

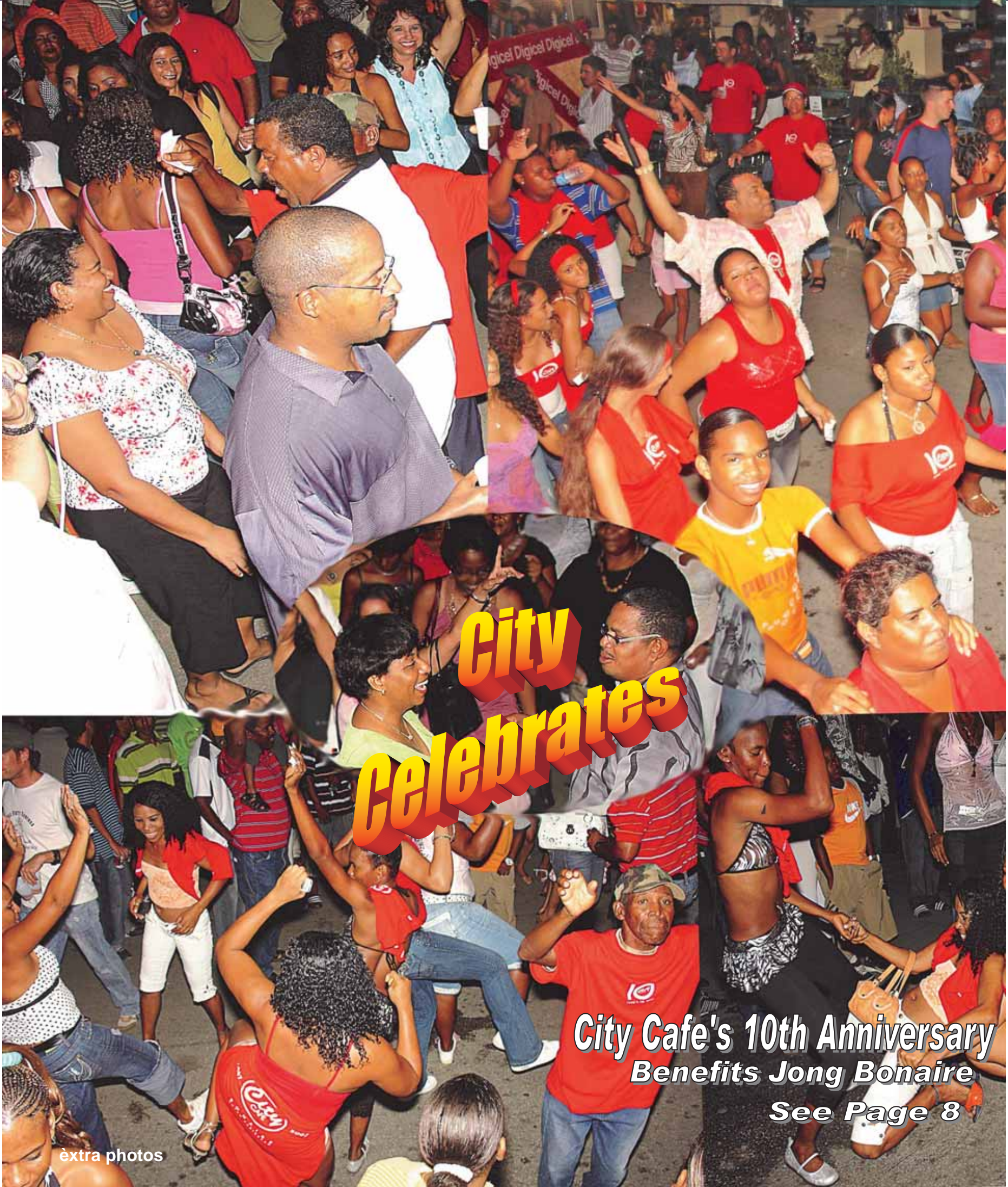
**It's
still
Free!**
**Happy
Father's
Day**

BONAIRE

June 15 - 29, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 24

The REPORTER

PO Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 786-6125/6518 SINCE 1994



**City
celebrates**

**City Cafe's 10th Anniversary
Benefits Jong Bonaire
See Page 8**

extra photos

There will be no Bonaire Reporter published next week in keeping with our policy of printing four issues a month. (June has five Fridays.) The next Reporter will be printed on June 27 (dated June 29-July 6, 2007).

Americans flying to the Caribbean may be able to fly this summer without a passport, temporarily, under a new plan announced by the Bush administration last Friday.

The report by the Associated Press comes amidst a backlog in passport processing by the US Department of State and Homeland Security. The Department set new records in March and April, issuing more than three million passports to Americans planning international travel. With passport demand at record levels, passport production time was pushed back to 10 to 12 weeks. Caribbean tourism officials complained about the rule's impact on tourism to the region.

Officials are expected to announce that the passport rule will be temporarily waived if air travelers can show they have already applied for a passport for air travel to and from Canada and Mexico, South and Central America and the Caribbean. The waiver is slated to last until September. Air travelers will be allowed back into the country if they now present a State Department receipt showing their passport application is being processed and a government-issued photo ID such as a driver's license, the report said. US citizens with pending passport applications can obtain proof of application at <http://travel.state.gov>.

► Effective immediately passengers traveling on American Airlines and American Eagle to certain destinations in



the Caribbean will not be able to check extra bags or boxes during the embargo period due to heavy summer loads and high volumes of checked baggage to specific destinations. This is in addition to the box embargo for flights originating from and passing through New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) to all Caribbean and Latin America destinations.

The baggage embargo applies to the Dominican Republic, Haiti and as well as **all American Eagle flights to and from San Juan.**

Oversize, overweight and excess baggage will not be accepted for flights to the destinations covered by the bag and box embargo. Passengers may check two bags weighing a maximum of 50 pounds each at no charge. The maximum weight for embargoed cities is 70 pounds, with bags weighing between 51-70 pounds subject to a \$25 fee. One carry-on bag will be allowed with a maximum size of 45 inches and a maximum weight of 40 pounds.

Sports equipment, such as golf bags, bikes and surfboards, can be accepted as part of the total checked bag allowance, although additional charges may apply.

► Jamaica's House of Representatives last Tuesday gave the nod to a resolution calling for **US\$125 million to assist in financing the cash-strapped Air Jamaica**, less than a week after the government announced the sale of the airline's money-losing London route to Virgin Atlantic. Perhaps now they can add an extra flight to Bonaire?

► **Following complaints by island officials, the financial supervision proposed in a draft document relating to the new status of Bonaire, Statia and Saba beginning December next year got cleared up.** The Dutch financial supervision for Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius will be similar to the financial supervision that is in place for all Dutch municipalities, Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten said Friday. The Dutch will intervene only when an island government is faltering in handling its finances.

Leader of Bonaire's ruling party, Ramonsito Booi, said he believed the discussions had been fruitful and the draft Kingdom law the Dutch had presented would be modified. "They understood our complaints," he added.

► **Governor of the Netherlands Antilles, Frits Goedgedrag, has signed a fed-**

eral decree approving amnesty for 3,000 drug couriers who received jail sentences before 2004 but haven't served their time in prison. Half of them will lose their passports for one to three years. To get amnesty they will have to hand over their passports to the Prosecutor's Office.

According to Curaçao Prosecutor, Giselle Veen-Jonkhout, her office is busy with people turning in their passports. The Prosecutor's Office requested the grace period because it is highly unlikely that these couriers would ever go to jail, simply because there is no room for them in the prison.



► **New Post Netherlands Antilles (NPNA) plans to break its contract for postal services with the Central Government, effective December 1st following a Central Government notice of default.**

The Canadian company, a branch of Canada Post, had not complied with their contractual obligations. It's alleged that the Canadians have not invested in the Antillean postal services as required. And, what's more, that the New Post is extorting high management fees, although the contract is not for managing the company but for a long-term concession. A total of 245 people work for the New Post on the five Antilles islands.



► **JCI Bonaire, formerly named the Jaycees, will install three prospective members, Jo-Ann Thielman, Amelia Saleh and Lea Lau, on June 22 and 23.** They're pictured above with President Claire Sealy, of JCI Bonaire.

► **Inside the studios of Radio Caracas Television actors are still filming soap**

Table of Contents

This Week's Stories

Letters to the Editor	4
(Tourism hurts the Environment)	
Imprisoned Innocents	7
City's Bang up End to 10th Anniversary Party (coverstory)	8
SGB Students Play Tourist	9
Bonaire on Wheels	9
(Volkswagen Beetle /Bajabug)	
Miss Aruba Contestants in Bonaire (Miss Flamingo Beach 2007)	10
Google for Real Estate (Caribbean Homes)	14
Culinary Team Off to Compete	18
"Adrift" Exhibit a Huge Success	18

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Diving with Dee (If you're a reef lover)	3
Bubbles (Biodiesel)	4
Parrot Watch	5
Ask Olivia	5
Picture Yourself With the Reporter (Antarctica)	6
Coral Glimpses	11
Classifieds	12
Pet of this & last Week (Lisette & Snoetje)	13
Tide Table	14
Reporter Masthead	14
What's Happening	15
Movieland Film Schedule	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
Sky Park (Moon, Regulus, Venus)	17
The Stars Have It	17
On the Island Since (Rik & Marieke Roozenburg -Postema)	19

operas and news anchors are still going on camera more than a week after President Hugo Chavez forced the station off the air. A proposal to broadcast from Curaçao was vetoed by the Antilles government.



Some of the programs are making their way to viewers on the Internet or by satellite to stations abroad. Other shows are not reaching any audience at all, but cameramen, sound engineers and actors are continuing to produce most of RCTV's programs in hopes they may once again reach viewers across Venezuela, if only by cable.

Near-daily street protests have raised the spirits of RCTV's nearly 3,000 workers, whose bosses have told them to keep reporting for work as usual. Chavez insists he will not go back on his refusal to renew the channel's broadcast license, but in the studios many express optimism that RCTV will not be shuttered for good.

(Continued on page 6)

DIVING with DEE

If you're a Reef Lover ...

I was waiting for the lunch break in the Caribbean Nature Alliance meeting so I could bring in the "Living with a Razor Sharp Skeleton" stickers. I ran into Gabi Nicholaas, who had been a divemaster at Habitat for many years, and showed him the sticker.

Gabi remembers clearly his frustrations with all the misunderstandings divers have about coral. As we parted, he smiled at me and said, "Don't forget, Dee: 'If you're a reef lover ... better hover!'"

What a great phrase! If only the act of hovering was as simple as the desire to hover! "Hover" is defined by Encarta as "to float in the air without moving very far from the same spot," or "to stay in the air in the same position by rapidly beating the wings." Let's adapt that for underwater by removing "in the air" and adjusting "wings," and we're left with "to float without moving very far from the same spot," or "to stay in the same position by rapidly beating the fins."

"Hovering," when referring to scuba divers, should describe those who can remain in the same place with only minor adjustments from arms or legs. We can't hover without being neutrally buoyant. The next time you're diving, swim out into the blue water and stop kicking. If you begin to drift toward the surface, let air out of your BC until you stop ascending, then hover. If your BC is empty of air and you're still ascending, you need more weight. Not a lot!

If you begin to sink when you stop kick-

ing, introduce small amounts of air into your BC. When you stop sinking, stop putting air into your BC, and hover.

If you've got some air in your BC and are successfully hovering in place, descend 5 feet or so and stop. You're likely to find if you don't kick, you'll continue to sink. This happens because when you went deeper, the air in your BC compressed a little and gave you less buoyancy. Go back to where you can hover without kicking, and ascend another 5 feet or so. You'll probably continue to rise—because the air in your BC increased in volume as the depth lessened.

We make adjustments for our buoyancy changes throughout each dive, sometimes with air in or out of our BCs, and sometimes by simply kicking more or harder. One thing to bear in mind is that if you've always got air in your BC, you've always got bigger adjustments to make. Why bother? Diving will be easier and more tranquil if you remove that extra weight. Here's how: at the end of a dive, take the time to put some of your weights where you can get to them, make sure your BC has no air in it, and go to a sand patch in shallow water. Your negative buoyancy should have you resting on the sand. Take off a single 2# weight and put it on the sand. If any part of you (including your tank) is still in contact with the sand, take off another pound or two. Continue this process until you begin to drift slowly upwards.

If you're used to being overweighted,

you'll want to dive with this weight for a bit. But, eventually, take off another pound or two. This keeps you slightly buoyant at

the end of your dive, which brings you to the surface more easily and enables you to be a Reef Angel.

A few years ago I learned that having the right amount of weight wasn't always enough. Although I'd checked her weighting and it was fine, one of my dive buddies couldn't stop struggling underwater. Suddenly I remembered something Cathy Church had told me, that BCs with weight pockets sometimes put the weights in the wrong position for the diver. My dive buddy needed just two pounds moved from her BC to a weight belt and placed at her stomach, and she could easily hover horizontally above the reef. One problem with hovering perfectly horizontally: if you're close to the reef, a big kick could result in your fin hitting the coral. So I prefer what I call the Reef Angel position: slightly head-down, slightly fins



Horizontal Hover with Grunts Julie Morgan photo

-up in the water. This enables us to look closely at the reef, while keeping our fins – one of the parts of us that causes the most damage to coral – safely away. We achieve the Reef Angel position by being slightly positively buoyant- by adding a little air to the BC. If we stopped kicking, we'd drift slowly upwards. This helps protect the coral from the second part of us that causes the most damage to coral: our hands. The Reef Angel position isn't precisely hovering, since it requires gentle kicking for us to keep our position. The Reef Angel position is the way reef lovers hover. Thanks, Gabi! □ Dee Scarr

Dee will be off-island from early July and will return in early November. June 25 will be her last slide show until November.

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.



Letter to the Editor

Too Much Tourism Can Hurt

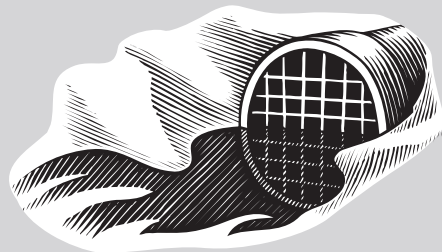


Dear Editor:

In what fairy tale world is TCB director Ronella Croes living when she claims that growth in tourism will not affect the flora and fauna of Bonaire? The TCB's goal of 80,000 tourists per year until 2009 is a recipe for disaster without a comprehensive, environmentally-sensitive infrastructure to process and make sure all those tourists' excrement nutrient-rich wastewater does not end up in the sea. It's been proven to fuel the algae blooms that are slowly suffocating Bonaire's reefs. In fact, the Littlers' algae survey conducted in November 2006 reported an "overly stressed environment" on Bonaire's reefs with a "disturbing abundance of dead and diseased coral" with many sites dominated by blue-green algae slime smothering coral. Do the TCB and the government just ignore these reports and continue with business as usual? Instead they should be collaborating on how to take advantage of the plans and the money already available to expeditiously create wastewater treatment so Bonaire doesn't lose the tourists already coming to dive and to snorkel.

When Croes contends that "Bonaire has to develop economically and not always all decisions should be taken 100% in favor of nature and culture," she ignores an essential fact: the natural world of Bonaire *is* Bonaire's economy! What will Croes propose as a solution when the reefs are degraded, when divers, snorkelers, and ecotourists no longer spend their money to come to Bonaire, and all that's left are the cruise ship passengers swimming in sewage over dead coral rubble and looking for salves and balms to heal their sores and lesions caused by fecal matter in the water? More casinos? More duty free shops? More all inclusive resorts? Hmm, sounds suspiciously like Aruba, doesn't it? It is time for the TCB, government officials, and the transition team from Holland to heed the science and ecology of a healthy reef so Bonaire does not become Aruba.

Dr. Pauline Kayes,
Bonaire and Champaign, Illinois



Bubbles from the Biologist

Did you Know...Algae can make fuel?

There have been giant advances in the field of biodiesel production in the past few years as a result of increasing demands for oil and growing pressure to reduce the burning of fossil fuels. The most exciting, in my opinion (since I'm a marine biologist), is the use of algae to make biodiesel. Unicellular algae are grown in ponds or specially manufactured tanks in sunny regions. The brilliant part is that some companies and research groups are feeding the algae scum from smokestacks and in some cases sewage! Talk about recycling! So these algae grow exponentially, eat the nasties, and produce a type of 'clean' fuel that our current transportation system can easily convert to. In tests, algae have been shown to be easy to grow, take less space than most crops that produce biodiesel, and produce more oil than soybeans. Don't be surprised if you start hearing more about algae and biodiesel. Perhaps Bonaire will even be able to produce it's own type of clean fuel in the near future. □ *Caren Eckrich*



Algae tailored for biodiesel

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 □ .



Parrot Watch

It's all "go" in the world of Bonaire's Loras. Chicks are hatching out from their eggs, and the parrot team has been rushing around trying to work out who is hatching on which days. Many of the tree nests are difficult to see into so we use one of the parrotwatch night vision cameras on the end of a pole so that we can see what is going on deep inside the cavity. Poachers have a different approach, and they cut holes in the trees with chain saws which ruins the nest for future years and is so widespread on Bonaire that it actually limits the number of pairs that can breed in a year.

Olivia is still sitting on eggs, and any day now her chicks will be hatching out. The latest movie on parrotwatch.org shows Oswald, the loyal husband, visiting the nest to have a look at the eggs and to check that everything is ok! The noises he and Olivia make are really entertaining. We're sure that next week the movie will be of chicks. These are exciting times!

Part of the parrot team's work involves visiting nests to weigh and measure the chicks and generally record how they are developing. One of the new parrot team members suggested the chicks were ugly, but dear reader, do not be fooled for this is certainly not the case! At this age baby parrots are beautiful tiny pink bundles of joy. Their eyes and ears are not open, and they have only a few wisps of white down on their bodies. One chick that was checked recently weighed only 18 grams, the same weight as three, one-guilder coins! It is amazing to think that in two months this "tiny pink bundle of joy" will be a colorful beautiful parrot about to fly from the nest into the big wide world. See it for yourself and help protect Bonaire's Loras by visiting www.parrotwatch.org. □ Story & photo by Sam Williams



Newly hatched parrots



Ask Olivia

Dear Olivia,

It is good to hear that your husband Oswald helps to feed the chicks when they are growing up. I know from experience that bringing up four youngsters can be hard work! But what do you do about food for yourself when you are sitting inside your nest on eggs all day long and when you are busy feeding your chicks?

Faithfully,
Joan E. Mitchell

Dear Joan,

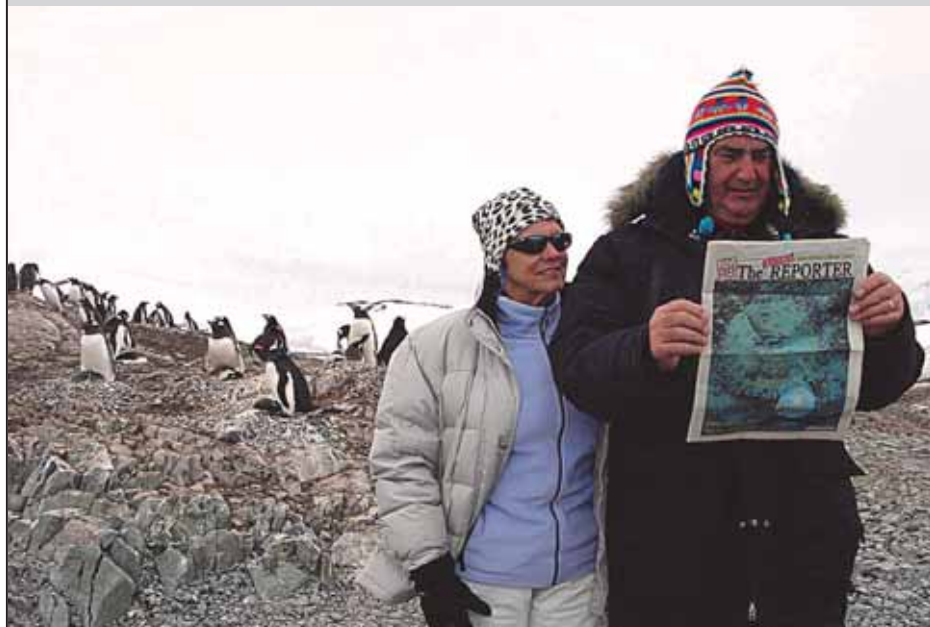
I certainly couldn't manage to bring up my chicks on my own and Oswald is a really attentive husband and father. When I'm sitting on my eggs I have to rely entirely on Oswald for food. He brings me about four meals a day and most of his day is spent foraging in the nearby *mondi*, or least that's what he tells me he's been doing. He flies back to our nest and calls from outside. When I hear him I take a break and we fly off together to our favorite tree. There he regurgitates food to me from his crop. It sounds disgusting when you are not used to it, but like many things in life you learn to love it!

When the eggs have hatched I first share this food with the chicks who ravenously devour it, and I still stay in the nest most of the time. Even then, I remain dependent on my dear Oswald. When the chicks are a little bit older I can leave them by themselves more and go and forage for myself along with Oswald.

I do hope this gives you an insight into my day-to-day life, Joan. If you are up and in the *mondi* early in the morning you might even see other Loras' husbands sharing food with their loved ones!

Best wishes,
Olivia Parrot

Picture Yourself With The Reporter Antarctica



Marga and Jan Piet van Zeggelaar, from Naarden, The Netherlands write, "We really hope we are the first diehards to show *The Bonaire Reporter* on Antarctica. The picture was taken on January 1, 2007. We have had a house on Bonaire for 15 years but we sold it last year. Anyway, we are friends of *The Reporter* from the beginning. This copy of *The Reporter* travelled a lot! From Bonaire (last November) to The Netherlands; from there to Argentina, and from Ushuaia (Tierra del Fuego), then two days (600 miles) sailing to Antarctica." □

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

(*Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 2*)

► **Venezuela is sponsoring Argentina in its desire to possess the Falklands-Malvinas islands.** In 2006, Argentina began a new diplomatic drive to gain control of the islands. Argentina still bases its claim to the islands on geographic proximity and historical ties, but this time it has enlisted the support of Cuba's Fidel Castro and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. Argentina emphasizes that its current efforts to "reclaim" the islands are political, not military.

Not so for Chavez. Chavez has added land claims to his list of grievances with neighboring states.

Domestic resentment is increasing in Venezuela - a vague echo of Argentina in 1982. Chavez styles himself as the new Simon Bolivar who will reunite the South American continent while cowing the US and other imperialists. He also bills himself as the 21st century's Fidel Castro.

Chavez is buying a modern air force and expanding his navy. Venezuela may purchase up to nine Russian submarines. Chavez says he needs the hardware to defeat a US invasion. The military might also gives Venezuela the ability to enforce land claims against Colombia, Guyana, and **Holland -- yes, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, still sovereign on the close-to-Venezuela Caribbean islands of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire.**

With the Falklands in mind, Holland has garrisoned the islands with a small naval force and an infantry battalion supported by a few American F-16 fighter jets and helicopters. In a March 8, 2007, article, StrategyPage.com, concluded that geography, oil power and military hardware give

Venezuela a huge tactical and operational advantage over the Dutch. Venezuela could take the islands, and the Dutch "lack the ability to retake the islands on their own." What happens if Chavez calculates that a Bolivar-like "liberation" of the islands from the prison of European colonial oppression would galvanize support for him throughout Latin America? Outlandish, grandiose and delusional? Twenty-five years ago, Argentina's dictatorship concluded the risks of outlandish action were worth the grand rewards. *Austin Bay* (*Austin Bay is author of three novels and has co-authored four non-fiction books including A Quick and Dirty Guide to War*).

► **Defense Minister Eimert van Middelhoop told Radio Netherlands that he is definitely not planning to reduce the presence of Dutch military in Curaçao and Aruba.** That would be giving the neighboring countries a wrong political signal. Last week the Dutch press, based on a leaked document, reported that the Royal Marine presence in the islands would be cut and regular Army personnel stationed instead. Karen Gelijms, information staff officer for the Royal Navy, said, "A set of 98 economizing measures is being considered and a political decision will probably be taken at the end of this month."

► **Do you know someone deserving of royal recognition, to be honored by nomination to the Order of Orange or similar tribute?** If you do, you have until June 20th to present an application for 2008 candidates. Every year, outstanding people who have done volunteer work are hon-

ored on the Queen's Birthday. Anyone can propose a person for the royal honor. The committee puts the proposition through official channels so that a decision can be made.

For more information on the criteria, visit the website www.lintjes.nl.

The members of the committee also have folders that provide the information needed on the application. The recently installed committee is made up of Robert Sances (chairman), Mervis Dissel (secretary), Elka Coffi (second secretary), and members Ermin Pourier and Edward Thielman. For additional information please call Mervis Dissel at 717-3015 or 791-3896 or via e-mail mervisdisselbonaire@flamingotv.net.

► **The Real Rincon soccer team will get 500 second-hand stadium seats from Holland for free.** It's the second time Bonaire will receive seats from a Dutch stadium that is being demolished. Last year, when the Dutch soccer team AZ Alkmaar was being broken down, Bonaire received 1,000 seats for the Kralendijk (Playa) stadium. With the help of the mayor of The Hague, Wilbert Stolte, Real Rincon got the seats from the old stadium of the soccer club ADO The Hague. Minister Burney El Hage (UPB) gladly accepted this donation. The chairs will soon be shipped to Bonaire courtesy of the National Lottery.

► By voice vote the Antillean Parliament voted on Wednesday to increase the age of compulsory education. **Schooling is required by law for children from four to 18 years old.**

► **Aruba's Justice Minister, Rudy Croes, thinks that Aruban citizens must have dual passports: an Aruban and a Dutch one.** He calls this the next step in the phase for an independent Aruba. Currently Aruba and Holland are at odds over various matters like same-sex marriage and money. He uses Canadians and Australians as examples. As independent states, both countries are part of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the former British Commonwealth, with the British Queen as symbolic leader. Both countries are examples for Aruba, said Croes. "We can also be an independent sovereignty with two passports and one queen."



► **The Rotary Club of Bonaire made a donated NAf 1.000 to the Music School of Bonaire** in hopes of helping to give young music students a better education and training in the cultural music of Bonaire. In the photo Rotary President Marianela Croes hands over the check.

► On World Environmental Day, Wednesday, June 6, **Health Minister Ersilia de Lanooy announced a ban on the import of products containing asbestos.** No more new supplies of asbestos are to be imported to the Netherlands Antilles, the Central Government Information Service

(GIS) said.



► **Breathe IT**, a Bonairean company specializing in computer hardware and software, **announced the installation of an underwater Mega-pixel web cam with image upload every 5 seconds.** The web cam is located about 100 meters south of the Something Special dive mooring, 15 meters deep. The camera used is a MOBOTIX M22 camera, which Breathe IT distributes in the Caribbean.

The purpose of this Bonaire underwater Mega-pixel webcam project is to demonstrate the use of MOBOTIX cameras for underwater security monitoring of docks, piers and ships and to show that the cameras can also serve educational, scientific and recreational applications.

The images of the underwater Mega-pixel webcam on Bonaire can be seen at www.breathebonaire.com. For more information of the other services of Breathe IT Bonaire, go to their website www.breathe-it.net, or visit them at Kaya Gob N Debot 41A; telephone: 717-2626 or 786-2626.



Web Cam view of dock at Yellow Sub.

► **Still another Bonaire web cam is focused on the Dive Friends Yellow Sub dock** and the anchorage and ocean-side promenade fronting their Kralendijk (Playa) shop.

Divers can now wave to friends and family as they enter the water for a dive, or simply re-live their memories when back at home. Another unique feature for those who find their images captured on the Yellow Sub Pier Cam is that they can send an e-postcard of themselves over the Internet and via the archives.

This cam will prove to be exceptionally popular each Monday night when Dive Friends hosts their weekly Pier Rum Punch Party. The current view of the cam is prominently displayed on the main page of Dive Friends' web site at <http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com> as well as at <http://www.bonairewebcams.com>.

► **Buddy Dive Resort opened its on-premises Digital Photo Center last month.**

The Center features a full line of rental products ranging from Olympus SP 350 digital cameras with housings to digital SLR equipment, to photography lessons and PADI Digital Photographer Certification. Video rental services and video production services will be available for Buddy's guests to create souvenir vacation

(Continued on page 12)

Imprisoned Innocents



By any measure the view of the prison camp was grim

Being in the wrong place at the wrong time was the fate of many Germans who lived on the ABC islands on April 10, 1940. Because Germany invaded Holland that day, hundreds of innocent people on Aruba and Curaçao were arrested and brought to the prison internment camp on Bonaire.

Junnes Sint Jago's recent book, *Wuiven vanaf de Waranda (Waving From the Porch)*, tells all about this trying time. He presented his book recently at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Not coincidentally, the hotel is on the same spot where the camp was located. The book presentation was in cooperation with the organization FEBON (Fundashon Enciklopedia Bonaire). The main mission of this foundation is to compile an encyclopedia of and for Bonaire.

The first part of the evening's presentation was based on Junnes Sint Jago's book and was followed by poems being read and songs performed which were composed by the famous Bonairean WW II inmate, the late Medado de Marchena.

Wuiven vanaf de Waranda is the first book that's completely devoted to the prison camps that existed during World War II on Bonaire and Curaçao. When Sint Jago started to investigate these camps he got a good view of the conditions the prisoners were forced to live in, and he found out these conditions were far from good. Sint Jago says he had two goals in writing this book. One was to "rehabilitate the names and information of the prisoners, and make sure they won't be forgotten." "Most of the people who were in the prison camps," he says, "aren't alive anymore, but I'm sure their families have a desire to get more knowledge about the situation their relatives were in. That's why my next step will be to translate the books from Dutch into German, English and Papiamentu."

Sint Jago explains it wasn't easy to find new information about the prisoners. He studied a very long time at the central historic archive in Curaçao. He explained, "It was very hard to find out how many years the camps were being used and how long people were held in the camps. What I also found out is that almost all the people in the prisons were innocent of having committed a crime."

Arrests



A generation of children were raised in the camp

As mentioned, the reasons for all the arrests were because of the German invasion of Holland. As Aruba and Curaçao were providing 80% of the oil needed for the allied air forces, it was important that those islands be protected. "There were three ways to attack the oil refineries," Sint Jago continued. "One, by torpedo attacks by German U-boats (submarines). Two, by bombardments from the air. Three, by sabotage of the installations. Soon it was clear that the first two points were impossible for the Germans to achieve. The third possibility was a great risk though. As a precautionary measure, the Dutch started to arrest all the Germans or people with a German background on the island."

According to Sint Jago and what the book is about as well, is that there were several different groups of people arrested and sent to the prison camps in Bonaire. The first were 220 Germans who were working on ships in the harbors of Curaçao and Aruba. The second group was made up of 202 Germans living in Aruba and Curaçao. Within a single day they were arrested and sent to the prison camp in Bonaire. The women were placed in schools, the children in kindergarten and the men were quartered in the Sint Bernardus girls' school. Because all this had to be arranged so quickly the facilities weren't adequate at all. There wasn't enough food, water, and there weren't

enough toilets. The people had to sleep on sails.

In the meantime the Dutch were working hard to build a real prison camp. Across from the camp, they also constructed a new sports complex. It was 300 by 400 meters with a soccer field, walking trails, jumping areas and a playground for kids. The new camp was located just outside of Kralendijk (Playa) in the neighborhood called Playa Pariba (located on the site of the present Divi Flamingo Resort).

After a while, the male prisoners were brought to the barracks. Because Bonaire is a tropical island it was necessary to keep the windows and doors open. The men also could spend time on the porch (*waranda*) all day (photo). Although it wasn't allowed, the men could see the women's camp from there could wave (*wuiven*) to them.

Small, single houses were built for the women with children, and the single women were housed in long barracks.

In this group there were some famous local names, such as the Zielinski and Gressman families. Other well known personalities who lived in the same barracks and were born in Germany and Austria, but lived in Curaçao were the Jewish Fred Fisher and Doctor Benesch. Sint Jago explains further, "They were moved later on to a country house on the Guatemala Plantation because they were being teased a lot by their Aryan compatriots." Another group of prisoners, those who criticized the system, were seen as a danger to the state. They were arrested on a later date than the 10th of April. This group consisted of 20 men. They weren't immediately sent over to Bonaire but were kept for two and a half months in the punishment camps under terrible conditions before being sent to the camp in Bonaire. A famous prisoner in this group is the poet and singer, Medardo de Marchena.

Escape Attempts

Sint Jago continued his presentation by showing some pictures of the prison camps and of the guards and inmates of the prison. Some interesting things came out of this, such as an escape attempt by two inmates who wanted to paddle to Venezuela in a rowboat. "They didn't get very far though," says Sint Jago. "They couldn't believe how they got to Venezuela so fast with the boat and were already celebrating their successful escape attempt when they found out they weren't on Venezuela. Instead they were on the beach at Klein Bonaire, and they had to wait until the guards picked them up again."

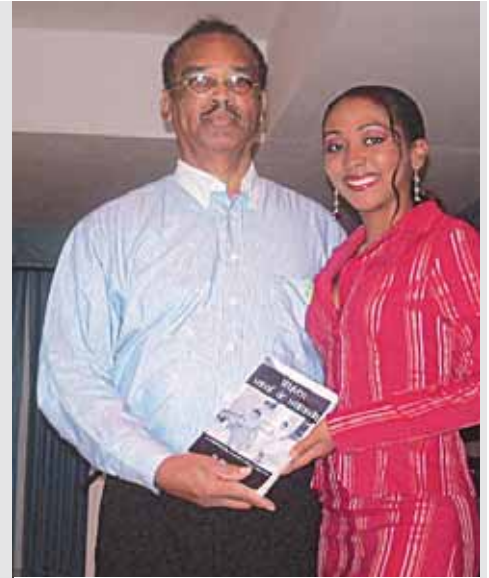
There was also one more escape attempt, which failed as well. "I think it was more out of boredom to attempt the escape, instead of a necessity," said Sint Jago.

According to the writer, the prison camp on Bonaire "had a great influence on the island, and it was the start of the building of many hotels and even a hospital to take care of the military and the police officers who were needed on the island to secure the prison camps."

Sint Jago emphasizes again the importance of the book he has written. "I think that it's about time that after 60 years, the history has finally been documented."

The night of the presentation was concluded with two poems and a song from Medardo de Marchena. The first poem, *Salve Bonaire* (Greet Bonaire), was presented by poetess Tica Sealy. The second poem, *Ai Bonairu* (Oh Bonaire), was presented by Hubert Vis. The song, *Bu Lawaya*, performed and sung by Capt. Johnny Craane, was known to nearly the entire audience as the song was in the top popular list in 1945. □

David Radomisi



Author Junnes Sint Jago and his daughter, Sonana



From porches like this (waranda) romances were kindled



Cover Story

Bang up End to City's 10th Anniversary Party

The festivities of City Café's 10-year anniversary were probably impossible to miss for anybody living here or any tourist visiting Bonaire. It's mainly because City Café is located in the center of town and every hour of the day there was something going on. But the 10-day-long 10th anniversary of City Café has finally reached its end. Last Sunday the festivities were concluded with an amazing show of fireworks. In a period of 10 years City Café, starting from scratch, has developed itself into a booming business. General Manager Sigma Stuart explains the secret behind it. "Is it the best restaurant? Maybe. Is it the best disco? I don't think so. But what I know for sure is that City Café has become the heart of Playa (Kralendijk)."

During the 10-year celebration many different activities were organized, and at night bands played until closing time. After this intensive period of events, City was closed for three days as the employees, the entire staff, were rewarded for their hard work and got to spend a three-day holiday in Valencia, Venezuela, for some R and R. All the festivities attracted huge crowds. Many of the bands that had performed during City's 10-year life returned to play during the anniversary events. One group that returns again and again is the Chispa band which got the crowd moving with their Latin Salsa tunes.

Other activities ranged from bike parades to mini triathlons; from card playing and dart tournaments to children's matinees. There were free lunches for the elders and jump-ups for the younger ones. During the last weekend the street in front of City was crammed with stands selling all sorts of things, games

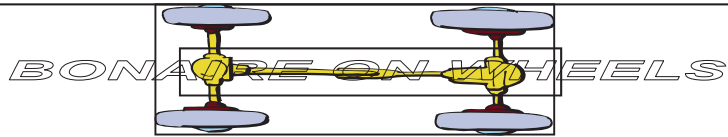


Spin the wheel and win a prize or donate to Jong Bonaire
All photos courtesy of èxtra



City Café owners Huub de Groot (center) and Nelson Apollinario (right) and staff

and more. The Café collected money to support Jong Bonaire, the youth activity organization, to help provide them with a sound system. The money will be handed over to Jong Bonaire on June 18. The end of the anniversary celebration doesn't mean there won't be any more activities at City Café for the rest of the year. On the contrary! In October they will, as always, play a big role in the Regatta festivities, and many other bands are already scheduled. □ David Radomisli



The 15th in a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Volkswagen Beetle / Bajabug

Bonaire/Hato – Parked in front of Roy Winklaar's house in Hato is a white Volkswagen Beetle in mint condition. The car must have been made in Mexico because of the fact that there is only one exhaust pipe attached to the muffler instead of two. This also means that the car is fitted with a 1.6 liter, four-stroke, four-cylinder, air cooled boxer engine with fuel injection and a catalyser.



Roy Winklaar and his Volkswagen Beetle/Bajabug

Mr. Winklaar invites me in and tells me that I am right; it is a Mexican-made car. The vehicle was built in 1997 and registered, B-4206. Roy has removed the running boards and the bumpers from the car because he has big plans for his white lady. Mr. Winklaar will transform his original "Buggy" into a so called "Bajabug." The front and the rear of the car will be shortened; the front boot (trunk) will be changed; the four mudguards will be taken off and be replaced with fiberglass ones. Four wide and impressive 15-inch wheels are waiting in the garden to be fitted to the axles. The car will undergo a complete metamorphosis.

Roy just loves the Volkswagen Beetle. He has been buying and selling, repairing and restoring Volkswagens for ages. He bought this white one in Curaçao. The car didn't run and was parked from 2004 until 2007 without going even a mile! Roy bought it, brought it to Bonaire and just put it on the road again.

Another Volkswagen Beetle is parked in a shed in the garden. This one is painted yellow. Roy just uses the car for parts. And in another corner I recognize a real Opel GT. The German-made car is fitted with a powerful 1.9 liter engine and was built in 1971. This car is made of the right metals, before the oil crises and is screaming for a restoration. According to Mr. Winklaar this is the only Opel GT on the island. At the moment he is not quite sure about what to do with the Opel because his first and main target is to convert the Mexican Beetle into a real Bajabug.

He continues his work. He is searching for four adapters to fit the five-hole big steel rims to the four-bolt fitted drum brakes. Finally the car will be resprayed white and airbrushed with aggressive flame patterns. Good luck, Roy! □ *Story & photos by J@n Brouwer*

SGB High School Students Play Tourist



Rounding off the school year, students from the SGB Hospitality Classes 3 and 4 participated in an excursion under the supervision of their Tourism teacher, Roosje van der Hoek-Goeloe and TCB employee, Rolando Marin.

With the cooperation of the TCB, Divi Flamingo Resort, Jibe City and Land Sailing Bonaire, the students enjoyed three fun and educational days learning about their island and its future possibilities. The excursion was organized so that students could better understand the importance of their studies in tourism and what Bonaire can offer to tourists as well as to locals. □ *Story & photos provided by Roosje van der Hoek-Goeloe*



Hamming it up at the slave huts

Miss Aruba Contestants in Bonaire

Ten Miss Aruba contestants came to Bonaire for a four-day visit last week to compete against each other for the new Miss Flamingo Beach crown. It was a sort of try out for the real thing which happens on July 13 when they compete to become the new Miss Aruba. The contest was organized by Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB).

It all started with a Welcoming Cocktail Party at Divi Flamingo Resort, although almost all the girls were drinking water. Contestant, 19-year old Jonella Oduber, explained that this visit to Bonaire and the Miss Flamingo Beach contest is a sort of test to see whether they can handle themselves in regard to the Miss Aruba contest. "So we can't cross the line," she said.

"I'm also on a strict diet. There's one girl in our group who is a dancer so she can eat whatever she wants. When we have dinner everybody is jealous of what she's eating, as we only end up with a salad." Oduber was very confident of her chances with the Miss Flamingo Beach contest, although she said, "Of course I think I'll win, otherwise I wouldn't have bothered to come here. If you're not self-confident there's no chance of becoming the new Miss Flamingo Beach or Miss Aruba." The trip to Bonaire was also meant for the girls to get to know each other better.

"Like Bonaire," Oduber said, "Aruba isn't a very big island, so although I've seen many of the girls before we've never spoken to each other. This trip is a good way of finding out who I am competing against."

The four-day trip consisted of some promotional work for the contestants,



Sara Matera (r) crowns Miss Flamingo Beach, Tracy Nicolaas *extra photo*

snorkeling on Klein Bonaire and an island tour. They visited the new Friday night market, "Taste of Bonaire," at Wilhelmina Park, where the girls, dancing together, soon attracted a lot of attention. On Sunday morning they posed for photos on Sorobon beach. (Ed. *The beauty contestants were scheduled to visit the FKPD handicapped center where the members had prepared refreshments, displays of their handicrafts and were dressed in native costumes. When the Miss Aruba contestants didn't show up the staff*

and members were very disappointed.)

The Miss Flamingo contest on Saturday night consisted of three rounds: evening dress, answering questions and the famous bikini round. The questions asked were the typical questions one could expect at a beauty contest. For example: What is negative about being beautiful? Answer: "That you have the chance of getting bad publicity." Or "That your ego goes over the limit." Does beauty have an effect on a person's life? Answer: "Yes, first impressions are very important." On which magazine cover would you like to be? Answer: "On *Time Magazine* because that means I've done something special for the community." At the end of the night the jury decided that Tracy Nicolaas was the new Miss Flamingo Beach 2007. She will hold this title for one year. □

David Radomisli



Seven of the 10 Miss Aruba contestants: (not in order) Tracy Nicolaas, Carolina Ramos, Monique Pulido, Jonella Oduber, Maureen Valdis, Stephanie Croes, Boyora Rarijn, Nabilach de Palm, Tammy Wever, and Miranne German. *extra photo*

Coral Glimpses

There's a dead zone where these corals meet, indicating that the corals are battling each other. A look at the shapes indicates that the sheet coral is winning the battle: it is overgrowing the head coral. A second look at the shapes indicates that the victory is a slow one, since the living part of the head coral is significantly bigger than its overgrown side.

Dee Scarr



**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

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 sea-side promenade; 10 minute walk to town. \$50/night.



Contact: bonairecottage@aol.com

For rent: Nice apartment for rent in Hato. Rent per month: NAf 1.500, All included. 796-3637, digital-is1956@flamingotv.net

Apartment - Separate from the house, at Hato. For 1/2 persons, including water, electricity, dishwasher, linen, boiler, 220V -127V, kitchen equipment, cleaning, with furniture, washing machine. Per July 1st per month NAf 1200,--/1500,-- no animals. Monique tel.717-2529

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

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

Cars & Scooters

Twin Cab Toyota Pickup 4-Cyl. Diesel; New front suspension, tires, battery. Low mileage. Low price: NAf 4999.99. Call: 790-7272 ; 717-7892 .

Jeep Cherokee Limited Edition High Output 4.0, straight six, metallic red, alloy rims, new tires, all options: NAf5500. 796 - 3637, digital-is1956@hotmail.com, Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot 166, or on the run!

Property

Harbour Village Marina Front Condo



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

House sitting

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

SEEKING

Looking for: a bed for one person

with mattress, table model fridge, 2-burner electric stove, kitchen sink, tap, shower tap, white toilet, outside door, door frame, inside doors, locks. Tel. 717-2529

Newbie Scuba Diver Needs Used fins, snorkel and mask. Size 6 women's. Please call 786-3134

Looking for a spare rim for a Chevrolet S10 pick up, 15 inch, 5 holes, 796 - 3637, digital-is1956@hotmail.com

Looking for a spare rim for a Toyota Hilux pick up, 14 inch, 5 holes, 796 - 3637, digital-is1956@hotmail.com

JOBS

Rento-Fun Scooter & Car Hire are looking for a person with technical/mechanical knowledge to be responsible for the maintenance and repair of scooters, motorcycles and bicycles and the checking of motor vehicles for rental. The applicant must have a license to drive a car and motorcycle. Please apply to: Rento-Fun Drive, Kaya Grande 47. Or call: 717-2408

The Bonaire Reporter is seeking a person experienced in newspaper layout using Microsoft Publisher. Part-time, good pay. Call George 786-6125

Reporters and feature writers wanted for The Reporter. Get paid by the word and for your photos. Call George 786-6125

Don't leave Bonaire behind

Get Bonaire news every week for a year, no matter where you are in the world.

By mail to the USA \$110-
By Internet to everywhere else on the planet \$35-

Sign up for a subscription:
Bonaire Reporter— PO Box 407
Bonaire, Neth Antilles Phone
(599)786-6518 or e-mail

Especially valuable if you own or plan to buy property



(Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 6)



Susan Schmidt and John Wall, operators of Buddy's Digital Photo Center

videos.

John Wall and Susan Schmidt, former owners of "The" Dive Shop in Fairfax, Virginia, will operate the new photo center. "Their knowledge, experience and education will make the difference between just having a photo shop and being able to offer an extra dimension to our dive operation," says Buddy's Managing Director Ruud van Baal.

Over the years Buddy Dive has improved and expanded its services and facilities while realizing that personal service and top dive operations are the keys for continued appreciation from the dive community. Expansion of its dive boat fleet, upgrading of the airfill/nitrox system, Buddy's Marine Life Education Program in September each year are just a few of those improvements.

► And a final reminder. The next Bonaire Reporter will be available June 29. There will be no issue next week. □

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

Pet of this Week & Last Week

One of the friendliest pups at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, "Lisette," gives a little wave with her paw, as if to say, "Hi! Look at me; aren't I the smartest and cutest?" Little light brown Lisette with the pretty eyes was brought into the Shelter with her litter mates. While she was on the street as a very young pup she was hit by a car. As a result she had some stiffness in her back legs, but as she grows that is going away. She's now about three and a half months old. At first she was smaller than her sisters and brothers due to her injury, but she's doing so well now and is catching up with the rest. She'll be a medium sized dog when she does finally grow up. She's a happy, playful pup who would appreciate love and attention.



"Lisette"

Lisette has been checked out by the vet and has had her shots and tests. All is well and she's ready to be adopted. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Enjoy a visit at a wonderfully run operation with happy and contented pets. □ L.D.

It turns out that last week's Pet of the Week, "Charles," the very handsome black and white cat, has an owner, none other than artist Henk Roozendaal and his family. We just knew he was a very special cat! Henk wrote: "I'm very proud that my cat, "Snoetje" (*Snooty*), was declared Pet of the Week! Now after two weeks he's home again at Sabadeco. He's our oldest cat, saved from the Shelter in 1999. Many cats followed. He's been my model for several early paintings." (See Henk's painting of Snoetje)

Henk was in Holland at the time when Snoetje went on an adventure. The cat became entranced apparently with a house with three indoor cats and because he was hanging around their house so often the people naturally assumed he was without a home. And as we are always asking people to bring in found animals to the Bonaire Animal Shelter, they did so. And the Roozendaals, after checking everywhere else, called the Shelter as well and were very happy and relieved to learn that Snoetje, aka Charles, was safe and sound there. Henk thinks that because of Snoetje's two-week internment at the Shelter that he'll most likely not want to take off on many more adventures in the near future. □ L.D.

PET OF THE WEEK



This handsome fellow, "Charles," was found wandering around in the Sabadeco neighborhood. The kind people who found him weren't able to adopt him because they have three other cats who will just not tolerate another feline in the house! So that settled that, and the lady brought Charles into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. His background is a mystery it would seem. He was vaccinated already and he's so good!



Henk's painting of "Snoetje"

Google For Real Estate

Caribbean Homes Bonaire has entered into an agreement with Google Earth. The company uses Google's high resolution imagery of the earth to show its website visitors where on Bonaire their listings are located and have made it extremely simple to zoom in on the property

CARIBBEAN HOMES
BONAIRE.COM

- find residential property
- find commercial property
- find lots/land

Home | About Us | Our Properties | Bonaire Google Map | Testimonials | Contact



and get a fairly detailed view of the area. "We hope this will help them explore more of our listings on our beautiful island from above," says Rene Essink, owner of Caribbean Homes Bonaire. See their ad on page 11. □ *Press Release*

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
6-15	0:47	2.2FT.	10:28	0.6FT.					98
6-16	1:32	2.2FT.	11:15	0.6FT.					99
6-17	2:18	2.0FT.	11:56	0.6FT.					95
6-18	3:06	1.9FT.	12:26	0.7FT.					87
6-19	3:50	1.8FT.	12:56	0.8FT.					77
6-20	4:32	1.6FT.	13:19	0.9FT.					65
6-21	2:40	1.4FT.	5:22	1.5FT.	13:29	0.9FT.	21:40	1.5FT.	52
6-22	4:34	1.3FT.	5:53	1.3FT.	13:23	1.0FT.	21:15	1.6FT.	41
6-23	6:34	1.2FT.	7:04	1.2FT.	12:50	1.0FT.	21:21	1.7FT.	34
6-24	7:00	1.0FT.	8:09	1.1FT.	11:57	1.0FT.	21:38	1.8FT.	32
6-25	7:53	0.9FT.	21:59	1.9FT.					36
6-26	8:24	0.9FT.	22:22	2.0FT.					44
6-27	8:55	0.8FT.	22:47	2.1FT.					53
6-28	9:36	0.7FT.	23:18	2.1FT.					63

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: Austin Bay, J@n Brouwer, Caren Eckrich, Roosje van der Hoek-Goeloe, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Olivia Parrot, David Radomisli, Dee Scarr, 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**

©2007 The Bonaire Reporter

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show (Usually 9 pm)

Call to make sure

Disturbia

(Shia Leboeuf)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Pathfinder

(Karl Urbun)

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

The Robinsons??

THIS WEEK

Saturday, June 16— 3-hour Nature and Historical Walk in the Hills Around Rincon. A unique experience guided by Rincon's Maria Koeks. **Don't miss this opportunity if you want to learn about the real Bonaire.**

Meet at 6 am at Marshé Rincon (center of Rincon). The walk will be followed by a kunuku breakfast. Cost is NAf15. Wear good shoes, a hat; bring a bottle of water and a good attitude. For reservations call 796-7870 or Email: wilmari@bonairelive.com

Sunday, June 17—Father's Day

COMING

Sunday, June 24—St. John's Day-San Juan Festival. Music, food, fire-jumping in the barios, at the home of Doei Diaz, at the Museum, in Rincon

Thursday, June 28—San Pedro Festival—Same as San Juan Festival above

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. Call Edwin Martijn 786-8400, Mishuyla Sint Jago 786-2292

REGULAR EVENTS

Friday Weekly Market 9am- 2pm at Wilhelmina Park with local art, music and food; summer fashions, jewelry, glasswork, Bonaire pictures, driftwood art, paintings and all kinds of Bonaire souvenirs.

Daily

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 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 & 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 7m. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at the Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8817) at 7pm.

Monday- "Land & Ocean Bonaire," by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of their facility at Bonaire Dive & Adventure.

Tuesday "Diving Facts And Fiction - An Evening with DIR" slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

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

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every **Wednesday**; Phone : 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 Thurs-

day of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Zeezicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 7117

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451; Valarie@telbonet.an

Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4303.

Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

Special Olympics— Call Claire 717-8290

Volunteers to train children in sports.

Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English on Sundays 10 am. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am. Children's club Saturday 5 pm in Kralendijk.

Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.

New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

International Bible Church of Bonaire— Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30am. In Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

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

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am.**

Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

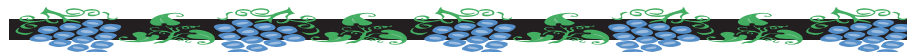
Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Extensive snack/salad/burger. Menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm	Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights: Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10,-); Wed. - Caribbean Night A la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7-1- pm) 10:00 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 Tuesday through Friday Main dish with 2 side dishes. Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna.
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 downtown 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. Full service dive shop and photo shop too.

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

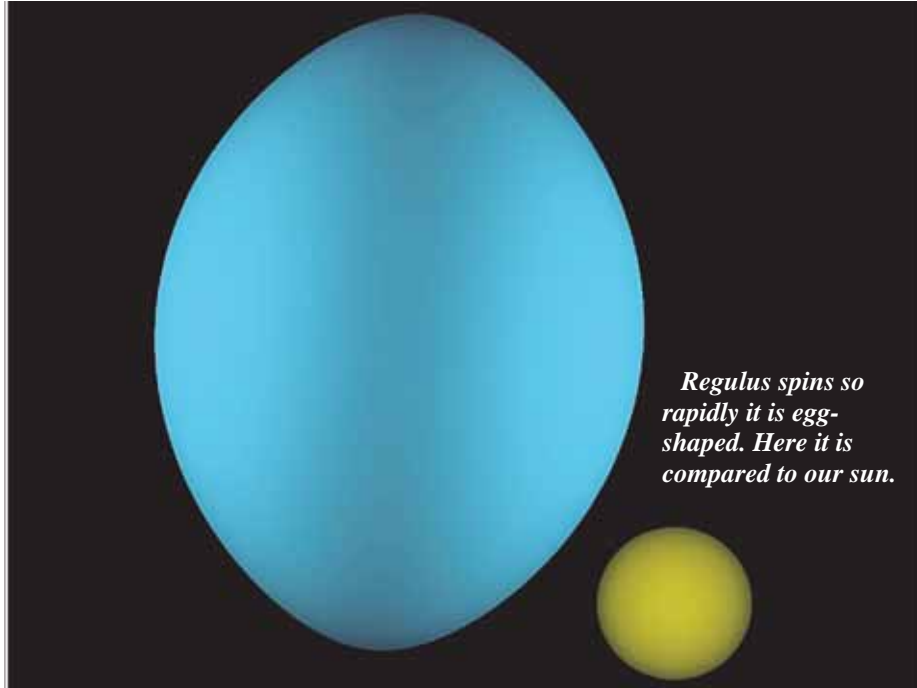
Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for weekly advertisers?



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Use the Moon to Find Two Planets and a Star



Regulus spins so rapidly it is egg-shaped. Here it is compared to our sun.

Early next week you'll be able to use an exquisite waxing Moon to find both planet #2 and planet #6 and the brightest star of springtime's most famous constellation. On Monday, June 17th, just after sunset, face west where you'll see an exquisite crescent Moon complete with **Earthshine**, which will look like a dim full Moon nestled within the bright crescent, or as some people like to call it, "the old Moon in the new Moon's arms." Then if you look up to its left you'll see the most brilliant planet of them all, our so-called sister planet because it's almost the same size as **Earth**, the planet named for the Roman goddess of love - super bright and absolutely dazzling **Venus**. Twenty four hours later, on Tuesday June 18th, a slightly fatter crescent Moon will be well past Venus and still exhibiting Earthshine. And once again if you look up to its left you'll see another beautiful planet, planet #6, the ringed planet **Saturn** which we're visiting right now with our **Cassini space probe**. If you look at it through a small telescope it will absolutely stun you. And if you look at Venus you will notice that it looks like a tiny thick crescent Moon. So you've now been able to use the Moon on two nights to find two planets.

On Monday the Moon is down to the right of Venus, and on Tuesday it's between Venus and **Saturn**. But our Moon finder journey is not over because 24 hours later, on Wednesday the 19th, the Moon will be parked right next to, visually speaking, the brightest star of springtime's most famous constellation, **Leo the Lion**. But if you look at it through a telescope it won't look any bigger, only brighter. And that's because it's so incredibly far away. How far? Well let's compare its distance to that of the Moon, Venus and Saturn.

Early next week our 2,000-mile-wide Moon will be only 236,000 miles away; 8,000-mile-wide Venus will be 60 million miles away; and 75,000-mile-wide Saturn will be 900 million miles away. But **Regulus**, which is a hot blue-white star, is a whopping 4 million miles wide and so far away we don't use the term miles. Instead we measure its distance with the speed of light. For instance next week when you look at the Moon you will be seeing the light that left it only 1 1/3 seconds ago. But when you look at Venus you'll be seeing the light that left it 5 1/3 minutes ago. And when you look at Saturn you'll be seeing the light that left it 82 minutes ago. Regulus, however, is so whopping far away it takes its light 78 years to reach us. Wow!

Once again use the Moon on Monday to find Venus, use the Moon on Tuesday to find Saturn, and on Wednesday use the Moon to find Regulus. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday June 10 to Saturday June 16,

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) It might be best to work on your own; if possible, do your job out of your home this week. Take time to explain your intentions to loved ones. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can. You may be tempted to get involved in secret affairs or love triangles. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You have to believe in yourself and your talents. Rewards for past good deeds will be yours. You will meet new romantic partners through the company you keep. Chances to express your ideas and beliefs can bring popularity as long as you're not arrogant. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Keep an eye on your weight. You will be in a high cycle regarding work. Communications with loved ones may be strained. Take a trip or just spend some quality time with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Be quiet about your intentions or ideas that might bring added cash. Your attitude is changing rapidly and your plate is overloaded. Try not to lend or borrow money this week. Don't overdo it. You need to enjoy yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Don't jump into investments too quickly. It won't take much to upset your lover. You can make new connections if you play your cards right. Your ability to be practical in business will help. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your communication skills are at an all-time high. Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. Your home environment may be hectic, which could result in emotional upset if you aren't well organized. Be prepared to deal with groups and organizations of greater magnitude. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You need to refrain from being the generous one in the group. Don't be disappointed if you don't get your way emotionally. Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. Romantic opportunities will develop through friends or relatives. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You could have a need to make some changes this week. Real estate investments could be to your advantage. You will probably have to defend your mate. You may want to take a look at the personal papers of elders in your family. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your partner may blame you for everything. You need to look into new philosophies. If you have treated them equitably, you might be able to count on their loyalty. You will be uncertain of your feelings. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. You will have no problem getting your point across to those in a position to help you. You are best to put your efforts into redecorating or inviting friends over. Your emotional life may be up in the air if your mate has been going through a change of heart. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You may be able to impart knowledge that's innovative to those searching for a new angle. Plan your day thoughtfully, but try not to rely on others. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Advancement can be yours if you put your efforts into work related matters. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Opportunities may come up at prestigious affairs. Go out with friends and avoid the situation on the home front. You can meet new friends who will let you know just how valuable you are. Self-deception is likely. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. □

Culinary Team Off To Compete



A happy, but tired team and their helpers pose at the end of the meal.

The Bonaire Bartender/Culinary Team for 2007 had its last fund raising dinner for the public last Sunday, and they're ready to go to the Caribbean Hotel Association's "Taste of the Caribbean" culinary Olympics in Miami. They leave Saturday and return Wednesday.

The final dinner was a monumental extravaganza of cuisine. Each of the three courses were made up of several tastes and textures, with a bare flavoring of salt as the common theme.

We wish all the very best to our team who has worked so hard and so long to reach the pinnacle of fine cuisine we tasted last Sunday. □ L.D.



And this is just the first course...



Coach Wil of Wil's Tropical Grill and his wife Sue helped put the team's efforts over the top. They got gifts that say thank you from Team Captain Floris (right).

"Adrift" Exhibit a Huge Success

Last Saturday's sculpture show by Wilna Groenenboom seemed to be a magnet for art lovers on the island. Wilna has been called a "Master of the Makeover" because of how she turns materials, once adrift, into fine crafted works of art. A lot of the raw materials she uses floated in from South America due to the heavy rains there two years ago, she recalled. And they inspired the artist to make something beautiful out of them.

The artist-photographer-teacher-writer is known for her series, "Antique Living Houses," as well as numerous outstanding photos in *The Reporter*. Her photos of details of Bonairean architecture appear in the Sunbelt Realty magazine. She's an art teacher at the SGB and has had exhibits at Kas di Arte and Cinnamon Art Gallery, among others.

For the show, Wilna's traditional Bonairean home was transformed into a breezy and elegant gallery and drinks were served in the shady garden. Her young sons,

Almar and Niek, and their friends passed hot hors d'oeuvres. Many of her works were sold at the show on Saturday, but there are still a few tables for sale. Sadly, Wilna will be leaving shortly to return to Holland so if you want to see them call her soon at 717-6832 or 700-2378. □

L.D.



The house transformed into an art gallery



Artist Wilna Groenenboom

On The Island Since: July 13, 2005

Rik and Marieke Roozenburg-Postema

“When we got married in Holland two years ago we had four options considering our names: Rik is Rik Roozenburg and I am Marieke Postema, so we could choose. Either I would take Rik’s last name or he would take mine, or we could have my last name first followed by his last name, or his last name first followed by mine. As we felt that we were marrying **each other** we wanted to use both names; so now Rik and I are both Roozenburg-Postema – one name. But... when we came to Bonaire and our son Roan was born, Rik went to have him registered and it appeared that Roan could get either Rik’s last name or mine - no other choice. So we gave him Rik’s last name; that’s a pity in a way because we wanted to have the same last names for the three of us.

Why are we here? When I finished my studies Rik’s temporary job was ending and we felt the whole world was open to us to do something exciting. I was a first grade cultural artistic education teacher and Rik was a gymnastics teacher. We went looking all over the world for a paid job, but with the little work experience we had we didn’t have a chance. So, we started looking for volunteer jobs. We could afford it because we live very economically and because we ended up in a third world country where everything was very cheap: Bonaire.

At a school in Cochabamba, founded by a Dutch foundation, they were looking for people who could teach the children crafts and sports, and so it had to be us! Cochabamba is located in a valley and the school with 450 children is on the outskirts of the valley, next to the landfill. People live in sod huts; they wash their clothes in a filthy little stream; and there’s a constant lack of water. We started teaching children from the ages of four to 14, and we also took care of the library and six old computers.

Rik describes it. “I’ll never forget the first time I saw the children doing gymnastics. They had to march around like little soldiers and when the teacher yelled, ‘manos arriba!’ ‘hands up!’ they would stick their hands in the air and... that was about it. When I put two teams together to teach them how to play soccer and told them that they had to kick the ball into the goal to score points, one of the boys pulled my shirt and said, ‘But Sir, there are so many children standing in front of me, I could never kick the ball in the goal!’ They didn’t have the slightest idea...”

Marieke continues, “I would give the children a blank sheet of paper and tell them, ‘You may draw whatever you like,’ and not one student could come up with something and the few who wanted to draw a certain thing needed an example, otherwise they couldn’t do it. In general, the children didn’t have any initiative and they

didn’t dare to ask any questions.

We experienced truly horrible things: children with terrible injuries, children sniffing glue, abuse and incest, people living in the river, hunger and constant alcohol abuse by the men. But our respect for the Bolivian women is sky high. They have so much willpower and so much perseverance. They are the ones who keep everything going – without any complaint.

We worked for three organizations, six days a week, and we did everything we could, but in the end the only thing we could do was give people love and attention. To make a significant difference is super difficult.”

Rik (28) and Marieke (26) are people who live according to their principals; they spend very little money; they have a healthy lifestyle; and they’re happy, outgoing people who also think about the environment. For example they don’t use paper diapers for their baby, but cotton ones – they are true to their beliefs.

“When the year was over our money was gone, but we came back much richer than

“We experienced truly horrible things: children with terrible injuries, children sniffing glue, abuse and incest, people living in the river, hunger and constant alcohol abuse by the men.”

any money could have made us feel. We went back to Holland and stayed for a year, but then we had to look for something new and again we wanted to go abroad. And, at the vacancy bank where we looked for job offers there was the SGB high school Bonaire looking for an art teacher – for me!” Marieke laughs. “I was appointed almost immediately and then everything went very fast. We got married on May 27, 2005, then we started reading everything we could find about Bonaire. We watched the complete series, ‘Huize Huisman,’ made by a Dutch TV maker about Bonaire and we spoke with people who had lived on Bonaire.

We arrived July 13, 2005. A week later, sitting on the balcony of our apartment, we said to each other, ‘Jeez, imagine being born on such a divine island and growing up here and then, when you’re 16, you move to Holland – like many Antillean youngsters do – and you have to live in a grey apartment building in the outskirts of big city...’ That was the first feeling we had about the island – it is a wonderful place to live.

The first day I started working I saw the list of the names of the teachers and one name jumped out, ‘Mr. Postema.’ I asked



Rik, Marieke and young Roan

everyone, ‘Do you know that man? I would like to meet him, and then... it turned out to be my husband whom I already knew quite well!’”

“I came here without a job,” Rik says, “but soon enough I found one with Amado Felix as a mover. I was already working for Amado when SGB asked me to pass by. I had to show my diploma and immediately I got my new schedule. Then the school year started. I went to work part time and Marieke full time. After Marieke had gotten the job, when we were still in Holland, she found out she was pregnant. We had a lot of doubts at the time, but nevertheless we decided to go. Roan, our son, was born on Bonaire, at home, under the inspiring guidance of midwife Marita, January 11, 2006. He was full term but very little. He only weighed four pounds, but his health was very good and he started eating immediately. Marieke’s mom was there and her dad came two days later. We were ever so happy having them with us. When I’m not working I take care of Roan; otherwise he goes to a babysitter who takes care of three other little boys. He’s doing great; he’s learning Papiamentu and he eats everything.

Well, I came here and my passion is running, so I went to see what was happening here in that aspect. I asked around to see whether there were people who were doing something in athletics, and I met Glenn Albertina, the island’s athletics guru. He’s the Government’s Sports Coordinator. Together we revived a club called Quick-Pro. We started with two children and now, after 18 months, the club has a board, uniforms, and we’ve already won gold, silver and bronze medals in competitions in Curaçao. I teach training three times a week, voluntarily, and now we have 20 children,

some of whom have great talents. Our head sponsor is Auto City, and because of them we don’t have to ask the children for a contribution.

At school I am also trying to make the students more conscious of what they’re eating and what the consequences are of their diet. Authentic local food is very healthy, but the soft drinks and the snacks the children are consuming are taking their toll, and many of them are overweight. They see me as skinny, but they know I’m strong and it impresses them that I win a lot of competitions in spite of the fact that I’m not so talented, but because I’m training every day. I think as a teacher you should set the example.”

“I’m giving cultural artistic education,” Marieke explains, “and I’m setting it up for HAVO/VWO. What I see is that it’s going better and better and that the students love it. I give theatre classes, dancing classes, music, film and art classes and all that – as far as possible – from the Antillean culture. On Bonaire the children are very creative. They have great original ideas, and they’re good in finding solutions. I really enjoy it when the students give a presentation that gives me the goose bumps – something that happens frequently.

Well, we’re staying here for one more year and then we’re going back to Holland for the family and from then on we’ll see. We’ll take whatever the future will bring. To us Bonaire will always be the island of freedom and the warm sunshine, and for a child it’s a wonderful place to grow up.” “Winfried Dania told me once,” Rik says, “that the sun is his medicine, and I think that’s a beautiful way to put it.” □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

