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BONAIRE

June 27- July 11, 2008; Volume 15, Issue 13

The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

Kunluku Shimane, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-8988, 786-6125, email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994



SELIBON at the SGB Cleanup Page 11

In reaction to the 9-11 attack the US government has instituted a new policy. Citizens or nationals of all US visa waiver program (VWP) countries, which includes the Dutch Kingdom, will require an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to boarding an aircraft or ship to head to the US as of January 12, 2009. The rule does not apply to US citizens traveling overseas.

To apply for authorization to travel to the US under the VWP, travelers will log on to the ESTA web-based system (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>) and complete an application online providing the biographical and eligibility information.

Initially, the website will be in English only, but additional languages will be available no later than October 15.

The ESTA web-based system will be available for voluntary applications after August 1. ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel to the US, and VWP travelers are encouraged to apply for authorization as soon as they begin to plan a trip to the US or no later than 72 hours before departure.

An approved ESTA travel authorization is valid for up to two years or until the traveler's passport expires, whichever comes first, valid for multiple entries into the US. Accompanied and unaccompanied children, regardless of age, will be required to obtain an independent ESTA authorization.



As part of the Safety Plan of the Netherlands Antilles (PVNA), Justice Minister David Dick (PAR) gave the green light last Friday afternoon to start with the expansion, and renovation, of the Kralendijk police station.

On August 1 Bonaire will get a new chief of police, John Schagen, from the Netherlands. Past Chief Jan van Straaten left on February 1 to retire. In making the announcement Justice Minister David Dick said, "He is the right person to be head of the police corps. He is relatively young, has the necessary experience in the different sectors, so he can lead the corps in the second part of the developments. I am very pleased with the leadership of Oscar Obispo and the team during the two months that we were busy recruiting the new chief."



Last week Rignaldo Oswaldo Marin, who handles the eye exams at San Francisco Hospital, Bonaire's physician's assistant *Dokter di Wowo*, celebrated his 30th anniversary in that post. Those who have used his skills over the years know the high caliber of service he provides. In a brief ceremony Dr. Selly Gromotka-Pourier thanked Mr. Marin for his efforts and Commissioner of Health Boi Clarenda (photo above, right) honored him in the presence of his family and presented him with the customary envelope (V & P photo).

Recently the Werkcon construction company delivered the three new houses it built on the east side of the Rincon road near the village. Marlon de Haas of Werkcon handed over the keys of the houses to Commissioner of Public Housing, Boi Clarenda, and the relevant documents were

(Continued on page 4)



BES week meetings in Holland. The Bonaire Delegation is circled.

During lengthy political consultations during the recently completed "BES Week" in Holland, the Dutch Government agreed to provide additional debt relief for the BES islands and defined the recipients of the relief.

In the June 11-18 meetings the Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations, Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, agreed to additional debt cancellation for the BES islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Up to NAf 50 million in payments from 2006 and 2007 will be absorbed by the Dutch Government. Furthermore, the Dutch are willing to partially absorb deficits (with a €5 million "deductible") accumulated from 2008 to 2010. The €5 million will be used to set up offices of the Dutch tax service on the three islands. The Dutch tax service will start collection of taxes on January 1, 2009.

The Dutch have also agreed to make an additional €4 million available for youth affairs, education, public health and safety in 2009 and 2010.

It was also agreed that an "irreversible step" must be taken before the end of this year to bring Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius closer to their new status as municipalities of the Netherlands.

A package of policy activities for education, healthcare, safety, and social affairs will become effective on December 15. The legislation needed for the transition to the new status must also be ready for parliamentary consideration.

An implementation office for duties on behalf of the Netherlands will be opened on December 15 on each of the three islands which will also handle the new universal health care insurance plan.

The education sectors in Bonaire, Saba, and St Eustatius will be improved in 2009 and 2010 for housing, personnel, education materials and methods used. An extra €8million has been made available for 2009 and 2010.

In the area of public health and youth affairs, a plan for long-term care and accommodation will be drafted.

The plan will include an analysis of medical help in cases of accidents and disasters.

An additional €6 million has been made available for 2009 and 2010 for dealing with urgent problems in the health care sector. All the islands will have social workers and family counselors. In Bonaire, the emphasis will be placed on re-organizing a home for problem youths.

There will be a scheme for welfare associated with the government's system for welfare in the Netherlands.

The implementation office will grant employment permits and check whether the rules are complied with.

This office also will deal with compliance with the rules regarding working conditions. The existing Occupational Health and Safety Act will remain in effect for the time being.

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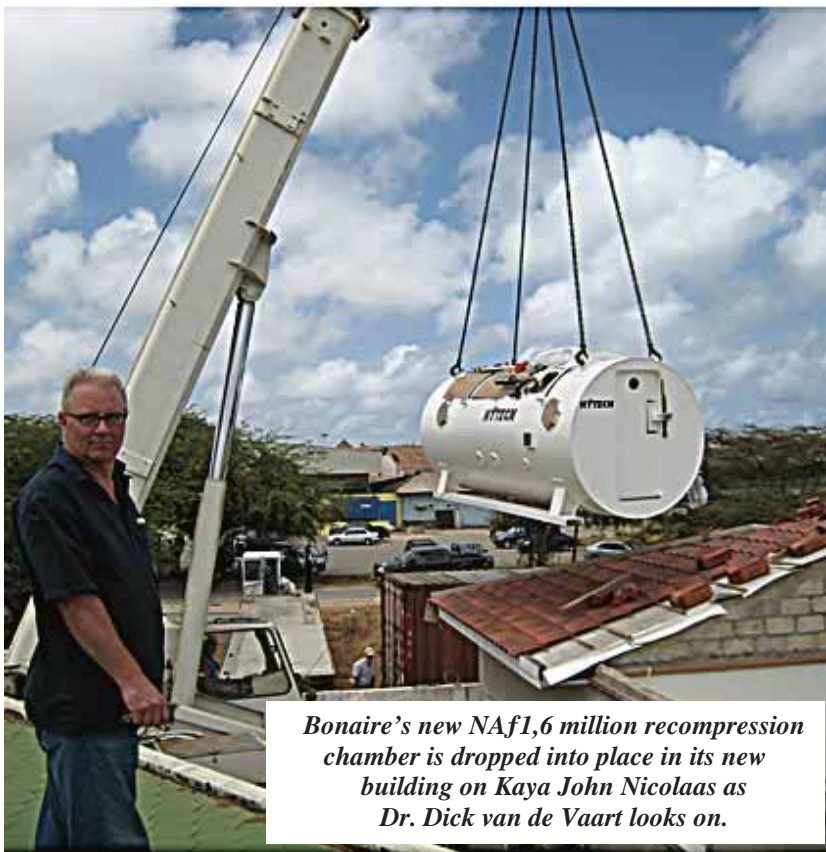
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Chamber Moves Ahead



Bonaire's new NAf1,6 million recompression chamber is dropped into place in its new building on Kaya John Nicolaas as Dr. Dick van de Vaart looks on.

After months of meticulous planning and preparation, on Thursday June 12th, it all fell into place. Not literally of course because that would have created a small disaster, but a sigh of relief was definitely heard when the tough job was done. With the arrival on Bonaire of the brand new and much awaited

decompression chamber, a very important step on the road to complete Bonaire's innovative and sophisticated hyperbaric treatment center was successful.

To move a pricey medical tool-multi-ton tank is one thing, but to lift it into a medical facility requires pinpoint precision. With the much

needed assistance of Don Andres N.V. for transportation and Miles Trucking N.V. for the actual lifting by their massive crane, "the chamber" as everyone involved calls "her," was carefully placed on her final platform. The tank was built to Bonaire's specifications in The Netherlands.

The new building which holds the chamber also offers facilities for divers who are too sick to be transported. The diver can remain under observation there until there is improvement. A guest room is available for family/friends. The Recompression Chamber Foundation (*Stichting Recompresietank*) will continue to run the chamber with its 40 volunteers.

Bonaire's leading hyperbaric physician, Dr. Dick van der Vaart, the driving force behind the project, had a perfect vantage point from the roof of his Centro Medico from where he supervised the operation. "We can be sure that Bonaire has the best recompression tank in the whole Caribbean," said Van der Vaart,

With both feet firmly on the ground, long time hyperbaric technician, Ronald Simonis, made sure that "the chamber" was placed on the exact right spot.

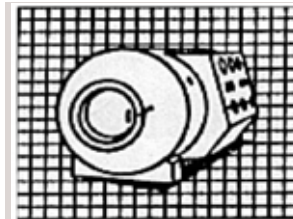
The new building is close to San Francisco hospital, not far from the



Last Sunday, June 8th, BONHATA held a fund-raising wine and cheese extravaganza to benefit Jong Bonaire's folk dancing project and the Bonaire Animal Shelter's sterilization project. It was a smashing success. The event was held at the La Pura Vista Bed and Breakfast resort.

A highlight was the presentation of a NAf 10,000.00 check (not NAf10.00 as reported by a typo in last week's *Reporter*. What a difference a zero can make! We apologize for this error). In the photo above, BONHATA President, Sara Matera presents the check to Dr. Dick v/d Vaart and Mr. Henk Schrijver, representatives of the Recompression Chamber Foundation Bonaire. ■

Press release



Support the campaign to build a new Recompression Chamber and donate to MCB Bank Bonaire account 868384-00

location of the old chamber. One million guilders has already been raised but another NAf 600.000

and sponsors are still needed. ■ *Story & photo by Martijn Eichhorn & Monique Reichert*

Charlotte Apartments - Kaya Banjo



- * Brand new building in last phase of completion
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Flotsam & Jetsam (Cont., from page 2) signed. The Social Affairs Department chose the three families who will each receive one of the homes.



► **City Shop donated a 4-burner stove and six rattan chairs to the FKPD Handicapped Foundation** last week.

In the photo, Firas Dabboussi is presenting the gifts to Enna Ilario of the Foundation.

► **Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) on Monday announced it has completed its acquisition of the RBTT Financial Group (RBTT)** for a purchase price of approximately \$2.2 billion.

For now, both banks will continue to operate under their respective brand names, said a spokesman for RBTT Financial Holdings group. RBC has said it plans no cutback of RBTT staff, which numbers about 7,000 across the region. There is an RBTT branch in Bonaire.

► **Prayer and Intercession Church, a new English language full Gospel Church has begun on the island.** It is located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held in English on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Questions? Contact Ella Rosa Fischer at 717-3322

► **Starting June 15th, 2008, the Government of Bonaire will change the business license and restaurant petition granting procedure. The reason for this is to make the process more effective and efficient.**

Presently, the usual route is for the Notary's Office to make the request on behalf of the petitioner. The Notary then sends the petition to the Executive Council where it is registered before being sent to D.E.Z.A. for processing. Once the petition arrives at D.E.Z.A. there are certain essential documents which are necessary in order for D.E.Z.A. to work on its advice to Bestuurscollege. Often times, necessary contact information is not included in the petition. This results in D.E.Z.A. not being able to complete the petition within the stipulated time frame.

Now petitions should be submitted directly to D.E.Z.A. along with the required documents, which are:

- copy of valid passport;
- address registration, obtainable at the Registry and Census Of-

fice (Bevolkingsregister/Burgerzaken);

- copy of application to the Chamber of Commerce of Bonaire;
- declaration of good conduct (*bewijs van goedgedrag*), obtainable at the Office of the Lt. Governor at the Government Office (if requesting a liquor and HORECA license, and not older than 3 months);
- copy of the necessary, paid "fees;"
- one stamp of NAf 5 for each requested permit and one stamp of NAf 5, for the petition.

D.E.Z.A. will request advice from the different governmental departments concerned and give its advice to Executive Council.

For more information, contact D.E.Z.A. at 717-5330 ext. 521 or 297.

► **The Central Bureau for Statistics reported that Bonaire's economy grew by a real 5% last year, topping growth of St. Maarten (4.5%) and Curaçao (3.5%).**

► **Bonaire's Health Department is helping the CBS (Central Bureau of Statistics) with a crime victim survey that is being held through July 3 on Bonaire.** Through a questionnaire the selected household will be asked questions about their feeling about their personal safety in and around their house and if they were a victim of any crime. Readers should be aware that the CBS is a Central Government department known for its discretion and accurate results. Normally when compiling statistics, questions like age, gender, how big the household is, etc. are very common, and results are reported in categories. Individual responses are not identifiable. The survey is always anonymous.

► Bonaire has a 5% sales tax, commonly called the OB. Last week Dutch Minister of Finance, Wouter Bos, said he wants to **delay the planned increase in the Dutch value-added tax (BTW) which is due to be introduced in January 2009, cabinet sources told the *Volkskrant* newspaper. The sources say Bos thinks the time is not right to increase the tax from 19% to 20%** because of its likely effect on economic growth and spending power. It is unclear whether the BTW will apply to Bonaire after the restructuring of the Antilles.

► **If by any chance the political restructuring of the Antilles does not lead to the appropriate changes, the islands must pay back the money they were given.** The Dutch delegation at the Parliamentary Deliberation Kingdom Relations Meeting last week (POK) included that point in the final declaration of the meeting that took place in The Hague last week.

► **Antillean children in the**

► **Dean and Faculty Lecturer, Glenn Thodé, PhD, LL.M. Attorney and Professor at the University of Aruba, will be the new Lt. Governor (*Gezaghebber*) for Bonaire, succeeding Herbert Domacassé, whose term of office runs out on October 24.**

The new Governor's term, which will coincide with the new "municipality status" of Bonaire, is for six years. He's younger than most of the past appointees. He says the functions of a *Gezaghebber* will remain necessary after the official restructuring. Currently the *Gezaghebber* reviews the decisions of the Island Council and Executive Council and fulfills functions in the name of the Dutch Kingdom. Thodé says, "I will look at how I can best be of service to the people of Bonaire."

He adds, "I was born on Bonaire. As a baby of some months I moved with my parents to Aruba. I spent each holiday on Bonaire at my grandparents'. They imparted to me the life style of the island, but they have mainly given me the love and appreciation for the Bonaire way of life. The spirit of Bonaire is my true nature. Thodé spoke with pride about his great-grandfather, Kachi Craane, who lived on the seaside and built boats: As small boy I helped him with woodworking for the boats. With his grandfather, Alberto Cutter, he visited the kunuku to tend sheep. His other grandfather, Jan Thodé, took him fishing in a sail boat and together they participated in the Bonaire Regatta.

Because I have grown up in Bonaire, my character formed there. It made me what I am today. I have to also thank Aruba and The Netherlands in shaping my character. I am actually 100% Bonairean, 100% Aruban and 100% Dutch. His appointment as *Gezaghebber* of Bonaire is to him a recognition and proof of appreciation of his upbringing.



Netherlands run a 50% higher risk of dying in their first year of life than children of native Dutch parents. This has been shown by research conducted by Erasmus Medical Centre scientist Ernst-Jan Troe. He found that this increased risk mainly resulted from a lower birth weight and a shorter duration of pregnancy. Possible risk factors are that pregnant Antillean women are more often unmarried or teenagers.

His findings show that Antillean infants are, on average, almost 300 grams lighter at birth than Dutch infants.

► **Dutch Prime Minister Balkenende set December 15, 2008 for a new round table conference to review the progress of the changing structure of the Dutch Antilles to take place in Curaçao.** According to the Antilles Constitution all Kingdom Partners (Antilles, Aruba and Holland) must agree on the new arrangements before it can be implemented.

► **The car rental situation at Bonaire's Flamingo Airport has become chaotic.** It's compounded by the reconstruction of the parking lot which is behind schedule. The row of car rental booths to the west of the terminal were abandoned by the rental companies after the airport authority upped the rental and reportedly wanted 5% of the revenue. The companies moved a few hundred feet across the road to the buildings east of Port Bonaire. But then the Bonaire government (the owner of the airport) decreed that the rental center required a permit to operate and closed it down.

As a result rental cars are scattered throughout Kralendijk, in hotel parking lots and elsewhere. Only one rental company has returned to the airport location. Others are shuttling their clients. It is ex-

pected that ultimately the court will have to decide the matter

► **The Bonaire island government is sufficiently concerned about the cost of building construction that it is prepared to introduce additional price controls that include building materials.**

The moratorium on construction permits was lifted some time ago in hopes that the market competition would lead to lower prices but this hasn't happened. A situation where people can't afford to build and where public housing construction prices are out of reach must be avoided, said a government press release.

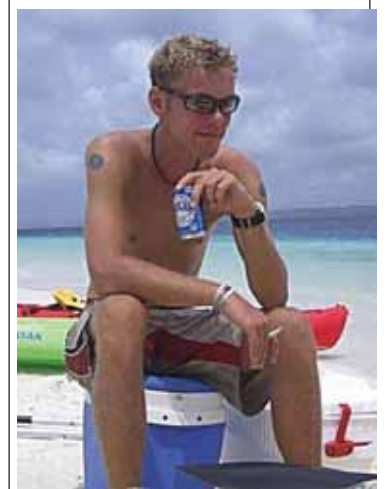
► **Bonaire's Cancer Foundation will conduct a "Ride for Hope" bike ride this Sunday, June 29** starting at the Sentro di Bario Nort di Salina at 7 am. For adults the route is 11km; for kids, 5km. Register at the Damascus home, 100 Kaya Korona between 4 and 7 pm – until June 27. Entrance fee is NAf 20 for adults; NAf 10 for kids. The proceeds will go to the *Stichting Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds* Bonaire Cancer Foundation.

► **The first "Taste of Bonaire" event last Sunday, June 22, was the official opening of the celebration of the International Year of the Reef.** The document of the rights of the reef was signed that evening. Jan and Alexandra Cousteau of EarthEco International were on hand and the local group Watapana performed. Some of Bonaire's best restaurants were on hand to offer their special dishes for just NAf 7. If you missed this one, there will be three more "Tastes" later in the summer.

► **In this issue welcome *The Reporter's* new advertisers (in alphabetical order):**

EZ Air- Headed by experienced pilot Rene Winkel, who's

Announcements



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not only flown for the big airlines but ran the Bonaire-Curaçao air ambulance for many years. They are another good choice to fly to Curaçao.

Intermezzo Spa at Capt. Don's Habitat offers you the perfect ambiance of serenity and tranquility as you receive a massage, facial, waxing or other body treatment. Check out their specially priced packages, some just for residents.

It Rains Fishes Restaurant and Bar is now open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Dine next to the sea with an unparalleled view. Or stop in for a cappuccino or drink. One of the new partners is Huub deGroot, formerly of City Café. DeGroot is a masterful F&B host who attracts professional staff members and consequently a loyal customer following.

The Island Supplier (TIS) – Enjoy shopping the "Caribbean Way" - Fresh, open air feeling with reasonably priced produce, frozen meats, canned goods, wide selection of beverages and juices. Stop in and see for yourself. They're right next to Warehouse Bonaire.

► Next Friday, July 4th, **Sunbelt Realty will open their new sales office.** All are invited. They will use the occasion to announce a very special offer for those who choose to list their house for sale with them. The present sales office will be dedicated to rental properties.

► **The Reef Restaurant at Den Laman Apartments** will close for the month of July and will reopen in August under new ownership. ■

G.L. D

Profiles: David Van Delft, Public Prosecutor - Standing Firm On Animal Rights



David van Delft

After working as a prosecutor in Curaçao during the 90s David van Delft came to work on Bonaire a year and a half ago. He'd become familiar with Bonaire during his period on Curaçao when he'd come here for a few days every month to assist, advise and act as prosecutor on various cases. On Curaçao he was often confronted with maintaining the laws on animal protection when animals were abused or otherwise harmed.

Van Delft explains that animals have fundamental rights, like food and shelter, freedom of movement and adequate treatment when injured or ill. If the people who are responsible for an animal violate these laws by neglect, abuse, or inadequate treatment, it is a criminal offence and they can be convicted. The Prosecutor has the duty to maintain and enforce laws on animal protection as written in the Penal Code. The most recently updated

regulations on the protection of animals in the Antillean Penal Code were signed by Governor R.N. Hart. They are the instruments that van Delft uses to end an unlawful situation.

Besides enforcing laws for the protection of animals, there is another island ordinance, updated on June 25th, 1998. The Articles 1 to 13 give specific rules to prevent animal abuse. The caretaker of the animal will be considered responsible if the animal runs loose, is aggressive and dangerous, or causes harm to the environment.

Following the regrettable accident two months ago when two women were attacked by an aggressive dog near Seru Largo, the Prosecutor, the Governor and the Police Chief ordered that the dog ordinance be put into action. As a result, more than 200 dogs have been picked up by the dogcatcher. All of these dogs were running loose and were in a pitiful and/or neglected state. The dogcatcher, accompanied by a veterinarian, uses the "dog friendly" approach. The dogs are sedated and, depending on their chances of being adopted, are brought into the Animal Shelter. If their health or behavior is beyond help, they are euthanized.

Every barrio on Bonaire has an appointed Barrio Director. They are the ones who mediate between people when problems arise in the neighborhood. They are also the ones who will approach the owners of animals after the *Dierenbescherming* (animal protection group) has received a complaint about a situation that appears to be harm-

“The standards on animal protection are codified, but we need to put a lot of effort into making people aware of what the protections are.”

ful to the animal. Often the Prosecutor doesn't even have to take action, which is always the last resort. If the owner is willing to improve the situation, act on it and thus meet the basic requirements of the law, everybody is happy.

Van Delft supports the *Dierenbescherming* (F.A.W.B., Animal

Welfare Foundation) and the Police to encourage the public of Bonaire to acknowledge and abide by the law on animals, and here also lies the biggest challenge. He gives an example by quoting Article 265 of the Antillean Penal Code: "He who has an animal under his care, but injures, mistreats, neglects or abuses the animal, is in violation. The animal will be seized and the person can be convicted of up to six months in prison or a fine of NAf 1.000. If a similar violation has happened before, the person responsible for the animal can be sentenced for at least one year in prison."

David, an animal lover himself, acknowledges the fact that there exists a big problem on the definitions of abuse, not in the law, but in the daily life on the islands. "Of course, it's understandable" he says, "When a family can hardly survive themselves, there won't be enough food or money left for the dogs, let alone the extra money for sterilization. The situation will only get worse. If the animal suffers, it's the owner's duty and responsibility to find a better solution, like the Animal Shelter."

(Continued on page 9)

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Parrot Watch

We are so late in reporting on this year's parrot trials and tribulations that "love" is no longer in the air and the birds are very much getting down to the business of raising their babies. The pungent aroma that is venting from nest cavities around the island is that of parrot poop, and my goodness, those growing pink bundles of joy produce considerable quantities of this aromatic substance. The growth of parrot chicks is simply incredible. The smallest we have weighed this year was a mere 9.3 grams, having hatched from her egg only hours before. A single 5 Guilder coin weighs more! Within less than three weeks this little darling will be nearly 200 grams, about the same as an empty Nutella jar, (mmmm Nutella!). In case you missed that inconceivable growth rate: at less than three weeks of age Lora chicks are 20 times heavier than when they hatch!

Amazon parrots like the Lora nest in cavities found in trees and on Bonaire they also use cliffs. The cliff nesting behaviour is almost unique to Bonaire for this group of parrots. So the key point here is that parrots do not and cannot make their own nests. If we chop down all the big old trees



Just hatched, this Lora chick weighed only 9.3 grams.

there will be surprisingly few cliff nests for the parrots to breed in.

When they do get sexy and decide to breed, Mr and Mrs Lora work together to produce two, three or four white eggs. This year we found that many eggs were cracked. It is difficult to determine the exact cause, but introduced rats and cats are believed to be the culprits in most cases. So some parrot pairs didn't even make it past this stage. But thankfully several pairs have. When the chicks hatch they are completely helpless. Their eyes and ears are closed and they cannot even lift their own heads. The female parrot must remain in the nest to provide warmth for her chicks until



Rhian Evans photos

they are at least two weeks old. During this time she is totally dependent on the male to provide her with food. He will spend much of his day foraging to collect enough food for himself and the family. When his crop is full he will return to the nest area and regurgitate food to the female. She will in turn distribute it amongst the chicks. The parrot pair's trust and dependence on each other during breeding is simply incredible.

Look out for news of the growing Lora chicks in the next *Bonaire Reporter!* ■ Sam Williams

Sam Williams is in his third year of studying Bonaire's endangered parrot, locally called the lora.



Pets of The Week



Morris, Thomas and Otis

This week Jane Madden, Bonaire Animal Shelter Volunteer Extraordinaire, sent us this darling photo of adoptees, Morris, Thomas and Otis.

Jane writes: "The many kittens that the Bonaire Animal Shelter has taken in during the last month really need homes. There's been an influx of kittens in the last six weeks. All of them came in very young (some had to be hand fed for a few weeks) and they are growing quickly. Most of these kittens are only 9 to 12 weeks old, only two are four months.

The following three in our photo are all 9 weeks old.

Adorable little **Morris** has pale grey fur with black and white stripes and spots, particularly on his head and belly. He is the little brother of all black furred Maude, but much smaller. He will likely grow up to be a small cat but big on giving love.

Red and white **Thomas** is a new arrival. He's still a bit shy, but once he's in your arms he turns into a purring little fur ball of affection.

(Continued on page 13)



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BONAIREAN VOICES

GOVERNMENT Part 1

Age, religion, government or politics are the last things that people usually like to discuss. But this is what most people are talking about these days. The elections in America are a big issue, is it Barack Obama or John McCain to be elected as President of the USA. It's a broad subject.

When you go on several online dictionaries you find different definitions for government like: Political parties in a parliamentary system or the persons who make up a governing body. But the one I like the most is the administration or management of an organization, business or institution. When you understand the sort of administration they are delivering, then you can understand what kind of government we have. We don't have to go far away to understand that, we are

part of a government. You have the right to learn more about your government and express yourself.

This Part 1 is just the beginning. The basic thoughts of the people come forward and then we will learn what our government is doing about it. Most people you ask about what they think about our government have different answers. Some might say that they are doing their job right, others have mixed feeling and you find those that are very skeptical.

A lady (42) said, "What the government does is think about themselves having more power and control. They forget about the people who voted for them. They think more about their financial problems and how they can solve them. In my generation I haven't experienced any appropriate government that has really satisfied my needs. I had to work hard, raised my two children all

by myself and see the person I voted for take advantage of my tax money. They sway people with nice words, but in reality there's a fatal fault or promise that they can't fulfill. We need a government that works for the people, all kinds of society - rich, poor, middle class, upper class - everyone. For more than 50 years we've been trying to live up to our constitution, but every time we fail. Now is the time as Holland takes over to bring some changes. We are not ready to be on our own; we fight with each other too much. We don't know how to sit at conference table or address our selves to our political partners in a decent way. The Dutch government is taking over little by little. We don't see the changes right away, but they are coming I think. Maybe we can learn from them and then... we can be ready to do it ourselves."

Others express concern about having Holland mingling with

our business and taking away our rights of freedom. That's why she (46) asked, "Can we do it ourselves? In the past our ancestors knew how to do it. They raised cattle, worked in agriculture and did a lot more. How you are going to explain to an 84-year-old man who can take good care of himself that there will be some changes in the near future? My question is, are we preparing for that future?"

Through this column we are going to learn more about the present and the future government. Get your *Reporter* and



Gerald Brinacombe photo

The seat of Bonaire's Island Government

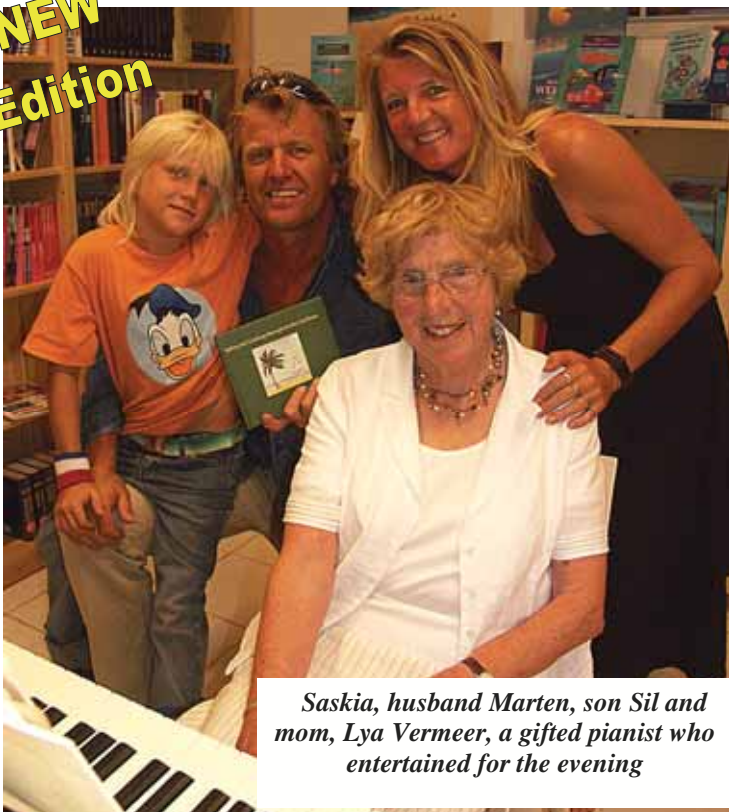
keep informed as to what the Bonairean Voices have to say. ■

Siomara E. Albertus



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

NEW Edition



Saskia, husband Marten, son Sil and mom, Lya Vermeer, a gifted pianist who entertained for the evening

Sailing and Cooking throughout the Caribbean, enjoyed its second reprint with a festive party at Addo's Books and Toys last week. The petite and charming volume that's loaded with Caribbean lore and recipes kept its author, Saskia Romeijn Vermeer, busy signing copies all evening. Attendees were treated to classical piano

renditions by Saskia's mom, Lya, free flowing drinks and some of the popular dishes from the book. "I've updated the book," says Saskia, "and put some more emphasis on Bonaire." The book is available at Addo's Books and Toys, Antilean Wine Company and many other gift shops on the island. ■

L.D.

Klein Bonaire Filmmaker Honored



Heariest congratulations to Matt Sellars, son of Laura and George DeSalvo (editor and publisher, respectively, of *The Reporter*). Matt, a news director of CBS television, Channel 8 in San Diego, won **two Emmys** this month; one for an individual report on floods in La Jolla, and the other as part of the team that covered the devastating California wildfires last year.

Many on the island know Matt as the producer, director, writer and photographer of the "Save Klein Bonaire" film which was instrumental in obtaining the funds to purchase Klein from the developers in 1999 for the people of Bonaire. ■ L.D.

Opposition Builds to Direct Dutch Link

Awor Te Ora (Now Is The Time) Group Takes Action

Awor Te Ora thinks that now is the time to correct the course of the action being followed in the restructuring of Antilles and particularly Bonaire direct Dutch ties (the Antilles Central Government will disappear). To better inform all the people on Bonaire they held an informational meeting last Thursday, June 1, at the Sporthall. Up until then most of their material had been released in Papiamentu so the aim of the evening was to introduce their ideas to Dutch, English and Spanish speakers in three successive sessions. The first session was in Dutch and attended by about a dozen people; *The Reporter* correspondent was the only attendee for the English session; and no one showed for the Spanish session.

On hand to present the views of Awor Te Ora were Carlos (Cai) Marsera, Eric Paulina, Benito Dirksz and Johan (Jopie) Giskus, the driving force behind the action group. In the past Mr. Giskus was the head of W.E.B. (the power and water company) and prominent in the ruling political party.

Awor Te Ora's fundamental argument, stated in their Resolution of the Fourth of March, 2008, is that the September 10, 2004, Referendum violated the United Nations' defined right of self-determination.

Readers might recall that voters had to select one of four choices:

A: Maintain the present status of the Netherlands Antilles

B: Direct Democratic Ties with Holland

C: Bonaire Autonomous within the Dutch Kingdom

D: Independence

Awor Te Ora holds that since Option B, the choice favored by the voters, was not defined sufficiently (ie: did not clearly state that Bonaire will be integrated into Holland) to meet the UN guidelines. In addition persons not qualified to vote in normal elections, non-citizens with residency of five years or more and 16 and 17 year-olds, were permitted to register their choice.

Awor Te Ora also finds many faults in the way the restructuring is being negotiated with the Dutch. Specifically, they are concerned that the commission overseeing the process has no Bonairean members. The majority of Bonaire's people are not represented by their elected officials. The culture, rules, regulations and human values that were defined in documents produced by the religious leaders of Bonaire are not being considered, and no scientific or reliable approach towards introducing a new currency is being used. Mr. Giskus expressed personal concerns that a repetition of the May 30, 1969, Curaçao violence* could result if the concerns of Bonaireans were not addressed.

Awor Te Ora believes the following steps must be taken to have a proper resolution of the new status of Bonaire:



Eric Paulina, Johan (Jopie) Giskus and Carlos (Cai) Marsera of Awor Te Ora

1. Name an officially non-political organization that will be in charge of coordination and information through a general or public collection of signatures among the people of Bonaire in order to reach:

- A national dialogue with participation of all sectors and stakeholders;
- An evaluation of the process by the United Nations;
- An objective presentation of information to the Bonairean community about the present process and the final phase of the new political structure;
- A (new) consultative referendum;

2. To approach the officials of the Island Council, Federal (Central) Government and parliaments of the Dutch Kingdom in order to obtain the necessary changes to realize the points mentioned above.

To date Awor Te Ora has been essentially ignored by the Bonaire government and other officials. This past weekend they presented their case to a delegation from COPPPAL. COPPPAL (The Permanent

Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean) is an organization of 52 political parties from 29 countries in the Americas. The opposition Democratic Party (PDB-Red) is a member. At the conference Fernando Martin, a COPPPAL member, stated that Holland is not only violating Bonaire's right to self-determination but the principles of good governance as well in its conduct of the present proceedings.

Awor Te Ora maintains they will bring their case to the UN if their concerns continue to be ignored. ■ G.D.

*The May Movement was civil unrest fueled by poor labor conditions for working-class Curaçaoans. The Movement culminated on May 30, 1969, when a demonstration that day turned into a riot that burned down buildings in Willemstad. The May Movement was followed by social change in Curaçao, leading to the first ever black governor of the Netherlands Antilles, Ben Leito, and black Prime Minister, Ernesto Petronia. Doors opened for black working-class Curaçaoans in higher education and managerial posts in the private and public sector. *Source: Wikipedia*

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Interview with Betty Ratzlaff-Henriquez Compiler, Editor and Illustrator of the Papiamentu-English Dictionary

An Interview with Betty Ratzlaff-Henriquez reveals interesting facts:

Q. When did the work on the dictionary begin and what were the circumstances?

A. The real work began in the latter part of 1985 and early 1986. I had come to Bonaire, and particularly to Trans World Radio, as a Papiamentu language teacher for the TWR staff.

Q. Why did you want to create this dictionary in the first place?

A. Actually, it was my students and the manager at TWR who was also studying the language who urged me to do this. However, I must admit that I had wanted to create a dictionary, perhaps not of this magnitude, many years ago, back in 1958, when I was teaching Papiamentu in Aruba. Over the years I collected many words, alphabetized them and began to separate them grammatically into groups of verbs, nouns, adjectives, etc. But that is as far as I got until the TWR people urged me to complete the task.

Q. What was the most difficult part about creating this dictionary?

A. The first problem was that I was computer illiterate and 60 years old so I had to enroll in some computer classes. It could not have been done without a computer. Then I had to decide if it would be just a comprehensive word list or an actual dictionary. A word list would have just been the word and an English translation. For a dictionary I would have to tell the part of speech, give some examples of usage, and also show alternative words and synonyms. It was decided that if I took the time to work on some-



After more than five years out of print, Betty Ratzlaff's Papiamentu-English Dictionary is once again available on Bonaire and via Internet. See ad in Classifieds, page 14.

thing, then I should make it good enough to really help people who wanted to learn the language of our islands.

Q. Were there other memorable obstacles along the way?

A. Remember, it was 1985 so learning a computer back then was not as simple as today. You had to learn and remember combinations of letters and numbers to get a single command. Now, you just click a button for an action. And there were no laptop computers then either. My computer and printer were both very large. I had to travel back and forth to Canada with them as baggage. The customs officials eyes opened very wide when she was going with all that luggage. And taking a computer course and exam in a government schoolroom with a friar keeping watch was very memorable!

Q. What was the most fun or interesting part about making this dictionary?

A. Without question it was the research part of the project. I was able to visit Antillean and Aruban people from all walks of life to get their input on words and different usage. Sometimes I would ask them about a word and they would look at me and say, "Oh, no Betty, don't put that word in. E ta 'malu malu.'" It was a vulgar word. Another interesting thing was that the news that someone was making a dictionary at TWR spread rapidly and within two weeks there were people knocking at my door asking to buy the dictionary.

Q. How long did it take you to learn Papiamentu?

A. When I arrived in Aruba in 1949, I had one priority and that was to learn the language and learn it well. I began within a few days of arrival and had brief lessons from Robert McClain, a missionary with the Evangelical Alliance Mission. He had written some information about how he understood the grammar that I had to learn. After that I had to go out among the people and listen and write down words, find out the meanings and memorize them. It took me two years to be comfortable enough to speak the language well and to teach others.

Q. Are there times that you prefer Papiamentu to English?

A. Yes, many times. I believe that often the Papiamentu language is far more descriptive, expressive and figurative when telling a story or incident. Especially when it is humorous. Sometimes when Bicento (her husband) and I are listening to some-

one telling a story we look at each other and say a word in Papiamentu that describes that incident in a much more colorful way. Papiamentu has innuendoes, nuances and connotations that English lacks.

Q. Is it confusing for you to go back and forth between the two languages?

A. Not any more. We go in and out of the two languages without giving it a thought. Whatever word comes to mind first is said in a flowing, uninterrupted manner.

Q. After teaching so many people how to speak Papiamentu, what do you think is the most difficult thing for English speakers to learn?

A. I would say the hardest part is sticking to it and making the commitment.

Q. What do you think is the most difficult thing for Papiamentu speakers to learn about English?

A. The grammar of Papiamentu follows very closely that of English, except for the placement of adjectives that mostly appear after the noun in Papiamentu but before the noun in English. One problem for Papiamentu speakers learning English is that Papiamentu was not taught in schools. It is now in these last years that Papiamentu grammar is being taught in schools. So the next generation growing up will not find it so difficult to learn to speak English correctly. I feel people should not try to pick English up 'in the street' but should try to take classes where they can learn it correctly. Once you learn it 'off the street' it is hard to correct afterward. ■

Alan Gross/Jane Townsend

Profiles (Continued from page 5)

Often it's just common sense as well, or the lack of it. Recently there were several cases where dogs had to be seized. The owners weren't aware that putting their dogs in wooden crates 24 hours a day was cruel and abusive. Since they couldn't be persuaded to improve and change the situation, the dogs were taken away by the police and put in the care of the Animal Shelter.

"Here lies a tremendous task for the animal movement," David points out. "The standards on animal protection are codified, but we need to put a lot of effort into making people aware of what the protections are. Sometimes we need the advice of a professional, like a veterinarian, to judge a situation." Van Delft gives an example of a recent case concerning some horses. The veterinarian confirmed that the situation was "illegal" and abusive, and measures were taken, resulting in improvement of the situation.

"There is and will be plenty of discussion about the definition of what the well-being of an animal means. But there is the law, and there is common sense. Everyone has a duty to show regard for the welfare of animals, according to the law." Van Delft is in a position to make sure that this awareness will become integrated into our community, and he does so by maintaining the Law on Animal Protection. ■

Photos & story by Louise Rood



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Female Loggerhead 'Wiske' Is The First Turtle To Be Tracked In Bonaire's 2008 Nesting Season



Volunteers Tina Lindeken and Ralph "Moogie" Stuart releasing "Wiske"

Sea turtles have started to breed on Bonaire again, which means that the big adult turtles are back on the reefs of Klein Bonaire and along Bonaire's southwest coast. Adult turtles come to Klein Bonaire for only a few months every two to three years, migrating from their feeding grounds far

away. To adequately protect sea turtles in all their habitats we must learn more about their migratory patterns, their behavior at sea, and where their marine habitats are located. This is where the technology of satellite telemetry becomes useful and important in protecting sea turtles.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) plans to place two transmitters on turtles in 2008. On June 19, the first of these transmitters was attached on a large adult female loggerhead turtle. This animal was found resting just off the dive site "Knife" at Klein Bonaire, caught by STCB staff and vol-

unteers and lifted on board the research boat *Nancy Too* for transmitter attachment.

The female loggerhead has a shell length of 96 cm and is estimated to weigh about 120 kg. Adult loggerhead turtles come to Bonaire to breed from May through July. The turtle is expected to remain in the area and lay two or more nests before departing to her home feeding grounds.

Tracking of this loggerhead turtle is being made possible by a full sponsorship provided by the Rotterdam Zoo. The Zoo has decided to call her "Wiske."

STCB exists to ensure the protection and recovery of Bonaire's sea turtle populations throughout their range. Founded in 1992, it's a Bonaire-based, non-governmental and non-profit organization, part of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network.

To make a contribution or for more information contact: Mabel Nava, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, telephone 599 717-2225 and 780-0433, email stcb@bonaireturtles.org.

■ Story and photo by Mabel Nava

Dia di Arte



Annual Dia di Arte in Wilhelmina Park

Don't miss it – It's the 16th Annual Dia di Arte next Sunday, July 6, starting at 10 am until late evening. It's an all-day fun event for the entire family, with artists, musicians, craftsmen and top notch local foods and drinks and the island's very friendly ambiance. It's sponsored by the Foundation for Bonairean Art and Culture. Stroll through the exhibitions, see old and new friends and purchase something special and unique. □ L.D.

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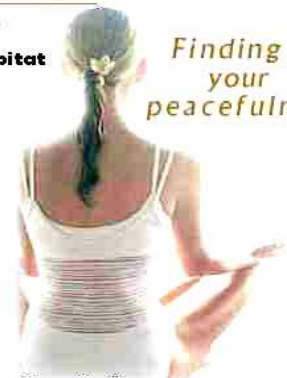
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The Crusher is a'Comin'



This might be your last opportunity to view the wrecked cars at the landfill as SELIBON has announced that a company from Curaçao is on the island this week with a crusher and will take away 1,500 wrecked cars. SELIBON has been collecting the cars from around the

island and has been stockpiling them at the landfill and behind Consales Cash and Carry.

One of the first person on the island to dedicate a lot of time to picking up old derelict cars was Bruce Bowker of Carib Inn. He, together with many of his visiting tourist guests,

would pile into his old truck, "Big Pink," and by hand, load it up with rusted, rotted and broken down cars and take them to the landfill. SELIBON gave Bruce a special thank you award on September 12, 1997, for his helping to keep Bonaire clean. ■ L.D.

SGB Cleanup



Last week there was a call to the community to join together to help clean up the grounds of the SGB High School. In preparation, SELIBON dropped off large refuse containers at various points on the grounds.

On the appointed day, last Saturday, a group of stalwart members of the International Bible Church of Bonaire showed up with rakes and other tools and went to work (photo above). The church is now using the facilities at the SGB since moving from their location across from Trans

World Radio. (Interestingly, the SGB's technical school will be housed in the Church's old facilities.)

SELIBON also sent a group armed with more tools— even a weed eater— and they went to work gathering debris and tossing it into a SELIBON truck. (Front page photo)

The numbers of volunteers and workers might have been disappointingly low but the enthusiasm was high. Thanks to all of you. The areas they cleaned looked 1,000 times better! ■ L.D.

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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)
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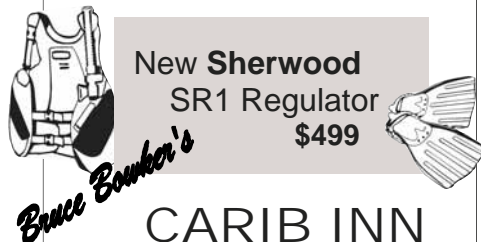
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Puzzle on page 7

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Letters to the Editor

Teen Pregnancy Crime Wave Comment

Teenage Pregnancy, Not A Mistake!

Somebody Has to Stand up for Those Remarkable Girls!

Dear Editor:

I'd like to respond to the article about teenage pregnancy ("Island View" column by Mary Ann Koops, "Let's talk About Sex, Baby" *Bonaire Reporter* June 13-27, 2008) because I find it important that we start to take time to understand the values of those young women and treat them as adults. The author of the article, "Teenage Pregnancy," made a very good point. We should start to ask the women why it is important for them to be pregnant instead of judging it as a mistake in the heat of the moment.

In my work at FORMA I've had the opportunity to get acquainted with several remarkable young mothers whom I admire for their strength, survival instincts and sincere dedication to their children.

I see the young mothers as a subculture with their own norms and values and behavioral rules. From their own point of view, they didn't make a mistake but made a conscious choice to create a family of their own. Most of these women have two or three children and to have four children is not that un-



usual. They take pride in their motherhood and have all the best intentions of giving their children a better life than they themselves experienced.

The young mothers' backgrounds have some similarities. Most of them come from a home with poorly educated parents (where for example the parents may be illiterate). They experienced little educational stimulation in their lives either at home or at school. Parents had to work a lot to bring food to the table so there was a lack of attention and stimulation for those women. At an early age they also had several responsibilities at home - taking care of siblings and household chores.

Because of the lack of attention and stimulation the young women developed very low self-esteem, self worth and low self confidence, which was often the reason they dropped out of school. Because of their lack of self esteem a lot of those young women at school were constantly faced with failure (low grades, not being able to answer questions, not being able to fit in the group.) When it became too painful and they decide not to go to school anymore they are called a "drop out," a very negative word of disrespect that is an exact confirmation of how this girl already feels about herself.

The need to feel respected and valuable is a universal need. The decision to become a mother fulfills this need. You, as a drop out, without any future prospects, suddenly have a very respected role in society: the role of a mother! As

well, you are valuable and meaningful in unconditional terms to your own children. This gives those young women self esteem! From this self esteem they develop the courage again to follow adult education to broaden their children's future prospects.

I absolutely do agree that sex education in schools should develop awareness of the importance of using contraceptives, but it won't solve the early motherhood of the group of women I've described. If we want to prevent teenage pregnancy we will have to work in a profound way to develop high self esteem and self confidence and create stimulating learning environments. Those methods of empowerment should start at the pre-school level and follow in kindergarten, elementary school, high school and adult education. Also companies and organizations should give attention to raising people's self esteem and self confidence. Too often we focus on putting people down instead of having our eyes open for people's intentions and the efforts they make. A healthy self esteem and self confidence are the keys to success on four levels: career, relationships, parenthood and friendship.

For the young mothers we have today in our society (about 200) we should be nurturing and stimulating them, starting with having respect for the mother's role that they have chosen, and give them a hand to educate themselves and to employ them so they can rise above the poverty level. That at first will prevent their children from becoming young mothers.

Inge Berben
Director FORMA

Crime Wave Comment

Dear Editor:

I read with interest the opinion piece by Ms. Siomara E. Albertus in your last issue. My husband and I have had the good fortune to make annual trips to Bonaire three times. It is a wonderful island.

We couldn't help notice the wrought-iron bars on our apartment. It was like being in a cell block. We also live on a small island here in Rhode Island. We also have a wind mill and loads of tourists. We get out of town when the cruise ships dock. It was disturbing to hear that food that had expired was sent to the land fill. I wonder why it wasn't donated and used to feed the hungry. Isn't there tax relief for that type of donation? I wonder how many tourists send money to help the donkey sanctuary or the turtle conservation.

My husband and I save all year to come for two weeks of peace and quiet. We snorkel all we can then shop for our groceries. We see the local prices. We don't isolate ourselves from the day-to-day life of local people.

Talking to each other is what it is all about. I sure hope the government reads about the crime wave.

I sure hope that Bonaire students get the support they need to lead environmental efforts to put all the washed up plastic junk from the beaches into recycling. We now can buy lumber made from plastic.

We hope to plan our next trip to join in this clean-up effort. I can think of no other place I would rather spend EARTH DAY.

Caring Aquidneck Islanders



Pets of the Week (Contin. from page 6)

Otis has grey and black stripes with a couple of white toes. Otis is sweet and loveable but a strong little man. He survived a dog bite that resulted in the need for early sterilization but he is hearty and healthy with no scars either physically or mentally."

On August 3 the Shelter will celebrate their 25th anniversary. It's had some rough times, like in November 1996 when it almost went bankrupt with no money to buy the food or pay the staff. (*Port Call* (now *Bonaire Reporter*), November 1-7, 1966: "Help! Animals in Danger") But due to the faithful volunteers, staff and the board putting together fundraisers it made it and now has become an important part of island life by caring for homeless pets, providing education and information offering a sterilization program. You're invited to stop by and see for yourself what a fine operation it is. The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm.. Telephone 717-4989.

Did you know that you may board your dogs at the Shelter? They have very commodious accommodations. Reservations for the future are definitely recommended as July is already fully booked. ■ L.D.



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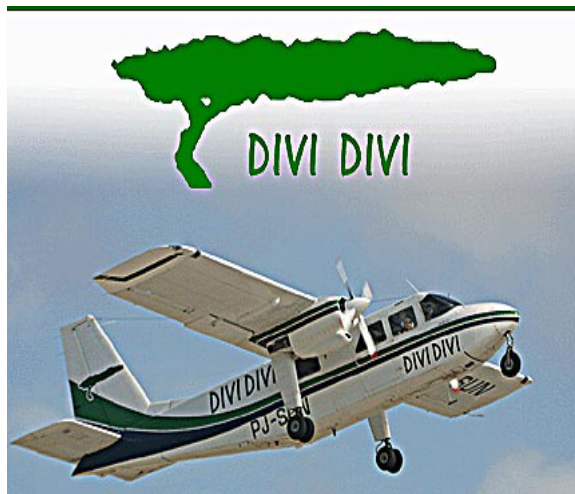
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DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
6-27	5:47	1.1FT.	7:44	1.1FT.	11:52	1.0FT.	20:36	1.8FT.	51
6-28	6:26	0.9FT.	9:41	1.0FT.	11:37	1.0FT.	21:12	2.0FT.	55
6-29	7:15	0.8FT.	21:52	2.1FT.					64
6-30	8:04	0.7FT.	22:32	2.2FT.					75
7-01	8:46	0.7FT.	23:17	2.3FT.					86
7-02	0:01	2.2FT.	9:36	0.6FT.					95
7-03	0:50	2.2FT.	10:16	0.7FT.					100
7-04	1:38	2.1FT.	10:54	0.7FT.					102
7-05	2:27	2.0FT.	11:33	0.8FT.					98
7-06	3:21	1.8FT.	12:00	0.8FT.					91
7-07	4:08	1.6FT.	12:20	0.9FT.					81
7-08	1:41	1.3FT.	5:10	1.4FT.	12:33	1.0FT.	20:01	1.5FT.	69
7-09	3:42	1.2FT.	6:09	1.3FT.	12:28	1.0FT.	20:09	1.6FT.	56
7-10	4:57	1.1FT.	7:46	1.1FT.	11:47	1.1FT.	20:29	1.8FT.	45
7-11	6:08	1.0FT.	20:56	1.9FT.					37

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Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know

.... that while mangroves are one of the most productive and beneficial tropical ecosystems, at the same time they are also one of the most rapidly disappearing and least protected? Now you may be saying to yourself, "Well, that might be true but isn't this article supposed to be about marine biology? What do trees on land have to do with the reefs?" Well, these trees, some of which are actually growing in the water thanks to extensive systems of prop roots, are extremely important to reef health. The mangroves act as a sort of "daycare" for juvenile reef fish. They provide a safe place for the fish to grow and an excellent source of food. Without mangroves, reefs would certainly have fewer fish and those fish that are present would likely be considerably smaller.

While mangroves are a threatened ecosystem in many parts of the world, here on Bonaire steps have been taken to prevent that. Mangrove systems on Bonaire are protected as part of the Bonaire National Marine Park. If you would like to learn more about mangroves there are various groups that lead guided tours around Lac Bay. ■ *Story & photo by Bill Stangler*

Bill Stangler is going to be a senior at the University of South Carolina, majoring in geography and environmental studies. He's currently taking summer courses at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. Bill enjoys scuba diving, canoeing and kayaking. If you have any questions or comments e-mail him at stan-gler@mailbox.sc.edu.



Picture Yourself With The Reporter Wakaya Island, Fiji

As I often do— I like to compare the island of Bonaire with other islands that, just as ours, offer unbelievable and exclusive diving experiences. I've just returned from Wakaya Island in Fiji, southeast of Viti Levu. It is an exclusive island with just 300 inhabitants and one dive resort. And just as we live by our Bonaire time, they live as much on Fiji time: no hurry, don't worry.

The Fijian people, like the Bonaireans, are hard workers but will seldom exchange progress at the cost of their happiness. They enjoy living at a slow pace, rather than "the modern way" where family time is so often compromised. It's better to work less and have more time with the family than to work hard and lose love for nature and people.

I relay a message from the Fijian people, spoken by an elder, and dedicated to Bonaire:

"Pay attention to everything you see and hear: the leaves in the morning breeze, the waves on the ocean. Everything moves and everything moves to a rhythm, and everything that moves to a rhythm will create sound.

At this moment the same thing is happening here and everywhere else in the world. Our ancestors noticed the same thing when they went through their daily lives: 'the sound of nature is

music to your ears.'

Now someone on your island has changed all this, someone is guilty of disturbing the music and your quality of life.

Progression of foreign occupation has changed all what was once a peaceful population who were getting on with their daily occupations. Now you seem busy and stressful - 'destruction for construction.'

Nature is being forced to make way for a new population that values the acquisition of possessions." ■ *Hendrik Wuyts*



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We look forward to seeing you again, or meet you during our anniversary and housewarming reception!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Friday, June 27 - Fashion and Dance Show at Jibe City, Lac Bai, 5:30-7 pm.. Surprise Drink, free snacks. Night Shop 7-10 pm

Sunday, June 29- Bonaire Cancer Foundation "Ride for Hope" starting at the Sentro di Bario Nort di Salina at 7 am. See Flotsam and Jetsam for more details. Entrance fee is Naf 20 for adults; Naf 10 for kids.

Friday, July 4 -It Rains Fishes Restaurant will be celebrating, American Independence Day with a performance by The Flamingo Rockers from 7 - 10pm. They feature the best of American Rock, Reflection, Motown and Country. And Reggae too!

Saturday, July 5 - Rincon Marché - the monthly Big One, from 6 am to 2 pm, in the center of Rincon. Stands selling crafts, gifts, candles, local food and drinks. Usually an individual or group of speakers "Bou di Ramada" (on the stage) starting around 10 am. Come for a traditional Bonairean breakfast and/or stay for lunch! Music and wonderful people.

Sunday, July 6 - 16th Annual Dia di Arte, Wilhelmina Plaza. info@DiaDiArte.org or ArtandCulture66@hotmail.com, WWW.bonaireart.org -page 10

Sunday July 13 -Flamingo Rockers Rock and Roll Sunday parties resume at Sunrise (soon to be renamed Eddie's). Thereafter every first Sunday of the month, from 4 -7pm. Drink specials and good food.

REGULAR EVENTS

- The popular SGB High School restaurant, **Chez Nous**, is open 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: keesleeman@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. **Big Marché first Saturday of the Month**—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 Koeks 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

- "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

Thursdays

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

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Te**
- **Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7-10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

- **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, fol-

lowed by all-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday- Creature Feature—John and Suzie Wall of Buddy's Digital photo center present a multimedia slide Presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 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.

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

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.

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 at 7pm; every Sunday at 5pm. Phone: 786-7699 .

Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7.30 pm) All levels, Naf2,50. Call Joop 717-5903 for venue.

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month - Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. **Rotary** lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - 'Pirate House', above ZeeZicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

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

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: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379 .

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. 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.

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

Send event info to:

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

A Sky Full of Wonders Coming Up



Milky Way
TQNYC photo

Have we ever got some sky goodies for you all next week: the **Moon**, two planets and a great star just after sunset, and shortly after midnight the outrageous beauty of the **Milky Way**.

Tuesday, July 1st, just after dark around 9:30 p.m. face due west where you will see three lovely lights just above the horizon: the blue white star **Regulus**, which marks the heart of **Leo the Lion**, and just above it extremely close visually, rouge-gold planet **Mars**. And up to their left the yellowish ringed planet **Saturn**. I strongly recommend that if you have a small telescope to look at Saturn because its rings never fail to amaze.

Twenty-four hours later on Wednesday, July 2nd, you will notice that Mars has moved a bit farther away from Regulus. And 24 hours later, on July 3rd, even farther away. But 24 hours later on Friday night the 4th of July all three will appear equally spaced from one another and in a straight line. And if you have a really clear flat horizon you may see a two-day-old crescent Moon making its appearance.

But the best is yet to come because on Saturday July 5th a three-day-old crescent Moon complete with Earthshine, which will look like a dark full Moon nestled within the crescent, will have moved into such a position that it, Regulus and Mars will appear all lined up in a row, and you could even shoot an imaginary straight line through them. Wow! Once again, - July 1st, July 2nd, July 3rd, July 4th, and July 5th. So for the American Independence Day weekend you've got something to see before the hotels begin their fireworks, but after the fireworks are over you'll also be able to see something absolutely spectacular because there'll be no moonlight out to wipe this wondrous phenomenon from view.

Simply go out between midnight and 1 am and if you're far from city lights you will see a wondrous ribbon of light stretched from the northeast horizon to almost overhead and back down all the way to the southern horizon. It is called the Milky Way and every 4th of July between midnight and 1 am it is stretched across the sky from horizon to horizon. But to see it there can be no moonlight, which is the case this year and you should be as far away from street lights as possible. The Milky Way is the combined light of billions of stars so far away that all their light fuzzes together in a blur. And when we look at it we are actually looking at the plane of our local family of two hundred billion stars, which we call our Milky Way Galaxy. So there you have it! Four fabulous objects just after sunset next week and just after midnight the incredible wonder of the Milky Way. ■

Jack Horkheimer

StarPower

By Jenny Lynch July 2008

Aries

You need to be careful this month if you want to avoid conflicts spilling over into long term resentments. Work or school will require a lot of attention and it may be that you have letting things slide rather too much lately and need to do some serious catching up.

Taurus

This is an extremely busy month and you will need to make sure that you find time to do the things you enjoy amongst all the hard work. The effort will definitely pay off though and it looks as though your financial circumstances are about to receive a boost!

Gemini

This may well be a peculiar month as nothing is quite what it seems right now. Relationships may suffer a little as miscommunication seems to be the norm. On the plus side there is the opportunity to pursue a new interest that you might have never have seen as appealing before.

Cancer

As long as you control any impulse buys then you should be in an extremely strong financial position by the end of the month. This will allow you to make serious plans around some long held ambitions. A loved one will understand provided that you are fully honest with them.

Leo

Your biggest weakness is that you create grand schemes and then fail to find the means to put them into action. This month a friend, probably a Water sign, will be on hand to make sure that you can realise one of your many plans. Try and involve a loved one in the preparation.

Virgo

The generally upward trend of the year falters a little this month and you will feel frustrated as certain gains seem to be slipping away. You need to stay patient and avoid rash decisions. Emotional conflict is inevitable, but say anything that you may come to regret later.

Libra

Try and take things easy this month, especially before the 15th as you are in need of a break from what has been a fairly intense period in your life. The second half of the month will see excitement building again, particularly in terms of relationships for both couples and unattached Librans.

Scorpio

Conflict is likely to mar the beginning of the month as some lingering tensions can no longer be avoided. This will be tempered by some excellent financial news before the middle of the month. Romance will become important after the 15th and you may find a new relationship.

Sagittarius

Thanks to the influence of your ruling planet Jupiter you have a preference for physical activity in your leisure time. This month, you should consider some more cultured pastimes. It may even lead to romance! Don't be drawn into work place conflicts.

Capricorn

Depending on how you approach certain key situations this could be an incredibly positive month or one in which some crucial relationships are severely tested. You need to make sure that you give everyone the chance to speak right now. Share your ambitions with a loved one so that they can understand.

Aquarius

An old saying advises that we should always look before we leap. This applies strongly to you right now. A tempting opportunity to make some quick money seems too good to be true and that's because it is! Emotional issues need to be dealt with honestly at the end of the month.

Pisces

You need to be careful about who you choose to confide in this month. A difficult emotional issue needs to be dealt with discretely. There may be some money difficulties later in the month unless you plan ahead. Someone out there sees your creative potential this month! ☆

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Putting Nature Above Profit Is Coral Massacre

Guest Editorial



*Banned in Bonaire:
Diving wearing gloves*

If you could truly understand the value and the very reason for the existence of nature, wouldn't you be more respectful of it? Look at the consumer who drives his brand new car out of the garage. Isn't he the happiest man in town? Little does he think that while driving home his car is getting older and worn out and losing its value and his present happiness.

But consider the wonder of nature. Look at that seedling only a few inches tall growing to become an 800-year-old tree and showing its beauty throughout its life. It will give each of us "who can see it," the energy of happiness not just for now, but also for all the time to come. Nature is the only true beauty on our planet that can guarantee us lifelong happiness.

So it is not so hard to understand that when someone is breaking our coral it is like he is stealing a piece of our happiness. It's taking away someone's ability to dream. It undermines our human defenses and survival instinct, or even worse. All the money being made from tourism is helping to destroy nature. If you tell me that we need tourism so we will have the funding to protect the coral, think again. With less tourism there would be less pollution, fewer hotels, less outside influence, so there would be less need for protection. There is always need for awareness, but awareness has to come from education.

If you believe it's unfair of me to point my finger at dive tourism, look at this YouTube film, "Coral Massacre," where a dive instructor and group leader ignore all the regulations of safe diving practice and nature protection. This group is performing their deep dive specialty as part of the advanced PADI diving course. Be sure to pay special attention to the instructor who not even once signals his students to adjust their buoyancy during the descent. Go to www.youtube.com/scubavisionfilms and select: "Coral Massacre." ■

Article & photo by Hendrik Wuyts

Hendrik Wuyts is a Belgian who is a long-time resident of Bonaire. His skills are the result of decades of training in film and video techniques including lessons at the world renowned Antwerp School of the Arts. Hendrik honed his skills on projects all over the world, including Jamaica's Negril, Cairns near Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Egypt, Malaysia, and Sipadan.

His favorites so far include working with Max Hammer filming the wrecks of Papua, New Guinea; promotional production for the Wakatobi resort in Sulawesi; Masai warriors in Kenya; the unique giant frogs of Lake Titicaca, Peru; and working with the Smithsonian Institution filming "Carrie Cow Bay" in Belize. His most exciting upcoming project documenting the "Minority Peoples" of Vietnam and Laos. www.youtube.com/scubavisionfilms has more recent films by the author about Bonaire. ■

Awesome Auction at Buddy Dive

Caribbean Club and Buddy Dive Resort
Support the Stichting Project.



*Mick Smit (center) talks with Rogest about the Stichting Project.
A Sea Camp member holds the top selling painting.*

Last Friday, June 20, at the Buddy Dive Resort, famous painter Ron G. Steven, better known as Rogest, arranged an auction to support the Stichting Project's work in helping Bonaire's at-risk teenagers. All together they raised more than \$4,000. Stichting Project will use this money to add a professional sports program to their wide range of projects for youth.

Kids Sea Camp 2008, which was underway at Buddy Dive, helped run the auction. The auctioned art was created by Stichting Project teens and Margot Peyton's Sea Camp youngsters. Rogest guided their creations of the beautiful paintings with underwater critters as their theme.



*Rogest, the master
Auctioneer and Artist*

A competitive tap dance routine and six paintings were sold during the auction. The most affordable painting went for \$250; the top price, a masterpiece of underwater life, was bought by Ronald Gravesteijn, the owner of Caribbean Club Bonaire, for \$2000. He plans to place it in one of the new villas just opened at the Club to make sure this unique piece stays on Bonaire. Needless to say Stichting Project was very happy with these generous gestures. ■ *Theo Knevel/G.D.*



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Reader's discretion advised. Parts of this article may call up some strong emotions.

You come home and you are about to open the door and then you see it: the broken window or the already open door. Then comes the rollercoaster of emotions. First there is denial. All you can think in the beginning is: "No, no, no, no, this is not happening to me." Then comes disappointment. You accept the fact that somebody has been in your house uninvited. Your shoulders sag, your head goes down as if you are wearing a very heavy hat, and you go inside to check the damage. You start to get frantic as you are discovering your missing items. "Oh no, what about my jewels, my laptop, my camera?" You are feeling very stupid at this point: "Why didn't I take my camera with me? Why didn't I hide it better? Why did I leave my house?" You feel disgusted that this wretched person has touched your clothes, the food in your refrigerator, your bed.... Then comes the rage, not just anger, the absolute full-blown rage. You turn into a person your own mother would not recognize: you are capable of murder. Then the paranoia kicks in. "Who was it? Was it he/she?" Every time you leave your house after this event you want to run back again to check if everything is all right. All these emotions are coming in the course of mere minutes. You feel utterly violated. That is why a break-in is so devastating.

The things they take are very personal. A TV is not a personal item, but a laptop is. The content makes it personal and valuable. A laptop is unfortunately much more portable than a TV. Another portable and valuable item that is always taken is jewelry. Jewels are mostly gifts. They remind you of the giver and/or of the occasion they have been given to you. Or even worse, they can be heirlooms, in the family for generations. For a thief they are just money.

To make matters even worse, you may have noticed an alarming trend. Society will put some of the blame on the victim. "You should not have left your camera out in the open. You should have bought the latest in security technology. You should have...." Some children will even take a phone (in the classroom) just because it is left on the table and the owner is standing beside the teacher asking a



question. But the most alarming thing is that the rest of the class thinks "But it was left on the table" a logical explanation for taking the phone.

We have to change things in our lives because a few others have decided to take up a criminal lifestyle. We have to lock our houses and our cars, hide things and find a house sitter for when we go on vacation. All this to avoid having to go through all those emotions described above.

Because this is happening all over the world a lot of scientists are trying to tackle this problem. The scientists who do research on criminal behavior talk about "nurture" and "nature." "Nature" is what genes you have received from your parents, over which you have no control. "Nurture" is your upbringing and other environmental influences that have an effect on your behavior. They have found that (looking at "nature") some people are more likely to become criminals because of their genetics. That would make an easy argument for them you might think. "I am so sorry Judge, I cannot help myself. You see, I have to steal, my genes tell me to do it." But the key words are "more likely." Their genes do not tell them what to do, but put them with their genes in a certain environment/upbringing ("nurture") and then there is the devil to pay.

Criminal behavior is always a choice. Criminals choose to break into a house, just as junkies choose to take that drug. Maybe your background makes it harder to make another choice, but a choice it remains. What can you do to teach youngsters to make the right



The cute little four person "drag shed" of the Schut family

The 32nd of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

NORTH SALINA/TRAS DI MONTANA

For more than 10 years the Schut family has lived on the island of Bonaire. When they embarked from the Netherlands a long time ago they decided to take their vintage caravan with them. A very good idea! The *sleurhut* (Dutch for "drag shed") was worth about a thousand guilders in those days and shipped for some 3.500 guilders. A golden idea!

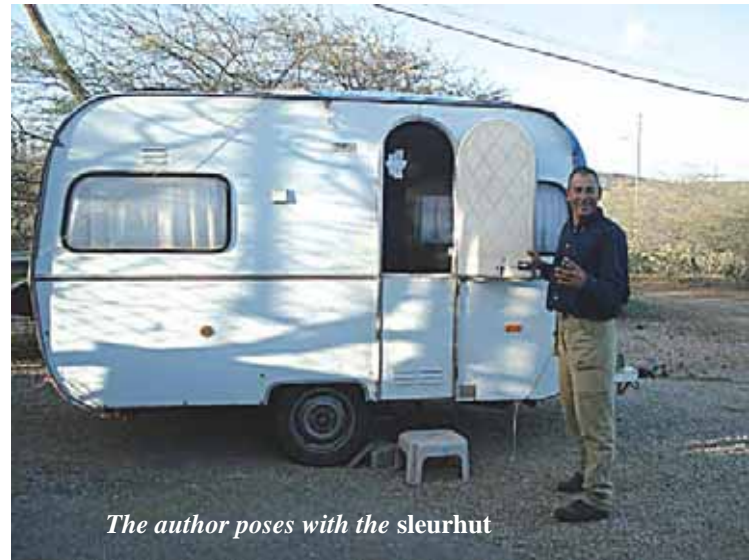
Their small mobile home was produced in Belgium in 1970 by a little factory, named De Reu. This factory made very nice compact caravans. The Schut family's is known as a real De Reu Kasbah: an all-aluminum body with a wood frame, mounted on a very simple but sturdy iron chassis.

Those days, some 40 years ago, people must have been smaller, considering the size of the caravan's main entrance. Inside the small rolling house there is sleeping accommodations for four persons. There are two more or less fixed beds and the dining table and the benches can be converted in a quite small but comfortable bed for two persons. The small "house" is fitted with a lot of easy-to-open windows and a roof you can lift up to create more space, especially handy for huge Europeans! There is also a very small kitchen. The stove has two burners and there is even running water! The electrical system of the vehicle can be connected to the towing car (12 volts) or to the local electricity system. There is even the possibility of running the lamps on propane!

choice? There is a long list of what you can do as society and/or as parents ("nurture!"), but here is a selection.

- Do not hit children. It only teaches them humiliation. By hitting a child you are saying that having the power to hurt another person is reason enough to exercise that power. What you want to teach them is that everybody has that power, but you choose not to use it.

- Teach them the value of money. You have to work hard for your money to buy things. Teach them that it takes effort, time and discipline to be able to



Those days, back in the 80s, the Schut family traveled through the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany with their loyal and reliable second house on two wheels. They never visited official camp grounds and always found a little spot at a friend's place or at a farm. (Camping in the wild is forbidden in the overcrowded areas in Europe...)

Then they decided to leave the Old World and head for Bonaire. The caravan turned out to be very handy and practical in the tropics. The wife worked in the hospital and every now and then she came home to sleep very early after working the night shift. The other members of the family had prepared the caravan and had it loaded with food and drinks. The caravan was connected to their old pickup truck and they'd head to the tropical beach where the two little daughters had a lot of fun. Finally they fell asleep, in the mobile home

of course! In the meantime Mom slept at home, and after waking up she also went to the beach to join the family. Those were the days!

The last couple of years the caravan has been parked behind the house under a carport. Still the De Reu Kasbah is used, now as an extra bedroom for friends and visitors. Recently the caravan has been parked in front of the house. The Schut family just bought a nice inflatable boat with an engine and a trailer. The kids got sold. Daddy and his daughter enjoy the boat now, using it for trips along the coast of the main island and voyages to Klein Bonaire. Some 20 persons have at the caravan, wondering, asking about it. But no!

This little rolling home that brings back so many memories is not for sale! ■ Story & photo by J@n



buy that Ipod, those sneakers or that phone with a camera in it. When there is little time and/or effort between wanting and getting, they will keep on wanting.

- Nutrition is very important. Growing children need healthy food. There is scientific proof that diet has an effect on your behavior. They have found that criminals, for example, on average eat a lot more sugar than non-criminals. For those who might not know it, sugar is poison for a lot of people.

The most important thing you can do is to make sure that a child feels appreciated, loved

and safe. He or she will feel good about him- or herself. Even when "nature" is working against you, you are able to boost "nurture" to such a degree that you lessen the chances of creating a criminal. We are not to blame for the behavior of criminals. But we are to blame if we do not do everything in our power to prevent the creation of criminals. Preventing the choice of the wrong path will prevent a lot of unnecessary sorrow. ■ Mary Ann Koops

Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.



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