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BONAIRE Feb.27-March 13, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 5

The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Since 1994



Karnaval Parades
See pages 10 & 11

Also in this issue:

Helping Erwin	-pg. 6	Haiti Benefit	-pg. 11
15 For Din	-pg. 8	Jazz Festival	-pg. 15
Lionfish Alert	-pg. 7	Art Openings	-pg. 18
		... and much more	

Marian Walthie photo

It is likely that the Dutch Ministry of Transportation and Water will come up with the NAf 2 million needed for the short term temporary water purification plant necessary to reduce the impact of sewage on Bonaire's reefs. Statements by State Secretary Ank Bijleveld and MP Ineke van Ghent indicated this. The Bonaire Waste water Treatment (WWTP) project, the wastewater sewage pipes and treatment plant will not be completed for five years, perhaps too late save the reef. Therefore the temporary plant will have to process the waste brought by tank trucks from shore side septic tanks to the plant. In the shoreline sensitive zone are eight of Bonaire's hotels, approximately 1600 individual households, apartments and about 110 businesses.

► **It didn't take long for the Police Department's new anti-theft squad to get results.** On February 13 they raided several places. At 3:15 pm they recovered 15 laptop computers from an establishment on Kaminda Djabou, at 3:45 they got three more from a house on Kaya Dialma. They charged J.W.P., 23, with theft and possession of stolen goods.

Later in the week the police held a viewing of the computers at police HQ so the owners could identify their items. Investigation is continuing.

► It's been reported that KLM flights from the Netherlands to the Antilles are usually not full these days. KLM has a deal from Amsterdam to Curaçao for €510 round trip; Martinair for €468; and ArkeFly as low as €371. USA flight prices have also dropped. Continental can fly you to Los Angeles and back for \$536. Several small airlines fly to Curaçao from Bonaire round trip for just under \$100 where you can catch low priced American Airlines flights. Insel Air flies from

Bonaire to Miami round trip for as low as NAf 550 and luggage is checked straight through to MIA.

► **Delta and Continental will discontinue their weekly flight to Curaçao** at the end of April due the drop in demand. There has been no notice of this action for Bonaire.

► **The Social Insurance Bank's (SVB) pension age is expected to jump from 60 to 65** next year, said Antilles Minister Omayra Leeflang. However, effective the end of this month, people over 60 will get a 7.7% cost-of-living boost to their monthly old-age pension, which maxes out at NAf 726. SVB expects a deficit of NAf 4 to 5 million in the pension fund this year.

► The Queen's Commissioner for the BES Islands, **Henk Kamp, said he disagreed with Member of the Dutch Parliament Hero Brinkman, who stated on several occasions that the Antilles**



► The Dutch equivalent of the American/Aruban Natalie Holloway case drew to a close last week, but with a quite different conclusion.

The trial of lead suspect, Ryan P., in the murder of the 24-year-old Dutch pharmacist trainee, Marlies van der Kouwe, started and ended last Tuesday, February 17, in a Bonaire courtroom packed with observers, Dutch media and Marlies' family. After considering the evidence, the judge will pronounce sentence on March 10. The Prosecutor, David van Delft, asked for a life sentence not only because it's a specified possibility for murder but also because of the danger to the community should a psychopath like the defendant be freed. He spoke against the "culture of silence" in the Bonaire community which made accumulating evidence against the suspect difficult.

The defendant admitted strangling the girl during a struggle to steal her purse but denied raping her. Because the killer and his associates partially burned the body there was little supporting forensic evidence of sexual assault. In addition to murder and rape, Ryan P. was accused of robbery and kidnapping. Ryan P. had been released from prison a month earlier after serving a six-year sentence for aggravated rape.

Defense attorney Marga Domingo emphasized that despite extensive analysis no evidence of sexual assault was found. She stated that her client wanted only to rob the victim, not kill her. She said the defendant asked Marlies' family for forgiveness.



Marlies

were "a corrupt gang of thugs with corrupt politicians and governors." Kamp said, "If you ask me whether I think the BES islands are 'a bunch of corrupt thugs,' I would say no."

He expanded these comments on the Dutch talk show, *Pauw en*

Witteman, to say that there is more corruption on the islands compared to the Netherlands, which is governed by three separate institutions that check on one another. "In the Antilles, there is just one

Continued on next page

Table of Contents

This Week's Stories

Marlis Trial	2
UniCollege Open House	6
Two New Shops (Just Haircuts and Helping Erwin	6
New Beach	7
Lionfish Alert	7
15 for Din	8
Dream Wedding	8
Haiti Benefit Success	9
Winning Pictures	9
Kamaval 2009	10
Kamaval 2009	11
60 Tires Recovered	12
Dakar Rally	13
Letters to the Editor: Armored Cars; F-word Revisited; Boat Driving	14
Guest Editorial: No Status Aparte	14
Help For Bonaire Youngsters	15
Jazz Festival 2009	15
Two Art Openings (Vanhoueven, van der Bijl)	18
Smart Fish	18

Weekly Features

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Born on Bonaire - Natasha Rekonde	4
Bonairean Voices (Fishing III)	7
Sudoku Puzzle	7
Pet of the Week (Volunteer/ Vincent)	8
BonQuiz (Brandaris)	9
Sudoku Solution	9
Picture Yourself (Washington DC)	13
Classifieds	13
Reporter Masthead	13
Tide Table	13
Bubbles-Did You Know (Seals)	15
What's Happening	16
Dining, Shopping Guides	17
Sky Park (Lion/Lamb)	19
Star Power (Astrology)	19

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Contin. from pg. 2) government structure to do this. The most important thing, according to Kamp, is that "there are people there who just do their job and do it well. They are just as worried as we Dutch are about how their islands will be governed in the future and about political issues like public health and education. They want to improve their situation as much as we want to help them with that. So when someone calls these people corrupt and a 'gang of thugs,' it is absolutely not doing any justice to their efforts."

► **Friday the 13th brought gloomy news about the Dutch economy.** New figures from the Central Bureau for Statistics, CBS, officially confirmed that the economy has been in recession since the second quarter of 2008, and is in worse shape than previously thought. The contraction that started in April 2008 resulted in negative growth of 0.1%, 0.3% and 0.9% in the second, third and fourth quarters respectively, according to CBS. And the end is not in sight. New forecasts for 2009 may point to a major contraction of 2% to 4% per cent, experts say. That would mean a decline in growth of at least €24 billion in just 12 months.

► **The Dutch Cabinet is**

facing a €20 billion shortfall and will have to make drastic cuts in spending to avoid pumping up the budget deficit above two per cent, sources in The Hague said. The cabinet has set up a committee of senior civil servants to make recommendations. The options include raising the retirement age, reducing mortgage tax relief, cuts to unemployment and child benefits and scrapping tax benefits for non-working parents with young families. Last year there was a surplus of 1%.

What all this will do to the Dutch commitments to the BES islands is unknown.

► **"The Netherlands is heading for a severe recession," Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende warned.** The "most painful" aspect of the forecasts was the increase in unemployment, he said. Unemployment will rise to 5.5% later this year, and up to almost 9% in 2010. On the other hand, household spending power will rise, partly due to the falling oil prices.

► **When will Churandy Martina get official recognition for his second place finish in last year's Olympics?** After having changed the date of the verdict to the 25th of February, the International Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) again

postponed the date to the 13th of March 2009. The Olympic Committee of the Netherlands Antilles (NAOC) filed their appeal on the 23rd of August 2008 in Beijing, in order to fight the disqualification of their Athlete Churandy Martina, who initially won the silver medal in the 200m. sprint.

► **There is a movement afoot in Bonaire to join the Earth Hour movement**



on Sunday, March 28, at 8:30 pm in support of WWF's action to get decisive action on climate change. Switching off their lights for Earth Hour are the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Table Mountain in Cape Town, Merlion in Singapore, Sydney Opera House, CN Tower in Toronto and Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Earth Hour is an annual international event created by the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund), held on the last Saturday of March, that asks households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights and electrical appliances for one hour to raise awareness towards the need to take action on climate change. It



► Things have been busy at Bonaire's leading supermarket. **Warehouse Bonaire opened a brand new vegetable and fruit department** featuring a better and wider assortment of fruits and veggies. The opening was on February 16 and done by the ladies who work hard every day in that department to get products ready to sell, Margarita, Suzanna and Martha. Congratulations, Warehouse Bonaire.

was pioneered by WWF Australia and the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 2007 and achieved worldwide participation in 2008.



► **Divi Divi Air's new STOL (Short Take Off and Landing) Dornier 228, landed in Bonaire** very early Thursday morning. The aircraft has a capacity for 19 passengers. It completed a flight of more than 50 hours from New Zealand with an intermediate stop in Ecuador to Bonaire. Including this newest

aircraft, Divi Divi Air has now five planes: three Britten-Norman Islander BN-2As, a Cessna 402B, used mostly for charter flights and now the Dornier.

The new aircraft is partially painted into a hybrid of the Divi Divi Air and Air West Coast

(Continued on page 12)

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On The Island Since... February 17, 1997 **Natasha Rekondie**

“I was born on St. Martin in 1970. Both my parents were from Curaçao, but they came to St. Martin because my dad was a cop and he was stationed on each island for six years.

In 1976 we returned to Curaçao. We were three children – from my mother’s side that is – and I was the youngest and the only girl and I was spoiled. I was a very lazy girl; I loved to watch TV and listen to English music like soca, calypso and ballads. At school I did very well, but I was terribly shy. I didn’t talk much or ask much and I didn’t (and still don’t) like parties. I’m just a quiet girl. We lived in Mundo Nobo where the police houses were and I went to elementary school in Otrabanda until the fifth grade because then we went through a bad time as my parents got divorced. I went to live with my mom and my brothers with my grandmother in Dominguito, changed schools, finished and went to St. Jozef Mavo in Punda. I always wanted to be a veterinarian and all four years in Mavo high school I was the best in the class. After Mavo I went to MIL high school where I finished Havo.

In spite of being so very shy, I became a model in 1987 and I modeled for three years. During that time I was also playing in the best brass band of the Netherlands Antilles, ‘Brass Revolution,’ as a base drummer, the only girl in the Antilles. What a contrast for being such a shy person! We played at parties. I played, but I didn’t dance and no drinking and no smoking – *bon mucha!* (good girl!). Lovely times though. We played at the carnival in St. Martin, Aruba and Curaçao and during the Regatta on Bonaire.

“I’ve put my eldest son in extra Dutch classes to prevent this happening to him, but it shouldn’t be necessary. Every child has the right to good education.”

In August 1990 I went to Leiden, Holland, to do a medical laboratory higher professional education (HBO) for two years, but it was too much about numbers and I’m not so good with numbers. During my second year I did one year of sports massage; I liked it so I decided to change my course and I studied physical therapy for four years. I finished

in July 1996 and was working in a hospital part-time until I got the chance to come to Bonaire.

In 1994 I and my former boyfriend – who was from Bonaire – had come here for vacation. We loved the tranquility and peace so we started looking for work here. Through his sister I got a temporary contract with Bon Fysio, filling in for someone. I arrived in December 1996 and worked for Bon Fysio for four weeks. After I returned to Holland Bon Fysio called and offered me a job



working with a chiropractor from Curaçao, Dr. Snel, and with an acupuncturist named Gobin Persaud. I took a course in acupuncture and a course in cranio-sacral therapy. And I had my first baby, a boy named Shaxel, with my previous boyfriend in April 2001. So, I was 26 when I came here and 27 when I opened my own practice.

I set goals everywhere I go. On Bonaire I had three goals: my own practice, my own house and kids, and to get married. The last one didn’t work out... so far! Ha! Ha! But anyway, when I reach one of my goals I replace it with another one – to challenge my-

self. And the challenge I had was to go to St. James Medical School because I wanted to be a doctor. I went to St. James in 2004, together with a colleague of mine, Kiri Quiringdoongo. It was a lot of hard work. I went to school from 8 am until 3 pm, and from 3 until 6 pm I worked at my practice. At 6 I picked up my son from daycare, and at 10 pm I started studying until 2 in the morning, five days a week for two years until I graduated. So did Kiri.

And then—the cruelty. The government of Bonaire didn’t accept our certificates. They had

(Continued on page 5)

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*On The Island Since
(Continued from page 4)*

promised us before we'd started that they would accept the certificates and that they would give us a scholarship after the two years, to continue our studies in the States. That was the promise. And as we were the only two locals who had finished the course, St. James Medical School promised us to pay for our trainee location in one of the hospitals in the States and we were only supposed to pay for the cost of living, which the Bonairean government was going to take care of. None of that happened and we wasted two years. I was frustrated and angry."

Natasha is pretty and tall and she's a well-balanced, calm and strong woman. She's also thoughtful, serious and gifted and she has a natural authority.

"In September 2006 I had my second baby boy, Felipe, with Rene 'Bencho' Cordilia. I'd met him in August 2002 when I went to have my car fixed and I liked him immediately." *She smiles.*

"My children didn't change my life very much; I am quiet and when I'm not working I'm always at home. I try to raise my children in a way that they don't go after fads and money doesn't come first but family does because family is the basis. Then there's respect for other people, for everybody, and to be helpful, that's important too, I think. My

hobby is my two children and the most important thing to me in life is health.

I don't play music anymore, and that's a pity, and every first of the month I want to start with sports, every first of the month that is. I can't cook, but I like to eat and I like to experiment. Last weekend a Surinamese teacher from SGB taught me how to make roti. This weekend it's going to be bami." *She laughs.* "I have a lot of cookbooks in a container – I should get them out!

Well, I had my practice for 10 years but in the ninth year I studied education for 16 months and in August 2007 I got a full time job as a biology teacher at SGB high school and in December that year I sold my practice. You know, I chose physical therapy because I see every client as a new challenge. In teaching, every student is new challenge; that's what I like. There are always bad stories going around about SGB high school and I wanted to make a change. I like to teach, especially children who have a reputation for bad behavior, but when you talk to each one of them, you see that all the problems they're having come from a difficult childhood. A year ago the school started a practical training course especially for boys with difficulties and it's working very well. I'm also mentor of a class that has been 'class of the week' five times in a row,



Bencho, Felipe, Natasha and Shaxel

from January until now. I am so proud of them.

Another thing I find is that it would be good if new teachers, especially Dutch teachers, could understand and speak Papiamentu. All the study books are in Dutch, but to really understand and communicate with the children on their own level and to explain the lessons to them you need Papiamentu. I'm teaching at BVO, lower professional education, and a lot of children are really struggling with Dutch. It's sad to say, but I see more misery

coming with the next generation here on Bonaire in a natural environment, a hospital especially for children and long-term patients. I'm looking for sponsors to support my project and I'm serious. I've got the plans. You see, I'm always looking for more, for a new challenge. I want more out of life because I know I can do more."

I see myself teaching for 10 more years, but... I also love change. I want to do as much as possible in life. I have a dream of opening my own private hospital

here on Bonaire in a natural environment, a hospital especially for children and long-term patients. I'm looking for sponsors to support my project and I'm serious. I've got the plans. You see, I'm always looking for more, for a new challenge. I want more out of life because I know I can do more."

■ *Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*



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UniCollege Bonaire Invites Students and Parents to its Open House

All Bonairean kids are invited on Wednesday, March 11 from 14.00-16.00 and their parents on Thursday, March 12 between 19.00-21.00 to have a close look at the Unicollege school.

On Wednesday the UniCollege students are ready to assist all kids who are interested in a 'hands-on' experience with their special way of working and learning. UniCollege teachers will also be available to answer all questions. Thursday will be of a somewhat different character, but parents will be able to enjoy the same practical experience. On both occasions an interesting program is organized to inform visitors about all aspects of the school concept, learning strategy, daily organization, costs, and admission prerequisites, as well as whatever other information may be useful to determine whether or not UniCollege is the school for you!

Unicollge is celebrating its fourth year of existence, closely following the curriculum of its sister school, UniC-Utrecht, Netherlands, which started one year before it. The first HAVO students of that school completed preliminary examinations very successfully, which is one of the reasons why UniCollege Bonaire management feels very comfortable about the future of its HAVO and VWO-level students.

The school prepares its students for Dutch Higher Education: Universities and 'Hogescholen' (Polytechnics). UniCollege is,



therefore, a Dutch school with Dutch being the language of education and all social activities, including breaks, extramural activities, etc. The school, however, is not meant to be only for Dutch kids. Presently there are more kids in UniCollege from Rincon and Playa than from Holland and Belgium. It is definitely not a school for the elite. It is truly a school suitable for the multinational mixture of the Bonairean population. This is reflected in the composition of its students and Board of Directors.

UniCollege aims at the achievement of solid educational goals, preparing for high level tests and assignments and the final examinations at HAVO or VWO-levels. The school's educational concept and design is especially suited to prepare its pupils in such a way that they will not only have an optimal chance of graduating but also, to succeed in the demanding environment of Dutch University / Hogeschool and the Dutch social environment. ■ Cees Visser

Helping Erwin

March 8 will be an epic day when Constantin "Patun" Sargoza and Elton "Taty" Frans windsurf from Bonaire to Curaçao.

The event is a fundraiser for Bonaire's own Erwin Muller. Erwin, a dive master and former windsurf hero on Bonaire, suffered a serious stroke in January. He is recuperating in Curaçao and has a long rehabilitation ahead. Erwin is well known in the community for being a man who loves adventure whether it's riding his quad or delivering a yacht across the Caribbean. Locals and tourists are rallying to support Erwin and his family, Ellen and Jason. The March 8 race is dedicated to Erwin, one of the original founders of windsurfing on Bonaire.



Moka and Erwin

made via Paypal to: Erwin2CanDive@gmail.com or by depositing into MCB # 400 050 800 c/o Linda Baker. You may also speak to Elvis Martinus about other contributions for the fundraiser at 786-2288.

For those wishing to accompany the flotilla it is important you speak with Elvis Martinus by calling 786-2288 for clearance. The safety of the two windsurfers is paramount. This is a very exciting yet intense voyage. We wish them well as they race for a fellow man of the sea, Erwin Muller. ■ Ann Phelan

Saragoza, a former Olympic athlete, will race across to Curaçao with Pro Windsurfer Taty Frans. Taty, one of the top freestyler's in the world, circumnavigated Bonaire in 2008. He is perhaps the fastest slalom sailor presently on the island. The race commences at 9am outside BOPEC. Spectators are welcome for the send off. Helicopters and chase boats will accompany the two sailors across the passage. The record set back in the 80s by Erwin is four hours. They will race to Lighthouse Point on the east side of Curaçao and then head down to the pier near Breezes Resort. Donations for this fundraiser may be

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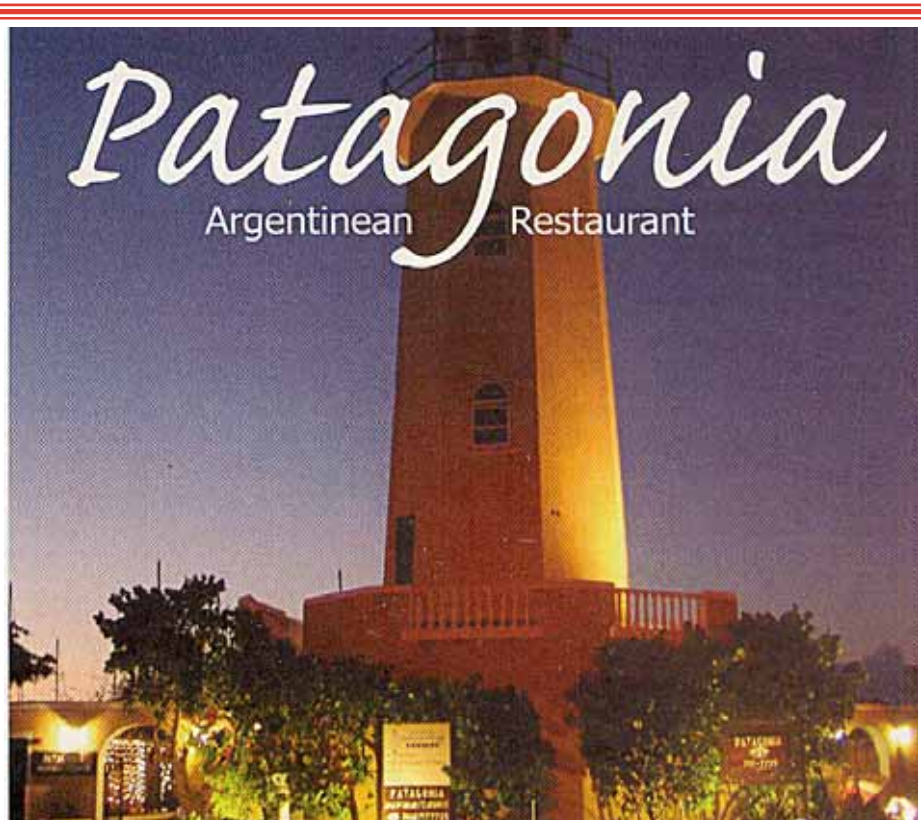


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New Beach

I was walking down the coast road the other day and I happened to have my phone, so I took this picture of the new post-Omar beach along there. I call it Pelican Beach because there are sardines all over the place, and pelicans to match. There are a number of these places exposed by the wind reversal along that road. They're not much use because they're basically at sea level and are more or less covered at high tide, but I have seen local people climbing down for a swim. This one is just beside the rock wall where the road goes under the overhang. ■

Ian MacDonald



BONAIREAN VOICES

FISHING PART III

This is a continuation of last issue's subject of fishing on Bonaire.

If you need information and advice you have to go to the right source. For fishing, go the LVV (Landbouw, Veeteelt en Visserij) government office for Agriculture, Flocks and Fishing. LVV has a broad mandate that gives service to people who are involved in agriculture, raising livestock and the fishing business. To learn more about fisheries I interviewed Raymond "Rocky" Emmers (51) in charge of LVV, a nice, humble person, very smart and a real Bonairean. He, as well as everyone fishing in our waters, is concerned about what is going on Bonaire. He keeps the fishing records on the island. Rocky has been doing this job for more than 26 years.



Raymond "Rocky" Emmers

Some fishing companies in Curaçao gave us some advice about what else we can do for the fishermen here in Bonaire.

Unfortunately, the commission for fisheries in the Netherlands Antilles, which is based in Curaçao, advised the minister in charge who worked for the Central Government to give permission to everyone to fish in Bonairean waters. The LVV worked strictly with the Coast Guard to supervise this matter at sea. But it's not an easy task.

On Monday, February 16, we had a meeting with some of the fishermen about this, and we are eager to start the co-op again. We have people with skills who can do the job. But fishermen have to join, to come together to make it happen. We can have a solid fishing industry in Bonaire that can help Bonaire's economy grow. But we must have modern equipment to do the job right. We can't stay behind. But without help from the fishermen for a co-op this will be just words. We want to stay positive. We look forward to make this come true."

For more information you can get an appointment with Rocky Emmers at LVV call 717-8836 he will likely inform you what LVV is all about. ■ Siomara E. Albertus



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

Lionfish Alert



The invasive Lionfish are coming further and further south, and are now reported from the Providence/San Andres area (Colombian islands close to Nicaragua) at about the same latitude as the ABC islands. The fish in the report from Colombia appears to be a grown adult, so it must have been swimming around there for at least a (couple of) years before now finally being spotted. Last month The Reporter published an alert to divers about this development. ■ Paul Hoetjes



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Airport:
Valerie's Airport Shop</p> <p>Airlines:
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EZ Air</p> <p>Banks:
MCB (Playa & Hato branches)</p> <p>Restaurants:
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China Nobo
City Café
It Rains Fishes
Lover's Ice
Cream-Hato
Pasa Bon Pizza
Patagonia</p> <p>Dive Shops:
Blue Divers
Carib Inn
Tropical Divers
WannaDive</p> <p>Shops:
Antillean Wine Company
Benetton
Best Buddies
Botika Bonaire
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Bonaire Partners
Caribbean Homes
Harbourtown Realty
Re/Max Paradise Homes
Sunbelt Realty</p> <p>RINCON:
Chinese Store
Joi Fruit Store
Rincon Bakery
Rose Inn
Tusnara Market
12/30/08</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

DO YOU SUDOKU?

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. **Answer on page 9.** Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney

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

15 For Din



In the photo: Din (center holding his certificate) with his family. On the left STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom, on Din's right Evo Cicilia, President of STINAPA and Ramon de Leon, Marine Park Manager.

Edwin "Din" Domacasse recently completed 15 years of service to the Bonaire National Marine Park and STINAPA Bonaire. He began as a Park Ranger on February 7, 1995 and later was promoted to Chief Ranger. Din is noted for his competence, diplomacy and courage in doing his job and has helped many, many people in the course of his career.

He was honored with a celebration at Washington Slagbaai National Park with his family and spoke briefly about his time on the job. ■ Karen W. van Dijk

Pet of The Week

The adoptees at the Bonaire Animal Shelter love their volunteers. We've shown you volunteer students, a part time resident and now here's a high school biology teacher and columnist for *The Bonaire Reporter*, Mary Ann Koops. She's been a regular at the Shelter for awhile now and inspires her students to do the same. Mary Ann is cuddling with "Vincent," a long haired, angora, elegant white cat with black markings, especially on his nose. As Mary Ann says, "It looks like someone spilled some black paint on his nose."



Volunteer Mary Ann Koops with Vincent

Young Vincent, only seven months old, was found abandoned in a neighbor's yard after the neighbors moved away. Despite this uncaring treatment Vincent is a real people cat. He just loves them and will follow them around. Not only that but he gets along great with all the other cats in the cat cage. He's just an "easy" cat, say the staff, and is therefore one of the favorites. As are all the other adoptees at the Shelter, Vincent is in top health, has had his shots, tests and worming and is sterilized. You may see Vincent at the Shelter on

the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989.

If you would like to make a contribution as a volunteer to the Shelter, give them a call. They are losing a lot of their faithful volunteers who are leaving the island and could certainly use some new animal lovers. They especially need people between 8 and 10 am but other times as well. They're doing a magnificent job with the animals but they can't do it alone. ■ L.D.

Dream Wedding



On Monday, February 2nd, there was a beautiful wedding on Klein Bonaire. Maaikie Feddema and Alex Tuininga met on Bonaire last year and decided to get married here as well. The *Kantika di Amor* water taxi took them to the beautiful island where they pronounced their marital vows before magistrate Irma Cicila.


The wedding was planned by Suze's Wedding Services and Philip's Cooking took care of the private wedding-dinner at the Caribbean Chillout where they were staying. A very private spot in the beautiful garden was chosen for their dinner for two.

The menu was: local goat cheese wrapped in Prosciutto with a tropical salad, grilled shrimps in a mild coconut and curry sauce, beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce and a combination of mango cake, cheesecake, fresh fruit and ice cream. Our congratulations to the happy couple. ■ Press release

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Haiti Benefit A Winning Pictures Great Success

While the earth was made in seven days, it took The Haiti Project nine days to put together its successful fundraiser at Jibe City. Time was short but, led by Sean Paton, the group was off and running to beat the February 15th deadline. The word went out island-wide that there would be a free concert, an auction of paintings, and raffles of excellent items donated by local businesses. It was not difficult to get people enthusiastic about the event when they learned where the money was going.

One of the recipients, Brother Gerard, is a Cistercian monk who has been helping the people of Haiti for over 30 years. His orphanage, "Foyer des Amis," is a refuge and orphanage for girls. He also works with the poor in helping them farm.

When the hurricanes came, the livestock were saved but the crops were destroyed and there was no money to buy seeds. In addition, he operates a school for 300 children who at this time are unable to study there as the roof of the building blew off and there is no money to replace it. This was where the children were given a hot meal each day, but now that is no longer possible. €800 are needed to begin repairs and help with the farming, so a percentage of the money raised will go there. Also benefiting from the generous donations will be The Haiti Project which will use their share to help pay for the cost of shipping donated clothes, bedding and household items to Haiti.

The fabulously successful event of February 15th began in the afternoon at Jibe City with rocking music courtesy of one of Bonaire's top DJs whose name also happens to be D.J. Cas. He and his music set a party mood that lasted all afternoon. The weather behaved with only one brief shower- which in no way dampened anyone's spirits.

One of the first happenings was some spirited gambling on windsurfing games devised and run by D.J., the DJ. The betting began by seeing how many kids a surfboarder could manage to sail with without dropping any in the water. Next was a gamble on how many consecutive turns could be made before the contestant either got tired or fell over. The crowd really got into this and other boarding challenges and many guilders were raised on these events alone. Next came the raffles. Great items such as fine wines, wood carvings, backpacks, and cases of beer were won by lucky ticket buyers. Towards the end of the afternoon came the auction of two of Henk Roozendaal's beautiful paintings. The bidding was spirited and even more guilders were raised.

At six the bands began to play and lovely singer and guitarist Becky Alter proved to be a perfect accompaniment to the breezes, blue water, and gorgeous sunset. It was a very mellow evening at Jibe City, a perfect place to just relax and chill. Jibe City owners Monique and Robert went over the top by making a very generous contribution to start things off. They also donated a percentage of all food and beverages sold that afternoon and evening. And in another kind and generous gesture the wait staff donated all of their tips to the cause.

But then, this is the real Bonaire, where people care about people whether they're from this island or not. That's why almost NAf 20.000 was raised to help the people of Haiti. ■

Dabney Lassiter



Marugia Janga organized the clothing drive



Radio personality Sean Paton led the event



Photos by Fredrick of Jibe City

It was tough this year to pick a winner for the Picture Yourself Contest. Our readers went all out and all over to compete. Many were imaginative, unique, and downright unusual.

The Reporter appeared in New Hampshire; Thailand; at the Great Wall of China; at weddings in Argentina and Missouri; in New York; in South Africa; in Sicily; Germany; cruising in Alaska; in Chicago; Belfast, Northern Ireland; the Canadian Rockies; Earlanderveen, Holland; Castaway Cay in the Bahamas; Andalusia, Spain; the Dam in Amsterdam; at a Citroen Owners' Rendezvous in Denmark; by the Logos Hope Ship in Kiel Germany; on safari in Tinmbavati, South Africa; Malta; Fiji; at the Arctic Circle; Austria; at the Olympic Games in Beijing, Chin; at the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor; in Galveston Bay after Hurricane Ike; at a Flying Dutchman Sailing Competition in Holland, "in the nursery," Houston, Texas; Quebec; Faenza, Italy; and the Irish countryside. It even stayed home on Bonaire in "kuifjeland."

The finalists are presented here. Discover the winner in the next issue of The Reporter.



This year's finalists are Therese Rosier who appeared "in stocks," in Medina, Malta, reading The Reporter; Serena Black in Sumatra sharing her Reporter with a friendly elephant, and Hendrik

Wuyts with the lady dancers in Fiji and reading The Reporter



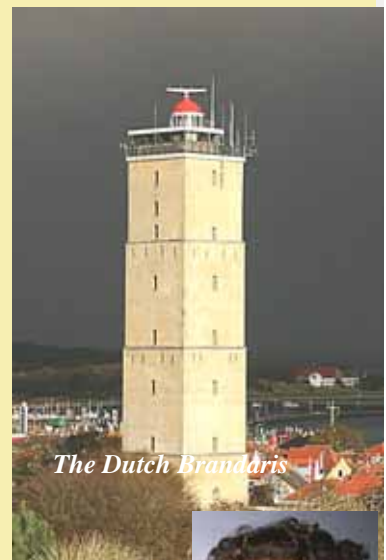
with a tortoise (the oldest living reader) in the Galapagos. ■L.D.

BonQuiz

Test your knowledge of Bonaire

Mount Brandaris on Bonaire has a counterpart name on one of the Dutch 'Wadden' Islands. Brandaris Lighthouse was first built in 1322 to guide fisherman between two of the Wadden Islands out to the North Sea. Destroyed in 1570 by sea erosion, it was rebuilt in 1594, only to collapse during the construction because of poor building materials. At 54 meters its far reaching light shines at a distance of 35 kilometers. It has special "bird lighting", which makes sure that birds in flight do not fly into the tower.

Questions: a- How tall is Bonaire's Brandaris? b- And what is the name of the Wadden island. Find the answer on page 13.



The Dutch Brandaris



BonQuiz appears regularly in The Reporter. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours. Contact her to arrange a tour, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 to contact her or email: christiedovale@hotmail.com

Comments and suggestion are welcome. ■ Christie Dovale

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J.A. ABRAHAM # 10

SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 7

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379 126 854
654 987 213
187 362 495
543 819 627
962 754 381
896 541 732
721 693 548
435 278 169

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Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from page 3)
livery.

It's a big step up from the nine-passenger Britten-Norman Islander BN-2As. The Dornier's twin turboprops generate 776shp and it cruises at about 400 kph (240 mph) with a range of 1000 km fully loaded. About 76 cubic feet of cargo can also be carried as well. Divi Divi flies *The Bonaire Reporter* to our island just hours after it comes off the big web press at DeStad printing in Curaçao.

► One of the most popular Saturday things to do is the monthly wine tastings at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse.



They've been off for awhile but the tastings are starting up again on Saturday, March 14. You may sample six (6) wines and enjoy snacks for \$10 (NAf 17,50) per person. They start uncorking at 7 pm and go until 9. You don't have to be a mad wine aficionado (unless you want to be) to enjoy the ambiance and the fine wines. Antillean Wine Company (AWC) is on Kaya Industria – across the street and a little south/west of Warehouse Bonaire. Telephone: 560-7539.

► For the second time the Jong Bonaire Youth Center is organizing the event, "Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike."

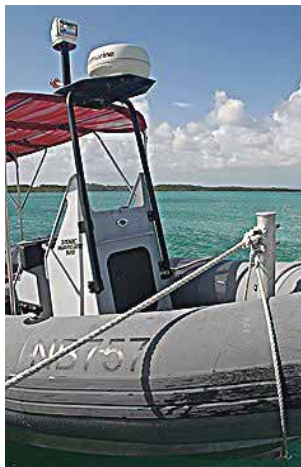


This fundraising event will take place at Sunday March 1, at 6 am. The start and the finish will be at Jong Bonaire.

The walk is 20 kilometers long and the bike route is 37 kilometers. This is not a competition; it's a good opportunity to walk or bike with family or friends and get to know new people while walking or biking on our beautiful island Bonaire.

Tickets are NAf 15 for adults and NAf 10 for kids under 12 years old. You will get a free meal, drinks, fruit, a t-shirt and a water bottle. You may buy your tickets at the Freewieler bike shop or at Jong Bonaire, during business hours. **Everybody, young and old, is invited to participate** and turn this 2nd Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike into a huge success. See the poster on the back page of this edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

► Last week *The Reporter* mentioned that a new windward side dive business, Bonaire East Coast Diving (BECD) had begun. Unhappily, in just a bit over a week in operation they suffered a calamity. On February 11, at 0950, the Bonaire police received a call that a boat on the east coast was in trouble and that divers were jumping over the side. It was one of the windiest, roughest sea days of the year. The abandoned dive boat began drifting in towards Baby Beach.



► To carry home those veggies from the newly expanded Warehouse fruit and vegetable department use one of their new, very useful, heavy big shopping bags. Last year they introduced a new shopping bag on Bonaire with beautiful pictures of our island.

The main idea behind the bags was to promote conservation of the environment: fewer plastic grocery sacks, some call the second island flag because you see so many of them flying from bushes. Another reason is to promote Bonaire all over the world via the nice pictures on the bag.

Last year 10,000 pieces were ordered, normally a two-year stock. What happened was they sold out in six months. It seems the tourists like them too, and it's an inexpensive, easy, useful souvenir to take back home. Earlier this month two new series of bags arrived, again with very nice pictures to promote Bonaire.

The bags are for sale for NAf 4,50 and by purchasing one you help nature and promote Bonaire.

In one of the pictures you see Zwanet Kooij on a kiteboard. She is one of the best kilters on Bonaire. Kim de Raadt, the supermarket manager, presented her with the first bag as a thank you for letting Warehouse use one of her great kite surfing pictures. Warehouse Bonaire is at Kaya Industria 24.

The police said they got notice that two divers were missing and mobilized a massive rescue effort and scrambled a helicopter and airplane. Fortunately, within a few minutes of the notification, according to the police report, the divers were reported safely ashore, but the rescue was already in motion.

One of the BECD owners told *The Reporter* that the captain of the boat said that first one, then the other of his motors stopped running and neither of would restart. The eight divers were already in the water and were advised to make their own way to the nearby shore. They and the captain all made it to shore uninjured.

Later the boat, a Zodiac Hurricane 920 about 30 feet long, which had been driven ashore, was salvaged by a crane and trucked to Boto Blanku Marine for inspection. There was surprisingly little damage to the hull but the motor skegs were demolished. The Port Captain is investigating the accident. BECD hopes to be back in operation in a short time. There was to be a post on the website www.bonaireeastcoastdiving.com/en/ with up-to-date information but was not available at press time. ■ G./L.D.

More Than 60 Tires Removed





This project started as Happy Hour chatter among the yacht people moored in Kralendijk Bay. It was quite evident to all that the surge and surf from Hurricane Omar in October 2008 had caused a dramatic increase in the debris (mainly tires and wooden planks from the shore and broken docks) that was lying in the shallows and on the reef. One cruiser counted 68 tires within the span of five boats. The group voted to offer its services to the Marine Park. To that end, Din, Chief Ranger of the Marine Park, attended a meeting in which it was agreed that three Park staff members, Juan, Apo and Polina, and a Park boat, would work with the cruisers to pick up only those tires that had no coral or sponge growth on them.

There was 100% participation among the cruisers invited to join. Over 40 people organized into teams made up of divers, swimmers and boat workers. Toucan Dive Shop kindly provided free air fills for the divers. Then on Thursday, January 29 the group worked for three hours to retrieve the tires, which eventually filled a garbage bin, provided by SELIBON on the commercial dock. The event was so successful, that the boaters agreed to complete the cleanup of tires from the remainder of the mooring field and adjacent reef. STINAPA Bonaire thanks all the participants who made this special clean up into such a big success. ■ Karen W. van Dyck

Simply The Best

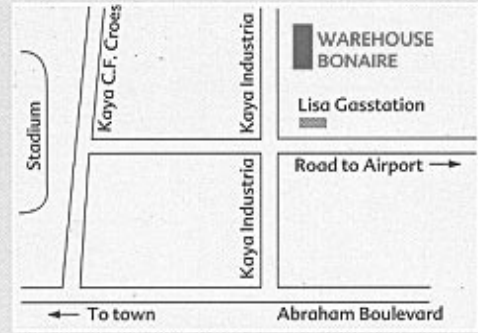
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J.A. ABRAHAM # 10

BonQuiz Answer

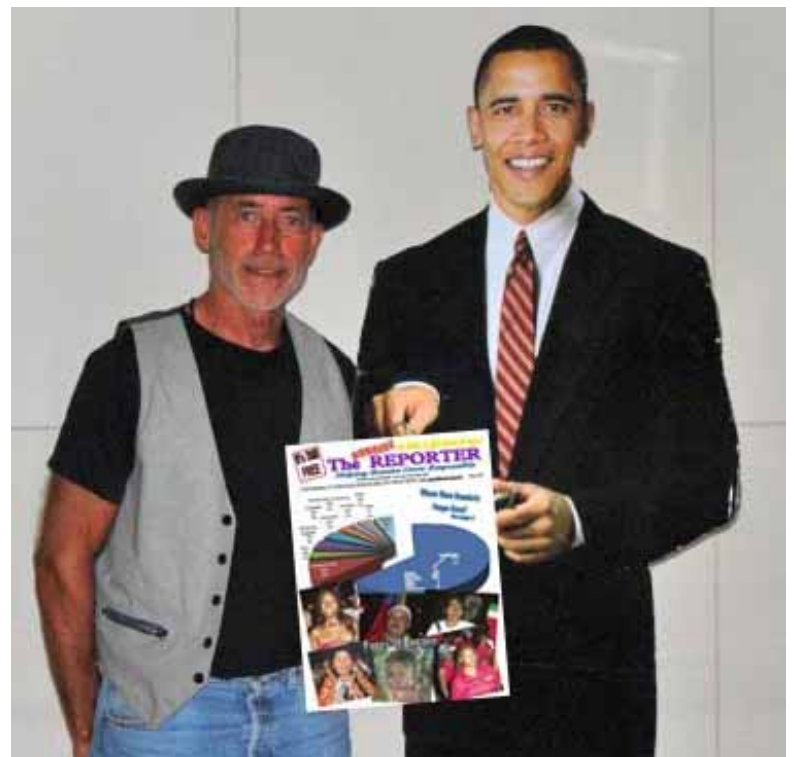
a- two hundred and seventy (271) meters tall

b- The Wadden island of Terschelling ■



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Washington DC USA

Don Seaver and his wife, Desirée, were in DC last month during the inauguration festivities for new US president, Barak Obama. Luckily they thought to bring a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with them. Here's Don, the President and *The Reporter*. ■G.D.



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.



The next Dakar road rally will be held in Bonaire! Following the cancellation of the 2008 rally because of terrorism threats, the organizers decided to have the event in safe Bonaire. However, the main reason for their choice was that the condition of Bonaire's roads offered a big challenge to the competitors and their vehicles. Registration will begin April 1 on the *Reporter* and Dakar Rally websites. ■G.D.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
2-27	3:01	1.5FT.	9:57	1.3FT.	14:19	1.3FT.	19:27	1.2FT.	88
2-28	3:49	1.6FT.	13:13	1.1FT.	16:00	1.2FT.	18:41	1.1FT.	86
3-01	4:40	1.7FT.	14:29	1.0FT.					81
3-02	5:41	1.8FT.	15:23	0.9FT.					73
3-03	6:33	1.9FT.	16:04	0.8FT.					65
3-04	7:32	2.0FT.	16:39	0.8FT.					58
3-05	8:21	2.0FT.	17:20	0.8FT.					55
3-06	9:16	2.0FT.	17:54	0.8FT.					59
3-07	1:10	1.1FT.	10:04	2.0FT.	18:22	0.9FT.	23:30	1.1FT.	68
3-08	2:59	1.1FT.	10:53	1.9FT.	18:50	0.9FT.	23:40	1.2FT.	78
3-09	4:23	1.1FT.	11:46	1.8FT.	19:16	1.0FT.			87
3-10	0:34	1.4FT.	5:49	1.1FT.	12:32	1.7FT.	19:31	1.1FT.	94
3-11	1:15	1.5FT.	7:24	1.1FT.	13:32	1.5FT.	19:31	1.2FT.	97
3-12	2:00	1.6FT.	9:19	1.1FT.	14:30	1.4FT.	19:06	1.2FT.	96
3-13	2:51	1.7FT.	11:24	1.1FT.	16:36	1.2FT.	17:33	1.2FT.	91
3-14	3:49	1.7FT.	13:02	1.0FT.					83

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Letters to the Editor

ARMORED CARS

Dear Editor,

I noticed in a recent issue of *The Reporter* that you made mention of a local security company's new armored vehicle.

Probably not too far ahead of the times, as before long, we could use such a vehicle here to carry all our money needed to buy groceries.

If not, we'll all surely need it to bring our payments to the tax collector's office after Holland jacks up our taxes. Or might it be an indication of an escalating crime rate?

JP Richau

F- WORD REVISITED

To The Reporter:

It was so refreshing to see Mary Ann Koops take on the stigma that surrounds feminism in her recent "Island View" column. Koops is absolutely correct that any woman or man can be "feminist," if she or he supports equal rights for women/men and fights discrimination against women in the workplace, the family, the school, the church, etc. But feminism is also much more than that: it is a philosophy, a perspective that can not only empower both women and men but also unlock their potential, intelligence, and character often repressed by rigid gender roles. Ultimately feminism is a major key to the self-actualization of any human caught in the binding expectations, anxieties, beliefs, etc. attributed to the "masculine" and "feminine."

While the gender role for girls and women may be expanding somewhat to include education (which is why there are more women finishing high school and going on to college), they still are required to look beautiful, act sexually flirtatious, take care of children, do the cooking and cleaning, take care of everyone, etc. Perhaps all these conflicting expectations and demands on women is one of the reasons why so many more women than men are treated for depression and anxiety; indeed, the multi-tasking for women is making them physically and psychologically sick. Young males, on the other hand, are being bombarded by images and lyrics from hip-hop culture, movie and inter-

net media, etc. that equate "masculinity" with being a "thug." In this kind of culture, education is not "cool"; instead being sexual with a number of women, fathering children without responsibility, showing off with violence, money, and drugs, and demeaning women are considered to be the traits of a "real man."

Perhaps some workshops on feminism for both young men and women at the high school could open up a new kind of dialogue on gender roles, conflict, and communication that would help address problems and issues related to gender that occur everywhere, not just on Bonaire (i.e. rape, domestic violence, drug addiction, depression, etc.).

Thanks Mary Ann, for bringing up the subject!

Pauline Kayes,
Champaign, Illinois and Bonaire

RESPONSIBLE BOAT DRIVING

Dear Editor:

On Tuesday, February 10 we were walking past Angel City in the morning. There were three dive boats moored at the Hilma Hooker site, a small fishing boat moving slowly south to north just in the blue water area, and the dive boat *Free at Last* approaching the mooring buoy at Angel City. My wife and I were shocked to see the dive boat cut directly across the bow of the fishing boat without reducing speed. The fishing boat got rocked at a dangerous angle. The dive shops that I'm familiar with educate their boat operators about safe operation of their boats and very possibly the shop that owns *Free at Last* did the same. Maybe the rules of the road and courtesy at sea should be reviewed with the operators. There was no need to race to the buoy, especially at the expense of a fisherman whose boat was a fraction of the size of the dive boat. The dive boat operator should have cut speed and reduced wake long before approaching the site. Dive boats and fishing boats should be able to share the same sea without antagonizing each other. I hope I never have to witness this kind of irresponsible behavior again.

Pat Murphy

Guest Editorial

The opinions in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the editorial opinion of this newspaper.

No Status Aparte for Curaçao and St. Maarten

Within a short time, the Netherlands Antilles will be dismantled. Our island, together with St. Eustasius and Saba, will become an integrated part of the Netherlands, while Curaçao and St. Martin will remain part of the Kingdom as autonomous lands.

You might say that the dismantling process started in 1986 when the Netherlands met Aruba's urgent demand to leave the Netherlands Antilles and to become an independent country within 10 years (in a 1987 referendum, 82% of Aruba's population voted for independence). From the beginning of the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba felt too oppressed by the Central Government in Curaçao. Although nobody dares to mention it, the different ethnic origins of the majority of the population of both islands – Afro-Caribbean in Curaçao and European in Aruba – played a role in this decision. Unfortunately, at that time the only possibility of Aruba escaping the yoke of Curaçao was to leave the Kingdom of the Netherlands and to become an independent country.

It was agreed that for the transition period Aruba would get so called "Status Aparte," which meant in principle that, with the exception of defense and foreign relations, the island would be allowed to take all administrative, economic and financial decisions itself, without any control or interference by the Dutch government. However, only four years later, Aruba's government surprised the former colonial power with its humble request to remain in the Kingdom, and the article in Aruba's constitution scheduling Aruba's independence was rescinded. One of the reasons was the bad consequences of becoming independent for Surinam, a former Dutch colony which, against the will of the majority of its people, was forced by the Dutch government in 1975 to leave the Kingdom of the Netherlands and to become independent. A full third of Surinam's population then fled the country and settled in Holland. The originally democratic government of Surinam was soon overthrown by a bloody military regime which without any trial executed 15 of its opponents. Nobody knows how many people would have left Aruba if its original independence plan had become a reality in 1996.

You would expect that the rescinding of the independence plans would automati-

cally mean the end of Aruba's Status Aparte which served as preparation for independence. However, after lengthy negotiations, the magnanimous Dutch government agreed that Aruba could retain its status. However, after several years of Status Aparte, the lack of any external control over the island's finances and tourist development resulted in disaster. The US and Italian courts sentenced Aruba's government to pay many millions of dollars to foreign investors for not complying with its obligations towards them. The payment of the enormous debt still forms an important amount of Aruba's annual budget. The lack of external supervision of Aruba finances also resulted in rampant corruption, not so much by the two main political parties, AVP (Christian Democrats) and MEP (Social Democrats), alternatively ruling the island, but particularly by small parties forming a coalition government with one of the main parties.

An abhorrent example was the Minister of Public Works in Aruba's first administration after receiving Status Aparte, called by the contractors, "Mr. 5%," surpassed only by the Minister of Transport and Communications in the last coalition government. His fraudulent actions were also the main reason for a decisive election victory of the MEP party which has been ruling Aruba alone, without any of the small parties, for the previous eight years.

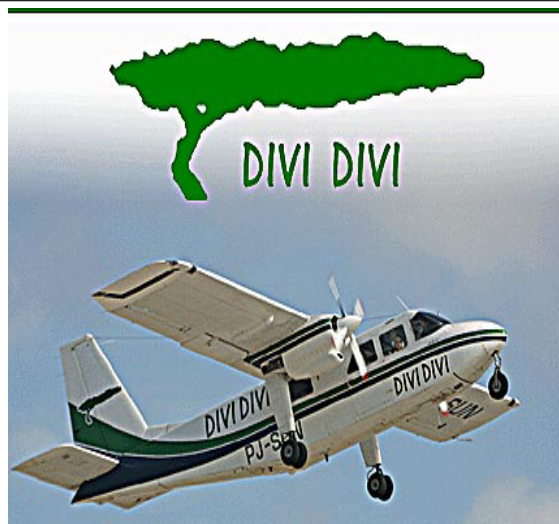
The bad experience of the Netherlands with Aruba's mismanagement has been the main reason why the new autonomous lands within the Kingdom, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, originally hoping to receive a similar status like Aruba got in 1986, will be subjected to severe control of their finances. The population of Curaçao will decide in the coming referendum if the package offered by the Dutch government will be accepted or rejected. There is no multiple choice now; the people have just to vote "Yes" or "No." ■ *Jiri Lausman*

Jiri Lausman is a retired civil engineer, born in Prague, living as a Dutchman the last almost 40 years, 18 of them in Aruba. Before his retirement, he worked as the manager in Latin America and the Caribbean for a large Dutch construction company. He has a home on Bonaire.



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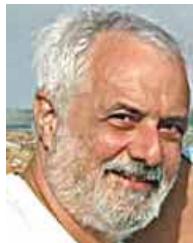
Minister Rouvoet, and Ministry Representative N.C. Oudendijk visit the computer lab at Jong Bonaire during their recent visit.

Dutch Minister for Youth and the Family, André Rouvoet, recently visited Bonaire as a part of his efforts to see first-hand the state of local facilities and systems for dealing with problems among young people in the BES islands. In addition to meeting with local governmental officials he and his staff also visited several local organizations such as Jong Bonaire, SEBIKI, Maria Höppler and others.

The Minister made it clear that the new relationship with Holland will have far-reaching implications for the young people of the islands. The first, and most visible, reflection of the ministry's efforts will be the creation and staffing of a Center for Youth and Family (CYF) on each of the three islands. This office will then coordinate activities aimed at children at risk and will include improvements in both systems and facilities for dealing with children taken into court protection, addiction, criminality, domestic violence but also an emphasis on prevention of problems before they begin.

Currently, due to its small size, Bonaire does not have sufficient capacity to deal with many of these issues and children often have to be sent to Curaçao for help or may not be able to receive needed services at all. This should change dramatically with the staffing of the CYF which is estimated to be approximately 40 full-time workers across the three islands. The ministry plans to focus on training and upgrading of local professionals over the next two years.

As Minister Rouvoet said during his meeting at Jong Bonaire, "one of our major goals in the transition period will be to assure that the correct facilities are in place when the final transition occurs." He went on to say that he plans to be sure that there is good cooperation between BES island organizations and their counterparts in the Netherlands.



■ Story and photo by Alan Gross

Bonaire Reporter- Feb.27-March 13, 2009

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know... why seals see well underwater? Think back to a time when you briefly opened your eyes underwater, without a mask. Do you remember what you saw? For humans, the sight would have consisted of a blurry blue haze with any objects present also appearing blurry. Humans, and their eyes, have evolved on dry land for many thousands of years. The cornea of the human eye is convex which, along with the oblong-shaped lens, allows the eye to focus light to a single point on the back of the eye. In water, light moves at a slower speed than in air. Without the lenses being able to compensate for the change, the human eye is unable to focus the light underwater, creating a blurred image.



On the other hand, seals have the ability to see objects clearly both underwater and on land. Unlike the human eye, the central region of the seal's cornea is flat. This allows light to pass through unchanged. However, the light needs some way of becoming focused. The seal's lens is a spherical shape with increased muscle attachments, allowing it to change shape more than a human's lens is able. Thus, seals use their lenses to focus light to a single point on the back of the eye, whether viewing an object on land or underwater. ■ Kara Kozak

Note: We used to have beautiful seals in our waters. Caribbean Monk Seals were unfortunately hunted to extinction in the mid-20th century." -Caren Eckrich

Kara Kozak is currently a senior at Simmons College located in Boston, Massachusetts. She will be graduating this spring with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. Currently, Kara is studying marine biology at the CIEE research station on Bonaire. After graduation, she hopes to continue on with her education in the area of veterinary medicine.



Jazz Fest Coming

The 5th Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival promises to be a great success. The Bonaire Jazz Foundation is organizing the 2009 Jazz Festival which will take place on June 4, 5, 6 and 7. A variety of music styles will be offered at different locations on the island as internationally renowned artists mingle with local jazz musicians. Considering the large number of well known jazz musicians who are interested in participating in this year's festival, it has become clear that Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival is now well known in the world of jazz.

As usual the Festival starts off at the cozy, romantic location of Fort Oranje on June 4 with the Jazz and Poetry evening, with presentations by Gabriël (Gebby) Saleh with his quartet, the Cabacao Trio, both local, that will break the ice for Denise Jannah, a vocalist of Surinamese/Dutch origin who was the main artist at the 2004 Festival.

On June 5 and 6 the two main concerts will take place at the Topsy Seagull of the Plaza Resort. The top attraction will be the world famous Monty Alexander Quartet from Jamaica which will present their homage to Bob Marley. Because Monty is so



well known many visitors are expected from outside Bonaire. The Hans Dulfer Band from the Netherlands will be performing, as will be Alfredo Naranjo y El Guajeo from Venezuela with his Latin Jazz Salsa Band, Denise Jannah with a quartet from Curaçao, and last but not least, The Dikazz Group and the Silver Bullet Steelband from Bonaire.

Like prior years Heineken is the title sponsor and the main sponsors for the event this year are: Littman's Jewelers, Rocargo & IFC, It Rains Fishes Restaurant, Telbo, Caribbean Homes and Yachts, Maarten Maartense, Plaza Resort Bonaire, Divi Flamingo Resort Bonaire, Bonaire Fun Travel, Ennia, Sense and MCB Bank Bonaire.

■ Bonaire Jazz Foundation

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Friday, February 27 Art Show Opening Renate van der Bijl "Moments in Time," at The Plaza Resort at 5:30 pm. All invited. The show will continue until April 13. See story on page 18.

Sunday, March 1 Art Show Opening Ronald Verhoeven at Kas di Arte at 5 pm. Exhibit will continue until April 3. Monday-Friday 10 am-12 noon, 2 to 7 pm. See story on page 18.

Sunday, March 1- Climb to the top of Seru Grandi with historian/naturalist Boi Antoin. Meet at 6:30 am at Lagoen Hill. Cost NAf 10 includes food and drink. Call 567-1055 or 796-3109 to sign up.

Sunday, 1 March- Jong Bonaire Fun Walk/Ride Starting at 6 am at Jong Bonaire 20k walk, 37 km bike. See story on page 12.

Sunday, 8 March- Benefit windsurf from Bonaire to Curaçao. See story on page 6.

Wednesday, March 11 - Open House at UniCollege for kids, 2 - 4 pm. More information on page 6.

Thursday, March 12 - Open House at Unicollège for parents, 7-9 pm

Sunday, March 28 - Earth Hour - 8:30 pm. WWF movement for climate change awareness. See page 3 for more information.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, usually 10 am to 2 pm

Fri., Feb. 27-*Enchantment of the Seas*

Tues., Mar. 3-*Venture*
Wed., Mar. 4-*Sea Princess*
Wed., Mar. 4-*Summit*
Fri., Mar. 5-*Ocean Village*
Mon., Mar. 9-*Aida Aura*
Wed., Mar. 11-*Caribbean Princess*

Fri., Mar. 13-*Enchantment of the Seas*

REGULAR EVENTS

- 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

- 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.

- Flea Market at Parke Publico every first Saturday of the month, 3 to 7 pm.** Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf10 per selling table. (NAf 5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissessar - 786 1592.**

- 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.

Mondays

- Soldachi Tours of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

Thursdays

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

Fridays

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

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

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

Tuesday-- Bonaire Land and Ocean presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff, 7pm on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condominiums.

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 Krioyo 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. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - 'Pirate House', above ZeeZicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crisita 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.

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

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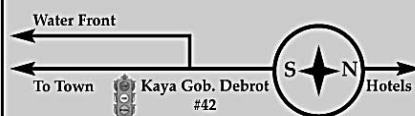
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Two Outstanding Art Openings

Ronald Verhoeven's Exhibit At Kas Di Arte

The artist Ronald Verhoeven will be exhibiting at Kas di Arte from March 1 to April 3. In all his paintings Bonaire is prominently present, and the subjects of his colorful paintings give evidence of his love for this island. Away from the touristic seashore Bonaire is unique. It breathes a power at the many quiet sites that assumes possession of you. This is what Verhoeven wants to express- the stones in different colors, the bizarre cactuses, the turbulent bokas and above all, the people who live here.

Verhoeven has been living in Bonaire since 1998. He regularly exhibits in Europe and his paintings are to be found at many art fairs. On his website, www.ronaldverhoeven.com, you will learn more about the artist and see some of his work.

Shortly after his arrival in Bonaire 10 years ago, he, along with a group of art lovers, founded an artistic center in support of local artists. This has become the Kas di Arte (formerly Artebon) Foundation. This exposition is Ronald Verhoeven's fourth on Bonaire, and it shows that his paintings in the course of the years have become more intense and colorful.

On Sunday, March 1, at 5 pm, Govern-

nor Glenn Thodé will open the exposition which will offer a toast, a snack and music.

The exposition will be open from March 1 to April 3. Monday to Friday, 10am-12noon and 2-7pm ■

Press release



Ronald

Renate van der Bijl's Exhibit at Plaza Resort



One of Bonaire's best loved artists, Renate van der Bijl, will open an exhibition of her new oil and acrylic paintings entitled "Moments in Time" at the Plaza Resort on Friday, February 27 at 5:30 pm.

Renate is an artist specializing in paintings of Bonaire's vivid beauty, focusing on local people, the sea, the animals and all elements of the island's traditional culture. A resident of Bonaire for 15 years her paintings hang in collections all over the world and grace private homes, yachts,

banks and businesses. On her website, www.bonairenet.com/renate/, you can find samples of her paintings.

The exhibition will be opened by Island Governor Glenn Thodé. All are welcome to the reception for a toast to the artist. The exhibition will run until April 15. ■ Press release



Renate

Smart Fish

In Bonaire, our trumpet fish like to read, That's the reason why Marine Park management places reading materials for them. ■



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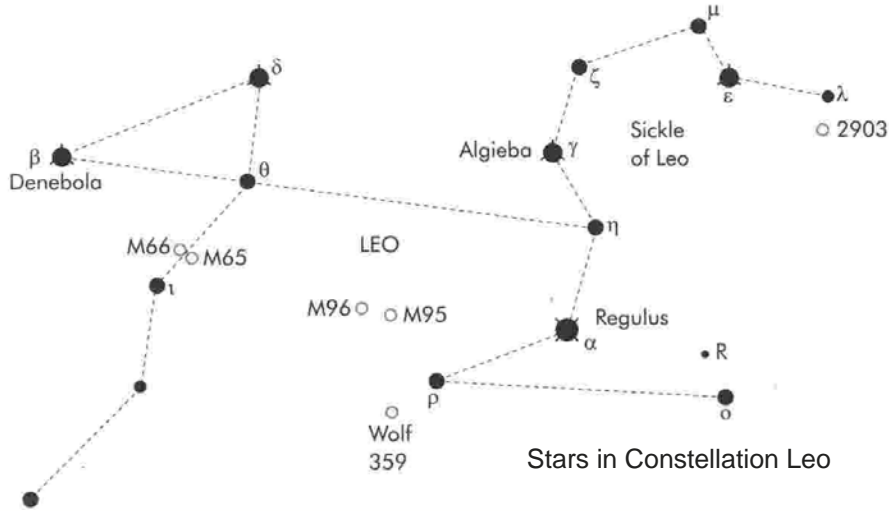
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What Does That Old Saying 'In Like A Lion Out Like A Lamb' Have To Do With The Cosmos?



Stars in Constellation Leo

You know I have always been fascinated by mythology and folk lore, especially phrases we learn during childhood and repeat all our lives and frequently have little or no idea where they came from. For instance everyone has heard that old phrase that "If March weather comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb," and vice versa. But have you ever wondered where that phrase comes from? Well my astronomical colleague has long suggested that maybe this phrase got its imagery from the heavens.

On Sunday, the first day of March, about 8 pm Sky Park time, if you're far from bright lights and if you go outside and look toward the northwest you will see the very dim stars that make up the constellation **Aries the Ram or Lamb**. But if you look in almost the opposite direction toward the northeast about the same height above the horizon you'll see the constellation **Leo the Lion**. So here we have two wonderful night sky images that match the phrase, a lion and a lamb, both about the same height above the horizon in early evening on the first of March.

But what will we see if we go out at the same time a month later on March 31st? Well, quite a different story, because on March 31st at 8 pm, the lion will be almost overhead and the lamb will be smack dab on the northwestern horizon. Now we all know that the weather at the end of March is usually milder than the weather at the beginning of March so our skies at 8 pm on the last day of March with the lamb setting supports the fact that March is going out like a lamb. However, if we turn our skies back to March 1st at 8.m we see that the lion is just rising, which lends support to the premise that March usually begins with fiercer weather, comes in like a lion so to speak. So perhaps long ago someone tied this all together noticing that on the 1st day of March Leo the Lion was just rising up into the heavens whereas at the end of March Aries the Ram was leaving them. And thus decided to poetically link both of them to the weather.

This March 2009, however, we can add a second cosmic meaning to that old phrase because also in the west just after sunset at the beginning of this March 2009 is the planet **Venus** at its greatest brilliancy, out dazzling everything in the sky except the **Moon** and the **Sun**. In fact it comes in at the beginning of March like a lion but as the month progresses, it loses half its brightness and starts vanishing into the sunset, going out like a lamb. Whatever, it's always fun to investigate old folk lore because there always seems to be a bit of truth involved. So here's hoping your March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*

StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

March-2009

Aries- Venus entered your sign in February, augmenting your overall charm and perhaps bringing gifts, money, and favors your way. This month, Venus moves "backwards," and it's time for introspection. Others may not be getting you--perhaps misunderstanding your intentions--for the time being. A partner may be distant. A New Moon on the 26th brings new discoveries and a feeling of newness to your life. Still, take your time before moving forward. The Full Moon on the 10th brings some chaos on the job front, but nothing you can't handle.

Taurus- You are likely to pull back a little, as you take the time to revise and perhaps question your plans. Matters from the past creep up and demand your attention. This is a good month in which to solve old problems and finally lay them to rest. Nevertheless, your public or professional life is quite busy, particularly in the first week of March. Friends are supportive. There is bound to be some drama in your romantic life, particularly around the 10th.

Gemini- Some complications surrounding friends and lovers are quite possible this month, and you're likely to find these people in your life dredging up old issues. Give others space. There's a lot of activity on the career front in March. While you begin the month in an adventurous mood, you quickly realize that there are a lot of responsibilities to take care of. Watch for pressure build-up on the 18.

Cancer- There are some wonderful and perhaps surprising opportunities that have to do with legal affairs, travel, or education this month, particularly around the 12-13 and 21-23. A relationship is reaching new depths of intimacy in March, and there's quite a bit of talk and activity that stimulate changes in how you approach each other, particularly in the first week of the month.

Leo- Your close personal relationships continue to take center stage in your life this month, dear Leo. A close partner could seem a little mysterious or even elusive, but this only serves to intrigue you more. It's a good month for deepening a connection, but do prepare yourself for some communication snafus. In fact, some surprising events surrounding shared possessions and funds, as well as intimate matters, are likely around the 12-13 and 21-23.

Virgo- There is likely to be quite a fuss over it in the first week of the month. The focus turns to a close partnership or friendship towards mid-month, when a special someone could be putting his/her cards on the table. It's a good month for redesigning your budget, but it's not strong for making big purchases.

Libra Work matters become increasingly into focus, and you are feeling more introspec-

tive. It's not that you lack confidence, but you tend to recognize the need to look within for answers. Questioning your plans is likely, and in fact quite necessary. Some disconnects in the love department are likely. Give them space, and give yourself space as well. Surprises on the job or regarding health are likely on the 12-13 and 21-23. The 11-12 also brings some fabulous news and highly motivating conversations.

Scorpio- You're moving towards a more playful and fun frame of mind in March. There could also be surprising turns of events surrounding creative projects, children, and family matters during these periods. Invitations to go out and have some fun should be grabbed. While love matters do pick up pace, some care is necessary when it comes to a close partnership. The 10th brings your obligations to friends or groups to light. Going over past errors or problems is likely on the job.

Sagittarius- While there are bound to be some surprises on the home front, particularly on the 12-13 and 21-23, your focus is on settling in and keeping the peace. The 10th brings the culmination of an important work project or a scurry of activity on the job. Events occur that highlight your responsibilities in your professional life. You might also take this time to re-assess your goals on a romantic level.

Capricorn- The month begins with continued attention to your personal finances. You have big ideas about how to increase your income. While you will continue to brainstorm about money-making endeavors in March, your attention also turns to learning, communicating, and networking. If a lover seems distant or a love affair appears to stall this month, it just means that it's time to reassess matters.

Aquarius- The first week of March is very busy for you, dear Aquarius. You are getting a lot of attention, and others are turning to you for advice. Money matters become a big focus from the 8th forward, and unanticipated events surrounding your personal finances are likely, particularly on the 12-13 and 21-23. Responsibilities to others, particularly on a financial level, become hard to ignore around the 10th. Creative projects could bring financial reward this month.

Pisces- March is a strong month for reassessing your finances and making a budget, dear Pisces, but it's not a favorable time for making important purchases. If you do make a big outlay, you are likely to regret it next month, so hold off if you can for the time being. It's better to hold on to your money now. From the 8th forward, you're getting a lot of attention. A partner has your wants and needs in mind, and work matters are favored. Your responsibilities to a special someone are hard to ignore around the Full Moon on the 10th. ■



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Donderdag 12 maart 19.00 – 21.00 uur: Ons team staat klaar om uw vragen te beantwoorden.

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