. You need to clear up some important personal documents before the end of the year. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted. Emotional upset may prevail on the domestic scene if you have neglected your duties or your mate. Your financial situation may be draining and it's time to make some serious changes. Use your high energy and dynamic approach to win favors from superiors. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Discover opportunities based on the individuals you mingle with this week. So smile! You may be tired of working for someone else. You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can win points if you present your ideas this week. Involvement in groups will be favorable and lead to valuable information. Opportunities may come up at prestigious affairs. Be very careful while in transit or while traveling in foreign countries. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Encourage the youngsters in your family. There's lots to be done and if you meet your deadline you'll be in your boss's good books. Colleagues may try to undermine you when talking to superiors. Be prepared to neutralize any threats. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You could lose a good friend because of it. Your dramatic approach to life has probably gotten to your mate. You have the stamina and determination to succeed. You will enjoy interaction with others this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your goals will be in reach if you direct your energy wisely. Direct your energy wisely. You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join. Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

On The Island Since... 1993

Jona Chirino - Felida

“I was born on Curacao in 1965. Both my parents are Bonairean, but as there wasn't much work on Bonaire, my dad found a job as a bridge man on Curacao. When I was 15 I was with the youth movement of the MAN party and after that with P&P (Partido Nashional di Pueblo) where I participated in several politically ideology courses and events. My parents were neutral politically and not very happy with my interest in politics.

After high school I studied to become a social worker. At 23 I married Rudsel Chirino. He was a friend of my brother's and when my mom and dad had their 25th wedding anniversary the two guys took care of the music. That's how we met. What I liked about him? His tiny feet! And he's an attractive man.

When I was 26 my first child, Nadine, was born; now she's 14. I finished my studies when Nadine was four months old. My mother had gone to live on Bonaire where it was easier to find a house and a job, so the three of us also moved here. I'd been here on vacation, but when I came to live here there was a big difference. When you are on vacation on Bonaire the people are open and friendly because you're here as a guest, but when I moved here it was a struggle. I wanted to be accepted, not only as an Antillean but also as a Bonairean. After people recognized this it got quiet.

I began to work immediately with the child welfare board. When I got complaints of child abuse I had to investigate and report the results to the judge. Also I had to make inquiries for the mothers into the finances of the fathers to see if they could afford to pay child support for their children. And I was the intermediary when it came to the visitation rights for the parent with whom the child was not staying and the child itself. That was my first job; my first step. I worked that job from 1993 till 1999 – six years – you can't work a job like that too long because at a certain moment it becomes too much. Either you become too tough or too indifferent, and when that doesn't happen it could kill you. The only thing that was fun was the bond you had with your colleagues; that made it bearable.

People here abuse their children mostly because they are ignorant; it's a lack of education and they let the problems mount up too much before asking for help. And some people see asking for help as a failure on their part or, in some cases they are too proud. While I was working for the child welfare board my son Yavis was born; now he's nine. I worked two more years for the board, then I became the executive secretary for a governmental deputy.

When I came here in 1993 I started to orient myself politically. I participated in a course organized by FORMA to enlarge the political consciousness of the Bo-

nairean politicians, and during the six months that I attended the course I got to know the political newcomers on Bonaire quite well. This course gave me all the tools to make a conscious choice, so in 1996 I chose PABOSO, the party of Nochi Willem. That was my first entrée into Bonaire's politics. I chose PABOSO because of their ideological vision, because it is a social democratic party and because of the party leader, Nochi Willem, in whom I put a lot of trust. He was always very well informed and he knew exactly what he was talking about. At that time they were the opposition and I found it to be a very aggressive opposition. That was in 1996.

In 1998 I was eligible for the first time for PABOSO for the states elections and I got 54 votes. We didn't get a seat then, but we did gain a lot of experience. In 1999 there were elections again, this time for the Island Council; then PABOSO got one seat. It was a key position and they joined the UPB in the 'prikichi coalition' (so called because of the yellow and green parties – colors of the prikichi).

I started to work on the government

“We give these children the so-called education-punishment. Instead of being locked up, they have to follow a path of guidance and support to change their behavior...”

council as the executive secretary for the deputy. Because PABOSO was very concerned about reliable management we worked mainly on finances and personnel affairs. As the portfolio secretary I was primarily busy informing the government officials and organizing management and policy regarding the SSV (government security force) and environmental issues. We really put our ideas into action and we had a grip on it. That's what I did till 2002 because then Nochi Willem stepped out of the coalition before the elections.”

Jona is vivacious, well-educated, smart and fast and totally involved in what she's doing and she's a rock; a lady who's making a difference.

“Then I worked for a year with the family welfare institution. After the judge pronounces his sentence in a case of child abuse, a family guardian is appointed to guide the family to a better, more protective situation for the child. I worked in the name of the children's court magistrate. I had 40 families to guide; that was a luxury because many of my colleagues had 60 families per person. It was intense and impossible - that's why I'm not doing it anymore.

I decided to start working more preventive than curative because many a time I'd



Nadine, Jona and Yavis

come to the conclusion that very little was done to prevent casualties. It was more proof that the people needed to be educated. So I started giving courses in my spare time; I did coaching and counseling and I was giving all kinds of information about family problems. In 2003 I started with Fundashon J.O.N.A. (help/organize/norms and values/for development). We were four fieldworkers who were struggling constantly with the same problems - like there was too little information for parents and children, there were too few opportunities for adults and children to see experts, and children didn't have enough to say about what was happening to them. One of the first projects of Fundashon J.O.N.A. was a youth congress organized on Bonaire at ABVO. Eighty-five children between 12 and 20 joined us and in the discussions we used the methods of Sean Covey: 'Seven habits of highly effective teens.' A second very successful activity of the Fundashon was to hire a psychologist who would come weekly to Bonaire to help the people free of charge, a project subsidized by AMFO. Also, J.O.N.A. gives material support to needy families (a Usona project, of which Holland is the donor) and we have another very big project, education support for parents and children who are appointed by the schools (also financed by Usona).

Another project we're conducting is with youngsters under the age of 18 who have come in contact with the law for the first time. We give these children the so-called 'education-punishment.' Instead of being locked up they have to follow a path of guidance and support to change their behavior. It's decreed by the public prosecutor or the judge and the child welfare board

makes sure the sentence is carried out. Through the years the situation has not become worse, but predictions that were made 10 years ago have since come true. I think nothing has been done to change the outcome. There's no planning because there are not enough finances or people and the people who are working on it don't have the time to look forward.

Now I'm working part-time at FORMA as a social worker in a project that obligates all youngsters between 16 and 24 to get an education. They are having a hard time. I am doing regular guidance of the young mothers because it is they who have to make the difference – for themselves, for their children and for the future of Bonaire. I'm working on this project with heart and soul because if not, we will lose another generation.

I am still politically involved. During the last elections I was on the list of the Aliansa Democratico Boneiriano, representing PABOSO, and of all the women from all the political parties who were eligible I got the most votes, 233! Do I have a seat now? No, because I was number 17 on the list of the Aliansa. Now we're re-evaluating to see what we can do and what the possibilities are for PABOSO. I will stay politically active no matter what and my husband is supporting my choice 100%. My children understand what I am doing, but they don't always think it's fun. I will keep on working for Fundashon J.O.N.A. and I will go on looking for funds to solve the social problems.” *She laughs:* “Jona lo keda semper pa e hende! - Jona will always be there for the people!” □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

