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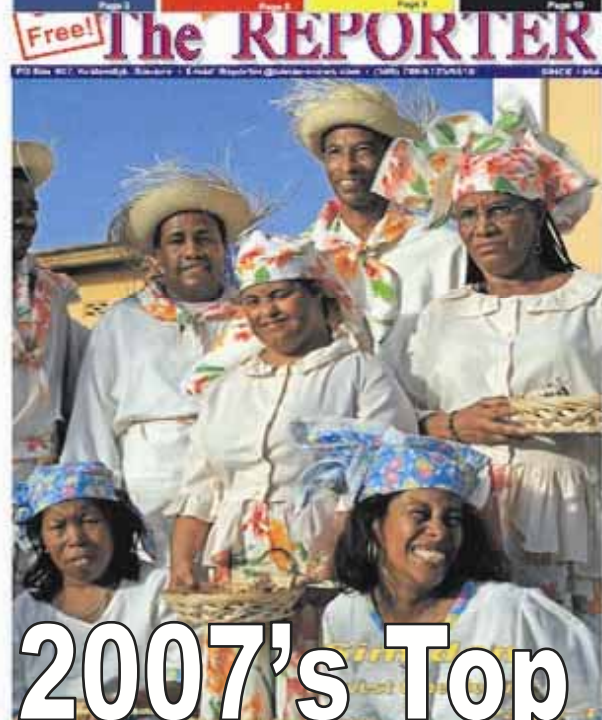
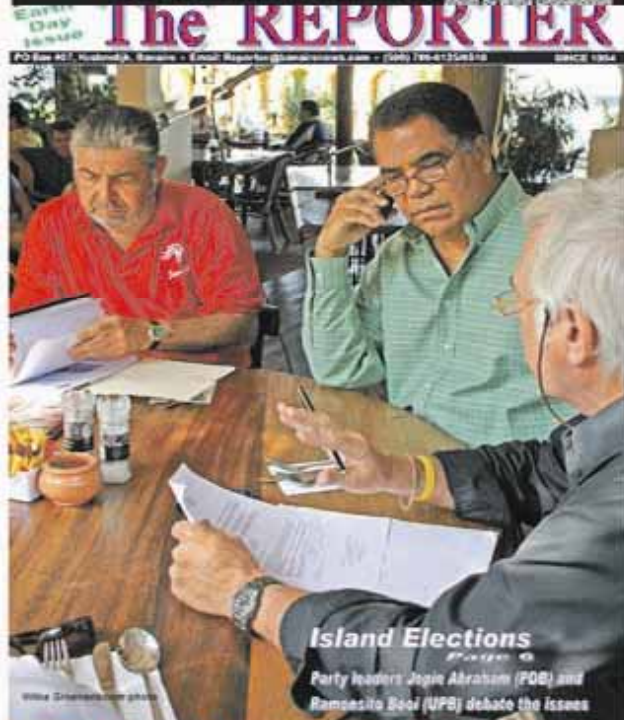
The BONAIRE **The REPORTER**

Jan. 4 -25, 2008; Volume 15, Issue 1

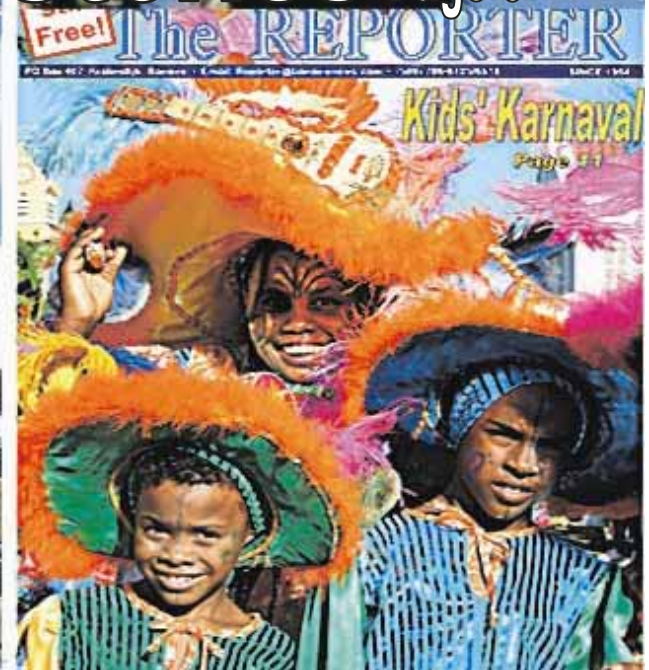
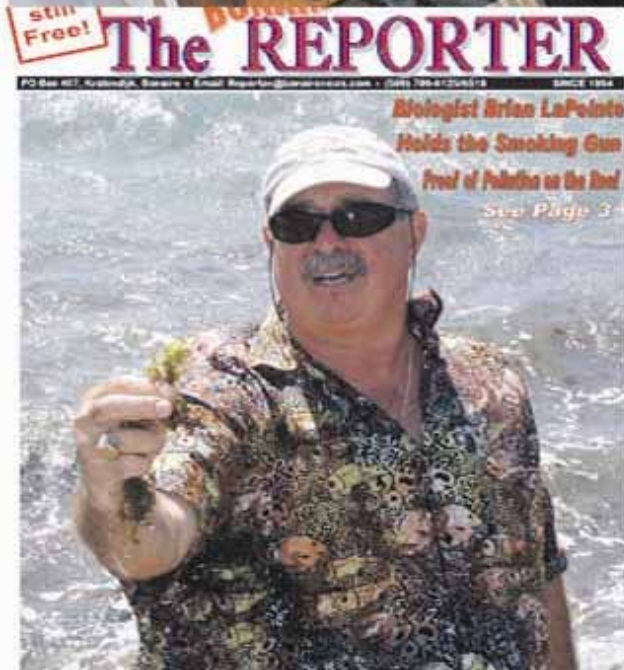
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

Kunuku Shimaruku, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-8988, 790-6518, email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Since 1994



2007's Top Stories Page 5



Bonaire had far fewer Christmas lights shining in homes and public places this year. In the island's rebounding economy electric utility rates soared to unprecedented heights. Even the modest display of lights in downtown Kaya Grandi was muted. Fireworks for the New Year, many thought, were fewer as well.

► On January 1, 2008, Bonaire International Airport (BIA) introduced a "security fee" of Naƒ 2,50 (\$1.40) payable at the time of departure from Bonaire along with the \$32 (international) departure and the inter-island departure tax (fee varies according to age).

► Flying well equipped for business and pleasure gets a bit more complicated in 2008, as the US Transportation Department bars travelers from packing loose lithium batteries in checked luggage. The move is designed to help minimize the risk that such batteries could overheat and catch fire on board. The new rules say travelers can bring a laptop computer, digital camera, cell phone and other equipment on board or in checked luggage if their lithium batteries are installed in the items.

Flyers can bring spare batteries in carry-on luggage if they're stored in plastic bags or if they're in the original retail packaging. But travelers can bring only two such spare batteries, and each must be packed separately.

► The application fee for a US immigrant visa will increase from US\$335 to US\$355, effective January 1, 2008, a press release from the US State Department said on Friday. The increased fee reflects the cost of enhanced biometric security features that have been added to the immigrant visa system.

► Finance Minister Ersilia de

Lannooy has instructed the Tax Inspector to stop levying wage withholding tax on 10% of the receipts of bars and restaurants. It was an attempt to tax tips the workers receive.

According to the Minister, in reality it's impossible to trace how much the personnel receive in tips. The compelled levying of tax on tips by law has existed for years but wasn't enforced.

► Prime Minister of the Netherlands Jan Peter Balkenende will visit the Dutch Caribbean in February. The Governments of both the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba received a letter by Balkenende confirming his visit from February 10 to 15. He will be accompanied by State Secretary in charge of Kingdom Relations, Ank Bijleveld, and Antillean Plenipotentiary Minister in The Hague, Paul Comenencia.

► Bonaire's Lt. Governor, Herbert Domacassé, in his Christmas and New Years messages to the Bonaire community emphasized patience and responsibility in assessing where we are in relation to Christ and our fellow man. We need have no aggressiveness, no jealousy, he added. "The humility we sing about in our national anthem is our best foundation for a good future."

► On December 14, Bonaire's waste management company, SELIBON, concluded its three-month plastic bag collection campaign in the elementary schools. For every plastic bag the children received a lottery ticket to give them a chance to win prizes. Winners will be announced at the beginning of January 2008. First prize is a computer and one year of Internet service, sponsored by City Shop and Telbo NV. Second prize is a weekend for four at Sand Dollar Condominium. Third prize is a bicycle. Every school did something special with the plastic bags:

Star Map Discovered At Marca Indjan-Onima

The Indian Inscriptions on the ceiling of the cave at Onima in Bonaire have been discovered to be an extremely accurate star map which depicts the northern sky that one can see from the cave. Bonairean cultural historian Frans Booi has determined that at least eight constellations make up this star map. The cave at Onima faces due north with the outer edge of the ceiling entrance making an east/west line. If one were to draw an imaginary line directly from the cave to the large rock next to Boca Onima called *Tortuga Cayana* (Red Turtle) one will find that Polaris is directly above this rock. The geographic position of the cave structure is very critical for being a good star watching and star mapping place.

The crosses are stars drawn between parallel lines that are parallel to the horizon. These stars are from the constellations of Orion, Taurus, Ursa Minor and Lyra. The constellation of Cassiopeia is depicted as a kite-tail cross at a 30 degree angle above the parallel lines.

This star map on the ceiling of the cave at Indian Inscriptions, matches the September night sky from the year 1054 when the Chinese registered the giant explosion of a star that created a super nova (The remnants are visible today as the Crab Nebula—photo) in the constellation of Taurus between the stars of Alheka and Alnath. This explosion, also depicted in the cave inscriptions, was so great that it could be seen during the day and the night. This could be the reason that the Simacan (Ancient Carib-Arawak navigators and astronomers) painted this particular map of the ceiling of the cave. It is also significant that this is the period when the turtles come home to nest at Onima.

This is only a brief description of the discovery. In the next edition of *The Reporter* we will have the two star maps of Onima and the night sky with all the coordinates and lines on them so you can go out and see for yourself. For more extensive information contact Frans Booi at fransbooi@hotmail.com. *Maggie Booi*

Kolegio San Luis Beltran made Christmas decorations with theirs; Kolegio Reina Beatrix made a two-and-a-half kilometer chain of plastic bags tied to each other; and Kolegio Papa Cornes made a huge ball. More than 2,000 bags were collected in all.

► According to a published report in *Amigoe*, the Curaçao Dolphin Academy Director Laetitia Lindgren-Smits van Oyen has been fired. The majority of the shareholders no longer have confidence in her,



In 1054 Chinese astronomers recorded a new star four times brighter than Venus. It was visible in daylight for 23 days and 653 days to the naked eye in the night sky. It was painted by Arizona's Anasazi Indian artists and now by the Simican. The Crab Nebula (above) is a remnant.

based on the Lindgren public opposition to the import of wild caught dolphins via Cuba. Lindgren called it "immoral" and regretted the fact that the Sea Aquarium had "let itself be talked into the import of dolphins from that country, where these animals are caught in the wild."

No successor has been appointed yet. Owners "Dutch" Schrier and Rodolfo "Rudy" Pizziolo are now managing the Sea Aquarium.

(Continued on page 4)

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What's With Waste Water?

In an exclusive end-of-the-year interview, Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas provided an update on several environmental issues of serious importance to the ecosystems of Bonaire: the sewage plant, the sewage trenches at LVV, the Lagoen landfill, waste water disposal by the cruise ship *Freewinds* and airplane toilet waste.



Commissioner Nicolaas

The Sewage System Plan
According to Nicolaas, the Secretary General of the European Union recently signed the agreement to fund the sewage project, providing €20 million to construct and initiate the system. Three million euros will also be allocated for infrastructure repair on Bonaire, mostly for roads. The consultants hired to design the sewage system have completed their plans for building a three-stage sewage plant, and now the selection of construction contractors will begin. After the agreement is officially approved this January, the "tendering" of the agreement will make it possible for contractors from around the world to bid for the work as long as they uphold European standards for the environment. Nicolaas anticipates that it will take three to six months to select

"This time it will really happen. We have a guaranteed agreement with the European Union. And besides, I will resign if it does not go forward!"

the contractor. Then in January 2009, work will begin on both the construction of the sewage plant itself and the installation of sewage pipes from Hato to Punt Vierkant for all hotels, businesses, and homes within 500 meters of the seashore. When asked why he thought after 20 years of work and numerous proposals Bonaire would finally have sewage treatment, Nicolaas claimed, "This time it will really happen. We have a guaranteed agreement with the European

Union. And besides I will resign if it does not go forward!"

In the next year, Nicolaas will exert his energies on passing a number of laws to start protecting the coral reefs from wastewater pollution. First, cesspits will be prohibited, and all new septic tanks must be built from impermeable concrete so wastewater does not percolate into the ground and then into the sea. Next, all new construction will be required to place septic tanks closer to the street so they can be connected to the sewage pipes. Finally, septic wastewater to irrigate gardens will also be outlawed. To cover operating costs of the sewage system, both businesses and homes will be required to pay a fee to connect their septic systems to the new sewage plant. Fees will be dependent on the length of pipe needed to connect the owner's septic system to the sewer pipes in the street. For those who will have difficulty paying the fee, Nicolaas says social services will be looking for ways to subsidize them. Once the sewage system is operational, meters will determine how much each customer will be charged for the wastewater being discharged into the sewage system.



Sewage from the ship Freewinds, aircraft holding tanks, homes and businesses are dumped into these trenches on the LVV tract off Lagoen Road. Can you see the oil slick in the foreground.

Another priority for Nicolaas will be controlling leach holes at the hotels causing seepage of nutrients into the sea and deteriorating the coral reefs.

Strategy For The Landfill

Regarding the landfill at Lagoen, which is another major source of damaging nutrients and chemicals, Nicolaas regretted that "so far there has been no progress." He is hoping that with the help of waste management experts from Holland, SELIBON Director Jonchi Dortalina, who, although he has studied environmental science, has no special expertise in waste management, will be able to

come up with a waste management plan that will include separating waste into recyclables, compost, etc. so that damage to the environment will be minimized.

Another suspect in the pollution of Lagoen Bay is the LVV sewage trenches, where all septic discharge currently goes. Nicolaas promises that these trenches will be dredged, treated, and then processed by the new sewage plant until they no longer exist.

Cruise Ship Waste

The prickly issue of wastewater being dumped on Bonaire by both the cruise ship *Freewinds*

(Continued on page 15)

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from pg. 2)

► **Curaçao is encouraging yacht tourism, while Bonaire seems to discourage it.** A recent study showed yacht visits could grow 25% within a few years provided procedures to make it more convenient to visit are introduced. The number of yachts visiting the area grew from 350 in 2000 to more than 750 this year. Permanent moorings at a fee for many more yachts and facilities for collection of sewage-waste are in the works for Spanish Water. Anchoring will be restricted to combat the increasing pollution of the water.

Bonaire offers three marinas and \$10/day public moorings. Anchoring is not allowed. Bonaire does not enjoy a yacht-friendly reputation.

► **Psychic and Medium Jan Arnold Franken, who is well known in Holland, will be in Bonaire January 12 through 26.** He'll be offering workshops and consultations, in Dutch, on topics such as channeling, Tarot, communication with the deceased and more. For consultations it's possible to have an interpreter. For more information and to sign up call Annemiek at 786-3341 or email at bonaire-basics@telbonet.an. See the ad on this page.

► **Venezuela launched a new currency, the strong Bolivar, with the new year, lopping off**

three zeros from denominations in a bid to simplify finances and boost confidence in a money that has been losing value due to high inflation.

► According to one stand holder at the crafts markets in Wilhelmina Park during cruise ship visits (see schedule in Happenings section) **there is a lot of friendly camaraderie between the sellers.** If someone needs help or it starts to rain and things have to be packed away quickly, everyone joins in to assist. The stand holder laments that this friendly and helpful attitude doesn't always exist between shop owners in Playa. Be sure and visit the market. It's not just for cruise ship passengers.



► **Warehouse just got them in: "Dushi Bonaire" very heavy duty shopping bags** with photos of four of Bonaire's attractions. Show you love Bonaire (and hate plastic grocery bags) and purchase one at the check out lines at Warehouse. They're NAf4,50 each.



Tired but happy feet from last year's Walk-a-Thon

► **The Sixth Annual Special Olympics Bonaire (SOB) Walk-a-Thon will be held on a Sunday in February.** The date will be announced soon by the SOB board.

The Walk-a-Thon is one of Bonaire's most popular fund raising event and all the proceeds go to a great cause – sending our Special Olympics athletes to compete in international games.

The event, begun six years ago, was the inspiration of ex-head coach, Elizabeth Wiggy,



► **Santa sure made the rounds this Christmas season.** He visited Rincon and stopped at the Rose Inn where he gave out toys to all the girls and boys. They all had their photos taken with Santa.

Then on Christmas Day he was at Jibe City at Lac Bay. The kids on the beach received a colorful swim float and a bag of goodies! Santa would like to thank all his helpers and sponsors: RE/MAX BITS, Jibe City, and Larry's Wildside Diving.

Story & photo by Janice Huckaby (Jan-Art)

who wanted it to be not only a fund-raising event but one that was historically important – the route taken by the slaves between the salt pans where they labored and Rincon.

Not only will you be contributing to a good cause, but the past years' Walk-a-Thons have been great fun not only for individuals but for groups too who even get others to sponsor the. So take the opportunity and get a group together and enjoy the Walk.

You may walk, you may run, jog, bike or even roller blade.

Everyone meets at 5 am at the Slave Huts at the south end of the island, and the 30-kilometer trek begins. Along the way there will be refreshment stations offering water, fruits, snacks and lots of encouragement.

There will be more detailed information on tickets, what you get for your money, hints from walkers, and list of sponsors in the next edition of *The Reporter*, available January 25. □

G./L.D.

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- Communication with deceased
- Iriscopie
- Contact with your own guides

Workshops are in Dutch.

Consult sessions can be with an English or Papiamentu translator.

For more information, please contact Annemiek at 786-3341

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First Bonairean Kiteboard Instructor

Last month Jayson Jonge received his diploma from kite board school owner Roan Jaspars and technical trainer Stephan Zaat. Jayson is the first to have followed a program developed by Kiteboarding Bonaire in order to train the local youth as professional kiteboard instructors. The course takes about one year, depending on the kiteboard skills of the contestant. First we taught Jayson the ins and outs of kiteboarding. After that he started working as an assistant instructor. After about a year he was ready to take the IKO instructor course, which was organized on Bonaire for the first time.

Congratulations Jayson!

The kite school wants to train more enthusiastic guys and girls to come work with them in the future. Just give them a call or stop by at the kite beach. Coming soon is the 3rd free kite boarding clinic for kids under 16. Keep your eyes and ears open for the dates. □

Roan Jaspars



Kitesurfing Bonaire photo

Cover Story

2007's Top 10 Stories



Dutch Mayors (white slacks) join hands in friendship at Man-gazina di Rei: Boi Antoin, Hurbert Vis, Hubert Domacasse, Edith Strauss, Ruud Vermulean and Co deKoning.

The New Year is here with all its glorious uncertainties, challenges, promises, hopes, dreams and opportunities. Perhaps at no other time in Bonaire's history has it been so close to a transformation that will mean fundamental changes for the people of the island.

Here are 2007's top story topics. Perhaps next year the biggest story will be an address change from Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, to Bonaire, The Netherlands.

1. **Closer ties with Holland:** Dutch Mayors Visit; Island to Island Meeting, Transition Agreement; Progress in Negotiations
2. **The Reef** –Reefs at point of no return; Balance for nature; Where did the big fish go? No reefs, no tourists, no economy; LMSP Sensor arrays; Sewage system needed
3. Concern about **increased cruise ship visits**
4. **Development and the Environment** –Comparison with Aruba, Bermuda; Hilton coming; Mangrove Village, Rincon gets greener; Underwater and above water cleanups continue
5. **Island Elections**
6. **Wind Power for Bonaire**
7. Mama Smile campaign, **Tourism Awareness**
8. **Special Olympics** Bonaire gets gold and more in China
9. **Stichting Project Expansion**, Youth training – Hands on Experience; Training Center; Restaurant.
10. **Cultural Landmarks** unveiled □ L.D.

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KAMPANA A RAN KASALI



The Sea Monitor Foundation and the Bonaire National Marine Park/STINAPA begin the New Year with an ever-increasing base of data that will be used to spot trends involving Bonaire's sea-water quality in the coming years. Since August 2007, 13 sensor arrays have been deployed along Bonaire's coast from Pink Beach to north of "hotel row" with a control site at Klein Bonaire. Five more are to be placed within the next three months.



A Christmas tree (tube worm) greeting from the Sea Monitor Foundation

Albert Bianculli photo

While a great deal of raw data has been recorded, the instrumentation has yet to be calibrated, an effort that will take place in March 2008 when scientists from USC are on the island. When that is complete, the data collected on a weekly basis will be posted on the Marine Park/STINAPA website.

The essence of the Sea Monitor project is concerned and interested people. The program is dependent on dozens of SCUBA diving volunteers who take readings and clean the sensors every week, donors who provide money for the sensor instruments and on-island personnel who administer the project.

They include: (in no particular order): Blue McRight, Tony Gray, Leo Hoogenboom & Zsuzsanna Pusztai, Linda Ridley, Rick Aguilar, Irene da Cunda, Bill & Praphan Wildin, Marge Lawson, Cassandra & Franklin Neal, Joanie Fitterling, Marge Lawson, John & Cindi Jensen, Anouschka van de Ven, Kitty Handsch, Venny Cable, Vinnie DePietro, Barbara & Robert Gillmour, Judi Schmidt, George & Laura DeSalvo, Stephanie Bennett, Harrie Cox, Albert Bianculli, Lynn & Todd Fulks, Stephanie Bennett, Serena Black, Eva, Erik & Karol, Jim & Judy Kewley, Genady Filkovsky, Sylvia van Aarsen, Micky Reijnders, Candace & Jim Platz, Lynn & Todd Fulks. Space limits printing the full list of people, this is a partial selection.

As you can see, this is a massive project which is planned to take 10 years to complete. Your help is needed. **For more information, to donate or to volunteer contact:** Ramon de Leon, Manager of the BNMP, marinepark@stinapa.org or Albert Bianculli, President, Sea Monitor Foundation, email directab@gmail.com or Blue McRight, LMSF Off-island Fundraising Coordinator, blueness@earthlink.net. □ G.D.

LMSF Volunteer Reports

At least once a week volunteer divers clean the sensors, take the readings from the sensors electronically and comment on the local conditions. Here are some of their recent reports:

Site: Runway

Thursday, December 27, 2007

... I started the dive with many snorkelers swimming. At 66 feet I saw 3 groupers but only one that I could identify. It was a 20 inch long tiger grouper. This dive had so many brown chromis in one small area that it would have been difficult to count. There must have been more than 500 hundred within 20 feet. Looking towards the surface there were 8 hound fish floating in about 12 feet of water. During this dive I counted 6 hamlets, 5 yellow tail and one butter hamlet.

Cassandra

Site: WEB

Thursday, December 27, 2007 ... An uneventful dive today, except for fairly brisk current to the south. The sensor and mooring cleaning took 30 minutes. The bottles were thoroughly cleaned, removing greater than 95% of the "brown dots." All fuzzy algae was removed. Lesser algae growth was observed on the lower sensors. Visibility was a bit poorer than last week, especially in the shallows.

Cindi and John Jensen

Site: Bari Reef

Tuesday, December 25, 2007, ... Today's cleaning didn't take long because everything had less growth on it.

My observations. This past week there have been fewer divers using the dock and staying at Sand Dollar. There also has been water inversions, colder spots and rippled water of warmer areas. Maybe that's why we have less growth.

Swimming around the boats we had a small, a medium and a large Cubera Snapper. The largest one was about 24 inches long. We also found a golden tail in the reversed phase.

Cassandra Neal

Site: 17 Palm

Friday, December 21, 2007: Eight large tarpon hanging around the sensor array.

Lynn Fulks

Cruise Ships – Cure or Curse

Dear Editor:

It has been 4 years since it was promised that all passengers on all cruise ships would pay an "environmental fee" which would go directly to Stinapa. That was changed to a "head tax" to be paid to the government, but the amount was reduced, and finally it was down to NOTHING.

Meanwhile, land-based tourists pay more and more each year. Marine Park fees for divers went from \$10 to \$25, and starting 4 years ago, all non-diving Bonaire Marine Park users have to pay \$10. On top of that the airport departure tax was raised from \$20 to \$32. All overnight guests pay \$5.50 room tax. Now it seems without any warning whatsoever Bonaire's Airport will charge \$1.40 more (for a "security fee," see *Flotsam Ed*). Cruise ship passengers still pay NOTHING.

If it is necessary for land-based tourists to bear some of the expenses for maintaining safety, environmental protection, development of the infrastructure, etc. then why are

cruise ship passengers exempt? Who paid for the piers where they dock? Who paid for the security fences and guard houses? Who pays the salary for the security people needed when the cruise ships come in? Who is paying for the improvements to the roads and sidewalks? Who will pay for the proposed "cruise ship mall?" The land-based tourists and all of us?

Originally it was said that the cruise ship companies needed time to arrange a head tax. They were given 11 months which has turned into 4 years. They still pay NOTHING. Why is it that any fee leveled against the land-based tourist takes virtually no time to put into effect, and no one in the private sector is consulted or is able to have any say in the decision? Whereas the cruise ship companies (with their huge lobbies) can take control. Bonaire charges lower docking fees than other islands in our area. Presumably to attract them here. But why get them here at a discount? Isn't the point of having them here to make money? Many other islands in the Caribbean have awakened

after years of catering to cruise ships and their demands. They are now adjusting their rates to correct environmental and social problems that the cruise ships have been causing.

Does Bonaire want to let cruise ship companies have control? Once our island starts to feel that it depends on the cruise ships to keep our economy going, they have even more control. We are losing some of our faithful land-based tourists who have been coming to Bonaire year after year due to higher and higher costs - after all, they have to pay hotels, airlines, restaurants, and many of our other businesses that the cruise tourists can just ignore- along with any raise in taxes that the government feels it needs. Once this happens, Bonaire will really NEED the cruise ships, and that means an outside force will virtually control our policies. Bonaire better learn soon from the experience of other islands.

Wouldn't it be better to attract cruise ships that fit into our island (small, environmentally aware, willing to pay for the uniqueness that Bonaire has to offer) and have them here on our terms?

Concerned Citizens of Bonaire

(Continued on page 7)

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Letters (Continued from page 6)

Cruise Ships=Empty Shelves

Dear Editor,

Eight months ago we called attention to the problem that cruise ships in port block the landing of food and other super-market products on Bonaire. To date no response from the government's agency has been received. Cruising season has started again and the problems are back.

Christmas week is the busiest week of the year for markets. Our shelves were empty because we were unable to get the items needed, although they were not far away. Unfortunately, goods languished in containers in our port or had to wait in Curaçao.

The RO/RO vessel that transports our containers, the *Don Andres*, says that they cannot charge and discharge cargo when there are cruise ships in port. Last week on Wednesday and Thursday the port was occupied all day by cruise ships, consequently, no *Don Andres*, therefore no containers with products for Bonaire. Today, Tuesday, there is another ship, therefore no containers. We must give excuses to our customers because they cannot find the food they need. This affects our business and the island's economy as well.



Crown Princess

Can cruise ships empty supermarket shelves?

On behalf of the employees of Warehouse Bonaire, and certainly other companies on Bonaire which contend with the same problem, we hope a solution will be found since cruise ship tourism continues to increase, with negative impacts of service to our customers.

Roland Verbeek and the employees of Warehouse Bonaire

Bonaire 2007 Recap

Dear Editor:

As we say goodbye to 2007 is a good time to take stock of the year's achievements and failures.

Bonaire has stood her ground on some issues, lost on others and is still in the battle in regards to the main issue: the environ-

ment. The people of the island now face some great challenges and changes that were not resolved last year.

For example, who to trust? What to believe? And what path to take as we reach the crossroads of the island's development? I see the island in the same way I would see a captain view his or her crew and ship. Whenever I have been through hard times at sea the same set of values is what gave me the ability to ride it out, and they are these.

When looking at any situation, the safety of the ship comes first! If you don't look after your ship you can't help yourself or your crew. Bonaire is our ship! What's keeping her afloat is her abundance of unspoiled nature, her

coral shores, her rugged, near-unspoiled landscape, oh, yes, and her CREW, the Bonairean people! In fact the value of crew and ship are equal, but still, save the ship first.

The crew of the good ship Bonaire are something very special indeed. It was the people here who won my heart when I first came ashore some 8-9 years ago.

They opened my eyes in so many different ways, with their laid back easy and happy attitude. It is misunderstood by many people to be a lazy, couldn't-give-a-damn attitude. But maybe it is they themselves who should leave the ship.

Going back to my first point "who should we trust" reminds me of a situation that begs the answer, who should we trust, and that's the cruise ship *Freewinds*.

It is hard to trust when I see hypocrisy looming on the horizon. The *Freewinds* hosted a conference this year on marine pollution (MARPOL), focusing on the Caribbean! It is, to say the least, ironic that they should host such a conference while at the same time pumping out thousands of gallons of effluent-laced seawater on to our land. But that's just my opinion.

The second point, "what to believe?" Sometimes to save the ship you have to tell the crew the truth and the crew need to be in

such a state of mind that they can both accept the truth and take the right action.

I hope that through this next year the Government can see that the island is going **nowhere** if the people are not their first consideration.

Happy New Year!

Our Confidence.

Praise For Pastor Baren

Dear Editor,

I have been on the island approximately a year and always look forward to reading the only English newspaper published here. I am a medical student and most of my time is consumed in my studies, but I always try to find a *Reporter* to read and be informed of the things going on in our beautiful island. I was quite impressed with the new column you have included in your paper considering the spiritual side of life.

Pastor Baran, is I am sure, well read and really does write with inspiration. The article on Christmas was outstanding and I congratulate you on your paper and having the courage to include the spiritual side of our lives in Pastor Baran's contribution.

Ezgar D. R. Del Real

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BONAI Undersea Projects

A new project for the BONAI group of high school students will be to construct and sink a statue of cultural significance to Bonaire. They have named it *Pali Lele & Wea di Funchi* (more about the name later), and it is symbolic of Bonairean culture and our way of life. The designer is Bonaire artist Adi Figaroa and it is a Caribbean first.

The underwater sculpture depicts traditional Bonairean artifacts: a *fõrnu* (stove) with a *funchi* pot on top (*funchi* is a staple corn-based food on the island) with a *pal'i funchi* (wooden utensil to stir the *funchi*) sticking out (see photo). Lying on its side we see a *poron*, a traditional water jar, and underneath there is a *pal'i lele*, another wooden utensil used to prepare ochre or bean soup.

The statue, once underwater, will provide a habitat to marine creatures and will be a testament to Bonairean pride and artistry to be enjoyed by snorkelers and divers. It will be on the shallow seabed at Chachacha Beach (in front of Dive Inn and next to Flamingo Beach Resort).

Science and Art Integrated

The underwater art project is an interesting example of how science and art can be integrated. The idea was taken from the reef-ball project where scientists came up with the idea to sink concrete reef-balls on the seabed in front of the Sand Dollar Condominium Resort. The reef-



balls have holes in them, which attract all kinds of fish and other underwater life such as corals. Thus the reef-balls will stimulate reef formation at places where corals have disappeared.

The Bonai underwater sculpture, which measures 2x2x2 meters, has been designed to do much the same thing, but in an artistic way. Imagine our sculpture clad with coral and surrounded by fish. Truly unique! If all goes well, the sculpture should be ready and placed onshore at Cha..Cha..Cha Beach this month. It has been ashore near the museum for one month so that the public can view it without getting wet. Then it will be placed on

the seabed using a heavy duty lifting crane donated by BOPEC and volunteer divers from Yellow Submarine, using lift bags to place the sculpture in its final position on the flat sand bottom.

As part of their studies, BONAI, together with biologist Caren Eckrich and Sabine Engel, are investigating "Artifacts in the Sea." They snorkel, dive (three students are SCUBA certified), collect and analyze data to write a small booklet. They are interviewing as many people as they can who know of Bonaire's submerged artifacts, including fishermen, divers and a historian. The group is

especially interested in sites where people can snorkel. With the information they collect they are documenting and mapping the historical artifacts in the calm waters of Bonaire so that snorkelers and divers may go and visit them. Their aim is to encourage especially local people and tourists to enjoy the marine environment and they are offering a new way of thinking when it comes to conservation of the marine environment.

If you would like to help BONAI achieve its goals, you may make a donation to the following Maduro & Curiel's Bank account number 110986-03. The BONAI youth group says thanks for your support. Contact Jackie Bernabela for any information at 786-6333. □ Story & photos by Jackie Bernabela



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Bonaire Youth Outreach **Awesome** in 2007



Pasku Briante activities

In December the Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation (BYOF) organized the eighth *Pasku Briante* (Brilliant Christmas) party for Bonaire youngsters with funding from USONA, MCB Bonaire, Yûfrou Emmy Schermer, Dew Point, Littmans Jeweler, Alpha & Omega, Flamingo Communications, Caribbean Homes and Playa Trading. As a result, 386 happy children left the afternoon of fun with wonderful gifts.

In another Christmas action the group hosted a Christmas dinner for 60 people.

It was just one of the many projects the youth group accomplished in 2007.

Another was the successful campaign "Sêks no ta un wega" – "Sex is not a game." With a grant of NAf 115.000 from USONA they embarked on a year-long campaign to educate Bonaire youngsters on the significance of sexual relations at this point in their lives. □ G.D.

BYOF photos



Before



After

Still another initiative of the BYOF was to directly aid some of Bonaire's poor people. Among other activities with adult help and a donation of NAf 12.000 from Sunbelt Realty they gave a house on Kaya Resida a "facelift" and spiffed up four other homes.

In these photos you can see the big change in the house and the workers who made it happen.



The BYOF team wish everyone a great new year

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Washington Slagbaai, Klein Bonaire Reforestation



George Saragoza (STINAPA), Stanley Criens, Ingvor Debrot, (Carmabi) and Jonathan Pourier with plants for Pos Nobo in Washington Slagbaai National Park. Stinapa photo

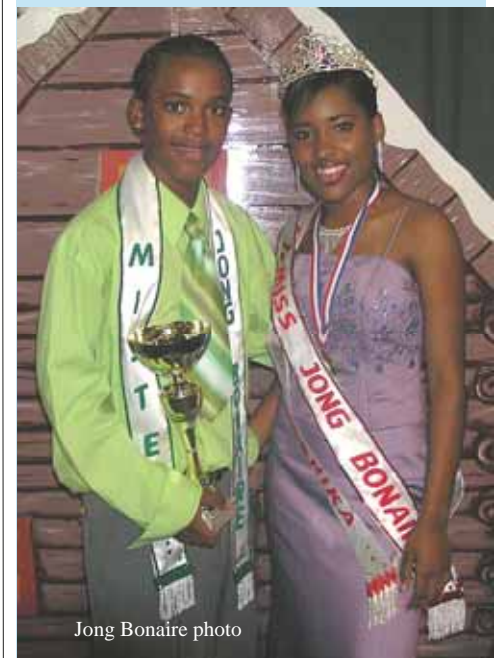
Last month, STINAPA Bonaire and Carmabi from Curaçao planted rare trees in the Washington Slagbaai National Park and on Klein Bonaire. A total of 121 plants were placed.

On Klein Bonaire plants such as *mata piska*, *manzalina bobo*, *palu di pushi* and *wayaka* were planted. In former times Klein Bonaire was densely wooded with evergreen forests but by 1950 it had lost most trees to overgrazing and charcoal production. The purpose of this reforestation, jointly funded by STINAPA Bonaire, Carmabi and the KNAP Funds, is to put back the species which have been lost so that the woodlands can recover their former glory and ecological significance. The trees planted all produce fruits important as food to birds and other animals.

The Washington Slagbaai National Park also suffered heavy deforestation in the past due to overgrazing and charcoal production. As a consequence the woods today miss many important tree species, and many species have become rare or have disappeared altogether. A total of 12 different species were planted in areas closed by fences to keep the goats out, including the rare sabal palm and makura, both seriously threatened and practically extinct on Bonaire. The young plants were in part raised by Captain Don's and partly by Carmabi in Curaçao. The previous planting from last year was found to have been very successful. Interesting also to note is that thanks to the enclosures many plant seedlings appeared that were not planted but that had regenerated naturally. This is clear proof that removal of goats is essential to recovery of the forests in the Park. At present STINAPA has fenced off Slagbaai and will soon start removing the goats to allow natural regeneration to take place. The rare trees planted in this project will produce seeds to give ecological recovery a head start. □

Dr. A. O. (Dolfi) Debrot

Jong Bonaire Elections



Jong Bonaire photo

For the seventh consecutive year the Jong Bonaire Youth Center organized its popular Miss & Mister Jong Bonaire competition which displays the talent and enthusiasm of Bonaire's youngsters. This year's event, which presented 13 teens, was produced by the dynamic promoter, Angelo Domacassé. Over 350 persons filled the Jong Bonaire auditorium.

The overall winners were Michel Bonafastia as Miss Jong Bonaire and Ericson Vlijt as Mr. Jong Bonaire (pictured above). □ Press release

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Pets of The Week



Two of the plushest cats on the whole island are now at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. They're two sisters, "Charlotte" and "Candace," and they are really spectacular lookers. Charlotte, on the left lying down, has lovely long fur with beige and brown spots and tail and the most amazing blue eyes. She's a mellow character that nothing seems to disturb. Her sister, Candace, has the beautiful long fur like her sister's but her accent colors are black and white. She's a little more shy and retiring than her sister but nonetheless loves human companionship and petting. The sisters are about two years old and definitely need a loving and very appreciative home. Of course they are in excellent health, have had their shots and testing for feline leukemia and have been sterilized. The NAf75 cat adoption fee includes all this medical and sterilization.

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



Every January the New Years Eve fireworks result in dogs becoming so frightened that they run heedlessly away and cannot find their way home. If you find a lost dog try to befriend him (or her) and take him to the Animal Shelter. If you can't at least call the Shelter and describe the dog. If you lost your dog contact the Shelter first.

Good news: During 2007 there were 165 adoptions from the Shelter. This number has been steadily increasing over the years, from 2002 when there were only 90.

Every year untold numbers of unwanted cats and dogs are born on the island. The lucky ones are brought into the Shelter where they have a chance to be adopted into a caring home. Others, not so lucky, are in such bad shape that they must be mercifully put to sleep. So many are just dumped in the mondi or along the side of the road where they often end up slowly starving to death. But you as an individual can make a difference with the numbers of unwanted cats and dogs on the island. Contribute to the Shelter Sterilization Fund, MCB Account #10616410. All the money in that account goes strictly for animal sterilizations. In 2007 there were 175 sterilizations. A Happy and Healthy New Year to all you pet lovers from *The Bonaire Reporter*. □

L.D.



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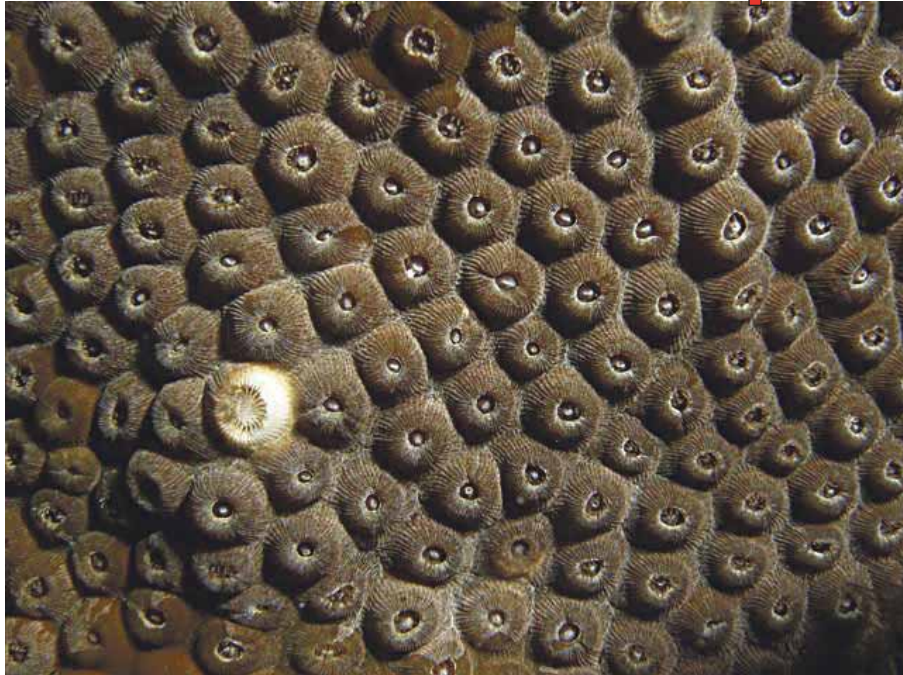
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Dee Scarr's Coral Glimpses



Something has caused a single polyp on this star coral head to die; the skeleton of the missing polyp may have been munched.

The differences in the colors of the surrounding polyps, which are all alive, is due to differences in their commensal algae. –caption and photo by Dee Scarr

Dee Scarr is an environmentalist and experienced naturalist whose goal is to help you better understand marine creatures through her writings and slide presentations. She was honored for her contributions to the scuba world by induction into the Women Divers Hall of Fame in 2000.

A PADI scuba and specialty instructor, Dee has published three books: *Touch the Sea*, *Coral's Reef*, and *The Gentle Sea*, and her articles and photos appear in *The New Guide to the Bonaire Marine Park*, *Dive Training*, *Skin Diver*, and other publications.

Dee offers close contact **TOUCH THE SEA** dives for all Bonaire divers. Call 717-8529 or go to www.touchthesea.com.

Maskarada 2008



Governor Domacassé and two of his grandchildren surrounded by Maskaradanan

Every January 1 in the morning in front of Bonaire's Government office building a group of children and adults in colorful costumes and masks show up to dance and perform short skits. They arrive, quietly and mysteriously. They don't speak and only communicate through their actions. No one knows who they are; even the members themselves may not know who else is among them.

They enter silently, following a group of musicians - an accordion, a *tambu*, (drum), a *raspa* (file) and a *quarto* (large ukulele) - and the skits and the dancing begin. It's the "Maskarada," a Bonaire tradition

No one knows for sure how the tradition got to Bonaire. Some say Africa; others say it's Indian. Still others say it's South American or even European. Culture guru Papi Cicilia suggests Spain: the "crowns" worn by the company represent the Spanish monarchy which ruled Bonaire for a time. That's also where the bull and the matador come from, he says. But of course, the donkey, the *kunukero* and the fisherman in his boat are completely Bonairean. So, considering the polyglot makeup of the island, although the concept may have come from all those other places, it's turned into something totally Bonairean that's not found anywhere else in the world. □ L.D.

Sunbelt Realty

House of the Month | Santa Barbara | Kaya Turkesa 22

tropical villa

Architect-designed

with stunning views

Total living area
3679 sq. ft. / 342 m²

Total lot size
27,900 sqft / 2593 m²

Private property

Asking price:
US\$ 675,000
buyers cost

This property is built into the top of the hill at Santa Barbara, fusing the island and ocean views with the garden with local plants and fruit trees with more than comfortable living in a stylish tropical setting. Lay-out: entrance into the spacious living room with the dining room and fully equipped open kitchen on a split level. The façade facing the ocean opens up completely. Spacious master bedroom suite with private balcony with stunning views. Master bathroom with separate bath and shower. Laundry and guest toilet. On a lower level there is a separate two bedroom/two bathroom guest house with kitchen and private porch. Separate shower. Spacious garage.

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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

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

CELLULAR SERVICE

Mio offers the clearest, most reliable signal on the island. And their personnel are trained and friendly. Check out their "rugged" phone.

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 Inn—For your diving with a personal touch. Located in town at Chacha cha Beach. Drop ins and cruise ship passengers welcome

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 Plantation) New name, same owner and location. Has lots of beautiful, often one-of-a-kind furniture, antiques, crafts and accessories from mainland China and Indonesia.

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, 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.

Valerie's 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 low-est 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

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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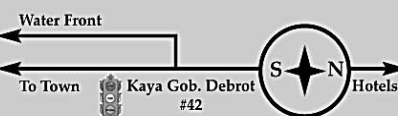
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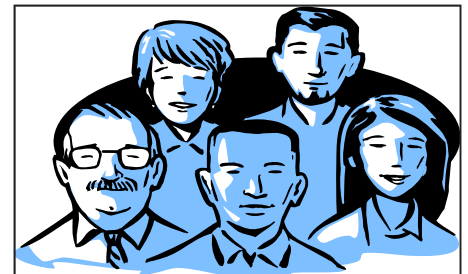
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ROCARGO - 25 Years of Great Service

Rocargo Services Bonaire NV was founded on September 17, 1982, in Bonaire. Last week they celebrated their 25th anniversary with a spectacular end-of-the-year party at their headquarters. Food and drinks were bountiful and guests were entertained by two of the winners in the Rocargo Youth Talent Show, the ever popular

local band, Pal i' Wiri and a fire-works show at the closing.

Rocargo has grown considerably over the years and is the leading



Fransisco Manuel of Watapana School, one of the winners in last month's school talent search, entertained.



Marisela and Robby Croes with their children, Robert, Jr., Jonathan and Carola at the party.

company in its field in Bonaire and its fine service makes life easier for everyone who has to ship things on to the island.

Rocargo specializes in ship and

liner agency, cargo handling, freight consolidation, custom brokerage and moving services. In 1994 Rocargo expanded its activities in Curaçao and Aruba, Venezuela in 1995 and the Dutch Windward Islands in 1999. In March 1995 Rocargo moved its present building on Kaya Indus-

tria which include office and state of the art warehouse facilities. In 2000 they became the first Bonaire company to win internationally recognized ISO quality certification. Rocargo is also the island's Federal Express agent. □ G./L. D.

Waste Water (Continued from page 3) and airliners arriving at Flamingo airport was also addressed by Nicolaas. He intends to cooperate with environmental groups and activists on the island (i.e. Progressive Environmental Solutions, STINAPA, Sean Peton, (producer of Forum Antilles.com, etc.) to test the fluids being expelled by the Freewinds into the LVV sewage trenches in order to determine whether or not they are toxic. If so, Nicolaas is determined to put into motion efforts to halt the Freewinds sewage dumps on Bonaire. The airport is not so much of a problem, contends Nicolaas, because "airlines are only dumping once in awhile in Lima or at LVV."

Nicolaas admitted he is a bit worried that Bonaire fell six places in the recent *National Geographic* ranking of "most pristine" islands, but he is committed as Director of the Environment to reverse that decline through initiatives like these. □

Story & photo by College Professor

Pauline E. Kayes, Bonaire & Champaign, Illinois, USA.



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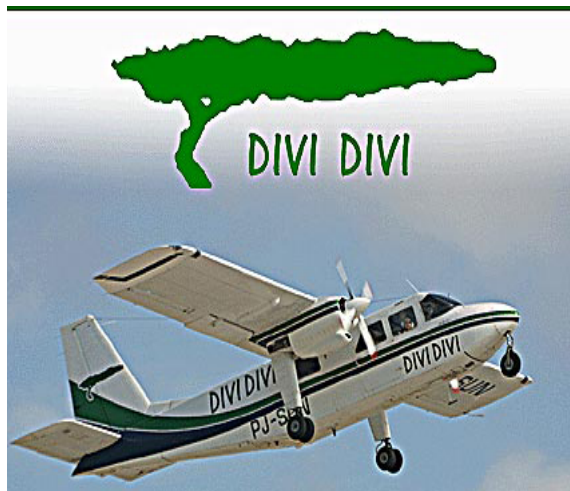
KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
1-04	10:21	2.0FT.	20:18	0.8FT.					46
1-05	10:50	2.1FT.	20:50	0.8FT.					54
1-06	11:23	2.1FT.	21:31	0.7FT.					63
1-07	11:52	2.1FT.	22:09	0.7FT.					71
1-08	12:23	2.1FT.	22:40	0.7FT.					79
1-09	13:02	2.0FT.	23:09	0.8FT.					84
1-10	13:38	1.9FT.	23:35	0.8FT.					87
1-11	14:15	1.8FT.	23:58	0.9FT.					87
1-12	0:00	1.0FT.	15:05	1.6FT.					84
1-13	7:38	1.4FT.	10:26	1.4FT.	15:51	1.5FT.	23:55	1.0FT.	78
1-14	7:18	1.6FT.	15:00	1.3FT.	17:17	1.3FT.	23:25	1.1FT.	70
1-15	7:43	1.7FT.	16:20	1.1FT.	18:55	1.2FT.	23:00	1.1FT.	62
1-16	8:14	1.9FT.	17:18	1.0FT.	21:02	1.0FT.	22:05	1.0FT.	56
1-17	8:54	2.0FT.	18:08	0.8FT.					56
1-18	9:39	2.1FT.	18:51	0.8FT.					62
1-19	10:19	2.2FT.	19:43	0.7FT.					72
1-20	11:06	2.2FT.	20:24	0.7FT.					82
1-21	11:50	2.2FT.	21:08	0.7FT.					90
1-22	12:32	2.1FT.	21:53	0.7FT.					96
1-23	13:21	2.0FT.	22:27	0.8FT.					97

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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Saturday, January 5—Big Monthly Rincon Marshé, now a Bonairean tradition. Stands selling gifts, crafts, candles, fruits and vegetables, gifts, local foods and drinks, music, friendly people, 6 am to 2 pm. In the center of Rincon. Website: www.infobonaire.com/rincon

Saturday, January 5—Open Flea Market, Parke Publiko Bonaireano, 3 to 8 pm.

Saturday, January 5—Opening Carnival. Presentation of candidates. Call Johnny Leoneta 786-9091

Saturday, January 12—Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NA\$20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.

Saturday, January 12—Kids' Festival 2008 at Wilhelmina Park from 9 am to 5 pm. Great games for kids with music, food and drinks and great prizes for different age groups all day long. For more information contact Gemma van der Linden at 791-3872. Organized by the students from T4A zorg & welzijn SGB to finance their excursion to Curaçao in March 2008

Tuesday, January 22—Full Moon

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, 10 am—2 pm: Friday, Jan. 4—*Aida Aura*; Sunday & Monday, Jan. 6 & 7—*Europa*; Wednesday, Jan. 9—*Crown Princess*; Wednesday, Jan. 16—*Sea Princess*; Saturday, Jan. 19—*Emerald Princess*; Tuesday, Jan. 22—*Veendam*; Wednesday, Jan. 23—*(2 ships) Summit, Crown Princess*; Tuesday, Jan. 29—*Sea Princess*; Wednesday, Jan. 30—*Summit*

Coming in February—Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon

REGULAR EVENTS

- The popular SGB High School restaurant, **Chez Nous**, has recently reopened to the public. Four-course dinners with welcome cocktail on Tuesdays. Seating begins at 6 pm. Lunches on Wednesday & Thursdays. Call 717-8120, ask for Chez Nous or email: keeslee-man@telbonet.an
- 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—10pm
- 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.
- All You Can Eat BBQ at Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.
- 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 Koeke for more information—796-7870.
- 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 & Taco Tuesdays!** With \$2.50 Margaritas and a Taco bar! Plus Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 6-8pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**

Wednesdays

- "Live Cooking by the Chefs"** with live music by the Flamingo Rockers Unplugged - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10 pm
- Flamingo Rockers, at "Admiral's Hour"** for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

Fridays

- Le Boulevard Restaurant**, open 9—10:30 am. Only on Fridays. Coffee, tea, home-made baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27
- 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
- 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-Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea Slide Presentation**, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8529
- 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: 786-4651 or 786-7699
- 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, NA\$2.50. 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 Crusida de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.



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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.
- Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol*, Saturday at 6 pm 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
- Ministerio di Kristu Hesus** Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel: 790-6518 or 790-8988



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Have we ever got something exciting for you to watch every morning before sunrise for the next three weeks. The two brightest planets, **Jupiter**, the king, and **Venus**, the queen, will move just a little bit closer to each other every single morning until they are super close and at their closest on February 1st!



Next Monday, January 7th, 30 minutes before sunrise face southeast where you will see the most dazzling of all the planets, our so-called twin sister planet because it is almost the same size as **Earth**, the planet named for the Roman goddess of love, Venus. Venus indeed is the brightest of all the planets because it's so close to us, being planet number two from the **Sun** while we're planet number three. Venus is the most reflective of all the planets as it is completely enshrouded in a bright cloud cover which acts like a giant mirror and reflects more sunlight than any other planet. Look below Venus and you'll see the second brightest planet which is 11 times the width of Venus and Earth, 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter. But to see it this week you're going to have to have a really clear flat horizon because it's extremely close to the horizon.

The reason I want you to start looking this week is so you can see how dramatically these two planets move closer to each other morning after morning. On Monday this week they are 25 degrees apart, which means that since a full **Moon** is 1/2 a degree wide we could fit 50 full Moons between them. Now each morning they will be just a little bit closer. And in only one week's time, by next Monday, January 14th, 45 minutes before sunrise, they will be only 18 degrees or 36 full Moons apart. Plus you'll notice that Jupiter is now much higher above the horizon. On Thursday, the 17th, Venus and Jupiter will be only 15 degrees or 30 full Moons apart, but they will move one degree closer, that is two full Moon widths, every single day from then on. Wow! On Monday, the 21st, they will be only 22 full Moons or 11 degrees apart, and one week later on Monday, the 28th, only 4 degrees or 8 full Moons apart. Then the fun really begins! On Tuesday, only 3 degrees apart, on Wednesday, 2 degrees apart, on Thursday, January 31st, only 1.2 degrees apart and ta da! on Friday, February 1st, one hour before sunrise the two brightest planets will be at their very closest, only 6/10s of one degree apart, which means we could just barely fit one full Moon between them! And their combined light will be so bright it will knock your socks off!

So start your Venus/Jupiter watch this week and keep watching at least once a week. But after Monday, the 28th, watch every single morning as they close in on each other and finally on February 1st practically slam into each other, visually speaking of course. Happy two brightest planets watching and keep looking up! □

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the Month of January 2008
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You must use discretion when it comes to lending money or making donations. Look to a close friend for advice. One of your female friends may try to disrupt your day. Stand up for your rights. Listen to the problems of others and offer suggestions where possible. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Inactivity may cost you dearly. Physical work or exercise should be part of your schedule. Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack of spare time. Be willing to listen, but don't be fooled. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Loss or theft may occur if you are careless with your belongings. You may divulge private information without realizing it this month. You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. Networking will be a necessity. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your personal situation is fluctuating. Try not to spend too much on children or entertainment. Tempers will mount if you are too pushy at work. Do not be surprised if your partner doesn't understand your needs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Real estate should be lucrative for you. Consider starting a small business on the side. Look for a marketable gimmick. Don't let individuals with wild schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful. Romantic encounters will develop through colleagues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your high energy and discipline will enable you to complete any seemingly insurmountable tasks. If you haven't already, consider starting your own business. You have a real need to be vocal. You will find yourself tied to the phone. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Uncertain get rich quick schemes will not be as lucrative as you anticipate. Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly. Friendships could be terminated quickly if disappointments occur. Don't let your boss make you feel guilty enough to take work home with you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Travel will also be very informative. Don't let others try to create unwarranted guilt if you can't meet their demands. You need to pamper yourself for a change. Pleasure trips will ease the tension between you and your mate. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Confronting a situation will only result in indignation and misunderstandings. Check into art objects or precious stones. You can do well in group endeavors. Your emotional partner will push all the right buttons this month. You may find yourself in an uncomfortable situation if you have overloaded your plate unintentionally. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Unrealistic promises will only get you in trouble. You may find a rare antique this month. You're on to something tangible and need to act fast. Be prepared to counteract the damage that adversaries are about to create. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Get out and get active. You are exceptional at presenting your ideas. Comfort is a necessity. Check your motives. Try to be precise in your communications. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) The locks, stove, gas, or electric wires may not be secure. You must use discretion when talking to others. Gambling should not be an option. Your emotions are fluctuating, so be careful not to say things you'll regret. You could have a need to make some changes this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter

Galapagos, Ecuador, Pacific Ocean



Hendrik Wuyts is Bonaire's own world class nature videographer (ScubaVision, see his ad on this page), well-known for his inspired footage around the world from Africa, Peru's Lake Titicaca, the East Indies and most recently Vietnam and the Galapagos. Along with this photo of himself with what must be *The Bonaire Reporter's* oldest reader ever he attached this thoughtful reflection.

My Galapagos Experience

After living 13 years on Bonaire I experienced a whole new world. Just a 5-hour flight away lay the Galapagos Islands. I have always believed that Bonaire had to be the most preserved and cared-for island. These thoughts changed very rapidly with my first Galapagos experience. Can we call Bonaire being pristine? I wish, but sadly untrue.

Landing on the Galapagos and paying a \$100 park fee at the airport (not for a year but

per visit) we were received by a highly educated park ranger, Billy, who did not get his degree in night school. Soon we were instructed about rules and regulations, group versus ranger, with question and answers so we would understand the importance of preserving their islands.

You can only visit each island guided by a ranger. You must stay on the path, no touching, taking, braking or peeing, no fruit, insects or importing creatures that do not belong there. A pristine environment where the frigate birds, albatross and blue footed boobies can live side by side with sea lions and penguins, and amazingly, with humans... as long as we follow the rules to "stay on the path."

Visiting the town of Puerto La Cruz, the melancholy struck me. This is Bonaire from 13 years ago. No traffic, no loud noises, only friendly people and no crime. Wouldn't I love to live here. Not possible, no foreigner is allowed to live on the islands; no foreigner is allowed to have a working permit, unless you are doing research. Not even Ecuadorians are allowed to live on the Galapagos. You will only find local people working here, on the live-aboards, in the hotels and restaurants; they are all Galapagosians or related to the island. Sure it is not all sunshine. There are things happening that are not environmentally friendly: selling their ocean to international fisheries, illegal shark-fining and long-lining. But look at their landfill. They do not allow any importation of non-recyclable goods. No importation of plastic bottles, and glass will be crushed and reused. Global warming will affect their sea life; an increase in temperature reduces food in the water which results in starvation of some species. But as long as you are not part of the cause you can concentrate on the preservation and protection.

With its 60,000 tourists a year, the Galapagos will endeavor to suppress this amount by decreasing the live-aboard fleet to only three ships for diving, and all the other ships will only be allowed to do land based excursions. With only a handful of hotels and guest houses they all run good businesses, keeping it small, exclusive, safe and friendly.

The Galapagos do lack one thing, they don't have a slogan. We could easily give them ours, "Unhurried, Unspoiled and Unforgettable." A politician once told me: "We need tourism to keep the world aware of its importance for preservation. This is how we will receive the right funds for conservation." Understanding his words: "We do not preserve nature for nature but for tourism, power and money!" How deep can you dig your own grave, I wonder.

My trip only took me to the south side of the islands and we mainly concentrated on land excursions and little diving. The islands are easy places to visit traveling from Bonaire. They are a miracle to still be so pristine. □ *Hendrik Wuyts*

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Island View

Have you ever had half a day of waiting fruitlessly at an office window only to find out you were supposed to bring your passport instead of your driver's license? Or were you waiting for a person to fix your overflowing toilet, but he or she has not



shown up and did not even bother to call? Has somebody told you, without blushing, that the laptop you want is NAf 3.000, when you know it is NAf 1.000 cheaper anywhere else? Before you get frustrated and start packing up your things, please remember: there are some nice benefits of living on Bonaire.

While you are sitting on the beach at Christmas, imagine how many of your friends and family abroad are doing the exact same thing. They are sending you pictures of snow and ice, and you can sit on your front porch in your t-shirt. And even though you might not have enough money to go on vacation, you can stay home and still be on vacation. As soon as you come close to the sea, it feels a bit like being on vacation.

If you are actually on vacation and it starts raining, the other tourists are sitting there with their long faces. They figure it is the ruination of their expensive vacation. And you just smile and think: "Some nice rain for a change; I'll have plenty of sunrays when I get home." Also, while on vacation, you always have something interesting to say. "So, where are you from?" "Bonaire." "Bonaire? Where the blooming heck is that?" "Well, it is an island in the Caribbean and" And before you know it, you have a lively conversation.

On Bonaire, you can paint your house any color you want. Your favorite color is green? No problem, you will have at least four big walls to express your preference! You try and paint your house green in Holland, when the whole neighborhood is painted blue. You will have the aesthetics police on your doorstep before you can pick up your brush.

It can be frustrating that Bonaire is such a small island with everybody knowing everybody's business. But on the other hand, when you step outside of your home, you will be greeting a lot of people and you get many hellos back. Also when you are in trouble at the side of the road (flat tire, empty battery), you get help soon because people know you or know you by association. And even in trouble you are never far away from home.

On such a small island it is hard to get lost. You will appreciate this trait when you are looking for an address in a big city. Cursing the drunken designer of the neighborhood you are turning yet again on a deserted road, because the layout of the city does not make any sense. On Bonaire it is easy: when in sight of the sea, turn around.

There are some striking things about the people on this island. For example, not many people seem to be smoking. Even when there are smokers in your company, you spend so much time outside, they will never have the chance to stink up your living room. Besides a lot of non-smokers, there are some master BBQers. You just give them some beer, and they will cook up a delicious BBQ for a hundred people. (If you want to find them, try the tennis court at Harbour Village. They helped my VWO 5 class with their fundraising.)

The pace of Bonaire is very relaxed. Sometimes too relaxed, you say? Yes, but think of it this way. In the case of your tardiness, the excuse of being on 'Island Time' is accepted.

So, next time you are standing in line or you are on the phone (almost exploding with frustration), try and think of what other people are doing in other countries. They are sitting in traffic jams for hours on end, having winter depressions, trying to find a small space on an overcrowded beach in the summer, walking the streets without knowing anybody, and they will be cursing the weather every time it rains. □

Mary Ann Koops

Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.



What's Coming Our Way ?



This time we see activity going on at the grounds of Flamingo Airport. We also heard some rumors about the introduction of paid parking right there in the future (a totally new phenomena to Bonaire!), so there may be a connection. And yes, there is.

After the complete redesign of the departure hall in 2004, with a refurbishing of the airport's restaurant in 2006 and a total paint job in the same year (among other things, that must be said), this is the next big construction project underway at Flamingo International.

In the area between the rental car section and the large jet fuel tanks a parking lot is being constructed for 60 cars, meant exclusively for those working at the airport. A barrier opening up only for those in possession of a valid entry pass will be added, making sure it will remain staff parking only.

In the upcoming months we will also see the re-design of the area in front of the airport terminal and the parking area right behind it. The lane where you and I now still move around between taxis and autobuses will be re-done with brick paving at the very same height level as the airport terminal itself, making it into a friendly pedestrian area with benches, trees and good lighting around. From then on it will no longer be accessible for your car and ours; only taxis

and appointed buses will be able to pass the barrier here.

The parking lot as we know it right now will become more easily accessible for those trying to make it to their car with luggage in their hands. That makes good sense at an airport.

In order to reduce the number of cars and to avoid having people leave them here while off-island for days, weeks or months, paid parking will be introduced. Yep, you heard it right!

However, don't be afraid that Flamingo Airport will introduce the tariffs we know from Schiphol Amsterdam or JFK New York. Not yet, at least... We have heard, from a top airport official, that the first 15 minutes will still be free, and after that NAf 2 per hour will be charged with a maximum of around NAf 20 per day.

The sandy area (actually, during the last few months it was more like muddy) behind the 'official' parking lot will no longer serve as a car park. Due to the addition of the staff parking plus the paid parking system, one expects that the number of

spots available will be more than sufficient. The area will be closed off.

For the wise guy thinking, "I will just drop my car in the rental car area, and avoid paying," sorry... no can do. This area will be accessible for rental cars only. Another barrier here.

Knowing that the introduction of paid parking in a certain area has a tendency to move the problem just a little further, it seems like the Port Bonaire Resort might want to learn more about the barrier business as well in order to stop an influx at their location.

The whole project should be finished by the second half of 2008, so we all still have a few months to get used to the idea of paid parking on Bonaire.

Anyone want to bet where the second location of paid parking on the island may appear later? □

Marcel Leurs

Leurs is a developer himself (Brisas Lodge)



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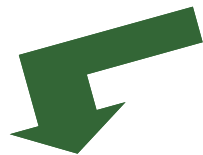
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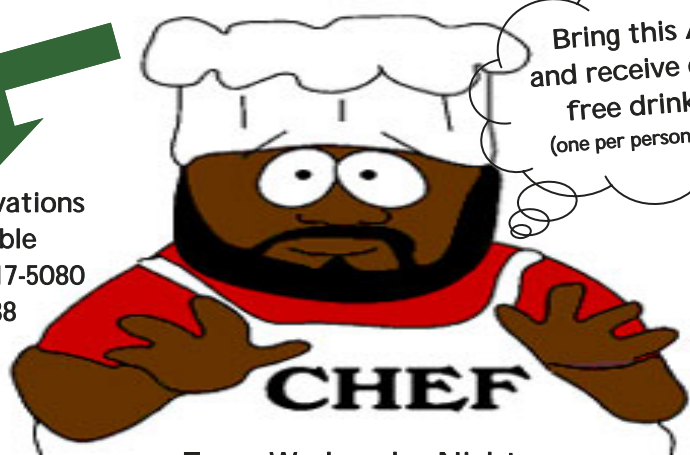


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