

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE July 3-24, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 14
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Fire Jumping
See page 6



Marco Di Gianvito photo

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Bonaire's repowering project is progressing. At the wind turbine site special specification concrete is being trucked in from a plant in Antriol for the ultra-strong bases of the machine. Each of the 12 turbines will be able to produce up to 0.9 MW. The total cost of the privately financed project which includes distribution lines and a bio-diesel power plant may reach \$40 million.

MAN photo



And progress the new WEB Man Diesel biodiesel power plant near BOPEC, located in the north of the island, is on schedule. Last week it had their *spantenbier* highest point party. (see photo above)

There are numerous developments as Bonaire and the other BES Islands progress towards closer ties with Holland. The arrangement is scheduled to be formalized next year:

► **Saba and St. Eustatius moved ahead with their preparations to become communities of the Netherlands without Bonaire.**



Bonaire Government Photo

► **The Bonaire Executive Council (known as the BC) forms the executive branch** of the government of Bonaire. The BC heads the departments that perform the governmental function for the citizens. This new coalition government was formed following the defection of Councilman Anthony Nicolaas from the ruling UPB Party. It includes:

Island Secretary Neery Gonzalez is responsible for the administrative functions of the Island Government.

Frensel Janga will manage DROB, the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, & Fisheries, Fire, Internal Affairs, Post & Archive and Housing.

Marugia S.M. Janga will be covering the Structural Status of the island, Public Health and Hygiene, Social Services, General and Legal affairs, and Information and Protocol.

Nolly Oleana will be responsible for Education, Sport & Culture, Domain Management, Environment, and Transport (including Telbo, Bonaire International Airpor and the Harbor).

Pancrasio "Pancho" B. Cicilia will cover Finances, Personnel, Economic & Labor Affairs, and Public Enterprises (excluding Telbo, SELIBON and Bonaire International Airport).

Governor Glenn A.E. Thodé is responsible for the Civil Registry, Election Commission, Disaster management and the non-criminal police force, the SSV. (Source: Island Government Release)

Saba and St. Eustatius education commissioners signed agreements for the eventual transfer of Education Department civil servants to the care of the Netherlands.

Bonaire did not sign a similar agreement because a new Executive Council had been installed just over a week ago and requested time to become acquainted with the constitutional process from within, as its members had been in the opposition for some time.

A Bonaire government leader pointed out that **the agreement had not been reviewed by the civil servants it affected, or their union.**

► **Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten has denounced the conduct of Bonaire's former Executive Council when it violated regulations by granting long lease land to a family member of a former island commissioner.**

Bijleveld-Schouten was responding to questions posed by Member of Dutch Parliament Hero Brinkman who raised questions in late May after reports in the media that nepotism was involved in the granting of land on Bonaire to a company that is said to be managed by a relative of a former commissioner.

The media based the story on a report by the General Audit Chamber of the Netherlands

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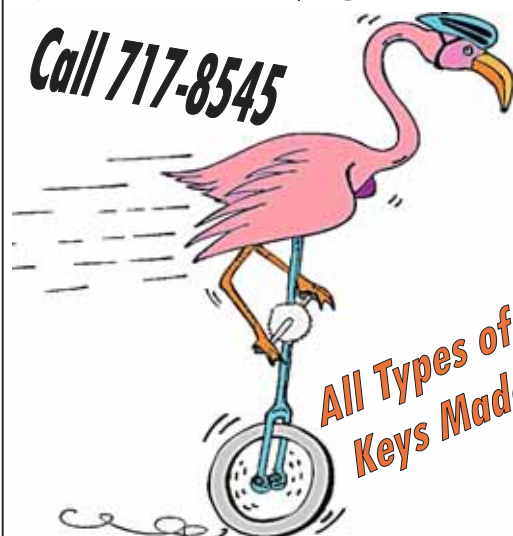
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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
Antilles.

The State Secretary said that the former UPB Executive Council created "at least the appearance of partiality and nepotism" and therefore violated the conditions of good governance.

Since then a new government has been formed on Bonaire and the UPB is no longer the governing party.

► Labor Party Member of Parliament John Leerdam has posed **several questions about the change of government in Bonaire and the possible effect that recent developments may have on relations with The Hague.**

Leerdam posed five questions to State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten asking **what she thought of the change of government in Bonaire**, where Jopie Abraham's *Aliansa Demokratiko Bonairiano* (ADB-Red) (Bonaire Democratic Alliance) and independent Island Council member Anthony Nicolaas had switched places with Ramonsito Booi's party *Union Patriotico Bonairiano* (UPB-Green) (Bonaire Patriotic Union).

► **The Dutch Council of Ministers will propose to the Second Chamber of the Dutch legislature that the police force and fire department on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba each have a single organization and administrator** who will report to the Dutch ministry. If passed, the law will become effective when the BES Islands become a Dutch municipality. The Dutch royal military police (the *Marechaussee*) will continue to play a role. The proposal will ask to permanently station *Marechaussee* to police Saint Eustatius and Saba and assist Bonaire police as well. The three governors of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba remain responsible for maintaining the public safety command concerning the fire department.

► **The improvement of health care in the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba** was one of the main points of discussion with Minister of Health Omayra Leeflang, said Dutch Health Minister Ab Klink last week. Klink said that 2009 and 2010 are "action years" during which the most urgent projects concerning the renovation and construction of hospitals and nursing homes are to be implemented. Klink said that **26 projects are in preparation**, ranging from new ambulances to a

new health care insurance plan for all citizens of the BES islands.

The projects cost NAf 66 million and will lead to 150 extra jobs in health care by the end of 2011. "When all these projects are finished the level of health care will really be a lot higher than now," the minister said.

Starting in 2011, all citizens of the BES islands will obtain health insurance similar to the one in the Netherlands. Due to the small scale of the islands, the AVBZ insurance for special medical assistance will be administered by the Regional Service Centers. **No separate taxes will be levied for health care and social security, Klink said.**

"The premiums will be incorporated into the general flat tax which will be levied in the BES islands," said Klink.



► **Political consultations were held last week between the Antilles Central Government and the BES islands** of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The delegations discussed various subjects, including the early transfer of tasks on the BES islands by the Netherlands and the status of civil servants.

Robby Beukenboom, Anthony Nicolaas, Maruja Janga and Johan Afman, represented Bonaire (see photo above)

► **Two infections of the "Mexican Influenza" H1N1 on Curaçao were confirmed** after samples of seven suspected cases came back from the Netherlands. The new cases have nothing to do with crew members whose samples were taken when the *Ocean Dream* cruise ship was in port there. No cases have yet been reported on Bonaire

► **Venezuela and Aruba quarantined the Spanish cruise ship Ocean Dream last week** after three crew members were diagnosed with the H1N1 flu virus from samples taken in Curaçao, while Barbados and Grenada had earlier refused to allow its passengers to disembark.

► **The Netherlands has taken an option on 34 million units of the vaccine** against the Mexican influenza, which is



► **On June 26 the Bonaire Lions Club held their installation dinner at the Divi Flamingo to present a variety of awards and introduce the officers.** In addition they presented contributions to the Foundations *Saka man Yuda*, *Sosial Edukativo Rincon*, *Dare to Care* and the airplane mechanics school. The new Board of Directors consists of:
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Tailtwister: **Calino Molina**
Tamer: **Hubert Nicolaas**
Directors: **Randolf Luciano, Francisco Soleana, Rolando Pourier and Ronald Schleper**

currently developing. Two vaccines per person (two vaccinations per person is required) within the entire Kingdom, which includes the Netherlands Antilles, and Aruba. The Netherlands will bear the costs.

Omayra Leeflang, Antillean Minister of Public Health, was pleased with the prospect that the Antilles will receive the vaccines. "This is very good news and also indicates the significance of the Kingdom organization."

► **The Antilles are not doing enough to combat human trafficking** stated an American government report. The Antilles were placed on a watch list along with 51 other countries, mainly in Africa and Asia. Sanctions will follow if there is no improvement within

two years. If a country is placed on a list by the US for two consecutive years, then sanctions will follow, such as loan rejection from the IMF or the World Bank. These sanctions are imminent for 17 countries, such as Cuba, Iran and North

Continued on page 8

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**On the Island Since...
July 21st, 2005 -**

Jan Brouwer

“When I was studying Dutch language and literature my dad saw an ad in the paper asking for a Dutch teacher for the Roman Catholic Central School Board in Curaçao. I’d never been there or in any other part of the tropics, but I went because all my life I’d wanted to live somewhere between 40 degrees latitude North and 40 degrees latitude South.

I arrived on Curaçao July 21st, 1982. I was 25. For more than 10 years I worked as a teacher at the Radulphus College and at the Maria Immaculata Lyceum. Both my children - my daughter Amber and my son Victor - were born during that period of time.

After 10 years I was a resident admitted by law, and according to that status I had Antillean rights. And then I went back to Holland. Why? Because of the kids and the fact that all their grandparents lived in Holland and because ‘people’ told me ‘you should change jobs now and then.’ And... also it comes to a point that you have to make a decision whether you’re going to stay on the island forever or not. But I left with tears in my eyes and I returned to Curaçao every three years for vacation.

We lived in Holland for 12 years. I was teaching Dutch at high schools and was involved in adult education. I wrote about art and culture in a newspaper and organized art exhibitions. We had a nice house by a river.

Then the mother of my children applied for a job as an English and Dutch teacher at high

the islands. I wanted to live in Holland. I didn’t want a life in between. That night the mother of my children and I went out for a walk, aimlessly roaming the streets. I felt a lot of hesitation and I didn’t know what to decide. We went to consult some friends who’d also lived in the Antilles and after four hours I decided

“I kiss the tarmac every time I land on Bonaire. This island is the best of all the six Dutch Antilles – absolutely!”

schools on Curaçao and Bonaire. She got a telephone call asking that she confirm within 24 hours that she would take the job on Bonaire. Everybody was happy, but I thought I was going to have a heart attack. I’d seen lots of people drifting between the islands and Holland and it seemed they were lost between the continents. I didn’t want that: feeling that you are where you don’t want to be, always the romantic agony – happiness is there where you’re not. I had peace, knowing I was from two countries – living in Holland but also belonging to

‘Okay, let’s go!’

It took me three months to complete the emigration process and once we were here it took me four months to finalize the immigration. The four of us were living between carton boxes in a very humble house at Seroe Suit, Subi di Rincon, but the moment I arrived here it felt immediately right. Every day I went on and off the hill on my motorbike to arrange for all the papers and the mortgage on the house in Hato that we were going to buy and where I still am. November 23rd, 2005 we got the house in Hato.



Jan Brouwer

I threw myself into all the work that had to be done. That’s how I am, I plunge into something and I make progress. I want to make it beautiful and functioning. I’m doing my utmost best... within my limitations.” Jan Brouwer is a sweet guy; he has his own philosophy on life and that makes

him absolutely not ‘the boy next door.’ He’s a good man; outgoing, caring, helpful and adventurous, but also a sensitive, romantic soul.

“Two years ago the mother of my children and I separated. It was a painful experience, but I

(Continued on page 5)

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On the Island Since
(Continued from page 4)

stayed on the island, I remained in the house and I survived. My daughter was already studying in Holland and my son stayed off and on with his mom and with me. This month he's also leaving for Holland and I feel he's ready for it. He's going to study space ship and airplane design in Delft. He's got his driver's license and he's driving as many miles as possible now, to get experience. I am confident about him and I know he's going to do well. I trust my kids; they're good people, absolutely.

I found my place in the community again by starting to write for *The Reporter*, my own column, 'Bonaire on Wheels,' and I see it as my contribution to society. I am a burnt out teacher who had a serious motor accident and I'm still dealing with the consequences. I'm not a macho man, but I do like men's stuff. I own a sailboat and I love to dive, I have an air rifle and I have a Land Rover which I've owned since 1987. It was made in England, and it sailed to Curaçao and back to the Old World and now it's on Bonaire, so it crossed the ocean three times. I also have an off-road motorcycle. Those are my fun things, but I also work with them. They're my work horses, not spotless and shiny, they're a bit battered but... good!" *He laughs.* "I'm not such a tough guy, because if I was, I would have a Harley!

The first time I came to Bonaire was in 1985. There was no marina and the boulevard was a simple road. I lived for a couple of weeks in the old Bonairean house that's now part of 'Rains Fishes' restaurant and I drove my off road motor cycle

through Washington Park when it was still allowed. And although I will always love Curaçao, I kiss the tarmac every time I land on Bonaire.

This island is the best of all the six Dutch Antilles – absolutely! For the main part it's still unspoiled and original. I love wandering through the outback, and after four years I still haven't seen everything. I walk, I hike, I go on my mountain bike, my motor bike or with my Land Rover and I still haven't found all the caves or climbed all the hills, but I did Mount Brandaris in bare feet!

As I have an eye for detail, I see more and I see it differently, so... I'm always amazed... And although I am not a Bonairean by birth, I feel completely comfortable and at home. I speak Papiamentu fluently and I don't feel like a foreigner at all. Many times people ask me – with doubt in their voice – if I am a *Makamba*, because they can't figure me out. I go everywhere and I talk to everyone about everything, and the older the people are and the more remotely they live, the better it gets!

I have a lust for life and I don't need



Jan with his ocean-crossing Land Rover



Jan and Willeke van Egmond

much, and because I don't need many things I also don't need to make a lot of money and that gives me oceans of time. To me Bonaire feels like... it's perfect, but terms like 'forever' or 'never' are difficult for me. That's what life teaches you." *He smiles.*

"In September 2008 I met Willeke van Egmond here on Bonaire. We talked a lot and for long hours and after 10 days we decided to stay together for the next 48 years. I told you, I plunge into things... and so does she! We're both 52 and we're not going to waste our life and yes, we will get to know each other along the way. I want to live life to the fullest. Willeke has more guts than I. She sold her house in Holland, she sold her car, quit her job, packed her cats and left for Bonaire to be with me, so... I feel she's superior to me when it comes to being daring. I made the decision from my custom-made Adirondack chair and I didn't have to move or change anything. She had the guts to do it.

I'm happy to share my life with her and I'm okay with everything she wants to change, because she moved into my life, but it has to become her life too. We're taking it slow. We get up in the morning and have breakfast together and then we take the day as it comes. Sometimes we go to Rincon, sit down at a snack, we talk to the old men, we eat a *lumpia* and we have a beer and we go to the landfill to bring something or to find something." *He laughs.*

"Yeah, for some people Bonaire can be very boring because there's nothing to do – you have to do it yourself. I've just entered through the door of a new life and both Willeke and I are determined to make the best of it. I'm going on, but I'm not in a hurry..." ■

Story & photos by
Greta Kooistra



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Holy Fire Jumping!

It's an annual tradition in Bonaire every June: San Juan and San Pedro Days. This year the festivities for San Juan were celebrated at the house of artist Nochi Coffie in Rincon last Wednesday, June 24. San Pedro was celebrated at the home of Doei Diaz last Sunday, June 28. There's always music, dancing, food and drink and the most exciting windup at the end of the evening is the fire jumping. A cactus wood tower is lit and the fire jumping begins.

What started as a pagan ceremony for the initiation of young boys before they became men has now been incorporated into the church calendar, according to Hubert Vis, Director of SKAL. It is usually the men who jump the fire to show their courage. However, a story goes that once there was a woman called Dina Baro who wanted to show that she could jump as well as the men but unfortunately her skirts caught on fire, Vis relates.

During the festivals musicians playing traditional instruments like the kuarta, the wiri and the guitar visit all their friends named Juan or Pedro in the barrio singing, "Open your door. It's your saint's day."

Juan or Pedro is expected to come out and offer everyone rum. According to Hubert Vis, the singers start in the evening and go around the clock. ■ L.D.



Marco Di Gianvito photo



Marco Di Gianvito photo



Herman van Leeuwen photo

Dia di San Pedro at Doei Diaz's House in Playa

On San Juan night Nochi Coffie clears the high flames

Songstress Izaline Calister helps STCB

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is releasing a series of educational radio announcements that inform the public about sea turtles and why their conservation is important. Izaline Calister, a renowned Antillean jazz singer, has volunteered her talent and voice for the series, "Did You Know..." Izaline's smash hit, "Hé Le Le" provides the music background for the 30-second announcements. She also announces the introduction and ending of each spot. In between, announcer Chris Richards from Curaçao delivers the specific message for each spot. Music composer and sound recordist Jan de Kruijff from Amsterdam directed Cal-



PR photo

ister's recording session in the Netherlands in March. All donated their talent, time and energy to this important project. "We could not have done this series without their gracious help," explains STCB manager Mabel Nava. "We are very thankful. These public service announcements will be distributed in Papiamentu and English." Distribution begins this month to radio stations in all five islands of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. The series is designed to inform the island residents of the importance of sea turtles to our environment and economy. Special thanks to these Bonaire stations for agreeing to broadcast the series as a public service: Bon FM and Mr. Bubui Cicilia; Mega FM and Ron Gijzen and Sean Patton; Voz Di Bonaire and Feliciano Piloto. ■ Press release/Mabel Nava

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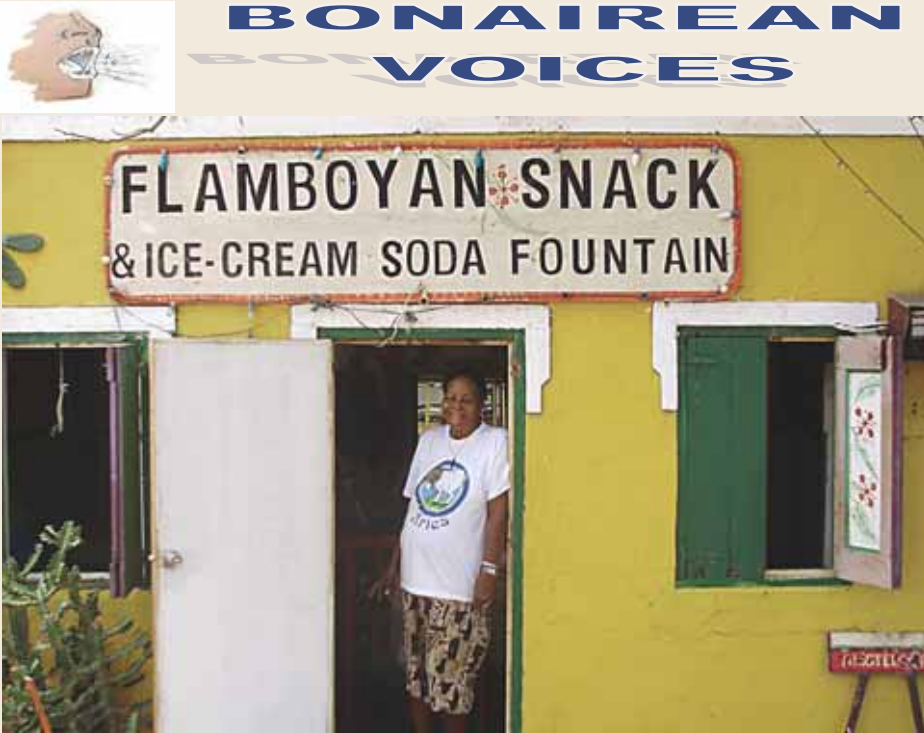
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THE BONAIREAN BUSINESS, PART III

Maybe you've been in Rincon a number of times and visited some of those snack bar-restaurants there. But did you ever stop at the soda fountain "Flamboyant Snack" on Kaya Rincon 74? It's owned and managed by Mrs. Deogracia Figaroa-Sint Jago (76), known as "Gacha" or "Mama Gacha," mother of six daughters and one son. Mama Gacha started with the business in 1975, selling the famous ice cream in the Antilles, Ritsz ice cream. The quality of Ritsz ice cream is the best. Ritsz was sold to Lovers ice cream company which still maintains the taste and high quality of this ice cream. As it was the only snack in Rincon in those early years they sold food too. In the 80s when BOPEC (Bonaire Petroleum Company) started Mama Gacha had to cook for the BOPEC workers. In this business the whole family was involved because cooking for a company and for other people beside this company was a lot of work. She taught her children how to cook so they could help her in the afternoons and on weekends. "We were selling food from 12 noon until 1 am," she said. "Yes, we had some workers who, when they finished work at the casino, came straight to the 'Algenasharofa Snack' to get their food. That name was made up from the names of my six daughters who were helping me in the snack. Because of all the money we were earning we could afford to do a little expansion.

We changed the name to 'Fabiola Snack,' after my youngest daughter. We rented films to people and we had a nice sitting area at the house where customers could sit and watch television, especially the World Cup championships while they were eating and drinking.

Those were good times. I was not working another job and had no government pension back then. But still I earned enough money so I could go on vacation

with my children to the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Venezuela, Aruba, Sint Maarten and to Holland.

Back in the 80s, little by little, there were more new snacks and things started changing. In 2000 we changed the name again to 'Flamboyant Snack' and we invested in new appliances like new freezers, etc.

Money management is very important. Although I like to travel with my family I must save money to invest in my business. Today is not like the past. The children have grown up and have their own jobs and families. I still cook, but only on Saturdays. During the week I still sell my ice cream, jonny cakes and candies from 7 in the morning to 3pm. After 3 I'm closed, to take care of the household myself. Plus everything is getting expensive. Thanks to the government pension I have a little more income.

The Ritsz ice cream products, today Lovers, are changing their prices. From some wholesalers you can get the products and pay at the end of the month. But from others you need to pay cash right away otherwise you can't get the products. You have to manage your money and buy wisely. Look for where you can get it at a lower price.

I built this snack with a lot of effort and dedication. For 34 years I've fought to keep and continue the business. I hope one of my daughters will take it over. I just renewed my business permit for five more years. It's very hard to get permission for businesses nowadays, so once you have it you must keep it." ■

Story & photo by Siomara E. Albertus

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



Fundashon Nrd Braves Uniforms Baptism

On June 19 Leopold "Apo" Melaan, co-founder with Mr. Eddy Thielman of the Nrd Braves softball team, spoke at the baptism on the new Braves uniform at the office of their new sponsor, NAGICO Insurance. He explained why sponsorship, like that provided by Nagico and the team's other main sponsors, JC Herrera and MiTV, are so important, "... To start a team is easy, but maintaining a team is a challenge and a brings a lot of pressure, especially a team that is at the top. To keep a team you must meet the goals of the players. They are the ones who make the plays to win games and make the team popular. That's why we have to give back to the players. One way is to make sure every year we travel with the team on a social trip or a tournament. For the last 10 years we participated in the ABC cup tournament and the last five years we got to different semi-finals and in 2006 we became sub-champions of the ABC cup in Aruba.



Dino and Mary Laurenzi, photo

But also our organization or foundation has expenses: Softball bags cost \$30 each, softball shoes \$150 each, a complete uniform for 25 players is \$2,300. Also we hope the doors will open for more sponsors, companies and businesses who can give the team a helping hand. We, as the Board of the Foundation Nrd Braves, appreciate and are more than happy that you can give us a hand. And we will make sure to give you as our sponsors high visibility by doing our best on the softball field. ■ Siomara Albertus

Want to help the team? Call "Apo" Melaan at 526-0557

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Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 3)

Korea, but also Saudi and Kuwait. The worst transgressors on the list are countries such as Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Eritrea and Swaziland.

► **The US and Venezuela will soon reinstate ambassadors** expelled in a diplomatic spat last year, a sign of warmer relations between President Hugo Chavez and what he calls the US "empire." Leftist Chavez has toned down his strident criticism of US foreign policy since Barack Obama took office in January, partly because the US president is popular in Latin America in contrast to his predecessor George W. Bush. Obama, in turn, has pledged to engage with countries considered problematic by the US. Venezuela, one of the US' top crude oil suppliers, said its envoy would be back in Washington this week. A source at the US State Department said Ambassador Patrick Duddy will return to Caracas, but did not say when. Along with his close friend Fidel Castro of Cuba and other Latin American leaders, Chavez often says he respects Obama.

► **News that the Valero Oil Refinery in San Nicolas, Aruba, is closing down for three months** due to expected losses sent shockwaves through the Aruba community last month. Consumers in Aruba are seeking alternate supplies. Valero provides the jet fuel to Bonaire's Flamingo airport.

► **TV network NBC's business news channel said statistics show low crime and violence on the Dutch ABC islands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao), putting them on a list of the world's safest places to travel.** Crime rates on the three islands are low; political unrest is virtually unknown; they're too far south for hurricanes; and in 2008, the trio ranked lowest in the Caribbean in felonious incidents against visiting yachts. It is unfortunate that some Caribbean islands' reputation for violent

► *Secundaire Beroepsopleiding* (Secondary Vocational Training), SBO, is a recent innovation in Bonaire and an important addition to the island.

SBO students graduated last week.

Top student graduate Joan-na Senchi and helper Tamara Wanga



Herman van Leeuwen photos

Natalie Adamus received her Level 1 from FORMA Director Inge Berben

crime and the high-profile Natalie Holloway case in Aruba give the general public the opposite impression.

A recent World Health Organization study named the **Ireland the least violent country in Europe. Colombia, South Africa and Jamaica almost always rank among the world's most dangerous destinations.**

The US is the least safe of the big Western nations.

► **The increase of tourism, tourist accommodations and luxury home construction is threatening the existence of bats living in the caves of Bonaire.** There are fewer than 500 bats left of the three or four species on the island. The colonies are also being disturbed because people visit the caves more frequently. Anna Rojer of the Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity, Carmabi on Curaçao, stated this in a report from 2008. Stinapa Bonaire is very shocked about the report and raised its concern. See more about Bonaire's bats on page 18.

► **The Fundashon Kuido pa Bista i Oido (Sight and Hearing**



Care Foundation) would like to thank all who contributed to their recent fund raising campaign. The proceeds will enable the foundation to realize various programs that assist people with those problems. **A total of NAf 5.921 was raised.** Contributions put in collection boxes in the following businesses helped a great deal:

Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. Playa & Hato; Fruteria Caché; Optica Antilliana; Nos Orkon; Karibe Supermarket; The Island Supplier; Kerki Protestant; UTS/Chippie; Carniceria Latino; Manrique Capriles; Lovers Ice Cream (next to Subway); Panaderia Seruva; Caribbean Laundry; More for Less Supermarket and The Xavier

Medical School.

Fundashon *Kuido pa Bista i Oido* has its office Kaya Mgr. Nieuwindt # 3 (next to the clinic of Dr. Dorvil in Tera Cora). It's open for consultation from 9 to 11am or call 717-5765. After hours 785-0518 or 717-8171.

► **The price of fuel has gone up effective July 1.** Expect to pay more than before:

Gasoline 92 NAf 1,88/lt.
Gasoline 95 NAf 1,92/ lt.
Kerosene NAf. 0,96/ lt.
Diesel NAf. 0,931 lt.
Propane 100 lbs. NAf1. 43,48
Propane 20 lbs. NAf1. 9,67

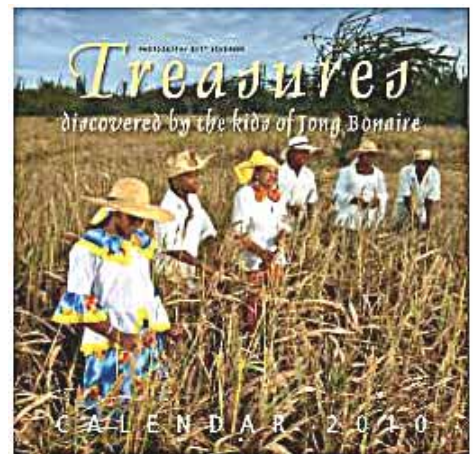
► **Correction** to an item in the previous *Reporter* (#13):

The date the "The Guesthouse Accord" (*Akuerdo di Pasanggrahan*) was signed was **Friday, June 12**, not July 13 as printed.

► **Welcome advertisers Brugman Kitchen and Bedrooms and Bonaire Second Home Care.**

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► **Thanks for reading *The Reporter* and visiting our adver-**



► Get on the list now for what is sure to be the **top Bonaire Calendar** for 2010. It's the Jong Bonaire calendar focusing on the island's cultural heritage and is titled: *Treasures discovered by the kids of Jong Bonaire*. The price this year is US\$ 10 each and the calendars will be available at the beginning of September. To purchase calendars or to arrange a meeting to see the full calendar, please contact: jongbonaire@sunspotsbonaire.com or call 786-1357. It's perfect for yourself or a gift or for your clients.

BonQuiz #10



A symbol of a country's identity is shown proudly in their flag. The idea of the flag of Bonaire started out as a request by the Executive Council of Bonaire to the people of the Netherlands Antilles, and on January 2, 1979, a commission consisting of 12 persons was formed to come up with a flag for the island of Bonaire. On December 11, 1981, this design was accepted by the Lt. Governor of Bonaire.

Question: Which flag symbol is also seen in the Bonaire Coat of Arms?

Answer on page 16

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 or email: christie-dovale@hotmail.com.



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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 12.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

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

Artists' Summer School

KEES LEEMAN, CREATOR
Artist and teacher Kees Leeman is having a summer camp for artists at his kunuku in Rincon. This multi-talented artist (he's an award winning chef as well) is opening his kunuku and open air studio on Sundays for classes in many disciplines – clay, painting, wood carving, acrylics. "The main thing," Kees says, "is that we have fun with art." Students spend the day – from 10 am 6 pm with lunch which Kees will prepare for the lucky students.

Kees, a teacher at the SGB hotel school, has been on the island for more than 20 years, and his work can be found in many collections.



Kees demonstrates some techniques

and fellow artists to please teach some classes for them. He's finally agreed. For NAf 100 you may spend the day in a magical place, get inspired, create something special, have a wonderful lunch alfresco and work with a gifted and articulate artist.

For more information you may email Kees at KeesLehman@telbonet.an or call him at 786-3846. ■ L.D.



↑ Dine al fresco surrounded by nature and art.

Kees shows his work in "The Sorcerer's Garden" →

He's crafted lamps, mirrors, tables, many from recycled materials. His kunuku is a veritable gallery of his work. He's been urged by many of his friends



Primary School Students Entering the SGB High School in August

Elementary School	VWO/HAVO Course of study	TKL ↑	PKL ↗	PBL →	AGO ↘	Total Students
Kolegio Reina Beatrix	9	12	12	6	1	40
Kolegio San Bernardo	9	3	7	9	0	28
Kolegio Papa Cornes	24	16	12	11	0	63
WATAPANA (Rincon)	0	0	0	6	6	12
Aquamarin School	3	1	0	0	0	4
Pelikaan School	5	1	1	0	0	7
Kolegio Louis Bertrand	4	6	11	2	0	23
Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador	12	20	16	7	1	56
Total 2009 New students	66	59	59	41	8	233
Proportion	28,3%	25,3%	25,3%	17,6%	3,4%	
Total 2009 New students	66	59	59	41	8	233
Proportion	28,3%	25,3%	25,3%	17,6%	3,4%	

The Pelikaanschool Five Years Old!



Pelikaanschool photo

The Pelikaanschool, the first successful private primary school in Bonaire, celebrated its first lustrum on June 19th with games at the playground, a drama by teachers and parents and a great picnic with everyone together at Sunset Beach. The children created art with driftwood as shown in the above photo.

Principal Wilma Bohm-Sandig, an educator with experience in Holland and Bonaire, started in 2004 with 25 children. Now the school has 138 students of 10 different nationalities.

The education system is child oriented and is related to Bonaire's 'foundation based education.' But the difference is the instruction language is in Dutch rather than Papiamentu.

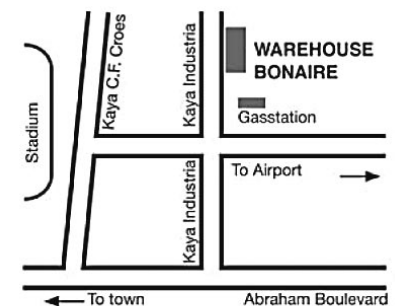
The school is getting good results from its students and is a high quality operation said education inspectors of Holland after a recent visit.

The school doesn't receive any subsidy from the local government. It appears unfair since a few years ago they reached the number of students to qualify. That means that the parents still have to pay a significant amount of money for tuition. At this moment the Pelikaanschool has two locations along Kaya Amsterdam. Currently there are plans underway to build a new school. ■ Press Release



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15 Years of Marine Life Changes

IT HAD TO BE DISCUSSED ONE OF THESE DAYS: CHANGES I'VE SEEN IN BONAIRE'S MARINE LIFE IN THE LAST 15 YEARS.

Going through my dive logs from the mid-90s, I couldn't help but notice the **frogfish** and **seahorse** situation back then: I found frogfish and seahorses on just about every dive, regardless of whether I was diving the Pier or a reef. My logs are filled with sentences like, "... couldn't find Smoke the frogfish but found Tangerine [another frogfish] in his usual place," or "while we all looked at the seahorse I found last week, we saw a second one not too far away!" During those years, a special part of my dives was visiting "Captain Don," a big spotted **moray** who resided in the same pipe near the Pier for more than four years. Another spotted moray friend lived in an engine block mooring off the Boy Scout house for several years. When those morays left, in the late 1990s, other morays occasionally moved in, but they never stayed for more than a day or two. In fact, neither of those habitats has had a moray resident in the last decade.

While I was paying close attention to critters such as morays, I wasn't paying much attention to the other fish until I began taking fish surveys for REEF a few years ago. Although I record coney and graysbys on almost every dive, it's rare that I see any other groupers. When I first came to Bonaire in 1980, a curious marbled **grouper** lived around the wreck off Habitat, posing for everyone's photos. The marbled grouper shared the wreck (and the modeling responsibilities) with at least one tiger grouper, who always seemed to be getting cleaned. I haven't seen a marbled grouper or heard of one being seen in more than 20 years.

Diving the tropical Pacific in the 1990s, it tickled me that the **cornetfish** we saw were so small, each less than a half-meter in length. "On Bonaire," I'd tell fellow divers on the liveaboard, "our cornetfish are much bigger!" That was the 1990s. I've been doing fish surveys since 2001, and I've only seen one big cornetfish and three small ones in those eight years.

Some of the invertebrates are fading away, too. In the 80s, when I wanted to find leathery **nudibranchs**, I simply scanned the Pier pilings at night. It usually took less than half an hour to find a pair of these glorious red-orange nudis. Somewhere in the 90s I stopped seeing them at all. There are fewer **crinoids** (feather stars) than there used to be on our, and all Caribbean, reefs. The olive snail I saw last week was the first I've seen in years.

We know that many morays on Bonaire's reefs succumbed to disease last year. No cause for the disease is yet known, although Jerry Ligon, on the Bonaire Dive and Adventure website (www.bonairediveandadventure.com), mentions that Bonaire had another bout of **moray disease** in 1995. There's also a possibility such a kill occurred on other islands. Information is still being sought; when the picture is complete a solution may be possible.

Why are there fewer big groupers? One answer to that question begins with reproductive biology: **Nassau groupers** congregate in huge numbers for group spawnings, and modern fishers know where and when the congregations take place. It's horrible but not surprising that more than one-third of known Caribbean grouper aggregation sites are now inactive (according to the Grouper Moon Project info on REEF's website, www.reef.org). Also, groupers change sex as they grow, changing from females to males. The larger ones are more often caught, which means that the males are more likely to be taken. A population with few individuals of one sex can't very well be a breeding population.

Bonaire's coral reefs have been protected longer than just about any in the world, so we have a fantastic beginning at dealing with modern coral reef problems. However (you knew that was coming), modern problems can't be kept away. Fairly recently, scientists found traces of battery chemicals in Bonaire's waters, at the southern salt pans (if I remember correctly). They concluded that these poisons had leached from **batteries in our landfill**. We need to remember that trash ends up in the landfill, and much that's poisonous about the trash will work its way through this small island and into the sea.

To help keep batteries out of our landfill (and thus away from our reefs) Bonaire dive operators have been collecting used batteries, then passing them on to departing guests who bring them back to their own countries for proper hazardous waste disposal. We need to remain faithful with this system until Bonaire has a better way of dealing with **hazardous waste**. We also need to get a better way of dealing with hazardous waste.



"Captain Don" was very comfortable when I gently stroked his jaw.



Dive instructor Sue Weller interacts with "Captain Don," the moray. Divers enjoyed visiting "Captain Don" for several years.



Sponge crabs are seen less often than they used to be, also.

There's a theory that last year's moray deaths were a result of human disease passed into the sea via **sewerage**, which Bonaire doesn't yet treat. Even if the theory about the source of the moray disease is incorrect, the following is true: we have sewage leaching into the sea around Bonaire. Our resident human population is increasing and our visiting human population is increasing. All those people deposit their diseases into our waters. That can't be healthy for the fish and other sea creatures – heck, even if folks don't care about the fishies, shouldn't they be concerned that our drinking water is desalinated from that same sea water?

So, what changes have I seen? Fewer types of fish. Fewer big fish. Fewer **nudibranchs**, snails, crabs, anemones. More bleached, diseased, and dead corals. The Carib Inn's Linda Baker was the first person ever to complete 1,000 fish surveys for REEF, and thus was the first member of REEF's Golden Hamlet Club, which still has fewer than 10 members. Linda said she's definitely seeing fewer

types of fishes, including "hardly any really unusual fish anymore."

Whining clearly isn't working; what else can we do about it?

The best solutions must be global ones, because most of the problems -- overfishing, overdevelopment, warming -- are global. We can help with **global solutions** by writing to legislators and others in favor of pro-environmental action, by voting in favor of environmental action, and by donating cash and/or time to environmental organizations.

But it's all so impersonal, isn't it?

I'm a big believer in **hands-on, proactive, personal diving**. I've been lucky enough to see how people's attitudes change when they're involved in physically, personally *helping*. The more time we spend helping the reef creatures (or any other creatures), the more special they become to us.

If proactive diving appeals to you – remember that this will change your life, so it's not a decision you should make lightly – there are wonderful options on Bonaire.

There are ways you can help through the Bonaire National Marine Park, including ongoing projects as well as once- or twice-a-year events. Contact them at marinepark@stinapa.org to get on the volunteers contact list. Also contact the **Marine Park at 717-8444 if you find something underwater that is damaging or poisoning the environment**, such as a large piece of storm debris on a coral head, or a newly discarded lead-acid battery.

Once a quarter on Bonaire, **NetTech and Dive Friends co-sponsor a clean-up dive** and barbecue afterwards, a great way to begin proactive diving – although, happily, there's never a whole lot of new debris on Bonaire's reefs. You can keep your eyes open for new debris on every dive, by the way. Make sure no critter has moved in, jam the debris into your BC pocket, and bring it up for proper disposal. I picked up a plastic cup yesterday, and before I could take out the small net bag I call my Pocket Cleaner Station, my buddy Quila Bell brought out her own small net bag – the first time, ever, that I found someone else prepared to carry trash!

STCB periodically schedules **beach cleanups** to help prepare our shorelines for lady turtles coming ashore to nest. Although the cleanups aren't underwater, the creatures who benefit include marine creatures, so we can't leave this out.

I asked Linda if she could think of any critters we see more of now, and she remembered the **spotted eagle rays**. We're seeing more of them, more often, these days. Will there be other critters we see more often? It's partly up to us. ■

Story & photos by Dee Scarr.

Underwater naturalist Dee Scarr is the recipient of numerous awards for her coral reef conservation efforts. Her "Touch the Sea" guided dives are legendary. Catch her multimedia show at Captain Don's Habitat Resort Mondays at 8:30pm.





2009 Parrot Watch

Lora Chicks Arrive



Rhian Evans photo

Actual in-nest camera photo

Time flies on Bonaire. A lot of people have told me this and it is true. It seems like yesterday that I was writing about our newly hatched chicks and sometime in the distant future they would be so big there would be no space for their mother in the nest as well. For some of the nests, this has already happened. The defenceless little pink chicks are now wide-eyed and feisty and are so heavy that we are no longer able to weigh them with our regular weighing scales. When the chicks are small we are able to put them in an ice cream or yoghurt tub and weigh them on a set of digital scales (a great excuse to eat plenty of ice cream early in the season). For some of the chicks, these tubs just don't seem to cut it anymore. The chicks are too big. Maybe it's time to "super-size" the ice cream?

This is not the case for all of our nests. In some areas there are still eggs waiting to hatch. The onset of breeding tends to be synchronised in different areas. For example, pairs nesting in Washington-Slagbaai National Park might lay their eggs a week or so earlier or later than pairs nesting outside the Park in a different area. At the moment, we don't know the reason for this, but as the research continues into the biology of the Loras, we hope to better understand these trends.

The first chicks to hatch this year are now entering their period of fastest growth. When they first hatch they grow slowly for a short while until they reach a point after about two weeks when their growth rate increases rapidly. This is when their eyes and ears open, their feathers begin to appear and soon enough they will look like real Loras!

I can't write this article without at least a mention of this year's record-breaking nest where five fertile eggs

were laid. The good news is that all five eggs hatched and for a while it was rather crowded in there to say the least. We kept a close eye on this nest to make sure that the youngest chick was being fed sufficiently, but the mother seemed to be feeding the smallest chicks more than the bigger ones. This shows us that the adult parrots selectively feed the chicks as opposed to feeding the biggest who can compete better than their weaker siblings for the mother's attention. Sadly, on our previous visit to the nest, it appears that one of the chicks has disappeared. There is no evidence of what might have happened to this chick, and no sign of a struggle. This has happened at a few other nests this year and in the past three years, but we've never been able to explain it. The mystery remains. We will be monitoring the remaining four closely in the next few weeks, as now they are at the most vulnerable time of their lives. ■

Rhian Evans

Ms Evans is a Biologist from University of Birmingham UK. She is in her second year of studying the Loras on Bonaire.



Nest-Check bicycle provided by DeFreewieler Scooter and bike sales and repair



Sam Williams photo

Lora weighing

Stichting Project Success



Last Friday the youngsters of Stichting Project officially closed the school year 2008-2009. The kids received their certificates in front of many proud parents. Some of the youngsters will move on to continue their studies at the SGB high school, others will move on to

FORMA and some will move on to the next phase at Stichting Project.

The night was closed with a group photo, and a nice meal cooked by the kids themselves. Congratulations to all the kids, and good luck in your further studies! ■

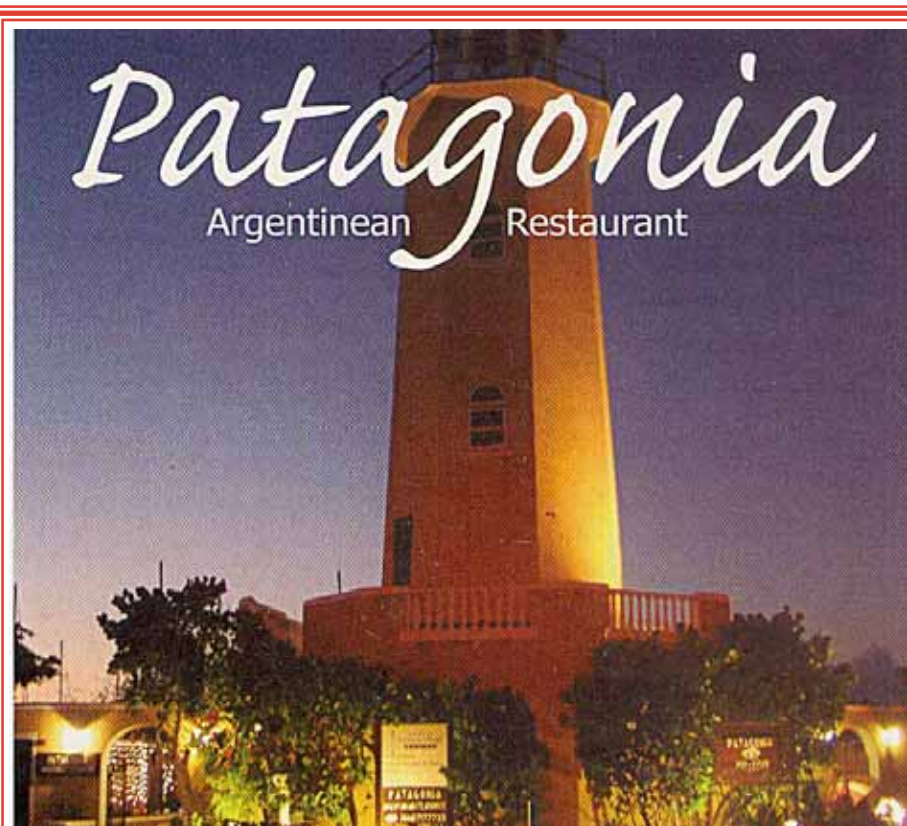
Press release

Over the last 12 years, Warehouse Bonaire has given away more than 1,200 Regatta T-shirts. This year they invited all the SGB students to compete in a T-shirt design contest. The five lucky ones won a 4GB media player. The overall winner **Meralney Bomba**, will also have her design on this year's T-shirt.

The four runners up were: Stephany Wilsoe / Vera Ghazzouli / Erain Wanga and Christina. ■pr



Lukas Besseling (Warehouse Bonaire supermarket manager) awards the prizes to the winners.



Owned and operated by Pablo Palacios and family
Creators of Argentine cuisine on Bonaire

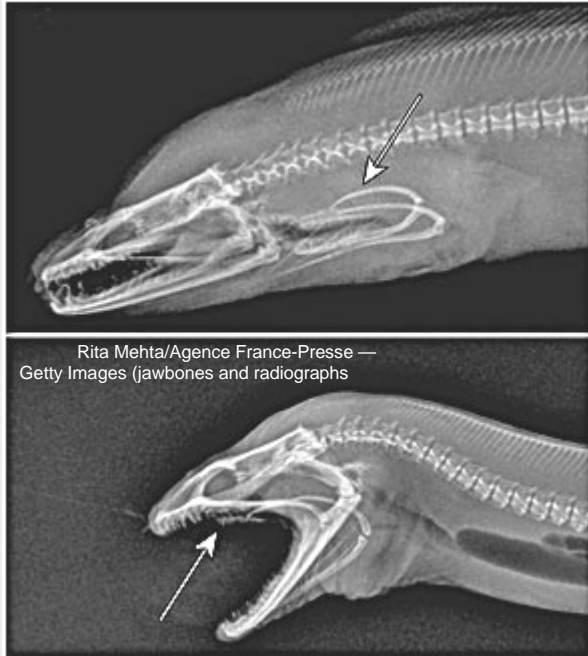
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Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know... There is a fish that feeds like the monster in the movie *Alien*?

Do you recall the film where an alien has a second pair of jaws inside its mouth? Can you imagine one of Bonaire's fishes having a very similar anatomy? The moray eel has a second set of jaws behind their first set. Dr. Rita Mehta from the University of California found that the eel grabs its prey with its first set of jaws, and the second set, called the pharyngeal jaw, shoots the prey into the mouth and grabs it. The moray eel then opens its front jaws while the pharyngeal jaw pulls the food back to the throat. The whole thing only takes a few seconds. ■ *Andrea Burton*

Burton is a junior at Juniata College, PA and is currently studying at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. She is majoring in marine biology and plans on studying shark conservation.



Rita Mehta/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images (jawbones and radiographs)

DUAL ACTION- Morays have two sets of jaws, one for an initial bite and one mostly for pulling prey into the throat.

Pet of the Week

Meet "Timo" who's just a love according to the *cat specialist volunteers at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. He's just about three months old now and is so affectionate and smart too. He was brought in with his sister because there were just too many cats at his previous home. Timo is well adjusted, a mellow fellow and can fit in with other cats in a household. He's been checked out by the vet, has had his inoculations and tests and will be sterilized when he's old enough. All this is included in the cat adoption fee of NAf 75. You may see Timo and the other social and healthy animals at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm and from 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

Why do people love animals so much? According to Aaron Katcher, M.D., a psychiatrist and professor emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania who has pioneered the use of animals in psychotherapy, "Animals don't care about the things that usually make people beautiful, successful, attractive and popular. If you've lost everything in the stock market, they don't care. Even if you're a beggar, as long as you scrounge enough food for you and your animal and you don't mistreat it, it's going to be quite happy with you."

Want to help control the unwanted animal population on the island? Encourage your friends and neighbors who own cats or dogs to have them sterilized. It's free right now at the Shelter. Call 717-4989. **Contribute to the Shelter's "Sterilization Fund," MCB Account 10616410.** ■ *L.D.*

*Thanks to Jane Madden for inside information on Timo.



Timo

A New Reporter Column

Body Talk

THE DAIRY DEBATE

Most people believe we need dairy in our diet, specifically the calcium. What most people do not realize is that we cannot digest cow's milk, or any product made from cow's milk, because we lack the proper digestive enzymes to break down this milk.

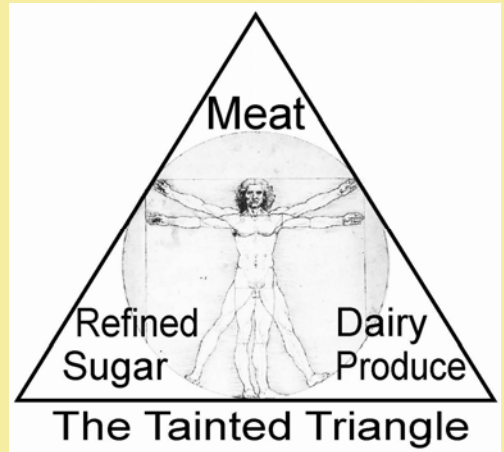
Milk is good for you from birth until about the age of two, provided the milk is from your MOTHER and is therefore FRESH, RAW and NATURAL.

Cow's milk tends to have at least four times more protein and calcium than human milk. This, along with artificial growth hormones, is necessary for a calf to grow to 300-500 pounds in one year!

Cow's milk also contains nearly double the amount of Pantothenic acid as human milk. Pantothenic acid activates the adrenal glands, one function of which is the production of steroids which act as an anti-inflammatory compound within the body. Overstimulation of the adrenal glands by ingesting dairy often leads to weak adrenal glands.

Heat (pasteurization) of milk changes the chemistry, and instead of raw milk being alkaline, it now becomes acid forming. As our digestive system is predominantly alkaline, dairy products, which are acidic, become highly toxic to the body resulting in colds, flu or any condition involving mucus.

I can hear the collective sigh and the sheer panic of even thinking of cutting down on dairy products, including cheese! You can, and should get your calcium from a more natural source (no, not in tablet form!). For example, 10 dried figs contain 269mg of calcium, or okra - 100mg per cup, or canned sardines - 317mg per cup and Tofu set with calcium - 516mg per cup. Do your own test to see how congested your internal system really is. Facing a mirror, stick your tongue out as far as possible. If the surface of your tongue is clear (no coating) and a pinkish color, you pass!



However, if you have a coating on the surface of your tongue that is white, cream, yellow, brown, green or black (or a combination of some of these, with or without markings) you need to re-consider your diet! No amount of scrubbing will get rid of this coating and the only thing you will achieve is to ignore what your body is clearly trying to tell you.

The Food and Nutrition Board of the US National Academy of Sciences recommend a daily intake of calcium for children ages 4 - 8 of 800mg and for adults up to 1,200mg. I believe these figures are grossly inflated, and it is NOT the "recommended" daily amount of calcium we need to be concerned about, but the MAL-ABSORPTION of calcium into the body caused by dairy products. This is something a well-balanced diet can correct, without having to resort to calcium supplements.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments, at stephanie@harmonyhousebonaire.com. ■ Next issue: The most popular recreational drug!

Stephanie Bennett

Author Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in UK, and now researches health issues that particularly affect people on Bonaire and other Caribbean Islands.



Puzzle on page 8

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I'm looking for land (lot) in Bonaire (Max. 1.000 square meters and/or not expensive). I want to build house for my little family. Alexei Salazar. Tel.: 701-7007

Timeshare studio at Buddy Dive Resort Bonaire (unit 2171), Week 4 – perpetuity contract. Price US\$ 3,000 (original price was US\$ 5,000) For more information call: (+599) 786 1401 or e-mail: timeshareonbonaire@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Shore & Wildside Diving, N.V. – Larry's Wildside Diving has not been purchased by Bonaire East Coast Divers. Only the used equipment was purchased. The business licensing still remains with the Director Larry Baillie. Larry is also in the process of getting a new boat for further business on the east coast ! His clients will soon have the safe and professional diving that they expect of a dive business.

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Joan Liva, a frequent Bonaire visitor and Ambassador took a break to visit India, Here she is with *The Bonaire Reporter* in front of the Red Fort.



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KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

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

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
7-03	8:00	0.8FT.	22:24	2.1FT.					56
7-04	8:41	0.7FT.	22:56	2.1FT.					63
7-05	9:26	0.7FT.	23:32	2.1FT.					69
7-06	0:01	2.1FT.	10:04	0.7FT.					73
7-07	0:36	2.0FT.	10:32	0.8FT.					76
7-08	1:06	1.9FT.	11:03	0.8FT.					77
7-09	1:34	1.8FT.	11:31	0.8FT.					77
7-10	1:59	1.7FT.	11:49	0.9FT.					75
7-11	2:17	1.6FT.	2:18	1.6FT.	11:56	1.0FT.			72
7-12	11:46	1.0FT.	23:35	1.5FT.					67
7-13	11:12	1.1FT.	19:55	1.5FT.					61
7-14	10:42	1.0FT.	19:46	1.6FT.					54
7-15	10:28	1.0FT.	20:02	1.8FT.					48
7-16	6:29	1.0FT.	8:26	1.0FT.	10:06	1.0FT.	20:28	1.9FT.	46
7-17	6:48	0.9FT.	21:08	2.0FT.					51



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The Bonaire Reporter Back In Time To 2000 Commemorating 15 Years

JOIN US TO GO BACK IN BONAIRE'S HISTORY TO 2000 – 9 YEARS AGO.

In January 2000 *Port Call* became *The Bonaire Reporter*. The paper grew to 14 pages and added new columns: Ding Dong Dutch, "Port Call News" (yachts and water activities), Dive Gods and Goddesses (later changed to Dive Pros), Ban Kome (Let's Eat) restaurant reviews, Bonaire Happenings, Cooking Indonesian, The Turtle Log, Dive Log of the Week, Insider's Bonaire, Turtle Tales.

Some of the stories:

Venezuelan Institute of Culture, Drug dog at airport, Whales Sharks, Rincon Market, Winfred Dania, Kunuku Magic, Cindy Lott on Lac, Harvest Time, LVV, Butterfly Island, Karnaval time, Trans World Radio, many dive stories, *Fundashon Cas Bonaireano*, The Recovering Reef (after Lenny), Diving on Gas, Rincon Day festival, Bonaire Artist Elena, Klein Bonaire Foundation still trying to raise rest of money for the purchase price, Bonaire's educational system, Kayaking, Dive Festival, Chartering the Sea Witch, Talk with the Lt. Governor every Thursday, Culture Week, Inside ALM, Budget Rent a Car Ladies, Series on Bonaire's Endangered Bats, Fontein-Bonaire's Oasis, The New Cousteaus, the Magic of Moogie, Vacation Plans for Kids, Copa Cultimara, Semperflorens Nursery, Jerry Ligon's Nature articles, Changing Seasons on Bonaire, Pieter Zweers-master windsurfer, Meet the Prosecutor- Ernst Wesselius, Our very special Bonairean houses, Diving in the Forbidden Zone to survey the reef, Special homes for children- Villa Candidus and Villa Carlos- run by the Sister Maria Hoppner Foundation, Treasure Wrecks of Bonaire, Another View of Bonaire's Seasons, Artist Anna Marie Kroes, SELIBON's Environmental Police, Mola Madness, Jong Bonaire, Sails of Bonaire (Avy and Christelle Benhamron), Price Comparisons by Annette Roswell, Sailing Women, The Party Bus and even more.....

Here are some news highlights from the following editions of *The Reporter*, 2000.

Jan. 4

-Klein Bonaire to be a wilderness national park. President of FPKB Bruce Bowker: "When Klein Bonaire soon becomes a National Park, Bonaire can claim to have one of the most preserved, natural and beautiful areas in the Caribbean, something that more and more people of this world are searching for." Nature agreed because as the water taxi returned to the big

island with the dignitaries from Klein Bonaire, a rainbow hung over the island. Then after everyone disembarked a rain shower passed over Klein to "baptize" it.

-Auto registration goes up 25%; International Airport departure tax to \$20; trash pickup from NAf 5 to NAf 10/month.

Jan. 11

-The final hour arrived – no miracles or angels to help – so Bonaire will not host the Sunfish Worlds 2000

-Soer Swinda Seraus and Larry Gerharts named by Press Association as "Persons of the Year"



Jan. 18

-Whale Whacked by ship Nieuw Amsterdam. Body of the Tropical or Bryde's Whale taken to salt company for storage. (Years later Bonai students reconstructed it and set it up at the entrance to Washington Park)

-Four sea turtle poachers convicted

-Port Call and Bonaire Reporter back issues are in archive room at Bonaire Communication Services

-Hollywood "heavies" visit Bonaire aboard chartered cruise ship, Le Levant, including Francis Ford Coppola, Penny Marshall, James Coburn

Feb. 1

-Cargill says more rain this January than in the previous 30 years.

Feb. 8

-Gas prices on Bonaire highest in Netherlands Antilles (NAf 1,36 liter)

-September 1999 visitors decreased by 1.9%

Feb. 15

-Bonaire Government and Harbour Village sign agreement on Sunset Beach Hotel – tentatively named "Royal Bonaire Resort." (Didn't happen)

-Air Aruba begins non-stop service to Bonaire from NY area.

-St. Martin referendum chooses status apart

-Health statistics say Netherlands Antilles people are among the top three populations with a need for kidney dialysis.

-Shon Ma Rijna passes – owner of Den Laman Restaurant

Feb. 22

-Austrian yacht Hispanola runs aground one mile north of Willemstoren Light

-Regular police foot patrols in

neighborhood of Amboina
-Venezuelan airline, Avior, will begin flying to Bonaire from Caracas

-Bonaire's businessmen want a referendum

Mar. 1

-Residents along shoreline road, Kaya Kachi Craane, wonder if it will take a tragedy to stop the cars from speeding on that road. Residents are demanding speed bumps.

Mar. 11

-Citizens petition against crime
-Dee Scarr inducted into 2000 Women Divers Hall of Fame

-World's first permanent underwater camera (ReefCam) now on line, thanks to efforts of Jake and Linda Richter of Net-Tech., N.V.

March 21

-Dutch Survey says 53% of Antilleans polled want Antilles to become a province of Holland.

April 18

-Crime continues; citizens outraged. Anton Sieverding robbed and shot in upper thigh – 4th armed robbery in last 10 days.

April 28

-KLM resumes its weekly non-stop 747 flight from Amsterdam

May 2

-Bonaire's Bats – our precious native mammals. Bats being disturbed in their caves by people entering to explore, snorkel or dive

-Radio Nederlands transmitter site destroyed in a fire and explosion but recovers quickly

May 9

-Salt production at Cargill down 50% from last season
-During a robbery Warehouse Bonaire manager shot in the head but is recovering.

-New Animal Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema

May 16

-Population falls 2%; number of foreigners increased 7.5% now 47 countries represented. Shows exodus of native Antilleans.

-Holdup men who wounded Warehouse Bonaire meat manager have been caught

-Bruce Bowker's letter to editor: how people on the island have pushed for and accomplished changes

-By year's end half of TWR families will be transferred; new technology permits program production, transmission and follow up to be done elsewhere.

May 23

-Research vessel Edmund Link explores deep waters around Bonaire to collect sponges and other primitive marine life to study to find a cure for cancer.

Chartered from Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution.

-46-foot yacht Bribone driven ashore near Willemstoren Lighthouse

-San Francisco Hospital will be expanded and remodeled

May 30

-Venezuelan airline Avior Air cancels daily service between Bonaire and Caracas

-1999 was most successful year in attracting cruise ships - 70 port calls

June 13

-Sewer project for more densely populated parts of Bonaire temporarily on hold until costs for maintenance are researched.

-KLM resumes two weekly non-stop flights (return to Amsterdam flights stop in Curaçao)

June 20

-Construction on new primary school in Nikiboko

-New Public prosecutor Ernst Wesselius

June 27



-Citizens march against crime- largest public demonstration in history of the island.

On June 22 well known and respected Bon Awa owner Alfons Pleumeekers and his wife Maria del Carmen Lopez-Pleumeekers murdered at their home.

July 4

-More armed robberies – Caribbean Laundry Service, Liquor-tique, contractor Tony Marchena

July 11

-ALM cuts cost to keep flying
-Pleumeekers killer suspects arrested

July 18

-Three fishermen from St. Lucia rescued by ketch Karrek Ven and brought to Bonaire

-TCB opens new office at head of Kaya Grandi
-Minister of Justice Rutsel Martha reports 53 Antillean police officers implicated in crimes or other wrongdoing. 20 were drug related and 7 of those 20 are from Bonaire

July 25

-Caren Eckrich's Sea & Discovery open for classes and discovery activities for children and adults, snorkelers and divers.

Aug. 1

-Historic Buildings in Peril. Monument Foundation says no legal ordinance enacted to protect these buildings.

Aug. 8

-STINAPA news: Spaniard Fernando Simal, a biologist, will manage Washington-Slagbaai National Park; Ca-triona Glendenning new Marine Park manager

-Thanks in part to Minister Toon Abraham Bonaire will soon have its own dialysis center in San Francisco Hospital (It never happened and patients still have to fly to Curaçao for treatment)

-A developer has asked for permission to develop 23 hectares of government land in Karpata area, currently designated as a nature preserve under island's Nature Policy Plan. The Plan does not have the force of law.

-No speed bumps yet for people on waterfront along sea promenade although promised by the department of roads. (It did take a fatal accident of a young child in 2007 before the speed bumps were put in)

Aug. 22

-Maritime Institute of Bonaire established – to promote general knowledge of maritime affairs. An information center set up in the harbor front buildings it will share with the Bonaire Art Foundation (Unfortunately, it never happened. Two of its proponents, Steve Gustowski and Jan Mol, passed away)

Aug. 29

-A large portion of this year's generations of Loras wiped out by poachers – most of the nests in the Palmita area below Mt. Brandaris in Washington Park cleaned out. Smuggling believed to be centered in the area of Playa Frans.



Aug. 22

-Sunset Beach Hotel burns
-Rocargo receives ISO 9002 certification. Awarded only to companies with the highest standards of business practices, employee training, client support and quality operation.

-2nd annual Bonaire Motorcycle Rally with nearly 100 machines

Oct. 3

-Citro (Citizens Rescue Service) suspends their rescue lifeboat service. The nearest Antillean Coast Guard base is in Curaçao, nearly 40 miles and three

(Continued on page 15)

Back In Time (Continued from page 14)
hours away from Bonaire.

-Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles gets bailout money of NAf 72 million, based on an agreement with the IMF.

-WannaDive opens

Oct. 10

-All of prisoners in Bonaire's jail escape on Friday night but by Saturday all but two had surrendered or been recaptured. Jail was being guarded by volunteers from the militia since the regular guards were on strike.

-Introduction of rental off-the-road "quads" is causing problems for the environment. They drive in bird sanctuaries, on turtle nesting beaches and chase donkeys.

Oct. 24

-5% of population has left (773 people of whom 442 were Bonaireans). Economic conditions and job opportunities much better in Holland.

-American Consulate General will no longer come to Bonaire for absentee voting due to the resources now available on the Internet.

-Preparations underway for a major lengthening of the airport runway.

-Outcry against Karpata development

Oct. 31

-Bonaire Airlines to start next year, serving Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and Caracas. (Never started)

-Executive Council gives order to extend the airport runway. DeAntillen and BWM will do the job. Cost is over NAf 5 million. KLM says if runway is lengthened it would consider expanding its flight schedule, using Bonaire as a hub for its Latin American flights. KLM also requires a fueling depot. Departure hall will have to be expanded. (KLM's twice a day service sparked an economic recovery in Bonaire)

-Jan Blonk Boatyard opens next to WEB

Nov. 14

-Oceans 98 (a non-profit foundation formed to help the UN and others promote the message of the 1998 Year of the Ocean) wants to make Bonaire a world center for conferences, symposia and meetings. They'll renovate the Oranje School at Wilhelmina Plaza. Headquarters will relocate from The Hague to Bonaire. (Ocean 98 turned out to be a penniless shell bordering on fraudulent)

-Bonaire Nature Alliance president speaks to ministers of Antilles and Aruba citing issues: need for sewage disposal system, a halt to longlining in Antillean and Aruban waters, effects of the airport runway extension, expanded research program for sea turtles, spay neutering program and the protection of Bonaire's bats.

-TCB invites artists and craftsmen to display and sell their works in Wilhelmina Park during cruise ship visits. (Now a very successful market)

Dec. 5

-Inflation rose in Netherlands Antilles to 3.4%. The highest is in Bonaire: 4.3% in the second quarter.

Dec. 12

-Democratic Party (PDB) pushing for a referendum on the constitutional status for the island.

-Rincon Market celebrates its one-year anniversary with a big party

Dec. 19

-Fontein opens to the public - as a result of the work done by Alejandro

Wernet

-Bat Action Team (BAT) conducts systematic mapping of the island's caves and identifying native bat species, hoping to ensure the future of Bonaire's only native mammal, the valuable insect eating and cactus pollinating bats. Caves sensitive to human intrusion will be identified and hopefully protected. BAT has no authority to close the caves but it can advise the government through DROB of those caves that should be preserved. It's an inspiring example of volunteers, business and the government working together.

-The first ALM trans-Atlantic flight landed at Curaçao's Hato Airport last Sunday, four hours later than scheduled and with a different aircraft than expected. ALM's Belgian partner, City Bird, told ALM that the MD-11 plane scheduled to fly was out of service. But it managed to charter a DC-10 from the British operator Air Tours. Because of logistics the DC-10 had to fly to Curaçao via Manchester, England. The return flight left a day late because the Air Tours air crew required rest. "It's a start," said ALM President Mario Evertsz."

Dec. 26

-Quads operated by Quarts Rentals have been ordered off the road by the Civil Court.

-Airlift news at the end of the year: KLM began two non-stops from Holland. Sobelair and Martinair continued weekly schedules. Air Jamaica added a second flight and ALM resumed its Miami non-stop. ALM recently began twice-weekly flights to Amsterdam in partnership with Belgian carrier, City Bird. ■
Compiled by Laura DeSalvo.

Readers are invited to write in their recollections, and perspective for this "look back." Send a letter to the editor: laura@bonairereporter.com

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Renate Van der Bijl Art Exhibit at Plaza

As many people believe and practice, "Art is a good investment." But the paintings of Renate van der Bijl's are not only that but vignettes of a beautiful life on Bonaire as seen through the eyes of a talented and sensitive artist. Van der Bijl's art continues to

grow with new impressions of traditional subjects. You may never have seen donkeys portrayed as this artist does but their expressions are totally familiar. Her "Seagulls" in blue mirror the sky and the sea. And in the "Kibrahacha in bloom" she captures that fantastic explosion of color that can take our breath away.

After a hiatus of many years beginning in her 20s when Renate ceased working as an artist, she came to Bonaire where her talent came out of hiding and she, like the flowering trees on the island, burst into bloom. Her work just gets better and better. It's hanging in many of the homes on the island as well as in North American and Europe.

Renate's paintings are now on display in the lobby of the Plaza Hotel and you may view them at your leisure all the time that the lobby is open. For more information you may call Renate van der Bijl at 717-6500. ■ L.D.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Now—Art Exhibit: Paintings by Renata Van Der Byl, Plaza Hotel Lobby—see page 16

June 1 to September 30 – Bonaire Dive into Summer

Saturday, July 4 – Big Monthly Rincon Market, 6 am—2 pm

Saturday, July 4 – Flea market at Parke Publico, 3 to 7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf 10 per selling table (NAf 5 goes to up keep of the park) NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call Vicky Bissessar 786-1592



Sunday, July 5 - 17th Dia di Arte (Bonaire Art Day), all day at Wilhelmina Park. Local art and cultural works, live music, dancing, entertainment, selections of Bonaire's cross cultural cuisine. It's a Bonairean tradition. Don't miss it!



July 8 – 11 – 5th Annual Starboard pro-Kids Freestyle World Championships

Saturday, July 11 – Quarterly Underwater Cleanup of Customs Pier (permission pending). Dive Friends at Dive Inn at Chachacha Beach.



Saturday, July 25—Miss Reef Bikini 2009 Contest, Jibe City

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 cooler 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.

- Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse on Kaya Industria, second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm. Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539.

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

Mondays

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

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 December 25th. and January 1st. Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday at 7pm. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971

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, 7:15 pm— All levels, NAf2,50, call Joop at 786-6003 to find out the evening's location.

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 Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Mar-

tinez 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

Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel:790-6518, 786-6125

or 790-8988

BonQuiz Answer



Q) Which symbol is also seen in the Bonaire Coat of Arms

A) The seafarer's compass.

Question on Page 8

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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SHOPPING and DINING GUIDE

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air. Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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BANKS

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BEAUTY PARLOR

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BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

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INTERNET AND CELLULAR SERVICE

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DINING

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ScubaVision - Document your Bonaire vacation above and below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts

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GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

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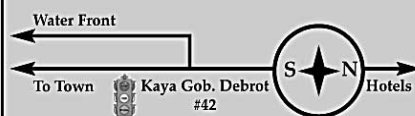
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Jenne van den Ouden and His Old Honda 600 XLR

The 50th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Bonaire/Republiek –

Jenne van den Ouden and his wife Karin live on the island of Bonaire since 2005. They found jobs as dive instructors and they bought their own house in the neighborhood of Republik. Jenne has a job as dive instructor at Divi Flamingo. He really likes the island of Bonaire and the underwater world around it. Some two times a day he jumps in the Caribbean Sea as an instructor or as a dive guide. The vehicle Jenne and Karen use for every day transportation is an old four-wheel drive reliable Toyota Hilux. Because of the influence of the climate the car is getting lighter and lighter every day because of the conversion of iron into rust. After some years Jenne decided to buy a pair of extra wheels: a Honda 600 XLR, built way back in 1983. Two persons, two jobs, two vehicles. An ideal combination on the hilly island with her curvy roads.

Jenne's first experience with motorized two-wheelers goes back to the early 80s in Europe. His first sporty small motorcycle, in fact it was a moped, was a red sprayed Yamaha FS1. The 50 cc two-stroke, four-speed moped was very popular among youngsters. Jenne had a special one because his Yamaha single cylinder was water cooled. Maybe here his love for water first started... The next moped he bought was a German made Zündapp. The engine size was 125 cc. For a person without a driver's license it was illegal to ride a bike of this engine size so Jenne mounted a tank and side panels of a legal 50 cc model to mislead the police officers. How smart can you be! And again this fast 125 cc two-stroke single cylinder was water cooled! Jenne's third bike was a water cooled (!) and very fast 125 cc Yamaha cross bike.

Then the real stuff began. Jenne got his official driver's license and he got into real sizes: a 800cc two-cylinder liquid-cooled Honda Pacific Coast. Then he got a Yamaha XS 750, a rare triple engine with a unique sound produced by the exhaust system of the three cylinder. Finally Jenne fell completely in love with a top of the bill model made by die Bayerische Motor Werke: a BMW K 1100 RS. The "K" stands for four cylinder and "RS" stands for Rennsport (*racing sport/jb*). Jenne thinks this is the best motor ever made, as far as he knows... Then he and Karin moved to Bonaire and they shared one vehicle: the color changing 4WD Toyota Hilux, getting browner every day.

One of Jenne's friends is his old



(Picture: J@n Brouwer)

Jenne van den Ouden - Honda 600 XLR

neighbor from Hato, Eddie Faber. Eddie is also a dive instructor. One day Eddie was given a more or less complete Honda motorcycle in carton boxes. More less than more a motorcycle. Eddie collected all kinds of missing parts and with the help of a workshop manual and a lot of time and energy Eddie converted the four-stroke jigsaw puzzle into a real Honda 600 XLR. An overhead camshaft multi-valve RFVC four-stroke engine powered off-road motorcycle, built in 1983 by Honda, Japan and completely rebuilt in 2007 by the one-man Faber Factory in Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. Eddie resprayed the original red and white Honda. Now the bike is completely flat black. Two red scorpions mark the fuel tank. Eddie fitted two brand new rough motor cross tires and the bike was ready for the mud and the dirt. Eddie really enjoyed his homemade bike but then plans changed and another world was attracting Eddie's attention. Then Jenne grabbed his chance and bought the bike. Jenne was independent and moving on two wheels again!

Jenne says, "Eddie did a very good job! This Honda single cylinder appears to be very reliable. Everything works, even the lights and the flashers. The shocks and the brakes are ok and I only had one flat tire once. Luckily it was the tube of the front wheel. It is really peanuts to drive this bike as long as you are not wearing long skirts."

Starting the single cylinder 600 cc thumper engine of the Honda is a kind of an art: a mixture of spirit and skill, a blend of mind and man power. Hard to explain, difficult to experience. Jenne continues, "The first thing you are not allowed to forget is to open the fuel tap. This allows the fuel to flow free into the bowl of the carburetor. Then you have to turn on the ignition by the switch. Then you have to adjust the choke

lever into the right position. It takes a lot of experience to find the real right position. Every 600 XLR has her own right position of the lever. Then you turn out the kick starter pedal. No, there is no electric starter motor on this light weight engine with her alloy and magnesium parts. Then you have to find the top death point of the piston. There is a chance of one out of two. I cannot explain this exactly. Then you have to push the kick starter pedal down with your right hand foot to kick the piston through the 10-to-one compressed mixture of fuel and air. And then the result is a nice and deep rumble coming out of the remains of the exhaust system: boom boom boom boom. The lovely sound of explosions inside a huge single cylinder. First gear. Off we go, down the hill! (...) Most of the time... Sometimes the will of the Honda soul differs slightly from the intention of the driver: no running engine and the smell of completely not burned fuel. This only happens sometimes. Then the wife has to keep her mouth shut and the dogs have to remain remote. A man needs his time. Close the fuel tap, push the kick starter, run the engine dry, wait for some Bonairiaan seconds and start all over again. Jump! Thump! She picks up, idles and runs! As I said, she is a very reliable motorcycle. There is not a single reason to sell her. Eddie did a great job. And only if ever we have to leave this island of Bonaire I will get myself another BMW K1100 or K1200. This is the ultimate. On the other hand I know that a K-model BMW is almost completely useless on Bonaire. So for the next decades of years I have the intention to stick on my beloved Honda 600. Thanks Eddie!"

■ Story & photo by
 J@n Brouwer



Bonaire's Bats Threatened Again!

Ron van Rijn photo



Bats Seriously Endangered by Increasing Construction

“The cave-dwelling bat colonies on Bonaire are under increasing pressure. The increase of tourism, tourism projects and construction of luxury villas threaten the survival of the cave-dwelling bats. Of the three out of the four cave-dwelling bat species, fewer than 500 specimens are still alive today. And the fact that more and more people are visiting the caves does not help in protecting these diminishing colonies. They are most affected in the Barcadera and Colombia areas that is where the *Mormoops megalophylla* (phantom-face bat) is found, a subspecies only in Bonaire. A large colony of *Leptonycteris curasoae* (long-snout bat) seems to have been driven away already. Also found in this area is the *Natalus tumidirostris* (funnel-eared bat), close to extinction on Bonaire.”

This came from a 2008 report by Anna Rojer of the Scientific Institute for Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (CARMABI) in Curaçao. STINAPA Bonaire was shocked by the results and sounded the alarm bells. Both caves and bats urgently need protection. In areas with many caves, like Barkadera, Santa Barbara, Colombia and Lima, there is construction planned where there is a lack of consideration for the bats' environment. By protecting the caves and the surrounding areas, the bat population may be saved. CARMABI has pledged support to STINAPA in developing a control plan.

In 1991 the Barkadera area was designated as a protected area due to the presence of these caves and their bats. Unfortunately the government lifted that protection in 2005 to allow construction. STINAPA is pleading to reinstate this protection before it's too late. The same goes for the Colombia area, which is also rich in caves and cave-dwelling bats.

Many tropical bat species need

caves as a daytime hiding place as well as a place where their young are born. Not every cave is suitable for the bats. Most species have specific requirements. It is known that the Phantom-faced bat and Long-snout bats will live only in caves that are very warm. That is why it is incorrect to think that bats will find another cave if they are driven away. The rare Funnel-eared bat also has high demands for its living quarters. There are only about 100 to 150 specimens left on Bonaire. There was a large colony that lived in a cave in Sabadeco until it collapsed when a house was built on top of it. Not only will the actual destruction of their homes drive bats away. A whole colony of Phantom-faced bats was decimated in Curacao when hundreds of meters away, construction was taking place. Probably the bats were driven away by vibrations or sounds or the scraping of the earth by bulldozers. The Funnel-eared bat exists in only one cave in Bonaire. Just by people entering the cave could mean the wholesale death of this species if they have young. Due to the disturbance the babies can drop to the ground and die of hunger.

Why Should We Care?

Bats are the only indigenous mammals on Bonaire. All species that exist on Bonaire are endemic subspecies. This means that they only occur on the Leeward Islands, and nowhere else in the world. **They are very useful to man and nature because they eat (thousands of) mosquitoes and cross-pollinate the cacti. The Long-tongue bat (*Glossophaga elongate*) and the Long-snout bat are nectar-eating bats that pollinate the flowers of the pillar cacti which only bloom at night.** That is how fruits will grow which provide food for birds and reptiles in the dry season. **(And it is the cacti that hold the island together.)** ■ Press Release from STINAPA Bonaire, Tel. 717-8444, email Stinapa@Bonairelive.com



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

My Favorite and Almost Everyone's Favorite Summer Constellation

You know, if I had to pick only one constellation which I like better than all the rest in summer skies, it would have to be the ancient, gigantic and dreaded **Scorpius the Scorpion**. On any summer night in June, July or August face south before midnight and depending on what month and hour you look the scorpion



will either be southeast, due south or southwest. But you should have no trouble finding it because it's huge and one of the few constellations which actually looks like its name. Indeed if we connect each bright star in Scorpius with lines we can see a very simple-line representation of a scorpion with his claws drawn in. Or if you're afraid of scorpions you can imagine this constellation to be a giant fishhook as seen by some ancient Polynesians or the capital letter 'J,' for Jack. Scorpius has been around for thousands of years and was depicted by many cultures, including the ancient Egyptians.

In ancient Greece and Rome, however, the scorpion was much bigger than now and its claws extended forward from it as if getting ready to grab whatever planets or comets might come its way. And if you look closely you'll see two stars where his claws used to be. They are named **Zuben Elgenubi** and **Zuben Eschamali** and in Arabic, literally mean the northern claw and the southern claw. But Julius Caesar and his megalomaniacal friends in the Roman Senate decided that Rome was so special that it needed its own constellation as a form of ancient PR. So they did a hatchet job on Scorpius' claws to make up the constellation, which they said stood for the symbol of Roman justice, **Libra**. Talk about cosmic injustice!

At any rate once you've found Scorpius with his claws no longer outstretched, pay particular attention to where the scorpion's heart should be. Because, believe it or not, there, just by coincidence, a red star named **Antares** is right where his red heart should be. And this star Antares is my very favorite summer star, hands down, because it is one of the three largest stars we can see with the naked eye.

Now I usually refer to our **Sun** as being a million miles wide to make it easy to remember, but in fact it is a bit short of that number being only 865,000 miles wide, but which is still pretty huge compared to our 8,000-mile-wide **Earth**. In fact our Sun is so huge we could fit over a million and a half of our Earths inside it. Antares, however, puts our Sun to shame, because it is 700 times wider than our Sun, so huge we could fit over 350 million Suns inside it! Or if you'd like to think of it this way, if we placed one edge of it where our Sun is, it would reach out past the orbits of **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter!** And it is so far away that it takes 520 years for its light to reach us. So whenever we look at Antares we see it not as it exists now but as it existed 520 years ago.

So get thee out any summer night and marvel at the magnificent scorpion who should fill you full of wonder instead of ancient dread.. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For July 2009

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't try to deal with important issues or make changes that will upset the apple cart. You are best not to confide in anyone right now. Digestive disorders will be a result of family squabbles. Be careful that you don't overextend yourself. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Try to compromise rather than having an all out battle. Make alternate plans just in case you need to make a career shift. You're likely to encounter new partners if you take short trips. Don't start a dispute unless you're prepared to accept irreversible results. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. Build on friendship rather than starting out in an intimate encounter. Professionalism will be of utmost importance. Your doubt could lead to insecurity. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You'll have amazing ideas, but superiors may try to block your attempts at implementing them. Do not give your heart to someone who may not live up to your standards. You're in the mood to do things such as competitive sports, or perhaps a night on the town. A series of misunderstandings may be at fault. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will be in a high cycle regarding work. Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. Secret affairs may be brought out in the open. Help elders get their personal papers in order. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Observations will be far more productive. Use your high energy and dynamic approach to win favors from superiors. Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack spare time. Don't make any drastic changes or begin new projects this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Keep your thoughts to yourself for the time being. Put your time and energy into home im-

provement. Recognition will be yours if you meet your deadline. Be aware of deception when it comes to your position, and be sure not to jump to conclusions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Older family members may take advantage of you by making you feel guilty. Control your temper by getting immersed in your work. Invite friends over rather than spending money on lavish entertainment. You will be in the mood to socialize. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23- Dec.21) Abrupt changes concerning your professional position are evident. Art investment will pay big dividends in the long term. Don't hesitate to voice your ideas and opinions. Take advantage of your attributes and lure the mate of your choice. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) There could be disappointment regarding investments. Deal with the needs of children and get into groups that deal with self awareness. Try to find another time to present work or ideas this month. Work on legitimate financial deals that may enable you to bring in some extra cash. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Business trips might prove unproductive. Don't be afraid to confront situations concerning loved ones in order to solve any problems that may exist. You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. You need to be sure that you aren't in your present relationship because it is convenient. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You are best to be discreet. Unreliable people will be negative about your ideas. Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job. You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday. ■

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE CLEANED BY SHRIMP?

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Architect designed comfortable, tropical and luxury home



Sabadeco, Crown Court 36

This contemporary designed property in which the use of modern materials with tropical hardwood is combined to result in a comfortable, luxury home lies in a beautiful tropical garden. Lay out: entrance into the living room via a spacious front porch (with beautiful views), semi-open kitchen with dining area. Half bath, pantry, bedroom with walk-in closet and private bathroom. Swimming pool deck with outside shower, storage area and pump house. Connected to the main house via a covered walkway there is a guesthouse that can serve as 2 bedrooms with 1 bathroom, or as a 1 bedroom apartment. Total ground area: 1.471 m² (15,784 ft²). Living area: 290 m² (3,112 ft²). Private property.



Asking price: US\$ 785,000

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