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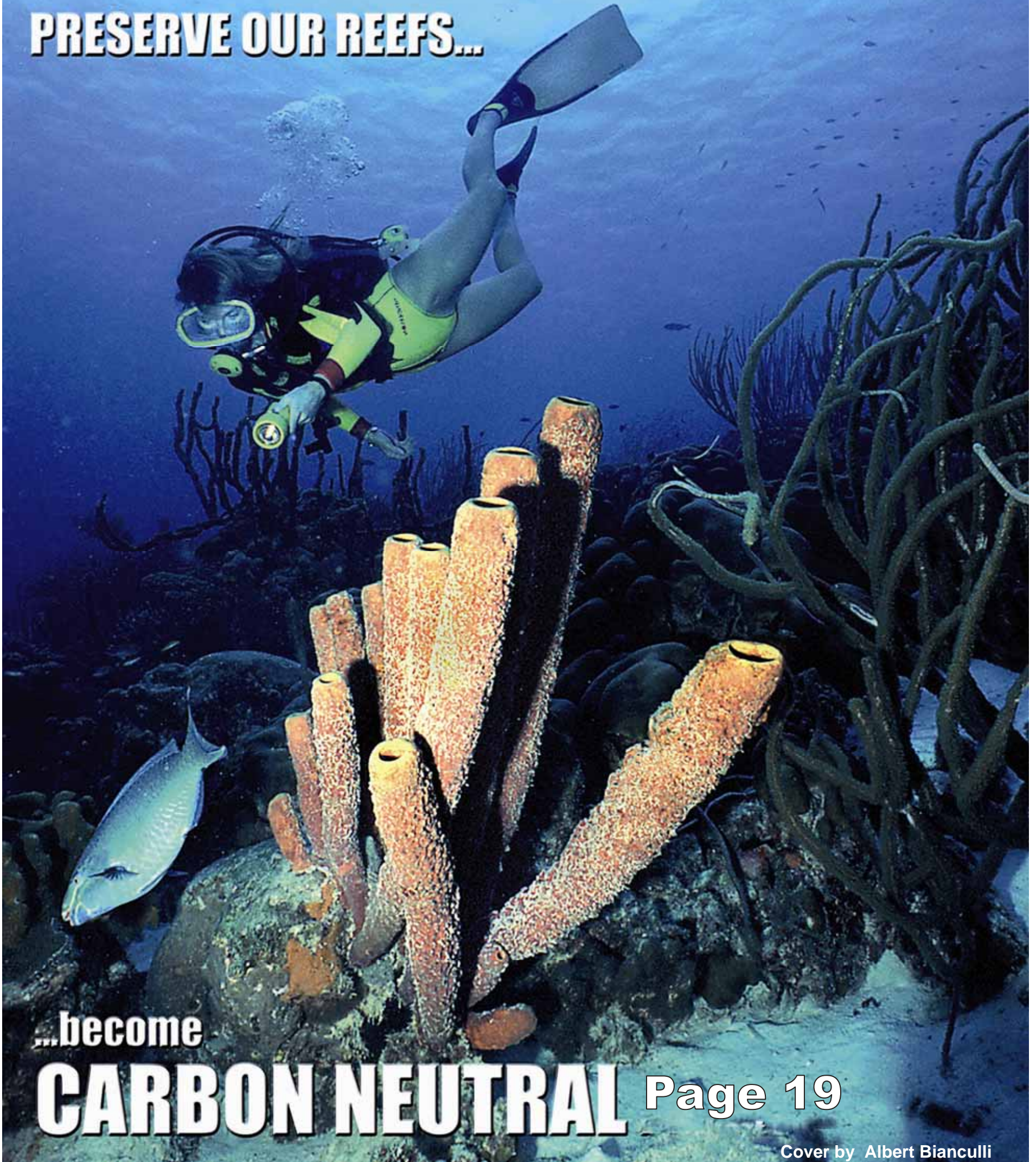
Oct. 26-Nov. 9, 2007; Volume 14, Issue 34

The REPORTER

Kunuku Shimaruku, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 786-6125, 790-6518, email: reporter@bonairenews.com

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CARBON NEUTRAL Page 19

Cover by Albert Bianculli



► CRIME ON BONAIRE

Diving newsletters and reports on the Internet are full of stories of crime on Bonaire these days. Burglaries, thefts and hold-ups spoil people's vacations causing untold inconvenience and trauma. Up until now Bonaire has been fortunate because violent crime against island visitors, as is a problem in the Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, Jamaica and other places in the Caribbean, is practically unknown. Official reaction has been muted, sometimes giving the impression that the island's leaders don't care enough. Below is a letter from a local businessman that does a good job expressing the willingness and frustration of island residents and the reaction from Bonaire's tourism office (TCB). Recently, Minister Elvis Tjin Asjoe, the Antillean Central Government's man in charge of Economic Affairs, expressed his concern publicly. He wants the police force, local businesses and the tourism sector to work together to reduce crime. "The Antillean island of Bonaire (with 14,000 inhabitants) is for a large part dependent on tourism," said Tjin Asjoe, who is from Bonaire. He explained that tourism is "the chicken that lays golden eggs."

Police protection is a Central Government responsibility and high level action is needed to obtain increased resources for Bonaire police, which officials say is at the root of the police's failure to stop these crimes.

Now the letter:

► WILLING TO HELP

"Dear TCB, Police Department, Prosecutor's Office:

I am happy to do whatever it takes. Please just tell me the time and the place. I consider myself a guest on the island, but I also consider myself part of the community, so please don't take this the wrong way.

I think Bonaire is at a critical time and if crime of every type is not stopped now someone will get killed and you will all have the residents marching in the street for improved safety, much like they did years ago. This is not good for tourism or for any kind of business. Many of the people committing these crimes are experienced criminals who are VERY thorough and who know exactly what they are doing. Many of the burglaries are not local kids just getting into trouble, however this is how local kids learn to be bad guys.

I have been on Bonaire long enough to know that much of this is due to either poor police training or police indifference, or perhaps worse. The local people know who the bad guys are, so I assume the cops do too; yet the problem continues. I can spot the open air drug markets that are taking place every day, so I assume the police can see them too. Yet day after day there are drug sales going on in the same place.

I see lots of police during the day, but there is virtually no police presence at night when crime normally occurs. This is compounded by the fact that we also have an absentee Police Chief, (no offense Jan. I know I could not run my business effectively if I was gone from the office half of the time) so I know that such a situation does not help with effective operation of the police, or with the motivation of the cops who are working on the street.

I think everyone, including (Police Chief) van der Straten

and (Prosecutor) Mr. van Delft, have good intentions, but good intentions alone will not solve this problem. We need increased enforcement, and it needs to start now. In the long term we need to reduce the local drug markets, as well as offer better education and employment opportunities to the local young people.

I don't want to just be seen as a complainer, so PLEASE let me know what I can do to help solve this problem now.

A Concerned Businessman"

► A PLAN TO ATTACK CRIME

Ronella Croes, Director of the TCB, replied that she has been working with the police to get action. Her office has instituted the following actions:

- The TCB has created a **letter for all accommodation providers to distribute upon check-in** to their guests reminding them that, although they are on vacation and relaxing, to remember to always be cautious, thus boosting awareness. The letter contains safety tips and various emergency phone numbers as well as victim help lines and a police tip line to report suspicious activity.

- To combat the social aspect of crime, a **Community Mentor program** has been developed and launched with the purpose of providing care and attention to common social problems. Focused largely on youth, these mentors will talk with young people about the issues that they deal with including peer pressure, parental communication and other daily life concerns.

- The Police Department officers have been undergoing further **training in Holland** with a focus on crime prevention and are introducing two initiatives – one targeted to schools and another toward local business owners to encourage helping the island's young people by providing them with jobs.

- Together with the private sector, the Bonaire Government Tourist Board is in process of designing a **new crime reporting tool for business establishments** such as hotels, restaurants, car rental agencies etc. involved with tourists that will enable them to download a form and bring it to Police headquarters, thereby eliminating the need for the guest to do so themselves. This is intended to enhance visitor experience by attending to a guest's needs at a critical time (after an incident has occurred).

- The TCB has also recently established the **Bureau Slachtoffer Hulp**, or "Crime Help Center" to attend to every possible need, both emotionally and administratively, of victims of any crime no matter how small.

Continued on page 4

This Week's Stories

Personal Chef	3
Love Our Planet Week	5
Windsurfer Report	7
Regatta	8,9
Announcements	10
RE/MAX party	
Birthdays-Gina & Elizabeth	
SGB Chefs in Italy	
Turtle Tracking –Darwina	
Special Olympics Gold	11
Softball	11
Doggy Myths	13

WEEKLY FEATURES

Flotsam & Jetsam (Crime)	2
Sudoku	6
Sudoku Solution	9
Pets of the Week (cats)	13
Biologist's Bubbles: (Slippery Dicks)	12
Picture Yourself With The Reporter (Sicily.)	12
Classifieds	12
Dining & Shopping Guides	14
Clear Blue Water News	15
Tide Table	15
Reporter Masthead	16
What's Happening	16
Sky Park (Jupiter)	17
Café Astrology (October)	18
Carbon Neutral	19

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Personal Chef

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Our little island is becoming *tres* sophisticated as we now have a Personal Chef at our disposal. It's no longer just the rich and famous who can have personally prepared meals, but you and I as well! Philip Joukes of **Philip's Cooking & Organizing Bonaire** saw a need and has met it. The Dutchman, whose hobby has always been creative cooking and who has worked with friends in the restaurant business, is a born chef with a natural talent. He has studied in Italy and, among his many skills, has mastered the art of making fresh pasta. He recently gave a demonstration and tasting of several kinds of pasta to the Rotary Club and scored five stars for his efforts. He works closely with his wife Suze, a former flight attendant with KLM and right-hand woman.

Chef Philip will customize a menu to cater to all of your culinary needs, and after a personal consultation he will create a menu to fit your occasion, whether it's formal or casual. He will come to your home and do all the work, saving you time and money and assuring that you get exactly what you want. Philip's philosophy on party giving goes something like this. "Why do all the work when I can do it for you." His services

are turnkey and include everything from providing tables, chairs, linens, bartenders, and waiters, to delicious, creative food and end-of-party cleanup.

Theme dinners have been very popular with his clients as are romantic dinners for two at your home, on a quiet beach, or wherever you would like to have it. He also offers four-course dinners for up to 12 people including specially selected wines.

Wouldn't it be fun to get a group together and have Philip create a gourmet treat just for you and your friends?

If a cocktail party is what you have in mind, trays of mini tuna tortillas and quiches filled with salmon, cheese, ham, or sun-dried tomatoes, tiny phyllo cups with different fillings, a variety of vegetarian goodies, and, of course, the always popular chicken and beef satays are only a sample of what can be prepared for you by your own Personal Chef. Working with you to determine your preferences, Philip will create something unique just for your party.

Another service provided by Philip, along with his wife Suze, is wedding planning. If you decide that Bonaire is the place where you want to make your commitment, Suze will handle

everything from the paperwork at Government House, the church, the florist and the photographer, to Philip's creative food for the reception. They have done weddings at Sorobon, at Seru Largu and on the beach and are prepared to make all your wedding wishes come true.

Other offerings include gift certificates for romantic dinners for two (the gift for those who have everything!), cooking lessons (want to learn to make pasta or to prepare a gourmet meal - get a group together and let Philip show you how), or something interesting for your club or organization to do as a special treat. Aren't we lucky to have such a talent as Philip available to us? Check him out because he's superb!

Phillip can be reached at 701-1100 and Suze at 701-1200 or at their website. □

Dabney Lassiter



Philip and Suze

Internet photo

Contact: www.philipscooking.com or info@philipscooking.com.

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

► **Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) has had technical problems for a week**, especially during the Bonaire Regatta, but the situation is improving. All of its turboprops were grounded on Saturday, and just one of its two Fokker-100 jets were available. Delays of up to seven hours were commonplace as the airline chose not to cancel flights. DAE eventually chartered a Venezuelan DC-9 to take up the slack. One propjet was undergoing scheduled maintenance, the other planes were waiting for parts. Last month 82% of the flights departed on time. Competitor Insel Air also made the Winair Twin Otter available for flights between Bonaire and Curacao.

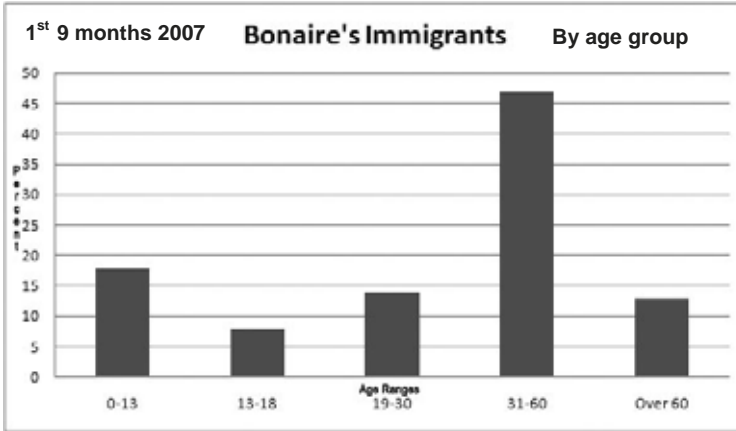
► Ironically, **Insel Air's lone jet aircraft used for its St. Maarten-Curacao flight was out of service last weekend** and DAE's St. Maarten flights had to accommodate Insul Air passengers.

► **Dutch Antilles Express opened a sales office in Kralendijk last week.** Director Raymond Saleh officiated at the opening. Previously, DAE had an office only at the airport. The new sales office is in Les Galleries. Business hours are from Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm.



► **Princess Ariane, the third daughter of Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima, was christened at the Klooster church in The Hague last Saturday.** The princess, who is fourth in line to the throne, was christened with water from the river Jordan. The 6½-month-old princess wore robes made of Brussels lace, which were made for the christening of Princess Wilhelmina in 1800, the Dutch news agency ANP said.

► **The political faction leaders in the Dutch Second Chamber arrived in Curaçao Monday to start a 10-day visit to the Netherlands Antilles.** The parliamentarians are scheduled to visit all five islands. They will also be in Aruba for a day. The topics of discussion during the visit will be constitutional renewal, good governance and democracy, education, combating of poverty, justice and prison matters, and social-economic developments.



► **In the first nine months of 2007 Bonaire's population jumped by 473 people (3.4%),** according to the Civil Registry (*Bevolking*). The number jumped from 14,006 to 14,479. There were 114 births and 49 deaths; 895 immigrated while 487 emigrated. Of the immigrants, 292 were from the Netherlands, 229 from other Antillean islands, 79 from the US, 60 from Peru, 51 from Colombia, 36 from the Dominican Republic, and 33 from Aruba. Of the 14,479 people, 7,453 (51%) are male, and 7,026 (49%) are female. The immigrants moved to Antriol (211), Nikiboko (128), Playa Pabou (75) and other neighborhoods.

► About.com, a webpage of the *New York Times* has selected the **National Marine Park of Bonaire as one of the seven natural wonders of the Caribbean.** "It's true that almost all Caribbean destinations have corals, but Bonaire has the most beautiful and best protected ones," said *The Times*. About.com also gives information on the Marine Park and a list of allowable activities. The other six destinations that form the natural wonders of the Caribbean are: The Baths at Virgin Gorda on the British Virgin Islands; Bioluminescent Bay in Vieques, Puerto Rico; the rain forest El Yunque; the Pitons in St. Lucia; Pitch Lake in Trinidad and the Soufrière volcano in Montserrat.

August. The price-index-figure for home furnishing and household goods went up by 0.5%. The biggest price increase in this sector was for home appliances and tools. The prices in the food sector rose 0.3% (2.0% for cooking oil, 1.2% for dairy products, and 0.7% for sugar and chocolate); in the living sector by 0.3% in the 'alcoholic beverages and smoking material' sector by 0.1%. In the recreation and development sector, prices have dropped by 0.1%. In clothing and shoes, healthcare, and transportation and communication sectors, the prices remained the same. Over the past 12 months, the prices increased by 1.7%.

► Former Curaçao Commissioner Dr. José Middelhof and his sons, Jonathan (19) and Gino (20), **were rescued in good condition after spending 17 hours floating in rough seas** after their boat sank while returning home following the Bonaire Regatta. Dr. Middlehof had been in contact with the Coast Guard reporting engine trouble and that the boat was taking on water until shortly before the 9-meter-long *Poppe Gem* slipped beneath the waves. A search was immediately begun, coordinated by the Rescue Coordination Centre

(RCC), but the trio drifted in their life jackets with a small float through the afternoon and night until fishermen and the Coast Guard helicopter spotted them north of Klein Curaçao at daybreak Monday. The cutter, *Panter*, picked them up and returned them to shore. The former elected official thanked God for his rescue. "When you are drifting in the open sea and it turns dark and nobody can see you, all you can do is pray. We knew that somebody would be looking for us and I kept telling them to keep on swimming."

► **STINAPA plans to set up a visitor center, tentatively named *Kas di Naturalesa* (House of Nature) for Bonaire's parks.** To launch the effort they invited Enit Scholtens who coordinates visitor centers in parts of Holland to help. Prior to that job Enit was the Conservation Education Officer in Bonaire for three years.

Enit invited people from DROB, SGB, the Government, Art, *Mangazina di Rei*, the press, and others) to brainstorm on the setup of the center. Six target groups were considered: adults from Bonaire, young children, older children, sun tourists, cruise tourists and dive tourists.

Because of the diversity of the target groups the brain-stormers came up with enough ideas to build 10 different centers. Scholtens and STINAPA will use these ideas to help create one center for all. Further development and building the center will probably take about two years. Such a center has been considered for many years and would be a dream come true for STINAPA and Scholtens and an asset to Bonaire. (*Mary Ann Koops*)

► **Bonaire's Maduro and Curiel's Bank is Bonaire's largest** and offers virtually any service a resident or visitor requires. With four branches in Bonaire and another 28 branches on Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maarten and St. Eustatius, MCB is the largest commercial bank in the Dutch

Continued on page 6

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MCB Hato Branch

Love Our Planet Week



Jenny, a dive instructor at Plaza Resort, can show you great diving (TCB photo)

During the week of September 17, Bonaire celebrated "Love Our Planet Week" as a part of its Dive into Summer Celebration, with a focus on coral reef conservation. Major sponsors included Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), *Scuba Diving Magazine*, Air Jamaica and the Coral Reef Alliance, a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization that works globally to protect coral reefs and healthy oceans.

Rick MacPherson, Director of Conservation Programs for the Coral Reef Alliance (coral.org), kicked off the week with a pair of boat dives on Klein Bonaire aboard one of the Photo Tours/ Yellow Submarine dive boats. MacPherson gave a "surface interval" presentation on the boat between dives to introduce a process called CSI--not "crime scene investigation" as in the popular TV show, but "conservation sustainability index," a rapid assessment of conservation awareness and training by dive operations and of reef health, utilizing a 10 point "Sustainable Practices Score Card" and quick inventory of "keystone species" of fish. The scorecard includes assessments of how well dive operators fulfill their role in conservation education by reminding divers about the fragility of coral and other marine life and by emphasizing good diver behaviors including buoyancy control, fin awareness and "no contact" with marine wildlife. MacPherson also emphasized the importance of dive guides being vigilant during what he called the "terrible 10," the first 10 minutes of a dive, when negative diver impact on the reef is most likely to occur.

The presentation also detailed keystone fish species to watch for, including herbivores that clean algae from the reef (blue tang, parrotfish), carnivores that indicate reef health (tiger grouper, yellow snapper) and special species, such as boxfish, that indicate good three-dimensional reef structure. All the key species were found on both dives on Klein Bonaire. Each participant on the dive received a laminated handout showing the keystone fish species and the 10 questions for assessing the conservation awareness of your dive operation.

Monday night, participants in Love Our Planet Week found Rick MacPherson joined by Captain Don Stewart at the weekly Meet the Captain party at Captain Don's Habitat, which hosted Rick's stay. On behalf of Coral, Rick lauded Captain Don for his visionary leadership in establishing protected reefs for the enjoyment of divers on Bonaire. Captain Don was impressed with MacPherson's knowledge and presentation.

Rick made a series of presentations to the public along with seminars and workshops for tourism officials, resort operators and marine park officials. Rick stressed that Bonaire boasts one of the healthiest reefs in the Caribbean and that a major goal of Coral is to help spread the model of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) exemplified by Bonaire throughout the world. The organization is working in Belize, Honduras, Mexico, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and most recently in eastern Indonesia to improve MPA effectiveness. Coral works with existing marine parks, and in one case, the remote Raja Ampat islands of Indonesia, Coral has established a new MPA and implemented a diver fee and tag to pay for its operation.

During the workshops and seminars, participants identified as major threats to Bonaire's reefs, the issues of pollution, especially sewage; coastal development; and over-fishing. As it turns out, most experts view these same factors as major problems for coral reefs. In the year 2004, it was estimated that 70% of reefs worldwide were under imminent or long-term threat of destruction (up from 58% in the year 2002). Coastal development threatens 33% of the reefs, land-based sources of pollution 35%, and over-fishing more than 60%. Specific to Caribbean reefs, the coral cover of these reefs has declined 80% in the last 30 years, including over 90% loss of staghorn and elkhorn corals. The potential impact of dwindling reef health could devastate local economies, as well as environments. The Caribbean provides 57% of scuba diving tours worldwide, which now earn \$1.2 billion per year for the region. Divers make up only 10% of the visitors to the Caribbean, but contribute 17% of all tourism revenue. The average diver spends around 80% more than a non-diver. By 2015 coral reef degradation could result in annual losses of US\$100 million to \$300 million to the Caribbean tourism industry. Losses to particular areas within the Caribbean could be proportionately greater, as tourism shifts away from areas where coral reefs have become degraded and toward areas of remaining intact reefs. □ Rob McCaleb

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 4) Caribbean. Through the past eight decades, the bank has also grown in many areas of non-banking financial services. Its services include insurance brokerage, underwriting and loss adjustment, portfolio management and investment services, private banking, and offshore trust and corporate management services.

► **Fundashon Kuido pa Besta i Oido (Foundation to aid the Blind and Deaf) will have a fundraising Thanksgiving Dinner at Chez Nous at the SGB High School on Thursday, November 22, from 7 to 10 pm.** Your donation of NAF 55 will be used to purchase material and equipment to assist the most needy - the poor-sighted and blind as well as the deaf and persons with hearing problems. For more information and/or purchase tickets call 569-7610 or 785-0518.

► A local photographer, Bart Landheer, has developed two lovely calendars for the new year and will be making contributions to Jong Bonaire for each calendar purchased. Purchase one of these calendars as a way to help support the after school program for teens on Bonaire. All you have to do is click <http://home.tiscali.nl/scadvies/bartlandheer/Calendar/engcalendar2008.html> to view the calendars and make your purchase -- and a donation to the youth center. It's a good way to start the new year!



► **Cruise ship season has arrived.** On October 31 the Princess Cruise Lines, Crown Princess with 3,100 passengers aboard will arrive in port. The TCB encourages all who would like to have a stand in Wilhelmina Park to sell items to the cruise visitors to sign up at the TCB office as soon as possible.

Currently a questionnaire is circulating by hand and on-line asking people for their opinion on cruise ships visiting Bonaire. Regardless of the outcome this year the Bonaire government strongly supports cruise ship (see cover of brochure above) visits because they believe it is a big economic boost for smaller businesses and individuals. The votes of these folks could strongly support the ruling party.

► **Although it's not a race, the first finishers of the 1,200-meter distance between Eden Beach and Klein Bonaire and vice-versa, for the annual Jong Bonaire fundraiser carries status.** This year, for the seventh consecutive time, pharmacist Peter Zweers was the first to finish with a time of 25 minutes. He was followed by Felip Winkel at 27 minutes and Frank Böhm, also swimming for the

seventh year, at 28 minutes. Christine Humphreys was the first woman to finish, taking 36 minutes. All the above swimmers were barefoot.

► **Gardeners Alert!** The Green Label garden center on Kaya Industria has pallets full of good potting soil. Good soil will ensure your plants get off to a good start in Bonaire's sometimes inhospitable soil.

► **The Dive Inn Bonaire has re-opened under new ownership and management.** Bert Hagting, a long time member of the Bonaire dive community, has recently gone into business with his partners to acquire and manage the Dive Inn Bonaire. Under the new management, the Dive Inn Bonaire offers those little extra services which go a long way to ensuring you have a great diving experience while on Bonaire. Bert has a long standing reputation for providing professional and personalized services to divers and snorkelers from all over the world. Bert and his team invite everyone to stop by Dive Inn Bonaire to view the facilities and check out the services being offered. Dive Inn Bonaire offers complimentary daily tank delivery and pick-up service right to your front door. See their ad on page 13.



► **Janice Huckaby, JanArt, will be exhibiting her newest underwater paintings of Bonaire in Orlando, Florida, at the DEMA (Diving Equipment and Marketing Association) Dive Show, October 31 through November 3.** The paintings were created using underwater photos that were all taken on Bonaire's beautiful reefs. You may see more of her work at www.janartbonaire.com or visit the JanArt Gallery at Kaya Gloria 7.

► **Two Bonaire businesses have just won two awards but not for diving as you might expect.**

Bonaire's Breathe-IT BV was presented with an award for the latest, most innovative application of MOBOTIX IP cameras at the International Partner Conference (IPC) of MOBOTIX Ag, in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Jorge W. Ferrón, owner/director of Breathe-IT, explained to his fellow partners the challenges, rewards and results associated with placing a MOBOTIX 22M camera underwater in an open water sea environment at 15

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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

meters deep. As a result of this presentation Breathe-IT was rewarded the most valued MOBOTIX Partner Award.

The camera is placed in the Bonaire National Marine Park at the dive site Something Special. This camera sends a completely digital high resolution image (3 megapixels) every two seconds to the website www.breathebonaire.com.

MOBOTIX Ag is recognized as the market leader in the megapixel IP camera market. Breathe-IT BV is the authorized partner for MOBOTIX products in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. For more information please contact Jorge W. Ferrón, at +599 717 2626 or send an email to mobotix@breathe-it.net. You can also visit Breathe-IT BV's website at <http://www.breathe-it.net>

► **And the Cactus Blue Bar & Restaurant won the International Award for Tourist, Hotel and Catering Industry 2008** which honors "outstanding establishments in the tourist, hotel and restaurant catering fields world wide." The selection committee also recognized both Corinna and Hagen, for their "commitment to quality of service and cuisine" by awarding them a gold badge for "Global Quality Management." "We were both very surprised and excited to have been selected for this Trophy and to receive a gold badge," said Corinna. "We work hard together as a team to bring a high quality of service and cuisine to our guests at Cactus Blue," added Chef Hagen. The restaurant's website is <http://www.cactusbluebonaire.com/news.html>

► **The Bonaire Animal Shelter will have their next Bi-Annual Art Auction Fundraiser** on Friday, December 7. They

► **On line surveys relating to Bonaire have been made easier** with a new on-line service, Bonaire Surveys,™ accessible at www.bonaire-surveys.com It offers to conduct online surveys to test different market segments of Bonaire's tourist visitors or resident population. This is the first such survey system available for Bonaire. Results are automatically and immediately tabulated and can be viewed by the public or kept private for the entity requesting the data. Surveys may run for a specified amount of time or for an unlimited term.



are looking for local artists who would like to donate their pieces. It's for a very good cause. Call 787-0466.

► **Last but certainly not least, do not miss this year's Halloween Crib haunted house at Capt. Don's Habitat.** The ghouls and goblins who put this happening together are really weird but creative. The last two years they did this the lines to get in were long and people were so impressed and scared that they had to do it again...and sometimes again! All the money goes to Bonaire's charities. It could be an experience you'll never forget. It's only on for three nights (October 26, 27, 31) so save the dates. You might want to bring someone along to hold your hand or catch you if you faint. See their ad on page 20. □

G./L.D.

Bonaire Windsurfer Reports

30th Anniversary of the Legendary Engadinwind



The Engadinwind event used to be one of the big ones on the European Freestyle Pro Tour. Unfortunately, it has been reorganized as an invitational jump event for freestylers and doesn't count for the official EFPT rankings. The organizers also hosted the legendary marathon race where many old timers showed up to compete in a race that years ago was their favorite. This year it celebrates its 30th anniversary, a special year for the Engadinwind event.

The trip to Silvaplana started after hanging out with Loft team rider Pascal Somers and Yellowman Nick, two young and active riders in Belgium. We organized our equipment and got ready for our road trip to Switzerland. Winter jackets, formula boards, freestyle boards, masts, booms, lots of sails, food, energy drinks and much more were put into Pascal's bus. Early in the morning around 2am we took off towards France. Around 7am we were still passing through the landscape of France. After eight hours, with a few stops of course, we finally reached the Swiss border and drove with nice mountain views of the Alps. When we finally arrived in St. Moritz-Lake Silvaplana we checked out the event site and went straight to our rooms which had been arranged by the event organizers who had invited some freestylers to take part in the jump session.

The next day we all had a nice morning with sunshine, not too cold, and a power St. Moritz breakfast. Soon it was time to register for the event. At the beach we met friends and chatted about the previous events.

The forecast for that day wasn't that promising according to the local "mountain" windsurfers: too many different wind shifts and clouds between the mountains. When it comes to predictions and forecasts at such spots you better pay attention to the old experienced local sailors. The weather started to turn bad with less sun and appeared likely to be rainy for the afternoon so we headed back to our rooms to escape the cold rain. At night we had a meet and greet party at the Julier Pass, the famous get to-

gether point for windsurfers in Silvaplana.

Day 2 opened with a sunny morning and winds blowing across the big mountain from a very strange direction. The organizers decided to put on a fun race - a light wind figure eight long distance slalom.

Most of the formula riders went out to have some fun in this crazy wind. The conditions were extremely tricky and a Polish champ managed to win the race. The spectators finally had something to see and most sailors were happy to at least try instead of waiting on the beach. So a second race was run where this time my friend and team rider, Pascal Somers from Belgium, surprised all the guys by taking the lead and winning this fun event.

That night we celebrated the 30th anniversary on top of the mountain, Mount Corvatsch, which is about 3,000 meters high, where I did a special performance including a soundtrack for the event.

On the last day the weather was beautiful and the course was set for the marathon race and the Euro Cup Formula. Also the ramp was out, waiting for the stronger winds in the afternoon so the invited freestylers could perform a super session with tricks and jumps over the ramp. It was a day full of action on Lake Silvaplana - windsurf races with different disciplines and levels. The freestyle super session lasted 30 minutes, full of freestyle action and jumps over the ramp. (See photo sequence above.)

Later on that afternoon the awards ceremony was held.

The results for the Freestyle jumps session :

1. Kevin Mevissen H-79
2. Babtise SUI-
3. Tom Hartman AUT-
4. Ruben Petrisie NB-50
5. Tine Slabe SLO-6

After this event most riders went straight to the airport to catch their flights to Turkey where the PWA Pegasus Airline World Cup slalom event was held on the next day.

I drove back with my friends to

Belgium and flew back to Turkey the day after. As I arrived at the airport in Izmir I got a phone call from my producer, Roonbeat, who asked me to come immediately to a beach party to perform some tracks in front of

the windsurfing audience. After a three-hour flight and a one-hour drive I am on stage with a mike in my hand at midnight.

Next day I woke up and headed to the beach that was full of equipment and spectators and where races were already running. Unfortunately I could not join the event because as I was well known in Turkey the local organizer didn't leave me out and quickly asked me to perform a freestyle session every afternoon with some local friends. These sessions were sponsored by a chocolate company named Sneakers. The spectators and the PWA crew enjoyed the races and the freestyle sessions close to the beach.

My next trip was set to represent my sponsors at a



windsurf festival in Holland followed by the Kona Worlds long board racing in France.

Check out the full official clip for the Eurosport TV at

www.engadinwind.com. Thanks for reading. □ Ruben Petrisie NB-50



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40th Annual Regatta Roaring Success

The traditional light to variable winds and occasional rain marked the sailing side of the 40th edition of the Bonaire Regatta, the Caribbean's longest running sailing event. The evening's Regatta Festival events were said by many to be the best ever and were headlined by Soul Music superstar George McCrae.

There were 209 entries for the sailing events and more than 33 different stage events, countless stands and many hundreds of people on the streets from one dawn to the next.

Elvis Martinus and Byron Tromp, the organizers of this and numerous past Regattas received awards for their activities and dedication.

Enjoy some photos of the events. □L/G. D.



Marian Walthie photo



Marian Walthie photo



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Racing Results

The yacht *Curaçao Marine 1010* of Sergey Boer from Curaçao was the big winner of the Bonaire Regatta. It won Racing class 1, overall winner Racing class 1 and 2, and winner of the Race around Bonaire and the big Niki Tromp trophy.

Racing I
 Cur Marine 1010 (Cur)
 Team Ibis (Cur)
 Chimichurri (Cur)

Racing II
 Demaragge (Cur)
 Chamba II (Cur)
 Panta Rhei (Bon)

Racing Cruising I
 Marvin (Cur)
 Venus Callipyge (Cur)
 Windhush II (Cur)

Racing Cruising II
 Ella Rosa (GBR)
 Eva Luna (Aru)
 Cap de Long (Cur)

Open Class
 Tranquilo (Aru)
 Wishful Thinking (UK)
 Aeson (Ned)

Round Bonaire Overall
 Merlin (Cur)
Round Bonaire
Racing I: Cur Marine 1010
Racing II: Merlin (Cur)

The Lac Bay Race
Open: Tranquilo (Aru)
Racing Cruising I: Venus Callipyge (Cur)
Racing Cruising II: Eva Luna (Aru)

In addition to the yachts, there was racing for Sunfish, Splash, Laser and Optimist classes, windsurfers, catamarans, fishing boats and microboats. Unfortunately space available does not permit us to print those results. □ G.D.



ABVO photo

The team from SELIBON and their friends did a great job cleaning up the streets each night of the Regatta Festival



Curaçao Marine 1010 of Sergey Boer from Curaçao accepts the Nikki Tromp Trophy from the Governor and the Tromp family. Herman van Leeweun photo

Hello all the people of Bonaire:

Through this mail I will say thanks to all of you and all the sponsors who spent the money and made it possible to let me come over to your beautiful island.

A special thanks I need to send to Bert Poyck and Jo Bux of the

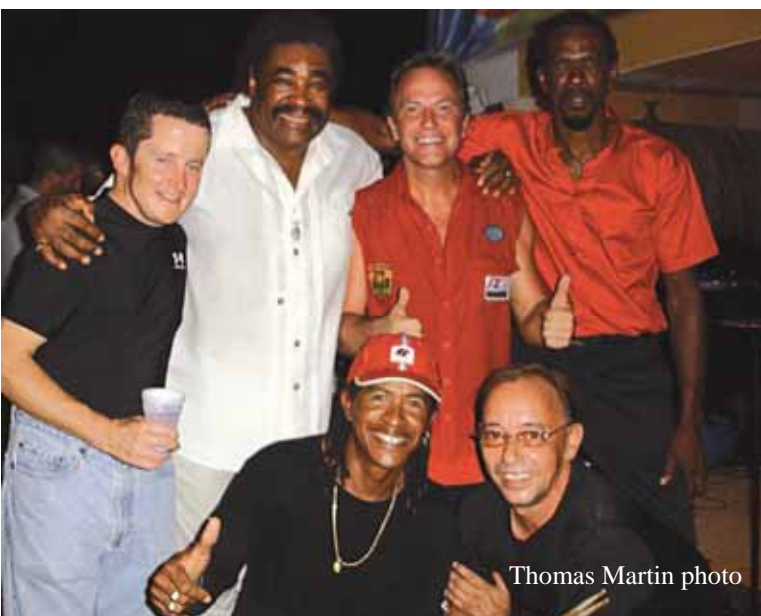
Fundashon Bonaire Entertainment, who planned the whole music-spectacle.

Me and my family enjoyed the 5 days on Bonaire and for sure:

Someday, I will come back. And don't forget: Keep The Soul Alive! ————— "Mr. Rock Your Baby" *George McCrae*



Herman van Leeweun photo



Thomas Martin photo

The Flamingo Rockers put on an inspired performance to "warm-up the audience for George McCrae at the Plaza Resort; from l-r, standing: Rhett Nelson, backup vocals, who is a medical student here and who sits in with us often, George McCrae, Thomas Kinslow lead guitarist and vocalist, Gilbert Bomba rhythm guitar and vocals. Kneeling are Lando Rafaella bassist, and Rien Donkers drummer and vocals.



Herman van Leeweun photo



Herman van Leeweun photo

Venus Callipyge Wins again!

SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 6

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

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Announcements



It's becoming an annual fantastic cocktail party—ReMax Paradise Homes celebration of their birthday. Led by Bob Bartikowski this year's party to celebrate their third year on Bonaire was a blowout—great music, drinks, snacks and people.



Happy Birthday, October 23, to *The Bonaire Reporter's* Delivery Team: Elisabeth Silberie and her granddaughter, Georgina. Both have their birthdays on the same day. These two familiar faces you'll see all around town, delivering *The Reporter* with a smile. We thank them for helping to keep the island informed.

Young Chefs in Italy

Our six students from SGB Horeca sector are enjoying life in Italy. The students shopped for chef uniforms on behalf of Nazareno School and Region Emilia Romagna, then had an orientation with School Director Luca Franchini and project coordinator Claudio Ciresola. It was a warm and beautiful sunny day in Italy when this photo was taken -in front of the school where they will have lessons for the next three weeks.

Nazareno is located outside Modena near Carpi, a famous area for its worldwide exported products—Balsamico vinegar... and Ferrari cars. □ *Sara Matera*



Turtle Tracking

Darwina', our Green turtle has slowed down considerably to a speed of under 40 km per day as she is approaching her first shallow-water area after leaving Bonaire. She is nearing the Pedro Bank, which belongs to Jamaica and she is now just over 1170 km from her starting point. □

Anouschka van de Ven



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There's Gold In Shanghai SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT



14 MEDALS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM

During the Special Olympic Games in Shanghai, Bonaire's team won 14 medals: 5 Gold, 3 Silver and 14 Bronze. A total of 14 athletes from Bonaire participated.

Among the Gold winners were Winella St. Hilaire, Women's Singles Tennis; Johnny Hellmund, Men's Single Bowling; and Patrick Bernabela, 200 meter Track.

The athletes, coaches and the rest of the Bonaire delegation enjoyed the ambiance and food of China. Our team was well prepared by their coaches and performed outstandingly.

Special Olympics Shanghai 2007 drew 7,291 athletes from 164 countries. They participated in 21 different sport games. □

Press Release

Photo Captions:

Top-Gold medalists *Lucille Soliana and Natiana Nicolina* with coach *Elske Lucia*

Bottom-Gold medal winner *Patrick Bernabela* with his coach, *Earon Rosario*

SOB Photos



Nrd Braves Softball Sub champions

The 2nd Challenge Cup Mr. Bug and the 6th Dutch Caribbean Ladies' Softball Tournament was a success, although the ladies didn't play the finals on Saturday, October 13, because of the heavy rains and the bad condition of the field. The finals will be played next year wherever the ladies' tournament takes place.

The tournament started Thursday, October 11, with the arrival of the ladies in the morning. The Boston team got here later that night with 12 good players.

The games were played at a high level. Despite the rain, because of the efforts of the Nrd Braves team players, the field was repaired so the games could continue later that night.

The Boston team became champion and Nrd Braves sub-champion. Boston won a cash prize of \$1,000 and Nrd Braves a cash prize of \$500, sponsored by Mr. Pier Rigaud of Mr. Bug and Bug patrol.

Next year's tournament will take place on the same date. The Boston team was so delighted with Bonaire and the hospitality that they promised to come back again next year.

Thanks to all our sponsors for cooperating and Mr. Bug and Bug patrol. Thanks to the press in general and to you, *Bonaire Reporter*.

Stay tuned for our next activity. □ *Edsel Pieter*



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Pets of The Week



"Michael" and "Milton"

Two brothers, "Michael" and "Milton," pose for the camera. We are adorable, they say, and look how well we get along with each other. It's true they had the same mother, but they certainly are different from each other. Michael has longish black and white fur while Milton has sleek black short fur. The brothers are about six

months old and have proved to be very affectionate to their human caretakers at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. They were brought into the Shelter because their owner had too many cats. Lucky for them because now they're up for adoption. They've been tested for feline leukemia, been wormed and check out and had their shots. And sterilization is

included in the NAf75 adoption fee for cats. What a deal and you get a near perfect pet to join you and your family.

You may meet these two at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, now open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm, and 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989. □ L.D.

"Baby Sitter" Wanted!



Pukkie



Lola

While on an extended trip, Bonaire residents Silvan Henneman and Carla Verheggen received some bad news. Their dog sitter, after five months, had to unexpectedly leave for Holland and put their two sweet dogs in the Animal Shelter!

Sil writes, "Our sweet Lola and Pukkie, two sterilized female dogs around five years old, are inseparable. Lola, the size of a small Labrador, is a bit afraid of strangers and needs Pukkie, half her size, to adapt to others. Who has the heart to adopt these two angels 'till we are back on the island in June /July? They, and we, will love you forever for that! These great dogs need to be on your front porch, guarding the premises at night and playing with you during the day.

If Pukkie could talk she'd say, "Please, pick us up from the shelter, and my boss, Silvan, will send you a big pie with all his love!" □ Silvan Henneman

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Doggy Myths

One of the first things people mention when they talk about Bonaire is its tranquility. I am also one of those people who like the peace and quiet of this island. But that serenity is often being brutally disturbed. Just when I want to have a nice and well-deserved lie-in, the neighbor's dog starts howling and barking at 5 o'clock Sunday morning. If one dog starts, the others in the neighborhood will soon follow the pack, and before you know it your calm island is covered in an avalanche of noise. I have come to think that this is a result of a belief in a number of myths about dogs.

Myth 1: When I chain my dog it will become a good watchdog.

Tying up a dog will only make the dog frustrated and mentally unsound (like my neighbor's dog). The need to roam is in the dog's nature. Keeping a dog on a short chain will only accomplish that it will start barking at nothing and keep going for hours on end. It will not be a watchdog because who will check if something is wrong if it is always barking? Also, a frustrated dog is a potentially dangerous dog. What happens if that chain should break? You may be big enough for it to only bite you in your calf, but I shudder at the thought of what it can do to a two year old.

You can get a watchdog with a lot of attention and training. A dog wants to belong to a pack. If you make your family its pack, it will defend it till the end of time... without chains.

Myth 2: Dogs bark; there is nothing I can do about that.

Indeed, they will bark. But you can train them to shut up. If you can train your dog to listen to its name, you can certainly train your dog to stop barking when you want it to. All it takes is a little effort and time. The best tools you can use while training your dog are your voice and posture. If you say, "You, horrible, smelly, excuse of a dog," in a sweet, melodious, and high-pitched voice, your dog will come wagging its tail. It does not understand what you are saying, but it will understand the tone of your voice. Dogs have an instinct to follow a leader. If you stand like a leader, it will follow you to the end of the world...without barking.

Myth 3: You need to chain a newly-brought puppy, otherwise it will run away.

Dogs are one of most easily bribed mammals of this planet. All it takes is a little affection and food. You will find that you have just made friends for life. If you want to leave and your yard is not fenced, it will be wise to keep the puppy in a secure area for a short while. Your new friend will try to follow you when you leave. If you are the hand that feeds it and if you praise your dog when it does what you want, it will stay put...without chains.

Myth 4: My dog digs holes in the yard out of pure spite.

Dogs are mostly binary creatures. They either do or they don't. And when they do, it is not because they want to get back at you. While they are pulling your laundry off the line, you will not find one vengeful thought in their minds. Jealousy, vengeance, spite and envy are merely human emotions.

If your dog is destroying your property it is because it is bored out of its mind. Dogs need exercise. You need to walk your dog every day for at least one and a half hours so it can spend its energy. A nice bonus is that you also will get your own daily exercise...without holes in the yard.

Dogs which are well-cared for and well trained will make Bonaire an even more peaceful island. A well-trained dog will be one of the most joyful and faithful animals you can find on this earth. When you are considering getting a dog, but you find that all that care and training is too tedious and time-consuming, remember that NOT getting a dog is also one of the options. It will ensure that you can sleep without disturbance...and your neighbors as well. □ *Mary Ann Koops*

The author is a dog owner and a biology teacher at the SGB

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

Divers might interfere with the mating patterns of Slippery Dicks? Not much is known about how divers might interfere with fish behavior, especially mating. One of our students will be monitoring mating patterns of these wrasses when there are no divers around versus when there is a diver swimming directly above. All month she'll be studying these fish and should have some answers by late next month.



Slippery Dick

Slippery Dicks mate every day around 4pm. Both snorkelers and divers can enjoy the antics of this busy fish as it tries to secure a territory and coerce nearby females into a spawning rise. Terminal phase (male) Slippery Dicks are small – about five inches long – and pastel colored and are very common in shallow water – from 3 -15 feet deep. For such a silly name, they're quite beautiful little wrasses. Initial phase (females and small males) Slippery Dicks are skinny and small – roughly one to four inches long – and are white with a black stripe running from their noses to their tails.

Every afternoon the busy males try to commandeer a small territory consisting of one or two corals or rocks from which they can begin a short and very rapid spawning rise. The males have to juggle two goals: defend their territories from other males and try to get nearby females to mate with them – both are formidable tasks. To impress the females, the males will race upwards, bob up and down, flap their fins – basically whatever it takes to prove their worth – and all the while racing frantically after sly interlopers. And all this for a few short spawning rises that last less than a second each!

If you're as interested in this whole subject as I continue to be, then you'll want to look for two things to see these fish in action: stay shallow, stay calm, and stay close to the bottom (without touching of course). Look for a terminal phase slippery dick chasing another terminal phase male. Maybe you can figure out the boundaries of his territory. Then you might notice two or three initial phase gals close by. Keep your eyes on them because if you blink you'll miss the very quick, very short rise where they both race upwards and release eggs and milt.

Keep reading our "Did You Knows" and we'll let you know the results of this study. □ *Caren Eckrich*

Biologist 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 .

The Dive Inn Bonaire

Bert Hagting invites you to join him and his partners at the Dive Inn Bonaire. We offer personalized service tailored to meet your individual diving requirements. At Dive Inn Bonaire we offer complimentary daily tank drop-off and pick-up service to your front door. <http://www.diveinnbonaire.com>; email: info@diveinnbonaire.com; phone (599) 717-8761



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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.	On the beach Extensive snack/salad/burger menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant, Buddy's Pool Bar Sea Side 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; Mon. - "Dive and Dine;" Wed. - "Live Cooking by the Chefs;" Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30-6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$19.50 (7-10 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 28,50 or \$16.
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 Great value anytime.
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.
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
The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all. 717-5091, 717-2288	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

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BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

De Freewieler rents bikes, scooters and quads. Professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

DIVING

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine) -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly cleanup dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

FITNESS

Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

Interiours—(formerly 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. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

NATURE EXPLORATION

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapelling/abseiling 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.

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.**

SKIN CARE

Curaçao Aloe.... Fantastic products for your skin and body. Hand picked and manufactured in Curaçao. Available at many shops on Bonaire.

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.

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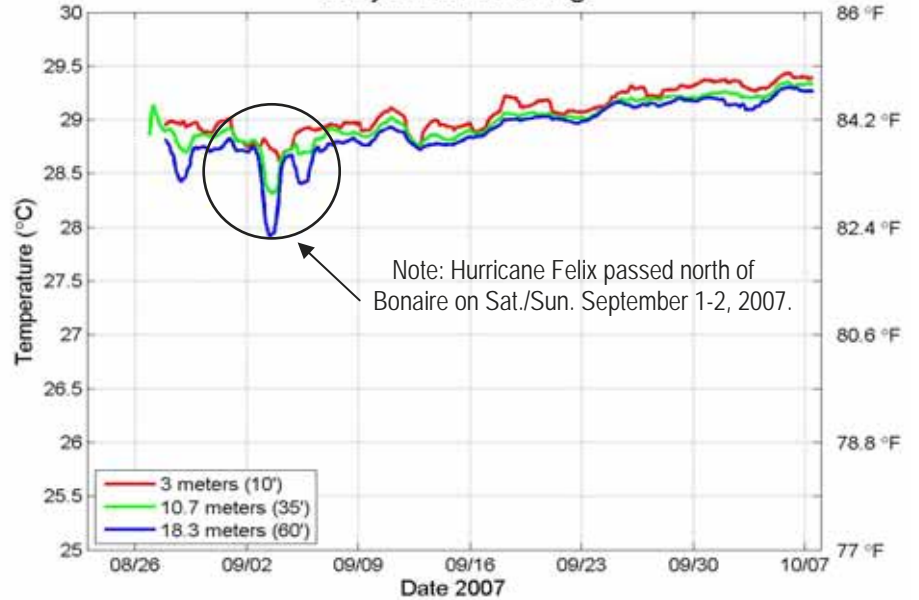
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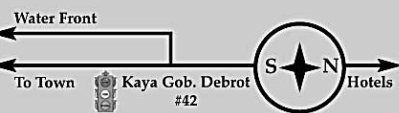
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Light & Motion Sensor Program Food for Scientific Thought

Preliminary data from the Light & Motion Sensor Program typifies the complexity of the ocean mechanisms. The L&M sensor on Jerri's Reef is the original program deployment location. Jerri's Reef is located on Klein Bonaire and is considered the "control" sensor array because it is further from Bonaire's coast than all other arrays. Thus, Jerri's reef constitutes a baseline of water largely unaffected by Bonaire's land issues and can be used to compare results with near-shore sensor arrays.

It can, however, provide additional information about how the ocean surrounding Bonaire operates and, in some cases, raise more questions than it answers.

The array remained operational during the recent hurricane. The attached graph shows the average hourly water temperature at three depths before, during and after Hurricane Felix. It is well known that the high winds of a hurricane can produce significant mixing of the ocean waters creating dramatic changes in water temperature and other properties.

What the LMSP data shows is something different. The red line on the chart is the measured temperature near the surface. The data shows that the temperature dropped less than ¼ degree (c) during the hurricane. On the other hand, the blue line on the chart shows that the water at 60 feet (18M) dropped over 1 degree C, a significant change. The green line on the chart shows that the 30 foot (10m) water also dropped about ¾ degree C.

The conclusion is that the cold water is the result of the upwelling (deeper, colder water

rising) probably due to the hurricane and not due to wind-driven mixing from the hurricane. Obvious questions are: "Did the hurricane cause this upwelling, if so how, and did this occur at other sites?"

This is the second significant upwelling measured on Jerri's reef. An even larger upwelling event occurred between June 24 and July 16 when a subsurface temperature drop of 2.5°C and a surface decrease of nearly 2°C was recorded during the pilot phase of LMSP in June 2007. BNMP head Ramon de Leon indicated STINAPA measured a similar upwelling in June 2006.

The mechanics of why, how and the timing of this phenomena is not currently well understood. This is, of course, why actual measurements are necessary to make sound decisions concerning the protection of Bonaire's wonderful reefs. That is the goal of the Light & Motion Sensor Program.

We'll keep you posted, □ Tom Reynolds,

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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
10-26	12:24	2.0FT.	21:23	0.9FT.					99
10-27	13:18	2.0FT.	22:42	0.8FT.					103
10-28	14:08	2.0FT.	23:44	0.7FT.					102
10-29	0:42	0.6FT.	15:10	2.0FT.					97
10-30	1:34	0.6FT.	16:08	2.0FT.					88
10-31	2:16	0.6FT.	17:13	1.9FT.					77
11-01	2:50	0.7FT.	18:10	1.9FT.					65
11-02	3:22	0.8FT.	19:11	1.8FT.					53
11-03	3:42	0.9FT.	10:41	1.4FT.	14:37	1.3FT.	20:03	1.6FT.	46
11-04	3:50	1.0FT.	10:28	1.5FT.	16:05	1.3FT.	20:53	1.5FT.	45
11-05	3:42	1.1FT.	10:34	1.6FT.	17:30	1.2FT.	21:50	1.4FT.	49
11-06	3:06	1.1FT.	10:52	1.7FT.	18:40	1.1FT.	22:37	1.2FT.	56
11-07	1:58	1.1FT.	11:18	1.8FT.	20:03	1.0FT.	23:39	1.1FT.	63
11-08	11:44	1.9FT.	21:21	0.9FT.					69
11-09	12:10	1.9FT.	22:30	0.9FT.					73
11-10	12:41	2.0FT.	23:15	0.8FT.					76

LMSP Information

These are the monitoring sites that are deployed:
Jerry's Reef, Albert Bianculli/BNMP Boat, Monday, A.M.

Deployed & Recording DATA:

- 1) Playa Lechi #34, Tony Gray, Leo Hoogenboom & Zsuzsanna Pusztai, Thursday.
- 2) Front Porch, DIVI All-Inclusive (to be built 2008), Chile & Linda Ridley, Sunday.
- 3) Black Durgon, Hato, Rick Aguilar, Saturday.
- 4) 17 Palm, Plaza Resort, Irene da Cunda, Friday.
- 5) Kas di Arte, Playa, Bill & Pro Phan Wildin, Monday.
- 6) Bari Reef, Den Laman/Sand Dollar, Marge Lawson, Candace Platz, Joanie Fitterling, Tuesday.

To be Deployed November:

- 7) Zee Bad, Divi Flamingo/Cha.Cha.Beach, Bill & Pro Phan Wildin, Wednesday.
- 8) Salty, Buddy Dive, Cassandra & Franklin Neal, Marge Lawson, Wednesday.
- 9) W.E.B., Hamlet/Habitat, John & Cindi Jensen, Thursday.



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Latest Report:
LMSP - SENSOR AR-
RAY DEPLOYMENT
SITE #6 on Tuesday,
October 16, 2007
Mooring Site: Bari Reef
(Sand Dollar Resort)
Divers: Albert Bianculli,
Marge Lawson
Independent Sensor
Mooring Line, attached to
a steel drum on the reef
slope @ 21.3 meters. 9
Sampling: every 8 min.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Nightmare Crib Ghost House, at Capt. Don's Habitat, 8 pm to 11 pm.

Friday, October 26, Saturday, October 27, Wednesday, October 31—To benefit Bonaire's charities. See page 20.

Wednesday, October 31—Halloween Arts & Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park during cruise ship visits, 10 am to early afternoon: Wed., Oct. 31 (Crown Princess); Friday, Nov. 2 (Emerald Princess)

Saturday November 3: 7th BWC Mountain Bike Tour For Riders of All Levels of Experience; Distances: Beginners 15km; Beginners-Intermediate 20km; Intermediate-Advanced 30km; Registration Bonaire Wellness Connexions at 3:45 p.m. Participation Fee: NAf 15 per person (includes drink + fruit)

COMING

Saturday, November 10—7th Annual EcoSwim. Call BONHATA or go to www.aquamoondventures.com

Saturday, November 17: Mountain Bike Tour 50km Bonaire Wellness Connexions, Eden Beach, 785-0767, email info@bonairewellness.com

Sunday, November 18: Mountain Bike Tour at Washington Park see above

Sunday, November 18—Dia di Gracia— Contribute what you don't need to be given to the needy. Call Meredith Nicolaas (717-4658 or 786-2024), Shela Winklaar (510-7412) or Mamita Fox (717-2953 or 796-1919)

Thursday, November 22—Fundashon Kuido pa Besta i Oido (Foundation to aid the Blind & Deaf) Fundraising Thanksgiving Dinner, Chez Nous at the SGB, 7—10 pm. Donation: NAf55. For more information and/or purchase tickets call 569-7610 or 785-0518. See page 6.

Saturday, December 1—Bodybuilding Competition. More information contact Judel at 786-0290

December 2, 2007: 2nd BWC Mountain Bike Race

REGULAR EVENTS

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 p.m.**
 - **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm—4 am; Sunday 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) with live mariachi- **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. 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.

- **Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

- **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.

- **Mountain Bike Training for riders of all levels (also Tuesday)** at 5pm. Bonaire Wellness Connexions, Eden Beach, 785-0767, email info@bonairewellness.com

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

- **Dinner and a Show at Casablanca Argentinean Grill—Reporter writer Albert Bianculli presents his Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday"** at 6:30pm, 7:30 pm & 8:30pm

- **"Dive & Dine" Buddy Dive Resort, 6:30 -9:30 pm**

- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435**

Tuesdays

- **Margarita and Taco Tuesdays!** With \$2.50 Margarita and a Taco bar! Plus Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 6-8pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**

Wednesdays

- **Beach BBQ & music at The Windsurf Place at Sorobon, 7—10 pm.** Reserve ahead. Tel. 717-5091, 717-2288. (see back page)

- **"Live Cooking by the Chefs"** with live music by the Flamingo Rockers Unplugged - **Buddy Dive Resort, 6-10 pm**

Thursdays

- **Flamingo Rockers, at "Admiral's Hour" for yachtsmen and others,** Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

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

- **Friday Weekly Market at Wilhelmina Park** with local art, music and food; summer fashions, jewelry, glasswork, Bonaire pictures, driftwood art, paintings and all kinds of Bonaire souvenirs, 9 am to 2 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, Live music by Flamingo Rockers, **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar 6-7 pm**

- **Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm)** with Moogie Nation, followed by 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- Land & Ocean Bonaire by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of Bonaire Dive & Adventure.

Tuesday—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show.* Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, **Buddy Dive Resort, 7 pm—717-3802.**

Wednesday—Sea Turtle Conservation

Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819) at 7pm.

Wednesday—Diving Facts And Fiction - An Evening with DIR slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure, 786-5073

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 Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner at **Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm** - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7.30 pm at Sunrise Pool Bar. all levels, NAf2.50. Call Joop 717-5903 or be there by 7:15. **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** - 'Pirate House', above Zeezicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

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, Sundays, 10 am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

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

New Apostolic Church: 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, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Celebrate Halloween with the Seven Sinister Sisters

Because Halloween greeting cards often depict a witch riding a broom in front of a full Moon many people have the mistaken notion that there's a full Moon every year at Halloween when in fact we won't have a full Moon on Halloween again until 2020. But there is something you can see in the night sky every Halloween that is even niftier than the Moon to my way of thinking, the Seven Sinister Sisters.

On, any Halloween night, around midnight face south. If you look up almost overhead you will see the tiny cluster of stars called **The Pleiades**, or the **Seven Sisters**. And to several cultures long ago, when the Seven Sisters reached their highest point at midnight, which happens every year at the end of October and beginning of November, this was a sort of cosmic signal telling people that now was the time of the year to honor the dead. Now astronomically speaking, whenever any object reaches its highest point in the heavens we say that it has **culminated**.

And whenever The Pleiades culminated at midnight many ancient cultures held great ceremonies in honor of the dead, which is basically where our Halloween comes from. There was also a popular belief that great natural catastrophes had occurred on some of the nights when The Pleiades culminated at midnight. In fact some legends claim that the Great Flood and the 10 Plagues of Egypt, even the legendary sinking of Atlantis, occurred when The Pleiades culminated at midnight. Indeed, this belief was so widespread that the ancient Aztec and Maya conducted spectacular ceremonies when The Pleiades culminated at midnight because they believed that the world had already been destroyed and recreated not once but four times when the Seven Sisters were overhead at midnight. Even the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan, Mexico, was oriented to the setting of The Pleiades as were all of the city's west facing streets. And coincidentally many ancient Greek temples were also lined up with the setting or the rising of the Seven Sisters.

Now although The Pleiades no longer reach their highest point, that is culminate, exactly at midnight on the same nights as they did in ancient times, nevertheless, they are still almost at their highest every Halloween at midnight as a modern reminder that our ancestors were deeply moved and affected by the cosmos and used many cosmic coincidences to determine important religious and ceremonial events in their life. In fact some people still believe that the next time the world ends it will also happen on a Pleiades overhead at midnight night. But I wouldn't hold my breath if I were you.

Instead if you're out this Halloween or any Halloween at midnight look almost overhead for the beautiful cluster of stars some people have seen as the Seven Sinister Sisters and remind yourself that these same stars have been seen by thousands of generations who have gone before us. Now doesn't that make Halloween at midnight even better than a full Moon? □ *Jack Horkheimer*



Cafe Astrology

For the month of November 2007



Aries- From the 8th forward, improved relations with a close partner figure. Communication is effortless now and helps strengthen your bond. You are working with, instead of against, each other. Love blossoms all month. Although work in and around the home is a focus, you are likely to encounter obstacles on the home front. Money matters are more successful with a partner or through social connections.

Taurus -Your working life improves dramatically this month. A sense of peace regarding work and health routines puts a spring in your step. Career and reputation matters move forward, and progress is tangible. You are more popular than usual, both on the job and in your personal life. Pleasing social activities and perhaps even love can be found through your work.

Gemini -The most satisfying elements of your life in November are romance, pleasure, and creativity. Work and career come in second place, as previously blocked work projects move forward and career doors open. Domestic matters improve, although increased responsibilities with family also figure. Tie up loose financial ends before the 15th. In the second half of the month, financial projects won't get off the ground as smoothly. Control urges to spend impulsively and review your budget.

Cancer -There is nothing quite like the peace we derive from a smooth-flowing domestic life, and this is what lifts your spirits this month. It's an excellent period for entertaining from your home. However, getting your personal projects into motion may be a lesson in frustration from mid-month. Impatience works against you in obvious ways now. Expect more opportunities to enjoy leisurely activities in November.

Leo -Mental pursuits, communications, and relationships with acquaintances run especially well this month. Delays lift, and you are able to sweet talk the birds from the trees if you so choose. Career matters are strong. Making pleasant connections on the job figures. Caution is in order until the fog lifts. Domestic matters demand attention.

Virgo -A sense of peace about your personal finances boosts your overall mood. Spending on frivolous items may be a lure, but you deserve some pampering. It can be hard for you to work together as a team, or to feel a strong camaraderie with friends, from mid-month. Some November is a busy month for you, with plenty of phone calls and errands to keep you on your toes.

Libra -Personal popularity increases dramatically this month -- you are in your element, and others can't resist your natural charm, particularly from the 8th forward. Toning down aggression on the job. Be patient! Love opportunities arise on the 18-20 (although some tension and conflict is involved) and the 25-26. Finances are strong all month.

Scorpio -A feeling that you have been missing important information, or that secrets have been kept from you, lifts this month and you are more confident about your perceptions and hunches. Love this month is privately delicious. Romantic secrets and sacrifices keep you feeling vital and irreplaceable. Career opportunities continue to seek you out.

Sagittarius -The ability to count on friends in time of need carries you this month. Friendships flourish, and any missed connections or disagreements with friends become things of the past in November. If you need financial support, try to squeeze it in before mid-month, when delays and snags with finances can become an issue. Some rest and relaxation may be in order until the last week of November, when the pace of your life speeds up considerably.

Capricorn -Any misconceptions and frustrations on the career front clear up beautifully this month, dear Capricorn. Career and reputation confusions lift, and others read you loud and clear. You will need to cultivate patience in order to avoid frustration. Concentrate on your work, which is blossoming and especially fruitful.

Aquarius -Travel plans, education, and other mind-expanding activities are strong in November and keep you smiling. Your adventuresome spirit and faith in life attract others to you. Attention to your career is necessary this month. You will need to tone down your impatience with slower co-workers and stalled projects. Communication mix-ups are the source of friction, so check and double-check your work and insist others make themselves perfectly clear. Romance blossoms from the 21-26.

Pisces -You may be uncharacteristically aggressive or rash in affairs of the heart, tendencies that need to be kept in check especially after mid-month. Romance continues to be a strong focus all month. There may be some financial complications in November, but shared resources are strong. Opportunities for travel and education figure. Grab opportunities on the 25-26.

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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The 21st of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

The KLM-colored Airstream Coach of Bonaire Tours & Vacations



Bonaire/Harbour Village Marina – There is only one Airstream vehicle on the island of Bonaire. It is the Airstream Executive Coach owned by Bonaire Tours & Vacations.

Corine Gerharts, General Manager of Bonaire Tours & Vacations, is very proud of her Airstream, nicknaming it "the fat boy." "Our Airstream Coach has been fully restored, taking almost a year and a half to complete. We designed the paint work on the body, using the KLM blue to highlight the unique Airstream shape. On the road since March 2007, it is the designated KLM crew bus. The KLM crew really loves their vintage bus, often taking pictures with the "fat boy." The cockpit crew is always impressed to find such a bus on Bonaire as they are familiar with the technical aspects of the Airstream construction. For example, the body is made of aluminum and rivets were used to assemble the body, just as airplane manufacturers do."

Bonaire Tours & Vacations is the third owner of the Airstream Executive Coach. The vehicle was originally brought in from Curacao by Pascal de Meijer (Photo Tours) with the intention of transporting special dive groups with all their gear in one fully equipped vehicle

Bonaire Tours & Vacations is the third owner of the Airstream Executive Coach. "Our 1983 coach was constructed in the last year that Airstream manufactured their world famous bullet shaped coaches," Corine continues. "It is a real classic and a collector's item. The body is mounted on a Chevrolet chassis fitted with a V8 engine, air suspension and fully air conditioned. Holding up to 16 passengers, the interior is completely original with VIP cloth reclining chairs, wall to wall carpeting, recessed lights and a folding mahogany wood table. It's like sitting in a nice living room!"

We walk to the parking lot behind the office. There stands the reconditioned Airstream, license plate: B – 3687, with his split window and smiling face. When we open the door, a flight of stairs automatically folds out. And when we close the door, the stairs fold in again! Those funny Americans! *(In Europe we occasionally forget to fold up the stairs and we smash them after a few hundred meters or we just simply leave our stairs in a parking lot and heading to a camper shop to buy a new set!)*

The interior is very luxurious indeed: nice seats, nice table, nice view, nice air conditioning too! I take some photographs of the inside and outside: split window, nice flight of stairs, nice paint job, huge wheels, double air on the back, ridged chassis. This road plane will survive us. Did you know a vehicle made of aluminum can stay alive for 90 years?

(For more information about renting the coach: call: 717 – 8778 or visit the website: info@bonairetours.com). □ J@n Brouwer

Picture Yourself With The Reporter Agrigento, Sicily, Italy



Sara Matera and Rudi Vermeulen sent us this photo of themselves in Agrigento, a Sicilian town with a population of 55,000 people and a few old temples.

Here they are in La Valle dei Templi (Valley of the Temples) dating from the Greek occupation of Sicily around 500 BC.

Their favorite site was the temple of Castor and Pollux, the names of their past Golden Retrievers dogs who were the best boys ever.

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Carbon Neutral Is It A Possibility for Bonaire?

Earth Day is over, but the fight against Global Warming continues. On a personal level, one of the best and simplest ways for **you and me** to have a positive effect on the environment is by pledging to go "Carbon Neutral." This means that we must balance our daily personal, negative CO₂ emissions with something that is of an equal value and has a verifiable, positive effect on the environment.

Whenever we exhale, use energy (turn on a light bulb, drive a car, use a computer etc.), we emit carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. That's not good because the 'greenhouse gas,' CO₂ is one of the leading causes of global warming. Producing some amount of CO₂ is inevitable. That's where the idea of "Carbon Offsets" comes in.

You and Carbon Offsets

Essentially going carbon neutral means you're offsetting the amount of carbon dioxide you put into the atmosphere. This can be accomplished in a number of ways, including supporting alternative energy sources. Everything you do, no matter how small, can make a big difference, negative or positive. Let's be clear about this concept: **our direct use of any energy source and the consumption of all manufactured or processed products adds "Carbon Dioxide" (CO₂) to the atmosphere.** We all have a "carbon footprint." It's the total carbon dioxide emissions we create when we drive, or fly or use electricity. That fact and the growth in population contributes immensely to the challenge before us: Reversing the devastating effects of Global Warming. Additionally, the CO₂ dissolved in the world's great oceans threatens to raise the acidity of the seas. That will make its chemistry unsuitable for healthy coral growth and possibly lead to the elimination of all living organisms.

Since every living human being on this Earth contributes to elevating CO₂ levels **it is the responsibility of all of us, on an individual and personal level, to bring our CO₂ contribution into balance.**

Conservation is not enough. Only by taking positive, aggressive actions to produce verified reductions in greenhouse gas pollution will you be able to counterbalance your own emissions.

A Comparison

Consider the scenarios of two Caribbean islands: One with the technology, habits and attitude



When the east coast wind farm is operational Bonaire will begin to look like Holland

of its colonial past. It's a small island, 300 sq. km., surrounded by a clear warm sea. The island is struggling to maintain itself and integrate its 13,000 people into the expanding global economy. Geographically positioned near the equator protects it from devastating storms and provides its inhabitants with a warm, dry, hospitable climate year round. Its prime resource is the sea and the surrounding coral reefs.

A malaise attitude of "status-quo" ensnares the community. It is economically mired in the muck of a bureaucratic system. Totally dependent on an archaic, fossil fuel fired, electric power generating and distribution system as well as an ancient water desalination plant, the local population suffers economic hardships. They are struggling to buy imported goods and food for their families and are sinking deeper and deeper into the quicksand of debt caused by skyrocketing energy bills. With no mass transit, families need dual incomes to pay bills, require two autos. The increasing numbers of vehicles, with very little pollution control devices, adds CO₂ emissions to diesel generator exhaust. The "carbon footprint" for each person here is much greater in than in more developed locations. Here, in

this scenario, positive changes in the pattern of life could dramatically reduce emissions of CO₂ and significantly reduce the cost of energy.

However

The second island, let's call it "Gem," has an environmental conscience and a balanced "Carbon Neutral" objective. On this island, similar in size, population and location to the first, there is a saying... **"There are No Problems to Survival on Earth, only the Rewards of Facing the Challenges of Opportunity!"**

Recognizing the value of the sea and the surrounding coral reefs prompted the community to establish a "National Marine Park" in 1979. It is a verified, successful model for the entire Caribbean basin to this day. Tourism has sustained the local population over the ensuing years. With an Environmental Policy to preserve nature, well-conceived and controlled development has not had a negative impact on the island or on the sea. Economic growth has been realized by targeting potential eco-visitors with like attitudes and desires.

Faced with the same energy demands created by the growth in population, development and



A packaged desalination plant, similar to this, may be installed at the current WEB power plant site after the new facility is operating near BOPEC.

visitors, the ever-responsive community, turned to their elected leaders with a unique challenge. "Find a way for us, not only to survive under these economic conditions, but make a **profit on the opportunity!**"

A big step was taken after the alternative energy sources were thoroughly checked out. First, based on the available natural resources at hand, because of their geographic location, it was decided to use a combination of Wind Driven Turbines, Solar Collectors and Wave Activated Generators for all the electric demand now and in the future. There was even enough energy available to power the improved, energy efficient water desalination plants. This eliminated the purchase and transport of the fossil fuel previously required for that purpose.

Next, an innovative and creative proposal was presented and adopted by the island's people. Before the new equipment was purchased and installed, a foundation was formed to offer affordable, packaged, investment shares to the public in the very companies that design, manufacture and install alternative energy production machinery and materials. People started to receive income from the shares in the very companies that were putting the equipment on their island. The prospect of a rich reward was in the minds of everyone. An abundant pool of creativity, research and individual resourcefulness was used to find

all sorts of available grants and low interest loans for the purchase of fuel efficient cars, hybrid cars, electric cars, highly efficient home appliances and other necessities for a modern, progressive society.

More investors were attracted as the value of the portfolio grew and made many of the original shareholders wealthy by island standards.

Eventually, the entire local population was either employed by the foundation or had their own companies to supply the needs of the population and visitors. Everyone could afford more consumer goods including computers and software as well as service and maintenance for their high tech equipment and other items.

The Island "Gem" prospered beyond all the expectations. Tourism flourished, crime dropped and the environment was protected. Concerned visitors returned time after time. They purchased property, built homes, invested and became another great asset as a source of information and practical business experience.

Could we call this island "Gem," BONAIRE?

I certainly hope so. It can come true. It only requires the will to do whatever it takes as a concerned, committed, united community to get the job done. □
Albert Bianculli 2007





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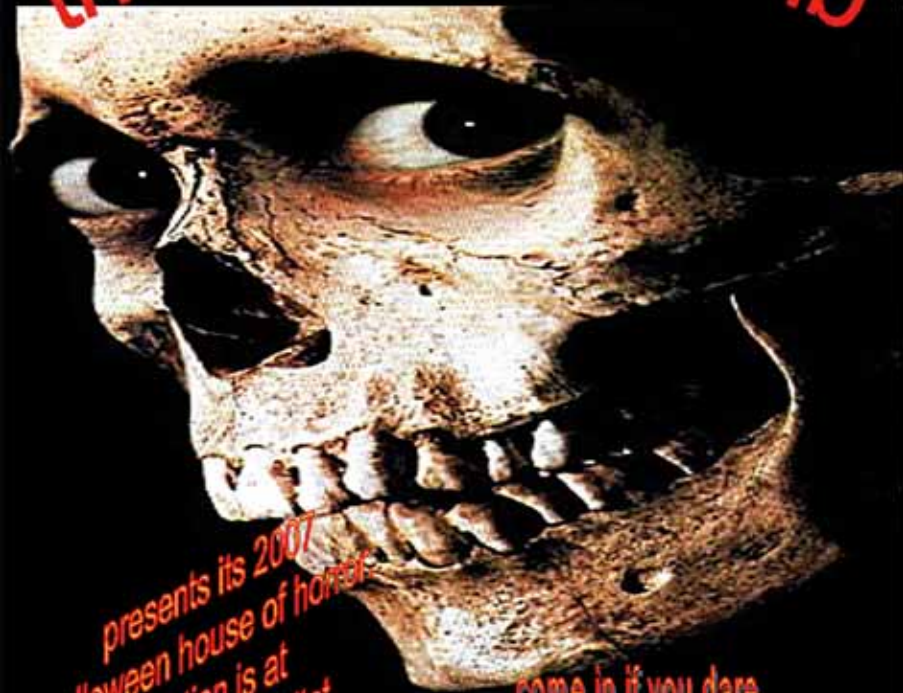
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