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BONAIRE

March 21-April 4; Volume 15, Issue 6

The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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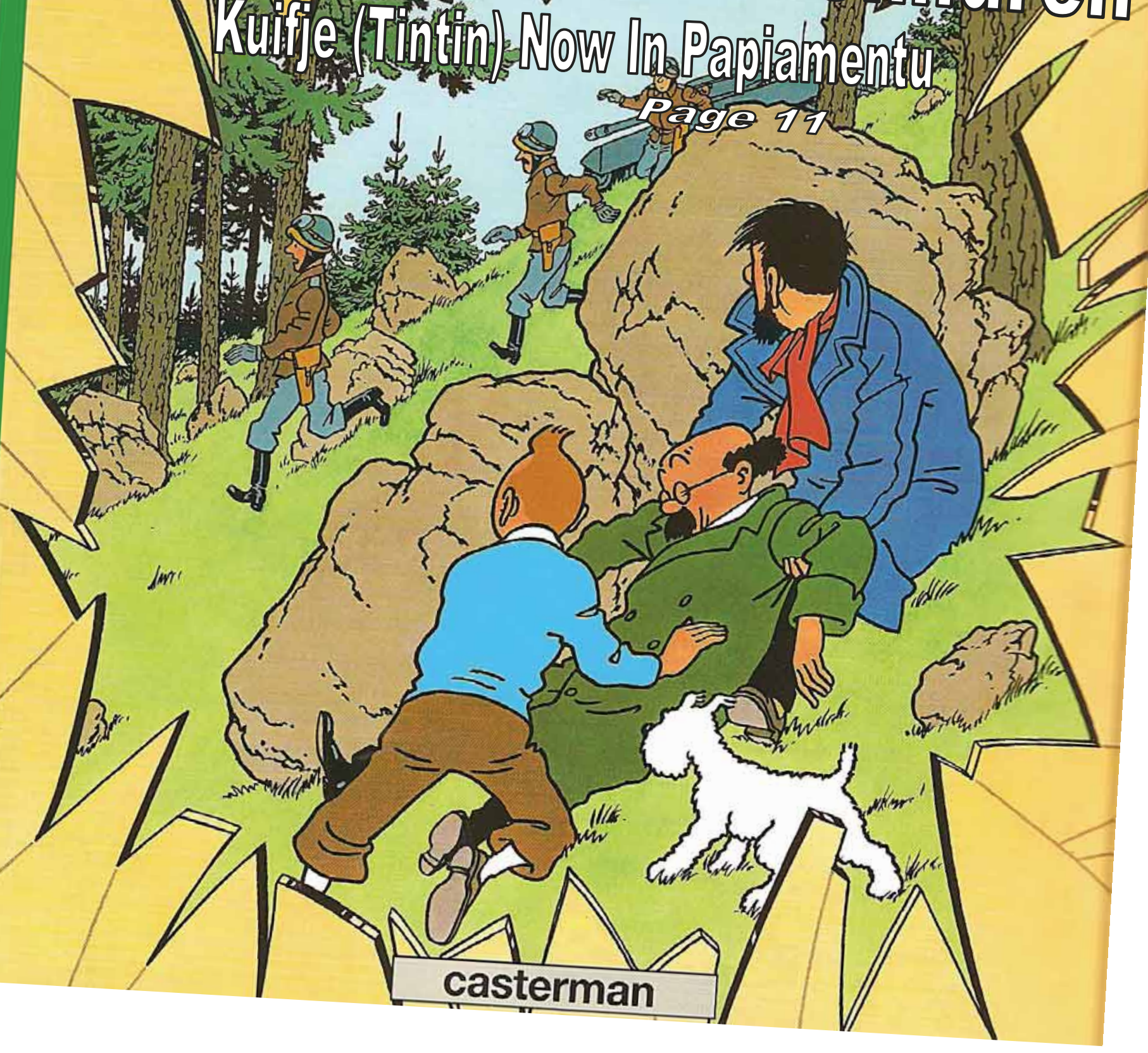
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E ASUNTU DI FLORISOL

A Gift To Bonaire's Children

Kuifje (Tintin) Now In Papiamentu

Page 11



The December 15 target date for constitutional change, according to Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten's statement during the Dutch television program Nova, is not realistic.

She said December 15 would not be feasible and that realistic planning should be made for the islands to attain their new statuses. It is not clear if she was speaking about all the Antillean islands or just Curaçao and St. Maarten which desire status apart.

According to Economic Affairs Minister Elvis Tjin Asjoe, the economy of Bonaire grew 3% in recent years. This growth is especially noticeable in construction, the financial sector, and hospitality. This development is attributed to the improvement of airlift with several direct flights from the US and Europe, and with the expansion of the number of hotel rooms and apartments.

According to Tjin Asjoe, "The economic growth of an island is also connected to the investment climate, which is very positive for Bonaire. The big interest of the local as well as foreign investors proves that. Also signing the final declaration (for direct ties to the Netherlands and leaving the Netherlands Antilles) and its transition agreement has had a positive impact."

Another indication that Bonaire is booming is that Continental has been flying a second flight from Houston each week and that American Eagle is still flying on Saturday, even though they planned to stop when Delta began its Saturday flights non-stop from Atlanta. However, Air Jamaica has stopped its Saturday service from Montego Bay.

Curacao's Insel Air airline is considering cooperation with Surinam Airways for a route Paramaribo-Curaçao to Miami, perhaps as often a four times weekly, said Insel's Director Edward Heereveen. If successful it

will mark the first return to the US for an Antillean operator since ALM/DCA days.

Alitalia has agreed to be bought by Air France-KLM, the world's biggest airline by revenues, in a deal valuing the near-bankrupt airline's equity at just €138 million --far less than expected. The €138 million price for Alitalia stock is equivalent to roughly two days' revenues at the Franco-Dutch airline group, Air France-KLM. KLM flies to Bonaire daily.



Alitalia labor unions are balking at the deal.

The latest report from the Central Bureau of Statistics confirms that prices on Bonaire continue to rise. Between October and December of 2007 they rose 0.5%. During the period food prices led the way with a jump of 1.2%; milk products rose 4.4%, the largest segment increase. Only vegetables showed a drop (0.5%)

The transfer of the Post Office operation from Canada Post back to the Government of the Netherlands Antilles has been postponed to this week because of legal complications. The transition had been originally set for March 1.

Canada Post took over the operation of the Post Office five years ago but changed its corporate strategy shortly afterwards. Prior to the takeover the Antillean Government had subsidized the postal service to the tune of NAf 6-7 million annually. Canada Post says they ran the service profitably.

Sidney Paulina will remain the acting General Managing Director of the 245 people who work for the Post Office. It is the intention of the government to eventually find a corporate operator for the service.

The Antillean parliament recently approved a law regulating exemptions from the OB



Ann Leong Photo

On Saturday, March 15, the team from the SGB high school's SBO culinary department travelled to Aruba to compete in the annual International Student Cooking Competition to be held this week. The Bonaire team consisted of Channethon Jansen, Miguel Saragoza, delegation leader teacher Ezzard Semeleer, Kelvin Ventura, teacher-coach Isidoor van Riemsdijk and Norison Conquet. Results will be reported in our next issue.



Carib Inn Photo

Pictured here are Tom Quinby of Portland, Maine, and Bruce Bowker from the Carib Inn here on Bonaire. Tom and his wife Gigi take batteries back to the US each time they visit, helping Bonaire's environment. Please take as many batteries back form wherever you stay. There is no place on Bonaire to dispose of these toxic items safely.

sales tax that ended the exemption for "fiscal unity," which means that transactions between a company and its subsidiaries are no longer exempt. This could lead to significant price increases for food products imported by wholesalers and sold to their supermarkets as well as companies that purchase services from subsidiaries like maintenance, power and water.

There are continuing Dutch legislative attempts to legalize the deportation of criminal Antilleans from Holland back to the Antilles.

Antillean experts will be talking to Dutch experts on the Dutch

Government's plans to draft a Kingdom Law on Movement of People. The law will make possible free movement of people within the Kingdom as well as the sending back of "undesired persons" who have committed crimes.

However, Members of Parliament were very skeptical about the intentions of the Government. The Antilles unanimously passed a motion in February stating that the Netherlands Antilles would not accept any law to repatriate Antilleans from Holland.

Antilles Justice Minister David Dick, who had a meeting with Dutch Minister Hirsch Ballin on

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Lions Club Auction

The second Bonaire Lions Club art auction on March 1, was over the top. The proceeds from art works by Bonaire's business leaders, its "Captains of Industry," will go to support the Club's charitable activities. The art works' theme was Bonairean Treasures. Proceeds exceeded expectations, raising NAf 16.650. In all 16 paintings were auctioned by Lions Dick Dissel and Eric van Silfhout for an average of price of just over NAf 1.000 per work. The "top seller" of the evening was Sara Matera's (Divi Flamingo Casino & Resort Manager) work named "Bonairean Hands," an abstract of hands, of people born on Bonaire representing past, present and future workers who serve using their hands in the culinary and hospitality industry on Bonaire. After all, she said, "People are the real Bonaire treasures." Five people, ranging in age from



Two of the "Bonairean Hands," models with Ruud Vermuelan, winning bidder

10 months, six, 31, 45 and 60 years old, imprinted their hands on the work. Sara was assisted by professional Bonaire artist Germaine Nijdam. All the "Captains" got advice from well-known Bonaire artists.

Sara's painting was sold for NAf 2.200. Second top seller was Michael Obersi's (Dew Point N.V. owner) work, named "The Last One Standing," an old Bonairean house (fast disappearing) with a cactus fence in front which went for NAf 1.500. Bous Scholts' (Plaza Resort) work,

"An Impression of Playing Golf on Bonaire," also went for NAf 1.500 while Huub Groot's (City Cafe) "Bonaire United," expressing the multicultural, harmonious Bonairean population, was third fetching NAf 1.400.

Sponsors of the event, organized by Bonaire Lions Gilberto Lira, Benchi Soleano and Dick Dissel, were the Plaza Resort & Casino and Kooyman Bonaire N.V. ■ Dick Dissel

Photos by Dick Dissel & Ruud Vermuelen



At times, bidding got quite spirited

Fight Against Dengue



Based on anecdotal reports, Bonaire recorded the most Dengue Fever cases in its history this past season. In hopes of reducing the number of future cases, Commissioner of Public Health, Boy Clarendo, visited the representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Puerto Rico. He asked support for Bonaire for the prevention of the dengue virus. Clarendo spoke with the epidemiologist Castellanos about collaboration possibilities with the organization. They also talked about combating the dengue mosquito with more efficient equipment from PAHO.

Worldwide, around 2.5 billion people live in areas that are at risk of dengue fever, a viral disease spread by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. There is no vaccine or drugs to treat the illness.

Compared to its cousin, the *Culex* mosquito, the *Aedes aegypti* is considered a weaker species. It is slender and has thin wings. *Culex* likes to breed in drain water, but *Aedes* will die in such dirty water. It likes rain water, relatively clean water.

Drug maker Novartis AG has designed a drug which it hopes can combat all four dengue viruses. "If the safety is acceptable, we hope to go into human testing, hopefully next year," Paul Herrling, head of corporate research, said in a telephone interview. ■ G.D.

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Cultural Landmarks

History - Mythology - Traditions - Architecture



Around Bonaire are what used to be empty pedestals. The idea was to have an explanation of the particular area and why it was important – historically, traditionally and/or mythologically. The pedestals sat empty for years. However, as a gift to the island and its visitors Frans Booi and his wife Maggie have transformed these pedestals into the cultural showpieces they were intended to be, with paintings by Booi and Winfred Dania and explanatory text in Papiamentu and English. Maggie's Wisconsin company, Industrial Graphics Corp., printed the plaques as a donation to Bonaire.

Piedra Krus is on the road to Rincon. Going north it's before the sign for the Indian Inscriptions. The cross is on a cliff on the west side of the road; the pedestal is on the east side.

Below is an abbreviated version of the text on the Piedra Krus pedestal.

Piedra Krus – Rock Cross

As the island was emerging from the sea, waves sculptured a beautiful t-shaped coral stone cross on this rock.

Since pre-Columbian times the site of the cross was considered a magical place and later became a pilgrimage site where nearby villagers of Rincon would go in procession and hold religious ceremonies. Local Priests placed a pile of stones on the t-cross to make it look like a typical Christian cross because they considered the original one a pagan symbol. When traveling past Piedra Krus at night, many people say they feel the presence of a strong spiritual force just around this corner on their way to the village of Rincon.

The Legend of Piedra Krus

The original coral t-cross was destroyed by drunken non-believers with guns, using it for target practice. The legend tells that those who destroyed the ancient cross were struck by a ray from heaven and mysteriously fell down dead on the spot. It was believed that they were being punished by the forces of heaven. Many other legends and mythologies are attributed to this area.

There was a tradition to keep the archaic legendary symbol of Piedra Krus alive by periodically renewing the wooden cross that was placed on the site. In 1966 some well known Rincon residents of the Janga and Piar families placed the more permanent cement cross that you see today on the exact place where the ancient natural cross stood. There is an old custom to take off your hat or make the sign of the holy cross when passing the Piedra Krus on the road to Rincon. ■ Frans Booi

Teens and Elders Meet

Last month the teens of the Stichting Project met with the elderly people of the *Kas di Sosiegu* (old folks home). It was a lesson in culture and society, learning from the older people what life was like in earlier days.

During the interviews the elders told them about their earlier lives and work. The teens said it was enjoyable and that they learned from each other. As a thank you to the elders the teens invited them to their restaurant, De Bonairiaan, to have a succulent breakfast that they prepared. of bread, coffee, tea, juice and fresh fruit. Both teens and seniors were enthusiastic about the interchange, with the teens returning with more of an understanding of their responsibility toward the older people. ■ Stichting Project



Stichting Project photo

The Walk-a-Thon is On!



North Salinja's Pia-Pia Walkers-- 2007

This is the Sixth year in a row that the Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon will be held to benefit our Special Olympics team. The date is **Sunday, March 30, starting at the slave huts at 5 am.** The 30-kilometer route is the same as other years. You may walk, jog, bicycle or even roller blade. There will be eight water stops manned by kind people who will give you water, Gatorade, fruit, *pan dushi* (sweet bread) and lots of encouragement. One of the most popular water stops is at Karpata, organized by the Bonaire Bikers Club. J. C. Herrera will have a bar set up at the end, at Pasa di Karino, selling drinks at low, low prices.

Along the route will be vehicles and persons to aid those who get tired or who have any problems. The Pasa di Karino will be open early this year, at 9 am, to receive those early cyclist arrivals. In previous years groups have gotten together to make the trek and those who don't feel they can do it can sponsor those who do. Or just buy a ticket. You'll be supporting Special Olympics Bonaire anyway.

Tickets are NAf 25 and you may buy them from any of the Special Olympics Bonaire board members, the coaches, at TCB or at Chat 'n Browse (next to Sand Dollar Grocery). For your donation you get a T-shirt (sponsored by Digicel), cap (from Ennia), snacks along the way and a good meal at the end at the Pasa di Karino at Rincon

T-shirts and give away items will be handed out on **Friday, March 28,** at City Cafe from 5 pm to 7 pm and on **Saturday, March 29,** at City Cafe from 10 am to 4 pm (on the Kaya Grandi side). For more information call Claire Sealy at 786-5454 or Chio Semeleer at 540- 6840. ■ L.D.



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Profiles **Mick Smit and the Stichting Project** – A Plan With a Vision and a Mission

In 2003, Mick Smit, a social youth leader in Holland, decided to start a youth project on Bonaire. His experience gave him the idea of trying to catch the Antillean youth problems in the early stages. By the time the kids from the Antilles get into trouble in Holland, he explains, it's often too late because the problems often began way in the past due to lack of direction. "Besides," Smit says, "talking about problem solving in Holland is more common than effective help."



So Mick searched for a foundation in Holland willing to support his method of working with kids who had dropped out of school. Because Bonaire is on a small scale it wasn't too overwhelming to start his project here with young teens.

Mick had to find a meeting place for his target group. Ultimately he landed in the Centro di Bario of Nort Salina, where he was welcomed with open arms by directors of the Centro, Ibi Everts and Xamara. He described his plans to them and soon a group of kids who normally spent their days out of school were drawn by the opportunity to participating in interesting activities. For example, those boys

and girls interested in diving could take a course at the Plaza Hotel which supplied the dive instructor as well.

The Stichting Project differs from that of Jong Bonaire in respect to the target group. Jong Bonaire offers support, education and assistance for SGB students during after school hours. The Project, on the other hand, offers help, training and practical education during school hours for youngsters with behavioral problems to get them back on track and motivate them to return to the SGB. The teens who participate are still of compulsory school age, therefore the Project works closely with the SEK (high school education system). These kids don't fit, temporarily or permanently, into the current school system. Their behavioral disorders are such that even a school like the special education school, Watapana, can't offer them the guidance and motivation they need.

The teens enter the Project in a group, having been referred by their school. Currently there are 18 students. Smit and three other team members teach them via practice and experience.

The first year or phase consists of education and three stages of training, emphasizing:

1. Co-operation - followed by a real life test. Building a wooden raft not only teaches them the

workings of buoyancy but the power of teamwork as well.

2. Trust - Activities like relying on the one who holds the rope while climbing to a high place.

3. Responsibility- The group elects a representative who learns the meaning of taking responsibility for the group

4. Negotiating - Learning how to present and defend their plans and proposals to the Board.

The aim is to have the teens ready to return to standard school education after the first year, but most of them need to continue for another one or two years to increase their personal motivation.

During the second phase the teens follow a work-study program in areas where they have a strong interest. For example, the Project is using the former Green Label building and grounds where the green house is now being used by the team and the youngsters who are re-installing drip systems and practicing garden maintenance. One of Mick's dedicated team members is a passionate master gardener. The kids apply what they've learned by working in hotel gardens. "They have to experience the real world," Mick says. "Not just theoretical but practical experience is essential." Maintenance and repair of lavato-



Foundation instructor Patty with some trainees at De Bonaireaan Restaurant

ries or sinks is another example of practical experience.


One of the boys, Adriaan, having received his dive certification, is currently working one day a week at Port Bonaire. He is an inspiration to the other group members, showing that the training period can result in a job you really like. Another boy is getting his practical experience in techniques at De Freewieler Scooter and Bike Shop.

Funding for The Project is tight. The kids themselves contribute by making place mats and key rings to sell to the hotels. A new project for those in the second phase be-


came a reality when they opened their own restaurant, De Bonaireaan, a lovely place along J. A. Abraham Blvd. just across from Cactus Blue restaurant. The outside has been painted with colorful Bonairean style houses and inside the setting is cozy with tables, chairs and menu cards. The teens, under the guidance of a team member, run the restaurant, open for breakfast and lunch on Thursdays and Fridays from 9 to 11am. Food and drinks are prepared and served. Sandwiches can be ordered and taken out to the beach or for lunch. The investment has been

(Continued on page 14)


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BONAIRE ON WHEELS



Rene Cordilia's 1974 Black Chevrolet Caprice Classic

The 27th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."



The completely original Chevrolet Caprice Classic, owned by Rene Cordilia from Bencho N.V.. The car will be restored completely before September 2008 to join the classic car show in Aruba. (Picture: J@n Brouwer)

Bonaire/Kralendijk –
Rene Cordilia was born on Curaçao in 1961 and received his technical education at the Jan Romer School (Practical Technical Education, nowadays, Feffek/jb) in Brakkeput, Curaçao. On the 19th of June, 1982, Rene bought an airplane ticket to Bonaire. The idea was to help a Bonairean friend repair an old car. What Rene never expected happened: he stayed on the island of Bonaire! This all happened some 21 years ago.



Rene is a happy man. He is very optimistic and he is hardly ever, or just for a very short period,

Rene got a job beating out dents on bodies of cars at the Ford dealer in Playa. Those days the Ford garage was owned by Hugo Gerharts and was on Kaya Prinses Marie, #21. Rene has always been a successful and serious craftsman. Finally he decided to start his own company. He became the owner of Garage Marten. Since March 6, 2001, Rene has been the proud owner of Bencho N.V., service, car rental and muffler repair.

angry or upset. His nickname is *Kontentu* (satisfied/jb).

Some time ago he got his 1974 Chevrolet Caprice Classic as a present from his father. The car was originally registered on Curaçao under license number 161. (Rene's birth year)

Rene explains, "This Chevrolet Caprice Classic was given to me by my father as a present. The car is in running condition. It looks a bit shabby because of the dust and the grass that is growing around the car due to all the rain we have had the last couple of months. But the vehicle starts easily and idles very well. The V8-350 engine runs very smoothly."

The Caprice is fully loaded. The car is equipped with air-conditioning, power windows, power brakes, power steering, power brakes and an automatic three-speed gearbox.

The Chevrolet Caprice, later called Caprice Classic, was the name of a series of cars produced by General Motors from 1965 through 1996. All Caprices have always been the most expensive and most luxurious models of the Chevrolet range.

"The car is a bit dusty now," Rene says, "but the chassis is sound and there is hardly any rust on the body. The car is in a complete and original condition. Due to a lack of time (business is going too well, loads and loads of work) I have not been able to start the restoration of this automobile. But before September 2008 the car has to be brought back into mint condition. We want to go to Aruba because in September 2008 a huge classic car show will be held on our sister island."

Good luck, *Kontentu!* Good luck with the restoration of your Caprice Classic and good luck with your enterprise on Bonaire!
 Story & Photo by J@n Brouwer

Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from pg 2) the topic, said Parliament had misunderstood the intentions of the law and that it was not a law to send back Antilleans similar to what former Minister of Integration Rita Verdonk had wanted to introduce.

► **Approximately 70 people were present at the meeting of the movement, 'Awor t'e Ora' (Now Is the Time), and decided to start a petition for a national dialog to evaluate current political process under the United Nations and to organize another referendum in Bonaire.** The initiative was taken by Benito Dirksz, political leader of the PRO party, which is not currently represented in the Island Council. Its mission is to promote the concept defined in a letter by Nöchi Willem and Jopie Giskus that was sent to Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende stating that the reformation process (establishing ties to The Netherlands) is violating fundamental international rights and the principles of good government.

Bonaire's trade unions, Abvo, Fedebon, BPWU, and Simabo, attended the meeting, but other invitees, the clergy and the commercial and tourist sector did not. They will be re-invited again

► Bonaire will soon have a law that protects the monuments and historic buildings on the island. According to procedures, when the responsibility for conserving sites of historical and cultural importance was transferred from the Central Government to the Island, its government must draw up a policy plan for monuments which must be approved by the Island Council. This policy plan was submitted to the Island Council in August of last year and was sent to several departments for comments. The Executive Council has to then review the ordinance and send it on to the Island Council for enactment.

Lack of legal protection and financial support is cited as the reason many significant buildings in Bonaire fall into ruin. What is defined as a monument? A monument can be unmovable or movable; it must be more than 50 years old and of common good for

its beauty, scientific or cultural-historic value.

The monument policy will not only aim at monuments, but will also focus on the maritime archeology and historic spots on the island.

► **The Bonaire Executive Council has decided to increase the deposit for long lease land requests from NAf 150 to NAf 1.000.** The Island Ordinance (*erfpachtbesluit*) of August 30, 1982, (AB1982, no 15; Decree deposit long lease 1982). Article 1 sub 2 decrees that, among other things, this amount is to cover the cost of the notary deed for the right to long lease and the fee of the notary. Even if the request is denied, NAf 736 has to be paid for notary costs. Since the old deposit does not cover all the costs, it was decided to increase the amount to NAf 1.000.



► **Edgar "Magic Ed" Janga is a unique businessman.** An early member of the Jong Bonaire program, he has recently returned to Bonaire after getting his MBO Bouwkunde (Architecture) degree in Aruba and is working at a local architect's office. Ed got his start in magic at age 16 while working as a bus boy at the Divi Flamingo Resort. A member of the International Magician's Union magic is now his side job.

His business, Magic Ed Entertainment, creates parties and festivals for people and includes food, party supplies and the entertainment. He is also volunteering at Jong Bonaire. Ed says the help he got at Jong Bonaire with his homework was very important to him and the leaders also helped him achieve his goals. He now works with the teens to help teach them how to manage their time more effectively and how to get

(Continued on page 7)

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE CLEANED BY SHRIMP?

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Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from pg. 6) better results in school. See his advertisement on page 16 and call him (717-9802) to make your next party special.

► Bonaireans and Arubans have always felt warmly towards each other's culture, a tradition upheld by the Casibari Club of Bonaire. **Last Saturday they organized the Aruba Day celebration in Bonaire** with the laying of a wreath at the bust of Betico Croes at the head of Kaya Betico Croes.

► Dr. Danni Maldini, who is teaching at the Bonaire CIEE Research Station, is looking for volunteer boaters to offer their services in exchange for learning about and initiating a study on the ecology of dolphins around Bonaire. Danni has worked with marine animals around the world and has a wealth of knowledge. If you are interested in helping out, please call 785-3150. See the lecture notice in Happenings on page 20 for additional information.

► Iris Semeleer of the Flamingo Bookstore is organizing Bonaire's 30th annual kite flying competition (*Kontest di Fli*). Main sponsors are Sabadeco, WEB and Maduro & Curiel's Bank-Bonaire. It will be held at the Juventus soccer field, behind Koojiman, on April 6. Kite flying starts at 8 am. Participants may sign up at Flamingo Bookstore in Kaya Grandi: Naf 3,50 for kids, Naf7,50 for adults.



Jong Bonaire photo

► Jong Bonaire's snorkeling program got to be a lot more fun with the help of Divi Flamingo Diving which offered the youngsters a boat trip every two weeks. Twice a month five Jong Bonaire members, chosen for the good performance in the program, are selected. The boat takes them snorkeling at different places, which is interesting and instructive. Recently they snorkeled behind Klein Bonaire and saw turtles, puffer fish and morays. Thanks to Serge from Divi Dive and all the other people there who volunteered.



Youth Outreach photo

► The Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation together with Jong Bonaire has started a youth awareness project against crime called 'No Kai Aden' (Don't Fall In). The project is partially financed by Support to the Netherlands Antilles Youth Development Program (Snyadp) and the private sector. Outreach and Jong Bonaire have established a working group consisting of about 40 young persons who conduct an information campaign. One group of young persons creates an information folder that explains what criminality is and what the consequences are. Another group will attend a session of the court and report on it. Others will interview victims of a robbery and give awareness information on crime to children of the after-school program (*Skol di Bario*).

Youngsters wishing to participate can register via info@nokaiaden.net. Businesses that want to contribute to the project can contact coordinator Sheloutska Martinus-Francesc at 796-5566.

There are prizes for the smallest, strangest, most beautiful, biggest, and most original kites. The jury will also choose the big winner at the end of the competition.

Don't miss it. It's an all day affair with people of all ages from all three ABC islands flying spectacular homemade kites. In past years some of the kites were the size of small airplanes, others were made of beer cans! More information in our next issue.

► For groups of 10 or more persons, Golden Reef Inn and

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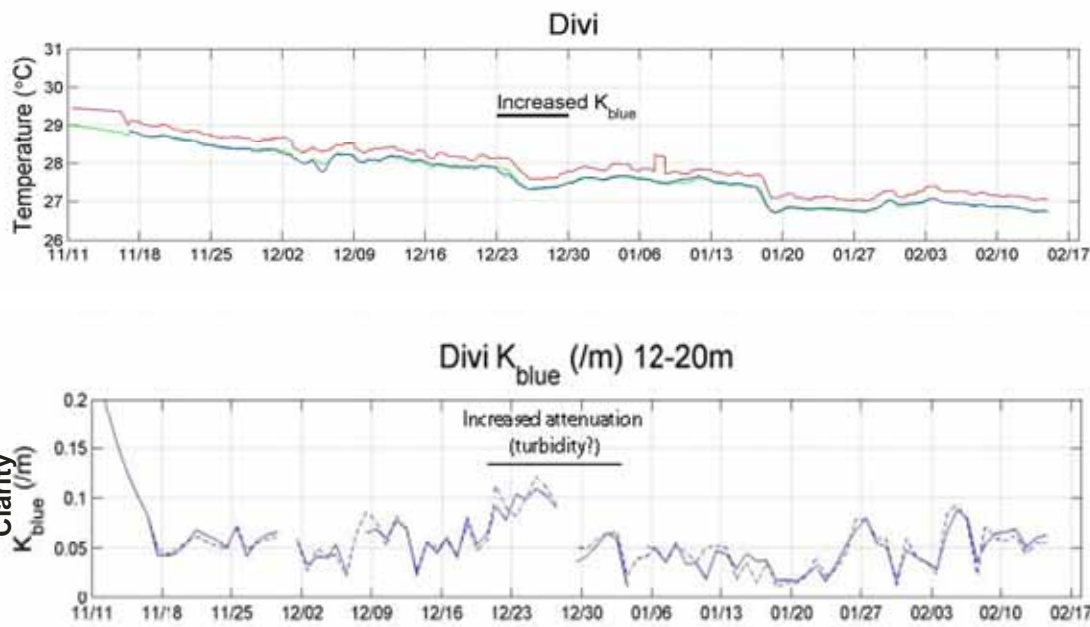
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CLEAR BLUE WATER NEWS

PHOTO REPORTS

Sensors Now Calibrated - First Results



The Rainbow Array water sensors that have been sampling the sea on the west side of Bonaire for the past several months have passed their first test with flying colors (pardon the pun). Elaborate and expensive instrumentation brought from the University of California checked the calibration of the units.

The Sea Monitor Foundation has released some preliminary information on water temperature and water clarity (graphs above near the Divi Flamingo Resort). A somewhat technical discussion follows but what it means is that, in addition to being able to detect the by-products of contamination, the sensors provide the basic information every diver coming to Bonaire wants to know: How clear is the water and what's the temperature for each dive site.

Temperature

In a Rainbow Sensor array, temperature is recorded at three depths (5m(RED), 12m(GREEN), 20m(BLUE)). The graph shows the average Daily Temperature at each depth. The overall drop in temperature between November and February is obvious.

The advantage of reading temperatures at three depths is that an upwelling of colder water from greater depth, rising to the surface, can be readily seen. Many of the changes that divers experience may be due to an upwelling. (NOTE: 26°C = 78.8°F, 29°C = 84.2°F, 31°C = 87.8°F)

K_{blue} (Water Clarity Index)

The value K is an oceanographic term used when describing water conditions. It is defined

as the attenuation (reduction) of light by water. However, this project is the first time anybody has used a rainbow sensor to calculate a K.

The Rainbow Sensor uses the light from the sun, filtered into the blue bandwidth, to calculate a K_{blue} value. The blue light from the sun is measured at different depths. The decrease in blue light between the sensors is used to calculate the K_{blue} value. The label 12-20m indicates these readings were calculated using the sensors at 12m and 20m. The value on the graph represents the difference in the Light between 12M & 20M. (note: The lower the number, the better the clarity)

The K_{blue} is a good indicator of the clarity of the water. The lower the K_{blue}, the better the water clarity. Therefore, everything else being equal, a lower K_{blue} value probably means better visibility for the diver. Generally speaking, the K_{blue} values at Divi average about .05. The variation in K-Blue at Divi is not unusual. As any diver knows, many things, some very temporary in nature, can affect visibility.

In particular, diver visibility is dependent on the overall ambient light. Even with equal water clarity, the visibility will increase when the sun shines. **K_{blue}, however, is independent of the sun's condition.**

PADI calculates visibility horizontally in order to estimate how far away one diver can be from his buddy. The LMSP program measures visibility vertically by observing which set of sensors (5m, 12m, 20m) can be seen from the surface. This measure is dependent on ambient conditions. K_{blue}, which eliminates the variable of clouds, rain, waves, etc, is a more accurate measure of the visibility a diver might expect.

Comprehensive results have been promised in coming months

□ Story & photo by Albert Bianculli

Money is needed to continue this project. Donations accepted by Support Bonaire (US tax deductible) or you are invited to directly deposit your donation to SEA MONITOR Foundation accounts: Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) USD Account # 116.735.09 NA Account # 116.736.07 SWIFT TRANSFER: MCBKANCUBON

Is Bachelor's Beach now known as Bachelor's Suicide Leap? The dilapidated stairs, which have been deteriorating bit by bit from surges and storms over the years, finally collapsed in November 2007. According to DROB officials, new stairs are forthcoming. "Hurry," say all the aficionados of one of the most beautiful, yet tiny beaches on Bonaire, "We can't wait much longer!" ■ Pauline Kayes



Just another empty lot slated for development? Actually this parcel of land on Sagitario in Belnem was earmarked for a park when suddenly it was denuded by bulldozers. Apparently its designation was changed and sold to developers without any input from citizens and neighbors who live nearby. Surely there are plenty of other lots available for development so parks for children do not have to be surrendered just so some people can make money! The playground idea seems to have disappeared. ■

Pauline Kayes

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BONAIREAN VOICES

FOOD & HEALTH



Health is something that nearly everyone is concerned with. Even governmental groups are raising funds to study the causes of health problems like obesity among our youth in Bonaire. The questions now are what food we eat, where we eat, how we eat and how much we eat.

Most parents are concerned about their family's meals. If you agree with me and those people I interviewed for this subject, good health starts in the kitchen. How much time a week do you spend in the kitchen, preparing meals for yourself or your family?

A 71-year-old lady told me, "I never worked, and I didn't need to work either. Only my husband worked and I stayed home to take care of my four children when they were small. I made sure to have their three meals ready every day. I got up early to make their breakfast,

and after they left for school I started with the lunch preparation and it was always ready by 12 noon. I like to cook and I've always liked to cook with natural seasonings like tomato, garlic, onions and green pepper, a little bit of salt and tomato paste. My children, although they are grown ups and some of them parents themselves, still like my food and when we have family reunions I cook for them. So cooking was never a heavy task for me."

But others like you and me are working people and many are working parents. How we do that? Another woman (63), who was a working mother of seven children says, "You need to put a little effort and time into it. In the past our ancestors managed using a charcoal

stove or a kerosene stove with a clay pot. But whatever they used their families had their three meals a day. I use to work fulltime and now I'm retired. I started cooking early in the morning before I went to work or the night before when preparing something difficult to cook like a good stew.

But if we compare these days with the past things are different. Today many people like the very easy way of feeding themselves and family by buying "take-out" every day, because they are too lazy to cook. It costs more money and it isn't necessarily healthful.

Not everybody cooks the same. We need to understand the importance of our home cooked food and the health of our family. That doesn't mean that we can't go out as a family

for dinner or buy take-out sometimes. We have to remember what comes first. Cooking is an important task and needs good planning and everybody should help in preparing the meal. It is not only the mother or woman responsible, but the whole family as well, for the family's sake.

Most people can't sit together as a family for lunch but at least they can have something quick and then have a formal dinner in the evening when everybody is at home. These days even some restaurant food is becoming more bland and unappetizing.

So try your own creations at home by preparing fresh meals and use more natural ingredients while you are cooking. You are contributing to your own health and the health of the ones you love. By

doing this you are minimizing the risk of all kinds of sickness and diseases. Take care of yourself and those around you. ■

Story & photo by Siomara E. Albertus



Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email reporter@bonairenews.com.



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FRASIMADA, A Boat With A Mission

Recently, the crew of the *Frasimada*, a 47 ft. catamaran built by Nautitech, made a stop in the waters of Bonaire during their cruise around the world. The trip will take a total of three years, and they aren't even halfway since they left Rome, Italy, in the spring of 2007.

Captain and owner Massimo and crew members, Salvatore and Roberto, are participating in this cruise as born and bred Italians in the official program of the bicentennial celebrations for Guiseppi Garibaldi. These worldwide celebrations in honor of the Italian hero will last three years, until 2010, with many different activities. After a brief history lesson I am beginning to grasp their passion for this Italian hero, sailor and commander.

Garibaldi was born in Nice (then Nizza and still part of Italy) in 1807 and is known primarily as a man of the sea and a lover of adventure. But he is also honored and acknowledged as a freedom fighter and revolutionist in Brazil and Uruguay, France and Italy: a socialist 200 years ago! Ultimately he was instrumental in the unification of Italy.

Massimo, Salvatore, Roberto and Silvio, who just came aboard recently, are following "the spirit" of Garibaldi, making the same journey as he did, in the same spirit (honor the sea, honor nature, honor the freedom of human beings) but with another kind of boat and with all the modern technical equipment now available.

From Bonaire the *Frasimada* will cross to the Galapagos within one month. The crew stayed another month on Bonaire because they are contributing to a scientific mission of the SMOS (soil, moisture and ocean salinity), helping to survey the geological condition of the soil and how this is affected by a fresh water river. The SMOS is an earth observation organization (ESA), and the reports are collected and processed in Florida.

From the Galapagos they'll cross the Pacific to Polynesia in one stretch of 3,300 miles and have to be there before the end of August 2009, which is the beginning of the hurricane season. Then in October they'll sail to New Zealand and Australia, crossing the Strait of Torre, Bali, then Madagascar around October/November. They should reach Capetown by December 2009. But this isn't the end of their journey because Garibaldi also sailed to South America around 1840. The *Frasimada* will cross the Atlantic Ocean a second time so they'll be present at the celebrations in Argentina, Uruguay and ultimately Sao Paulo, Brazil, where their hero got married in the newly independent Brazilian nation.

Massimo and Salvatore assure me that Garibaldi (who was a contemporary of Victor Hugo and shared the same philosophy) was far ahead of his times, opposing injustice and slavery. Garibaldi, for them and many others worldwide, is an inspirational example for a way of life.

On July 4, 2010, the *Frasimada* and its crew will be joining the closure of the Garibaldi celebrations in Nice, having fulfilled their great dream. ■ *Story & photos by Louise Rood*



Captain Massimo, crew Salvatore and Roberto



Frasimada in Bonaire

Garbage Under The Gun



Selibon photo

The individual responsible for this cement mess was cited

Bonaire has long held the title of tidiest island in the Caribbean, but with a growing population and booming construction its "clean" distinction is threatened. Selibon, Bonaire's government waste management company, with the backing of the Island Council, is cracking down on individuals and businesses that are spoiling Bonaire with their garbage.

Environmental police officers, Elvis Cecilia and Roland Laurens, (above) have been active in patrolling construction sites, illegal dump sites and issuing citations where needed.

Businesses must have enough garbage containers for the public to deposit their garbage and it's the businesses' responsibility to make sure that this also happens. Businesses must also make sure that the containers are emptied on a regular basis. Furthermore, the garbage 25 meters around their business must also be picked up. Since many businesses do not follow these rules, Selibon and Deza (Public Works and Environment) have decided to tackle this problem with an action plan that consists of three steps: press releases, a letter to the licensees to emphasize the importance of a clean environment, and inspection by Selibon and Deza. ■ G.D.

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Burned Out and Homeless



Tina Wilmans stands in front of the house she lived in which burned everything she owned.

"I was at work at 7 am," Tina says, when I hear on the breaking news that there's a fire in Antriol. At first they give the address and I say to my colleague, 'I know those people. How very sad for them.' Then the announcer comes on again and says he made a mistake and that it's another number – the number of my house!" Everything she owned was in that house that she'd rented and lived in for the last six years. "I was in shock," she relates. "I didn't really believe it was happening. I wanted to go inside but the firemen wouldn't let me. They said it was too dangerous and that the roof could come down." According to the police and the fire department the fire started in the electrical wires in the ceiling. Because it was a very old Bonairean house, there was no insurance on anything. "I had just bought my bedroom furniture and a refrigerator – on time payments," Wilmans says sadly. "Now I still have to pay and it's all burned up and gone. "But," she adds, "the really sad part is that all my photograph albums are gone – pictures of my mother from the time she was a child – and my father and my family. I can never replace that."

A colleague, Robert Statie, was renting one of the rooms of the house for his office. He's head of Wowo di Bario, which fights crime in the neighborhoods. All his records, files, computers and



Electrical wiring was thought to be the fire's cause

printers got burned up in the fire. "I had NAf 60.000 worth of equipment in that office," he says, "and now it's all gone." Now Tina needs a place to live and money to help her get started again, for food, clothes and things for a household. She's staying temporarily with an elderly couple but they cannot accommodate her for much longer. As an emergency case, Tina has applied at *Fundashon Cas Bonaireano* for a house, but she hasn't heard anything from them yet.

If you can help with any financial aid, no matter how small, it would be much appreciated. Her MCB-Bonaire account is 1008101-07 in her name, Albertina Wilmans. ■ L.D.



The burned-out interior

The Sunflower Affair

Tintin in Papiamentu

Thanks to Bonaire part-time resident, Co de Koning, his wife Hanne – Vibeke, journalist Bòi Antoin and dedicated sponsors, Antillean children can now enjoy the adventures of Tintin (Kuifje in Dutch) in their native Papiamentu language. Early this month the deKonings presented the first copies of the book to Bonaire's Governor and the Executive Council. Other books will be distributed, free, to Bonairean and Curaçao elementary school children.



The presentation to the Governor and Executive Council in front of the Executive Office. Translator Bòi Antoin at right

Co deKoning is fanatic for the adventures of Kuifje, as a youngster growing up in Belgium and Holland. Recognizing the entertainment and cultural values of the "comic strip" he reasoned that Antilleans would appreciate it too. Following a two-year campaign to get Papiamentu publishing rights, 10,000 copies were printed. However, you can't buy them in any bookstore. The print run is totally non-commercial.

The Adventures of Tintin is a series of Belgian comic books created by Belgian artist Hergé, the pen name of Georges Remi (1907–1983). The series first appeared in French in a chil-



Will our government officials stop reading the comics and get back to work?



A jovial Co deKoning hands over the first copy

dren's supplement in a Belgian newspaper in January 1929. Set in a painstakingly researched world closely mirroring our own, The Adventures of Tintin presents a number of characters in distinctive settings. The series has continued as a favorite of readers and critics alike for over 70 years.

The hero of the series is Tintin, a young Belgian reporter and

traveller. He is aided in his adventures from the beginning by his faithful dog Snowy. Later, popular additions to the cast included Captain Haddock and other colorful characters. The series was also adapted for both film and theatre. The series is one of the most popular European comics of the 20th century, with translations published in over 50 languages and more than 200 million copies sold to

mysteries; political thrillers; and science fiction. The stories within the Tintin series always feature slapstick humor, offset in later albums by sophisticated satire and political/cultural commentary. The Papiamentu language edition, translated by Bòi Antoin, "The Sunflower Affair" ('*E Asuntu di Florisol*') is no exception and is beautifully printed on fine paper with glossy covers, more like an album than a comic book. Other Tintin titles are being considered for publication as well.

Sponsors for the project are: Bonaire Air Services, Bonaire-Law/CuraçaoLaw, Bonaire Holding Mij, KLM, Genootschap de Klos, Maduro Holding, Capt. Don's Habitat, Notaris Maarten Maartense, Playa Trading, Rorcargo, SNS REAAL Fonds and the Association of the Friends of Bonaire. ■ G.D.















date. The comic strip series has long been admired for its clean, expressive and engaging, well-researched plots straddling a variety of genres: swashbuckling adventures with elements of fantasy;



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Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

That because of its flattened and camouflaged body, the Peacock Flounder (*Bothus mancus*) is able to quickly dive under the sand and seemingly disappear to avoid predators or to sneak attack some unsuspecting prey?



Peacock flounder chilling on the sea floor. Its eyes are the two lumps sticking up on its left side.

The Peacock flounder is born with an eye on each side of its head but during development one eye migrates to the other side until both eyes are situated next to each other. Since the rest of the flounder's features remain unchanged, it is still able to swim upright as well as on its side, though it may look a little crooked. The flounder's eyes are able to move independently of each other, which allows it to look in opposite directions simultaneously! Having both eyes on the same side of the head enables the flounder to utilize its camouflage ability. One eye is able to recognize the surroundings around it in great detail; this allows the flounder to change color and pattern to exactly match the nearby environment and quickly blend into the sea floor. If that one eye happens to be covered by sand, the flounder can't see its surroundings and is unable to camouflage itself. The flounder's flat body allows it to mold to the various contours of the sandy bottom without showing a fin; only the flounder's eyes stick up and although you may not be able to spot those tiny black dots it has surely spotted you! ■ *Christine San Antonio*



My name is Christine San Antonio and I am a junior at the University of Vermont and here studying Tropical Marine Biology and Conservation at CIEE Research Station Bonaire. Living in the tropical wonders of Bonaire has been a stark contrast to the howling blizzards of the northeast but it has allowed me to see some amazing marine life in my time here. Being a Biology major, I am passionate about science and the environment and I hope to one day make a career doing field research in marine or terrestrial ecosystem conservation.

(Stichting Project Continued from page 5) considerable and more is needed to add a garden as an extra attraction for the guests. Unfortunately Abraham Boulevard right now is almost inaccessible by car because of road construction, but there is plenty of parking nearby. From the Divi Flamingo and other nearby hotels you can easily reach it by walking. De Bonairiaan needs guests in order to keep the teens motivated and of course they want to feel useful.

Smit emphasizes that the Project works

as a preventative. Kids who used to drop out of school and often survived on crime are now able to make choices: either to return to school after extra guidance and training or find the job that really suits them. Wouldn't it be wise for the community to help them financially? Bonaire and the teens deserve a safe and crime free environment!

For more info: www.Stichtingproject.com

■ *Louise Rood*

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Art Adult and Art Youth (16 years or younger)

- Any technique or medium, 2 dimensional "poster", maximum size A3

Photograph Adult and Photograph Youth (16 years or younger)

- Digital or printed Images of wild loras, on CD, or email to: salbanoslora@gmail.com

Bring your artwork to: **Mangazina di Rei** (Rincon), **The Bonaire Museum (SKAL)**, or **Chat n' Browse** (Sand Dollar) **Deadline: 23rd April**

Exhibition and award ceremony at the **Salba Nos Lora** stand on Rincon Day

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Envirowatch

Say NO to Gloves



Smiling glove-wearer at Andrea I



Why you shouldn't wear gloves at Ol' Blue

Hendrik Wuyts of Scuba Vision Films, sent us these photos and writes, "I went diving yesterday and today. Yesterday I encountered one group wearing gloves and today two groups wearing gloves when diving." As readers should know diving barehanded is mandated in Bonaire because it discourages divers from touching—and damaging—the coral. It is punishable by a fine and confiscation of dive gear.

"Scuba Vision Films is concerned about the economic growth of Bonaire. For today's divers it seems normal to bend the rules (see un-posed pictures at right). They should be ashamed to be seen wearing gloves! But not only wearing gloves what about harassing a seahorse? Go to www.youtube.com/scubavisionfilms and select *The Economic Value of a Seahorse*."

Bonaire, known for its outstanding nature and marine protection is becoming stressed by economic growth that is supported by the Government and some people.

Serious scuba divers are a group of people who are well aware of how development impacts the environment but often act irresponsibly. "If nobody sees me it will be OK." Bonaire must raise awareness of protection and needs to monitor more closely tourists and their behavior.

"The diving freedom that gives Bonaire its name, "Divers Paradise," has and will continue to have a negative impact on the reef. In this short Youtube film Maria Uyarra, a marine biologist, explains how sensitive the balance is between protecting the reef and the survival on an island with a precarious economic situation." ■

Story and photo by Hendrik Wuyts

Dee Scarr's Coral Glimpses




The little coral head in the foreground has very recently been munched by a parrotfish. The coral head behind it has a dead spot that's older -- we know that by the algae growing there -- but not a lot older, because the live coral hasn't grown significantly. ■ Story & photo by Dee Scarr

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



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DINING GUIDE

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 Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NA/ 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

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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.

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Maduro and Curiel's Bank provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

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BOOKS and TOYS

At last, a real book and toy store on Bonaire, Addos, in downtown Kralendijk sell books in three languages and has a variety of quality toys.

CELLULAR SERVICE

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DIVING

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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

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FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

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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.

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter Adirondack Park, New York, USA

My name is Sandy. I am a Bonairean donkey who escaped "the great roundup" on April 1 a few years ago. I feel much safer here in the north woods of New York's Adirondack Park, but I do get homesick for the island of my birth.

How excited I was to learn that my neighbors, Corky and Sy Halberg, subscribe to my favorite newspaper, *The Bonaire Reporter*. They generously allow me to read each issue they receive, although I need some help holding it (see photo). Corky and Sy returned to Bonaire in January for their 30th trip in 15 years. I'm sending with them hugs for all my family and friends. ■



WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES. Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com. (All 2008 photos are eligible.)

Picture Yourself With The Reporter Kiel, Germany



Ephraim J. Alberto writes, "Here I have my picture taken with my friends holding *The Bonaire Reporter* in Kiel, Germany. I am in the middle between Zjumira Wout and Japheth Moret. We are all volunteers on the ship *Logos II* which is operated by the Educational Book Exhibits Ltd (EBE), a private, non-profit, charitable organization registered in the UK. The ship has called at Bonaire." ■

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter Sicily, Italy



Only two weeks old and Anna is already reading *The Bonaire Reporter* with mommy, Elena and daddy, Alfio, who are frequent Bonaire visitors. Mom is taking her three-month maternity break, Italian style, from her work at Mezzacorna Winery. Think Anna will grow up to be a wine lover...?? ■

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter L'Agulhas, South Africa

Frequent Bonaire visitor Anne Bowen writes, "I've sent you pictures of Renee Leach (Bonaire's pioneer snorkeling guide) and me taken on our recent trip to South Africa to visit with her family.



The one of Renee alone was taken in front of the building which housed the pharmacy that she and her husband Stefan owned and operated. The ones of the two of us were taken at the southernmost tip of South Africa (which is NOT the Cape of Good Hope) at Cape L'Agulhas ■

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Pet of The Week

It was a Good Samaritan who found this adorable pup, "Benno," and his three siblings and brought them into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. The other pups have all been adopted, but Benno, one of the cutest of them all, is still at the Shelter, waiting for just the right person to come along. Little Benno is very sweet and enthusiastic and is a favorite of the Shelter staff. He has soft, caramel colored fur that's so easy to stroke. He's about four months old and of course is full of health and has been examined by the vet, tested and given his shots. The adoption fee for dogs, NAf 105, includes all this plus his being neutered when he's old enough.

We salute the Good Samaritan as Benno and his siblings are not the only dogs that this person has rescued and brought into the Shelter. Consider their lives had they been left to wander, homeless and uncared for.

You may meet Benno and the other healthy and sociable cats and dogs up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagon Road, opened Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

You can help keep down the population of unwanted puppies. Donate to the Shelter Sterilization Fund, MCB Account #10616410. All the money in this account



Benno

goes directly to pay for sterilizations of dogs who otherwise would be left to have litter after litter of unwanted puppies. ■ L.D.

Bicycle Tour to Benefit JePoBon



Saturday, March 29, at 6:30 am join the riders for a bike ride from the stadium to Lac and back to benefit Bonaire's Puppet Theater (JePoBon - Jeugdtheater en Poppenspel Bonaire). It's for riders from eight years old through adults. Meet at the stadium in Kralendijk. There will be five stops for water/juice along the way, The route from the stadium follows: Kaya Betico Croes, Nikiboko Sùit, Kaminda Lac, Kaya Ing. Van

Eps, Kaya Internashonal, Aeropuerto and back to the Stadium. Make sure your bicycle is in good repair.

The donation requested is NAf. 17,50 for adults and NAf. 15,00 for children. Groups of 30 persons or more get NAf 2,50 discount. The cost covers a T-shirt, juice and water. Get the shirts at the office of SKAL and from Lula Hart, Kaya Nikiboko Sùit 127, tel. 717- 2666. ■

JePoBon story & photo



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Letters to the Editor

No High Rise Reporter Praise Keep Paradise SGB Needs Help

No High Rise

The undersigned, residents and owners of the residential area called Punt Vierkant, in Belnem, address you once again with a petition regarding the serious threat to the quality of the area.

To the Island Council:

With great appreciation we have taken account of your "voorbereidingsbesluit" of March 7th that was announced on March 10th, in which Punt Vierkant is designated as residential area in which only one or two story buildings (with a maximum height of 8 meters) will be allowed. Also we have noted that no apartment buildings will be allowed anymore in our area.

However, on February 21st, shortly before the date the "voorbereidingsbesluit" was published, Dutch project developer E.G.Vastgoed B.V. filed a very incomplete permit application for a massive 12-apartment complex on the lot of Punt Vierkant 20/22, a project that is in flagrant conflict with the basic concept of the "voorbereidingsbesluit" with respect to the Punt Vierkant residential area.

In the light of this remarkable situation, we urge you to refrain from granting a permit to E.G. Vastgoed B.V. We consider it inconceivable that a last-minute permit would be granted for a project which is completely out

of line with your permit policy and that would irreversibly and permanently destroy the living environment for the present and future residents of Punt Vierkant.

Signed by 34 residents of the neighborhood, Bonaire, March 17 2008

Praise For The Reporter

Dear Editor: Not only is *The Reporter* created using renewable resources but now it's all color! You are pioneers in environmental journalism! That's awesome!

Matt Sellars

Keep It Paradise

Dear Editor: We have just finished our fourth visit to Bonaire, so the comments on your home page reflect our feelings about Bonaire: being a diver's paradise, best kept secret, unhurried. So then, why is it being encouraged to change?

Why will there be cruise ships in port every day next year? The Town Pier dive is consistently listed among the top 10 dives in the world. We were fortunate enough to have dived it this week, but we have friends who tried every day a few months ago only to be turned away because of cruise ships. We were also the third group of close to 40 divers that night because diving is only allowed a couple of nights a week, so the demand is extremely high. By the time we

got in, most everything had been scared away due to the number of divers in that night. This puts incredible stress on the varied life and beautiful coral of the reef.

What will the increase in ship activity do to the reef, which has been carefully protected for years?

When serious divers go in your waters, they are very conscious of protecting the reef and its inhabitants. However, when recreational divers who get in one or two dives a year off a cruise ship hit the water, they also hit the reef and harass the marine life because it is both their one chance to get close and they have not developed the respect of serious divers and the marine conservation they strive to maintain to protect it for future trips and generations.

Bonaire has put in such an effort to protect its reefs, by closing over-used dive sites, protecting areas, and overall conservation. Please control this paradise for our children who are also serious divers and our grandchildren whom we plan to introduce to this sport. We hope to continue traveling to Bonaire, one of the Caribbean's best dive destinations, for many years to come. Our travel dollars can be spent elsewhere, same as the other 30% return visitors your website boasts.

The Netherlands Antilles have already given Aruba and Curacao to the cruise ships. Please maintain Bonaire as a diver's paradise.

Wayne A. Walkotten

SGB Needs Our Help

This week I had occasion to be at SGB. I've read the impassioned pleas of two mothers of SGB students who wrote letters to the editor of *The Bonaire Reporter* detailing some of the deficiencies of the school and appealing for help. I share their desire to help our school.

While I do not have any of my own children in school on Bonaire, I can think of no project more worthy of attention than the health, welfare, and education of our youth. SGB is of central importance to them, their future, and therefore to the future of Bonaire itself. We must fix it.

Fixing SGB is not solely a function of building and grounds clean-up, repair, and beautification (although all of these are desperately needed); it is also not solely a matter of functioning toilets, sinks, and convenient access to drinking water (absolute necessities); nor is it solely a function of adequate books, computers, and teachers (although all seem mandatory to me). It is all of these things, but perhaps even more it is the restoration of a spirit, of pride, of empowerment, of a sense of possibility.

So who will fix SGB, and how will they do it?

I learned that all relevant parties within the school leadership and the government have been formally contacted to address the



SGB schoolyard

Herman van Leeuwen photo

problems at SGB and all parties have responded with concern and promises for action, but no actions have been forthcoming.

So this leaves us with two choices: 1) Continue to complain and direct anger at those who probably do, in fact, deserve it; or, 2) Work together to develop plans to fix the problems.

It has been said that "it is better to light one candle, than to curse the darkness," so in that spirit I have some ideas. I'm sure you do also. I have to believe that between SGB parents, teacher, students, and caring people within the community, there must be enough vision and people-power to fix SGB. I think we must begin by finding each other. Perhaps those of you who do care can contact *The Bonaire Reporter* or the

with a brief note or simply a statement like, "I'd like to help fix SGB (even if you think have no ideas on how to help), along with your email address and/or phone number. If you do not wish your name and/or number in the paper, ask the paper to list you as anonymous. Let's come together and light some candles!

Laraine Abbey-Katzev



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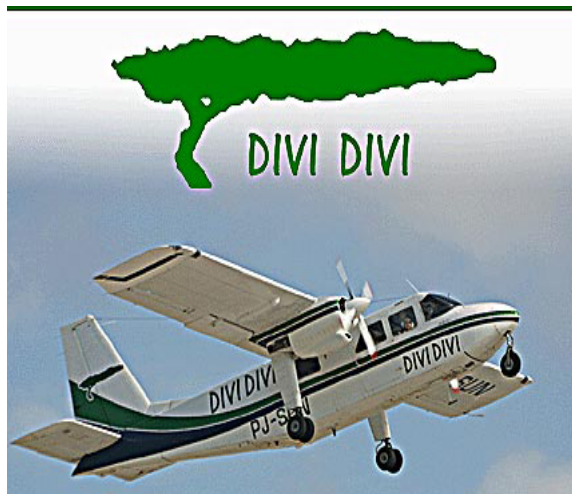
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KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
3-21	0:50	1.5FT.	7:22	1.2FT.	12:56	1.4FT.	18:38	1.2FT.	86
3-22	1:26	1.6FT.	9:16	1.1FT.	13:57	1.3FT.	17:47	1.2FT.	86
3-23	2:07	1.6FT.	11:17	1.1FT.					83
3-24	2:54	1.7FT.	12:50	1.0FT.					78
3-25	3:44	1.7FT.	13:59	0.9FT.					71
3-26	4:31	1.8FT.	14:38	0.9FT.					63
3-27	5:26	1.8FT.	15:17	0.8FT.					55
3-28	6:10	1.8FT.	15:50	0.8FT.					46
3-29	6:58	1.8FT.	16:15	0.8FT.					39
3-30	7:43	1.8FT.	16:38	0.8FT.					35
3-31	8:23	1.8FT.	17:00	0.9FT.					36
4-01	1:05	1.2FT.	9:13	1.8FT.	17:14	0.9FT.	23:10	1.3FT.	43
4-02	2:58	1.2FT.	9:56	1.7FT.	17:17	1.0FT.	22:56	1.4FT.	55
4-03	4:23	1.2FT.	10:43	1.6FT.	17:14	1.1FT.	23:08	1.5FT.	67
4-04	5:47	1.1FT.	11:41	1.5FT.	17:06	1.1FT.	23:36	1.6FT.	80

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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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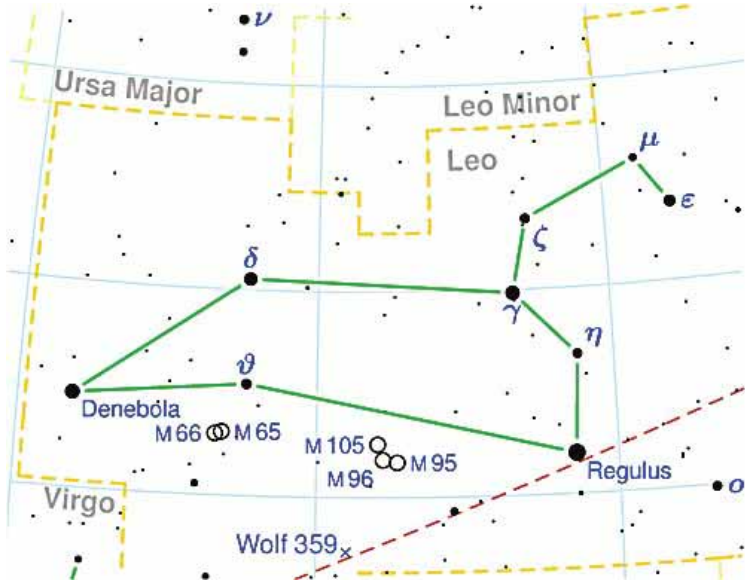


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Leo the Lion Chases Orion

It's that time of year again when the night skies almost shout, "spring is here" because **Leo the Lion** is chasing **Orion** and replacing



him as the major constellation for early evening viewers.

Now most of you know that Orion the Hunter is winter's most famous star pattern. Indeed if you go outside in early evening in December Orion is climbing up the eastern skies as a celestial announcement of the imminent arrival of winter. And in January and February Orion reaches his highest point in the Sky Park in early evening, almost bragging that he is master of the season. But then things begin to change because all through March Orion slowly relinquishes his high flying position in early evening, and by the beginning of April is tipped over on his side in the southwest, almost hanging on to the sky for dear life. And it is this position of Orion in the southwest heavens in early evening that always tells us that winter is coming to an end.

And although I am always sad to see Orion's bright stars go, nevertheless a much bigger, although less bright, constellation takes his place almost overhead in early evening. It's Leo the Lion, roaring that he is master now and that he and he alone will dominate spring's skies. In fact if you go out any night in late March or April in early evening you will see Leo casually reclining almost overhead just as the ancient Egyptians depicted him in a regal sphinx-like position, very self-assured that winter and Orion will soon be history. His head and forequarters are indicated by a backward question mark with the bright blue-white star **Regulus** marking his heart. His rear is marked by a triangle of stars and it is here that we find Leo's second brightest star **Denebola**.

Now in ancient times lions were often associated with royalty. In fact Leo's brightest star, Regulus, means "the little king." But little it is not. Some latest measurements indicate that it is more than four and a half times the diameter of our almost one-million-mile-wide **Sun**. But because it is a much hotter star it is 140 times brighter! And because it is a whopping 80 light years away, when we look at Regulus this spring we see the light that left it 80 years ago. And although Denebola is twice as close, only 40 light years away, and half as big as Regulus, it is much cooler than Regulus, only 14 times brighter than our Sun, which is why it appears dimmer than Regulus. Even so if we moved either Denebola or Regulus as close to **Earth** as our Sun is we'd all be crispy critters.

So welcome in springtime the cosmic way. Simply go outside in early evening any night in late March and April, look toward the southwest and you'll see Orion on his way out and then look almost overhead and you'll see Leo the Lion, the king of spring. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*

Cafe Astrology

For April 2008



Aries Your personal influence and charm skyrocket this month, dear Aries. It's a great time to ask for exactly what you want! Benefits from doing behind-the-scenes work arrive this month, and past efforts are rewarded. Travel, promotion, or publishing could figure in your career and benefit you. You have more faith in your profession and the direction in which you are headed. Support from family is forthcoming. A friendly connection can be made with someone who lives far away. The last week of April brings an intimate revelation and expansive love feelings.

Taurus At first, April is a time for rest, relaxation, and introspection, dear Taurus. You come out of your shell towards the end of the month, however. Happiness and fulfillment through the expansion of your mind, widening your social circle, travel, or connections to people of a different cultural background than you are indicated this month. Your idealistic nature is stimulated in April.

Gemini Business should subtly improve this month, and you are likely to be backed by superiors, dear Gemini. Romantic opportunities abound, or your focus on one partner becomes more expansive, warm, and intimate. Sharing your thoughts with others is a prime interest. Long-term goals towards happiness are spotlighted.

Cancer Career matters are strong for you this month, dear Cancer. Work requires more communication than usual and you speak with more authority. Your ideas may come into public view. Dealing with others' money or promoting others' talents and resources could figure now. You can negotiate more successfully than ever. Assertiveness and physical vitality are highlighted in April. Financial benefits could come through partnerships.

Leo An adventurous month is in store. Although your work is important this month, you find ways to break the routine. Nevertheless, you derive more enjoyment from your job this month, dear Leo. Wonderful opportunities come your way on the 20-21, when you receive a bonus or promotion, or other support that boosts your feeling of security.

Virgo You are in a good position this month to enliven romance in an existing partnership, or to strengthen ties with a romantic partner, dear Virgo. Investments in stocks and other speculative matters could earn nice profits, although care should be exercised. You may find great joy and reward in your creative projects and hobbies, and could discover a new creative talent you never knew you had. Social engagements abound in April.

Libra The ball is in someone else's court for the most part this month, dear Libra. Flattery will get you everywhere in April, as opposed to forcing your agenda on others, which can surely backfire. Just use it wisely! However, professionally you are feeling independent and ambitious. Working from home could figure in April. You are especially willing to compromise, negotiate, and make peace. Physical energy may be on the low side.

Scorpio Your focus in April, dear Scorpio, is routine work, acquiring new skills, and health. Romantic and social activities revolve around your working environment. You enjoy increased communications with children and lovers this month. The role of teacher could figure in April. Emotionality around the Full Moon on the 20th is par for the course. This is a good time to take a course and to grab the attention of an audience.

Sagittarius The first few weeks of April are all about having a good time, dear Sagittarius. It's time to enjoy yourself! Do watch for overspending, however, as you are especially attracted to speculative ventures just now. You could enjoy material benefits coming from real estate or family. A major purchase or sale is very possible. Love matters tend to be laced with a touch of drama, and romantic inclinations run high.

Capricorn More involvement with your immediate environment, community, and neighborhood figure this month, dear Capricorn. You tend to be sentimental or nostalgic now. If things are out of whack on the home front, you will do whatever you can to create a peaceful and stable atmosphere. From the 20th, friendships and casual connections come into focus and offer much enjoyment.

Aquarius You are likely to discover resources that you never knew you had this month, dear Aquarius. Help seems to be there when you need it, quite magically. Imaginative undertakings could boost your income in April. You are especially good at mediating conflicts now. Smoothing over differences using your diplomacy skills figures. A career revelation is likely to occur around the time of the Full Moon on the 20th. Good news arrives on the 21-22, and a romantic opportunity arises on the 27th.

Pisces Financial security and enjoyment of the good things in life are important to you this month, dear Pisces. The 12-14 bring opportunities to shine for what you do best. Your confidence with love matters is strong, but you could be moving a little too fast! ■

Annie

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Sustainable Tourism = Knowledgeable Choices

No one visiting our Caribbean Sea wants to be known as “Bozo Tourist,” the one who knows very little about the ecology of the coral reefs and its amazing creature populations. That type of tourist has more negative impact on our local ecosystems than almost any other factor, mainly because it is driven by economics, which has a bad reputation as a guardian of our dealings with our planet. Fish species that we eat in our favorite Caribbean restaurants have a lot to do with the populations of fish on our local coral reefs, and only through education can the visiting tourist learn to lessen his impact on local fish resources.

Put the Bozo Tourist and economics together and catastrophe is not far behind. Let me explain. On the *Yorktown Clipper*, a small, 110-passenger explorer-type cruise ship, we visited St Vincent and the Grenadines. On one particular island, Bequia, I noted the many fish traps, each marked on the surface by empty Clorox bottles. Local fishermen owned particular traps and their duties included emptying them periodically of the catch of fish and selling it to the local restaurants, as well as re-baiting the traps when needed. They usually used animal hides as a long-lasting bait in the traps. But because of this, algae built up in great masses inside the traps and the surrounding populations of algae-eating species were particularly vulnerable to getting caught, such as members of the Surgefish, Parrotfish, Damselfish families, which naturally eat algae. I could easily compare the diversity of fish on this island with other Caribbean islands that we visited. In summary, the reefs were in awful shape, and obvious overpopulation of algae was having crucial negative effects. The water clarity was awful; the green color of healthy coral was replaced by the browns of dead coral that had been overtaken by

an abundance of algae. Fish traps on this island were legal, and that was 15 years ago. I wonder if it is still legal. The problem with the Bozo Tourist is that on the menus in the restaurants, fish are mislabeled as “greenfish” or “bluefish” rather than Stoplight parrotfish or Blue tang. Asking your waiter will not improve your education on locally available fish that occur on menus. They would not know exactly what the fish species was except it is very good tasting. This meant that the gullible tourist would initially try an item on the menu, and find it delicious, making it easier next time when a choice had to be made. The Bozo Tourist is hooked, if you can pardon the pun. The tourist pushes the market for fish served in the restaurants and this keeps the fishermen happy as well as the local economy, yet I questioned whether the reefs were happy? I do know that the algae bloom showed that the algae were quite happy with this arrangement.

After that summer in 1994 as a naturalist on board the *Yorktown Clipper*, I visited Bonaire as part of our scheduled itinerary. It was at the end of my contract with the cruise ship. Perhaps because of the obvious good reef quality that I saw here compared with the other islands that we had visited that I decided to move here.

So what fish do I order in my favorite Bonaire restaurants? I obviously will only order fish species that I am 100% positive is from a sustainable population. I will not visit a restaurant in which I do not know and trust the waiter, because I'm going to ask him questions about the



fllickr.com/people/r/ing

Please don't order me!

“Catch of the Day.” I will not ever eat “grouper” even if it is the only species of fish on the menu that particular day, because there is a good chance that some fisherman has spear-fished, or snorkel-fished a local shallow water Tiger Grouper or one of the other larger grouper species that we see and census when we do fish surveys for the organization REEF.

If the economic conditions force fishermen to fish illegally, then they go after the largest fish. The fishermen do not know it but they are targeting the largest fish of the groupers which invariably are males. When grouper spawning full moons come around during the winter months, there is a preponderance of smaller, females and not enough males for sustainable populations. The illegal fishing can take place at night and no one is the wiser, except the fish surveyor. If we use the data that we fish surveyors have been contributing to REEF for the past 15 years, and if we look at the survey results of the Expert fish surveyor, you will notice that the sighting frequency of Tiger Grouper has steadily gone down.

I have chosen three time peri-

Visitors Honored



Photo by Rolando Marin

Alan and Joan Zale of Hartsdale, NY, were honored by the Tourism Corporation Bonaire on Friday February 22. Ronella S. Croes, TCB Director, presented the Zales with bronze ambassador medals, a piece of local art work, and a CD of local folk songs along with a Certificate of Recognition. The Zales, who have been coming to Bonaire since 1995, were honored for all the work they do in helping to promote the island including voluntarily mailing maps and restaurant guides to people who request them. They also have put together a Bonaire Suggestion Tip Sheet that they e-mail to whomever asks for it. Ms. Croes is holding a copy of a page from *The New York Times* travel section that featured one of Alan's photos from Bari Reef in Bonaire. ■

ods. The first surveys, in which the Tiger Grouper was listed as the 37th most common fish on Bonaire, were from 1993 to 1998. The second time period, when the Tiger Grouper slipped from 37th overall to 58th place, was from 1998 to 2003; and the third time period, from 2003 to 2008, and you see that Tiger Grouper has now dropped to 84th place.

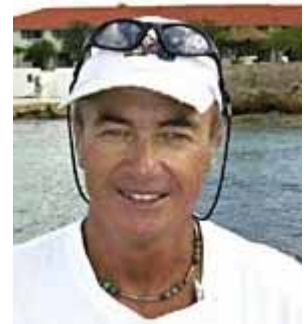
Something is going on here. We are losing our Tiger Groupers and illegal fishing by spear-gun, or the legal method (but not sustainable) of snorkel-fishing may be one reason. And it may be driven by not being choosy enough when ordering fish from our local restaurants.

If I were to go to Ramon DeLeon, the Bonaire Marine Park Manager, as a concerned diver and tell him that I think that the number of Tiger Groupers is much lower now than

when I first started diving on Bonaire 15 years ago, the wized and knowledgeable Ramon would be courteous and thank me but wouldn't put too much faith in my remark because it is “subjective data.” However, if I approach Ramon with data that I have just explained, he would take immediate notice, because such data is Objective Data, and based on scientific protocol. ■

Jerry Ligon

—Ligon is the Naturalist at Bonaire Dive and Adventure.



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Win for the Olympics

On Monday, March 10, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) presented the project, *Visa Olympiada di Imaginashon*, in Bonaire. The Olympics of the Imagination (VOI) art competition is for the Dutch Caribbean based on two dimensional drawings drawn by hand or computer, with an Olympic theme. The poster below offers more details.

Visit www.mcbbonaire.com or call Gilda Beukenboom-Sintjago at 715-5546 for more information. ■ MCBPress release



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A unique opportunity for all children to stretch their Imagination all the way!

Closing date: May 16, 2008

Island View

Mary Ann Koops is off this week taking her VWO-5 students to Holland for an orientation session.

Bonaire Reporter March 24-April 6, 2008

What's Coming Our Way?

Many of the developments appearing on-island are located on or near the coastline, but this time exploring "what's coming our way" we head a little inland for Tera Cora. Here, on Kaya Mgr. Niewindt just off Kaya Industria, "Regatta Residence" is being developed.

So, is the Bonaire Regatta Organization building some kind of an Olympic village for its participants? Wouldn't think so. The name for this project derives from the passion that the two initiators have shared for the Bonaire Regatta for some 25 years.

One of them is the Venezuelan Thomas Pollene, to whom the 2006 edition of the Bonaire Regatta was actually dedicated. Besides participating for many years he promoted the event among friends and yachtsmen and women in every regatta he visited or sailed in. Fellow-participants may remember him sailing the *Volare* the last couple of years. The other partner, Curaçao-born Jos Schoonen, has the same great sailing passion, and could be found aboard the *Casse Tête*, both of them sailing in racing class 1.

Some eight years ago they obtained ownership of the 23,000 m2 piece of land. Plans for what to do there were shaped and re-shaped and the project initiated and re-initiated, but the name Regatta Residence was there from the very beginning. The initial project consisted of a community with bungalows and pool, but during the process the initiators felt that Bonaire was also in need of apartments. Therefore a number of bungalows was replaced with apartments and a second pool was added. Just about a year and a half ago the actual construction started.

The whole complex will eventually consist of 33 bungalows and 44 apartments and 2 swimming pools. Apart from the first pool, so far 10 bungalows have been sold and another three are 'in option.' Buyers are from Holland except for one American. It will take another two to three



The colorful homes at Regatta Residence

years to finish the entire project; it's clear that the initiators don't want to rush things.

The place is a gated commu-

partner produces and sells. We are told this is, apart from wood-constructions, the fastest growing construction system in the



Concrete filled foam blocks make the walls

nity wishing to provide the owners with an actual sense of safety and security. Even when being absent for a period of time, an owner can just close the door without having to worry about his property. As a result – and this happens more often with gated communities- outside wall and fencing of the complex do not look all too inviting. However, we are told that there is an important advantage to it: the individual homes do not need any fencing.

Full ownership of each individual bungalow or apartment will be passed on to its respective buyer and all remaining areas (pools, community gardens, roads) will be owned and maintained by the owner's association. This legal construction allows the Residence community to restrict entry into the property. Simply said: not everyone is welcome.

Building is not done the traditional way using concrete blocks (*blokkies* to locals), but with Insulated Concrete Systems, a product that the Venezuelan

US at this time. Special hollow foam blocks are simply mounted up, reinforced and filled with concrete. This helps building homes that are well insulated against solar heat.

Construction work is being done by 10 workmen from Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Maarten, all employed by Regatta Residence itself. For specialty jobs subcontractors are hired. Now we understand why completion of the project will take longer than just a few more months!

Jos, who actually lives on Curaçao, is on-island four days a week to follow things closely. In the meantime he also takes care of promotion and sales. Therefore he will also be at the Second Home Fair in Holland on March 28-April 3. Seeing all the construction around us, you can easily bet that he will not be the only one promoting a Bonairean project there.

■ Story & photo by Marcel Leurs



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Lay out:

Entrance from the street side through the front garden onto the covered porch which leads to the very large u-shaped living room with high vaulted ceilings creating a spacious and cool ambience. The fully equipped open kitchen is located in the right back side of the living room overlooking the porch and garden, the separate sitting area is located in the front right side of the living room. Between the kitchen and sitting area one finds the study / playroom which can also be used as additional bedroom. Located on the left side of the living room one finds two bedrooms with shared bathroom as well as the laundry area. On the second floor one finds the third bedroom with walk in closet and private bathroom and balconies in both the front and back side of the home. This bathroom is currently still under construction but will be completed by seller. A separate storage area is located on the back porch on the ground floor.

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