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BONAIRE

August 7-21, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 16

The REPORTER

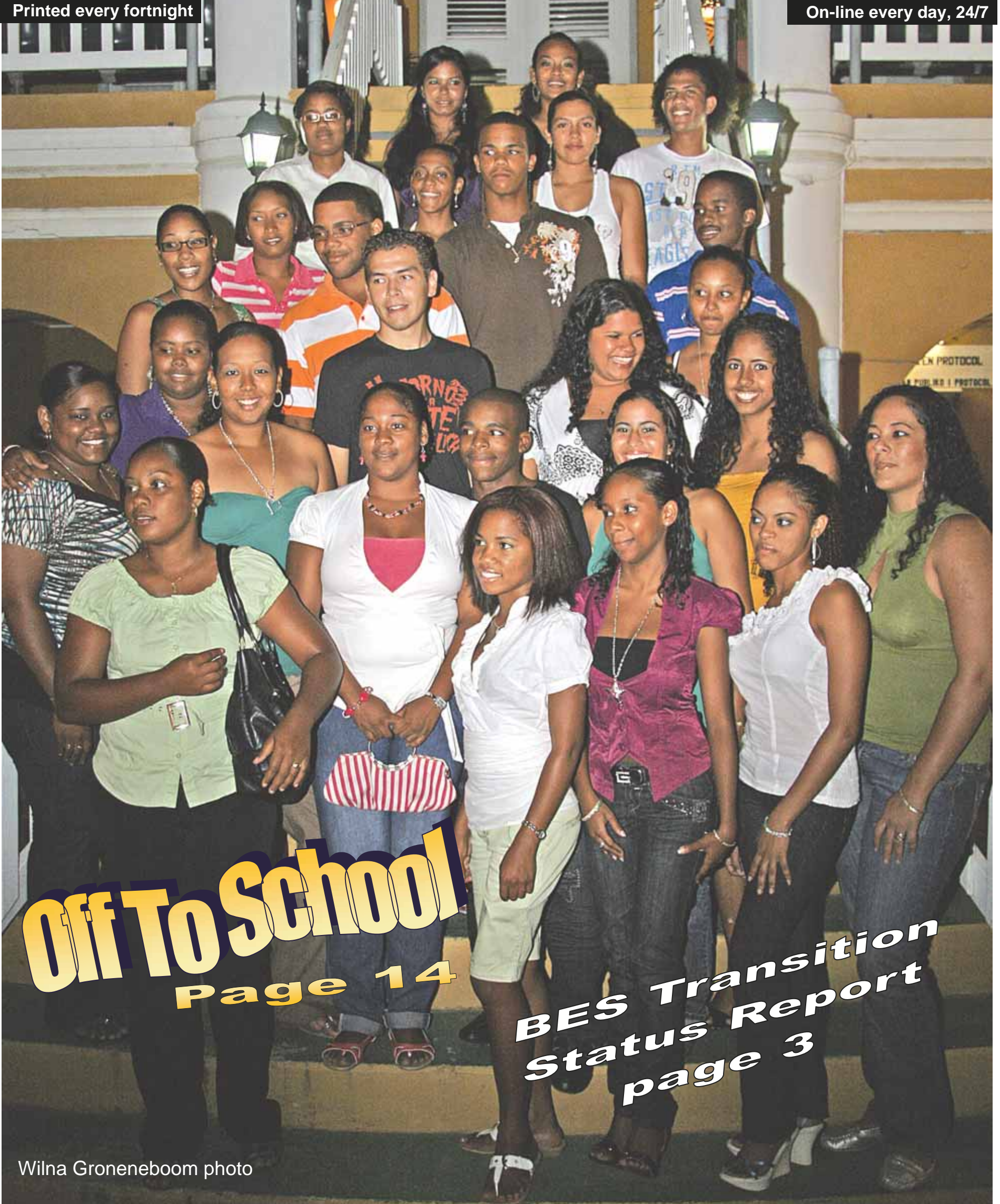
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Since 1994

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Off To School
Page 14

**BES Transition
Status Report
page 3**

Wilna Groneneboom photo

You will have to pay a minimum of NAf1 just to pick up or drop off a passenger close to the airport entrance. The 15 minute "free" period to drop-off or pick up passengers has been rescinded by the airport authority.

This has inspired disgust in the local press and the following opinion from one of our readers:

"Bonaire used to have the most user-friendly airport in the world but the design freaks changed all that. Now we have empty parking lots and long walks for all passengers. Clearly there needs to be some real-world thinking applied to the traffic pattern and parking situation. **A pick-up and drop-off lane with no charge should be created at the roofline of the airport, with no parking allowed here and a taxi stand nearby.** This way people can quickly get in and out of the airport without getting wet and without having to pay. (Sounds a lot like what we used to have!)"

Many of our visitors and residents are of an advanced age or are traveling with a large amount of sports gear and often there are handicap groups visiting the island. **These three groups should have primary consideration when planning the pick-up and drop off space if we want to maintain these visitors."**

If you want to express your opinion contact: Bonaire International Airport- Plaza Medardo S.V. Thielman #1, Kralendijk, Bonaire, N.A. Phone: (599) 717-5600. Fax (599) 717-5607 E-mail: christy@flamingoairport.com

► **Insel Air has started an intensive program to undergo an IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA).** IOSA is an international acknowledged standard for airline companies, which guarantees that the relevant airline company complies with the highest demands in the field of safety and operational management. This will be a milestone for Antillean aviation.

Insel Air, which flies from Bonaire to Miami and Curaçao is already on the White List of safe

► **New electric power for Bonaire is fast building toward reality.** This week the CMA CGM Ship *Togo* delivered the component parts for Bonaire's 12 new wind turbines. Last month the massive bio-diesel-capable MAN generators landed. More towers and transformers are on the way from Germany and Brazil.

The wind turbines are designed by Sir Norman Foster, perhaps the leading urban stylist of our age. His elegant, efficient buildings grace cities around the globe. The 300-ton Boekestijn crane from Mils Trucking of Curaçao is needed to handle the assembly of the turbines. The pillars weigh 31 tons and the nacelle of the generator is 26 tons. The parts were stored at Kralendijk stadium for later transport to the Morotin wind park.

Each of the 12 wind turbines will produce over 1 million watts. They will be 55 m. tall with 44 m. diameter blades. On average the wind should provide 40-50% of the island's power needs.

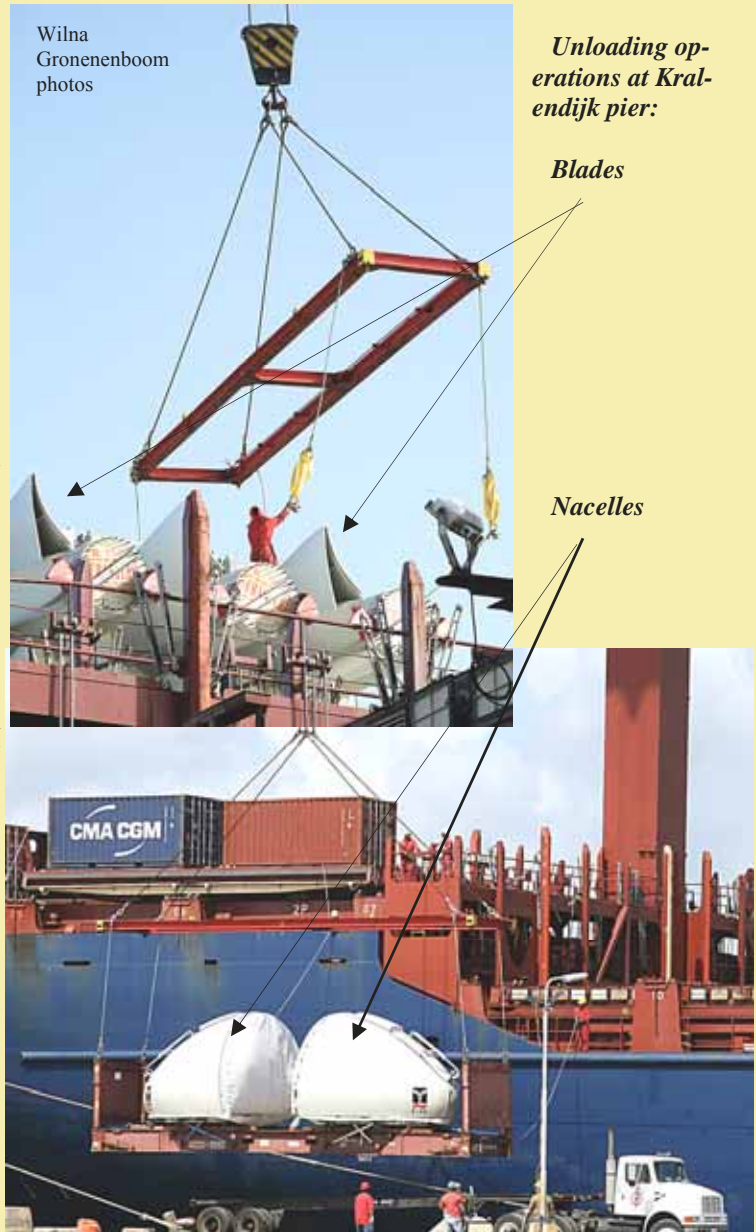
The new power system is designed to be reliable, a problem with the present WEB system. There will be five main diesel generators and two backup generators. Excess power from the wind farm or generators will be stored in a huge three-megawatt battery to smooth our power fluctuations and for backup. Operation is set for year end 2009.

companies in the Netherlands and has the permission to fly to the US after having successfully complied with the mandatory audit.

► **Dive Friends Bonaire has been named a Five-Star Gold Palm PADI Instructor Development Dive Resort.**

These facilities have a responsibility of developing qualified PADI Instructors. Dive Friends Bonaire will hold its first Instructor Development Course (IDC) beginning November 25, to coincide with the next Instructor Examination (IE) to be held in Bonaire on December 5 and 6.

Wilna Gronenenboom photos



Unloading operations at Kralendijk pier:

Blades

Nacelles

► **Digicel, Bonaire's leading cellphone service provider has announced it's offering cellular phone service to the Pacific island of Nauru.** Slightly smaller than Bonaire, with a bit fewer people, Nauru had no cellular service until now. Environmentally, Nauru is the opposite of Bonaire. The beautiful island was gutted by phosphate mining and uninhabitable except for a surrounding narrow green zone. More than 40% of its reef was destroyed by soil runoff. Digicel's GSM services should help in the recovery of the island's economy now that the phosphate is depleted.

► **The archives of the Fundashon Historiko Kultural Boneriano (FuHiKuBo) are in desperate need of voluntary help.** Time is taking its toll on this invaluable material and volunteers are needed now to assist in transferring text and audio visual information into computers. This includes the Herensia programs, music from the past, historical photos and negatives as well as other historical documents. Volunteers need not know Papiamentu. Those who speak Dutch and/or English will be welcomed. These archives are a major source of information for students on Bonaire. If you can help or would like more

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► **It's back to school for Bonaire's youngsters.** Primary and secondary schools will open on various dates in early August, and Unicollege, Bonaire's alternative high school for HAVO and VWO students will reopen on August 24. ■G./L.D.



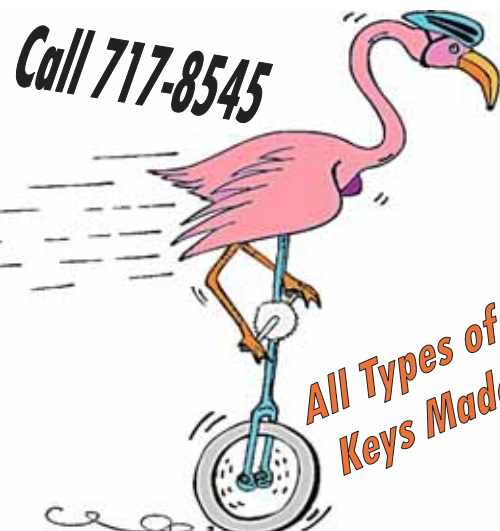
New Morning Program
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Working For A Direct Tie



Wilna Groneneboom photo

Queen's Commissioner for the BES Islands, Henk Kamp, in his austere office in the RSC

A team is in place and already there has been progress towards establishing direct ties between the BES Islands and The Netherlands. So reported Queen's Commissioner for Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Henk Kamp last Thursday, July 30. It's been a bit over six months since Kamp arrived on Bonaire to lead the transition effort.

The transition staff is now mostly in place with its members resident on Bonaire with offices in the Regional Service Center (RSC), the former APNA building just off Kaya International. RSCs have also been set up on Saba and Statia.

Apart from the RSC, in response to an earlier request of Bonaire, Dutchmen have already been working together with the island departments in the areas of tax services, judicial organization, social services and health.

Other functionaries now on the island are RSC staff, who have a three-year appointment, RSC crown commissioners/representatives and the RSC *kwartiermakers*.

The RSC staff handles administrative duties such as personnel, finances and facilities management. Eventually Bonaireans are expected to fill these posts.

All RSC staff will soon start an orientation program assisted by former governor Herbert Domacassé about the BES Islands including history, culture, "dos and don'ts" and, Papiamentu language lessons.

The *kwartiermakers* are:

- BZK (Ministry of Home Affairs)
 - Fire Department **Wim Goedhart**
 - Pension **Math Mager**
 - Police **John Schagen (Egbert Jules)**
- EZ (Economic Affairs)
 - Finance/Tax Service **Hans Visser**
 - Youth and Family **Marga Drewes**
- Justice:
 - IND (Immigration and Naturalization) **Jan de Jong**
 - DJI (Prisons) **Leo van der Meulen (Esther Balledunks)**
- LNV (Agriculture/Fisheries and Food Quality)
 - Ton Akkerman**
- OCW (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science)
 - Fleur Lagcher / Hemmie van Xanten**
- SZW (Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment)
 - Hans Bor/ Johan van der Graaff**
- Verkeer & Waterstaat (Transport, Public Works and Water Management)
 - Pieter Langebaerd**

The crown commissioners/representatives handle the Justice tasks, liaison with the island governments and The Hague including the 13 Dutch Ministries. They are "experts" in their field. They are on temporary assignment from the crown and the focal point for the local and European activities.

The *kwartiermakers* are the individuals, assigned to Bonaire by the various ministries, who will work most directly with the officials of Bonaire, the NGOs, and others to define and perform the tasks that will make the transition happen and establish what follows. They are the ones who "work in the field."

Kwartiermakers is literally translated into English as Quartermasters, but the Dutch meaning is quite different from the English translation. In English, Quartermaster always has a military or nautical connection. But in Dutch, where the term also has a military use, its alternative meaning is perhaps best suited for the current situation. ***Kwartiermakers* means pioneers... the ones who are the scouts sent ahead to pave the way for the future.** Bonaire's *kwartiermakers* are ministry professionals assigned here for 18 months. Eventually Bonaireans will replace these scouts.



Wilna Groneneboom photo

Some members of the Kwartiermakers Korps: Standing, l. to r.: Jozef van Brussel, Dido Kalma, Ed van Haveren, Henk Kamp, Pieter Langebaerd, Egbert Jules. Sitting l. to r. starting at the top: Maarten Stoffels, Marga Drewes, Fleur Lagcher, , Esther Balledunks , RSC Director Wil van Delft (wearing a tie) and Math Mager.

- VROM (Housing, Physical Planning and Environment)
 - Manfred Beckman Lapré/ Josef van Brussel/ Wim Hofman**
- VWS (Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport)
 - Finance **Koen Jansen**
 - Health **Dido Kalma**
 - Hospitals **Maarten Stoffels**

These men and women are on Bonaire to help make the shift from a Curaçao-led central government structure to a Bonaire that, while becoming part of Holland politically, can maintain its rural charm and protected environment.

The switch to direct governmental ties as a municipality of Holland is expected to happen in the second half of 2010. If the RSC does its job well by then important aspects of life in Bonaire will have begun to improve especially for health care, education, security and environmental protection. Hopefully it will not be at a cost of loss of cultural identity, overdevelopment, or that inexplicable quality... the Bonairean lifestyle. ■ G.D.

On the Island Since... 2005 - Ans Donker-Wassink

"I was born on Curaçao in 1963. My mom had a chicken farm at Mamayaweg #40 and she also owned a *truk*, a mobile snack. Drusilla, who worked for my mom, would make food like *carni stoba* and salt fish with bread, *pan frances*, coffee, and at night a man named Rene would drive the *truk* to its stand at the post office in Punda where he would sell the food. That was my mom's business.

My mom was from Curaçao, her name was Jopie Schouten. She had two children: my brother Rupert, who was 11 years older than I, and me. We had our own house next to the chicken farm. I was always with my mom. Every day at six we went to the market to buy the food for the *truk* and to deliver eggs to the supermarkets. We had about 1,500 chickens, all black ones, and we kept them for the eggs and when they wouldn't lay eggs anymore we slaughtered them. I would do it too; my mom taught me how. I remember how they would fly after we'd chopped their heads off and many times we had to collect them at the neighbors'.

My father had made all the chicken pens himself - with my help. The chickens that were being picked at I would keep -

and I sold their eggs to my mom. That's how I made my pocket money.

It was a very happy life; I loved my mom so much. We were always together. My mom didn't want me to go to school. I went to kindergarten for only three months, then she took me out and I stayed with her until I was seven and I had to go to the first grade." *She laughs.* "I didn't like school although I was a very good student. The only thing I really wanted was to be with my mom.

My dad was from Holland. He was a police officer when he came to Curaçao and that's where they met. He'd been married before and he had two children from his previous marriage. When I was 12 my dad fell ill and had to be operated on in Holland. During the operation he got a lung embolism. They called my mom and she panicked. She flew to Holland immediately and I stayed with my friend, Nicolette van Silfhout. When my parents

came back my mom sold her chicken farm and the house. She wanted to go to Holland, but when my dad's job changed - he became a government official working in the airport - they decided to stay. Luckily my mom was able to cancel the sale of the house and she kept her *truk*. No more chickens though!

When I was 13 my mom died in December. She had five heart attacks in one day: the first one at the hair dressers', the final one at home. Just a week before she'd had a

medical checkup and everything had been okay according to the doctors. Then my dad left for Holland because he had to be operated on and I stayed once more with my friend Nicolette. It was a very sad time. When my dad came back we sold the house - my brother and I were also owners - and my dad and I left for Holland. My brother stayed on Curaçao.

I was 14. I'd been in Holland several times but I'd never lived there. We went to live in Zelhem, a little town in the southeast of Holland where my father had bought a house in 1969. First we lived at an aunt's for three months, then my father and I started all over again. In the beginning I felt quite lonely. The language I'd been raised in was

(Continued on page 5)



Ans Donker-Wassink

"The only problem was that we had 22 pets: six chinchillas, a parrot, two turtles, seven cats and six dogs..."

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On the Island Since
(Continued from page 4)

English, as my mother's mom was from St. Martin. Later on my mom and I would speak Papiamentu together, but when my dad was home we would speak Dutch. So the language wasn't a problem, but the dialect they spoke in Zelhém was! I went to VWO and my grades were all bad except for Dutch, English and French. All the changes - it had been a lot to cope with. Then I went to Havo and after I graduated I studied higher economy administration education. I did the first grade three times! Ha! Ha! Then I went to study middle economy administration education and I graduated. I started working for a company similar to FedEx and I stayed with them for 16 years.

Before all that - I was a bit over 18 - I'd met Rien, my husband, at a birthday party. He came to sit at my feet, leaning against my legs and that was it! Love at first sight! Rien played the drums in a band and he also worked at a bicycle factory, Gazelle, where he stayed for 28 years, until we came to Bonaire. We lived together for five years and in 1990 we got married. Then my dad had a heart attack and was hospitalized. Rien immediately said, 'We're going to take your dad in.' At the time we were living at an apartment on the fourth floor, so we moved into my dad's house which I'd already bought, telling him he could stay there as long as he liked. We took care of my dad for seven years until he died in 1999.

After my dad passed away we stayed at the house, both working our jobs. After working for a company in ear-protection supplies for 18 months I had a stroke - the first one on a Friday night, the second one

on Tuesday night the following week. They took me to the hospital. First I was all right; I could speak, walk and move everything. Then they operated on my brain, through my groin - I was coiled - and I went into a coma. After that I couldn't do anything anymore. I couldn't walk, I had total aphasia and I couldn't move my arms. I had lost it all. That was six years ago, February 2003. I was lucky to survive."

Ans is an exceptional woman, lovely and warm, optimistic and tough on herself. In spite of all the physical difficulties she's still coping with, she's always up for a good laugh and takes life the way it comes - never a complaint.

"For five months I stayed at a rehab center. Rien had a very hard time coping with it, but my motto is, was and will always be: Keep on laughing! Many times I couldn't find the right words and I felt so impotent, then my friend Helga would tell me, 'You can hit me - but with your right hand!' That was the hand I couldn't move. I quit therapy in September 2004. They couldn't improve me any more than I was already.

Before I had my strokes we'd planned to live in Turkey after our retirement. So, when I couldn't work anymore and had to live off a government allowance, we wanted to go there, but it turned out that I couldn't get the allowance in Turkey. Then I felt I wanted to go home, back to the islands where I was born. We'd been to Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire and we chose Bonaire for its tranquility.

The only problem was that we had 22 pets: six chinchillas, a parrot, two turtles, seven cats and six dogs, but... for each and every one of them we found a good



Rien and Ans

and loving home.

We arrived on Bonaire March 7th 2005 and stayed at the Rochaline Hotel for three weeks. Then we rented a house in Kaya Nikiboko South. We came as the two of us, and now we're seven because in the meantime we got four dogs and a cat. It felt immediately right to be here.

After a month Rien found a job at Cultimara and he also started playing the drums with the Flamingo Rockers, which he did for three years. We fitted in right from the beginning. When he started working, I began to work as a volunteer at the Animal Shelter. It was something I'd always wanted. I really like it a lot. It's hard work and it can be really hot, but that's what we came here for! All my life in Holland I felt cold. Here I feel good! Poco poco!

Recently Rien started working for Kooyman and he really likes the job. We go to Curaçao once a year because June 1st is Mona's birthday. She's the one who was always helping my mom, and when my mom died she took care of us until we left for Holland. She's still there and we talk on the phone a lot and to me...she's family.

On Bonaire I have my friend Kitty, whom I know from Curaçao when I was little, so yeah...we're happy, we have a full life and I feel I've come home." ■

Story & photos by
Greta Kooistra

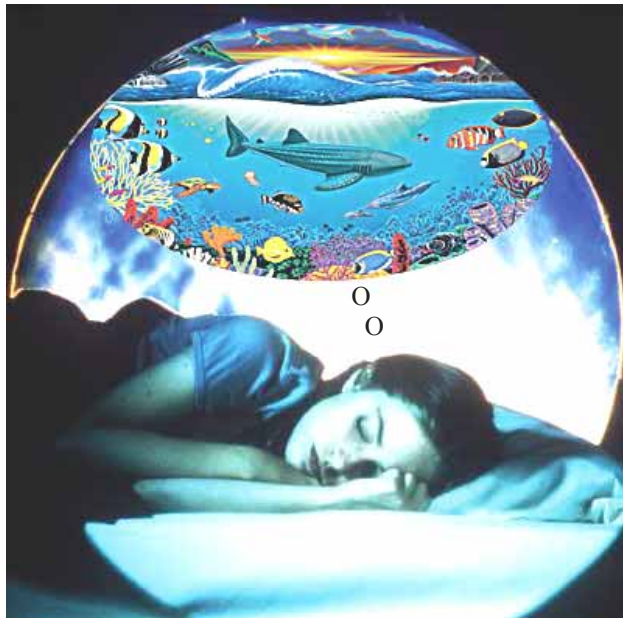


							
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Snorkeler's Notebook: Sewage Dreams



I wake with a start, in a cold sweat, after one of my regular snorkeling dreams goes bad. Most of the time, my dreams of snorkeling have a recurrent theme: I am standing on a pier or the waterfront looking down into the sea, which is swirling with every color and kind of fish. The swirling Technicolor waters are irresistible but I can't get in and join the fracas because I've either lost my mask or my fins or the taxi is waiting to take me to the airport for a plane I must not miss or I will lose my job. Yet I am so drawn to what is a once-in-a-lifetime, dream snorkel that I can't turn away from a feeling that seems almost archetypal.



This dream is much different. Instead of snorkeling in a turquoise sea full of brilliant creatures and coral, everything is grey and beige. There is not a shard of coral or a molecule of sea life, just unending sand, rocks, and a kind of scum. I keep searching desperately for anything alive, but no matter which way I snorkel, there is nothing. I wake up to the sound of my own voice, repeating over and over again "Oh no, the sewage has killed everything." The clock says it is 3:30 am but it is impossible to return to sleep after such a nightmare. So, as with all my puzzling or disturbing dreams, I start deconstructing what might have provoked this one.

Then I remember reading in the "Flotsam and Jetsam" section of the last *Bonaire Reporter* that "it is not certain when Bonaire will actually receive the second hand water tank trucks from the Netherlands to haul wastewater away from waterfront hotels and businesses." (Obviously this piece of disturbing information has stuck in my craw and seeped into my subconscious.) I toss and turn for two more hours thinking about sewage, sewage, sewage! And you know how it is when sleep becomes an insomniac episode: the mind flits erratically from one thing to another so that you feel a bit crazed.

Here is a snippet from my flow of consciousness during those early morning hours following my snorkeling nightmare:

Why does it take so long to get some trucks to truck sewage? Many people on Bonaire and in the Netherlands have ingenuity, creativity, and resources (you can see this in all the building of apartments, condos, and offices going on everywhere), so why have all these entrepreneurs been unable to build a sewage infrastructure in 20 years? What to do, what to do, what to do?
Image: Brian La Pointe, marine biologist, holding a handful of algae, exclaims matter-of-factly, "Bonaire's reefs have reached the point of no return." What argument has not

been made? What fact has not stuck? What person has not been convinced? What can I do, what can I do?

I sit up and take a sip of water, hoping to focus my brain:

Image: Hundreds of thousands of years of majestic coral reef, a treasure of the universe, dying in just a few years. How will that look in the tourist brochures? What can you do, what can you do? Image: The unfenced LVV trenches full of stinking sewage, chemical sludge, and bathing birds and dogs. Help! Where is the portable sewage processing plant? The new wind turbines have arrived; who greased the wheels to make that happen but not the sewage plant? What can we do, what can we do? Image: Dead eels floating here, there, and everywhere. Image: Director of the Bonaire Marine Park Ramon de Leon's statement warns that Bonaire's reefs won't survive until the government implements the sewage plan (estimated now to be 2014) What can they do, what can they do?

Exhausted, I notice light is beginning to break; perhaps the coming dawn can shift my mental and emotional gears. I hear a friend tell me, "Think positively if you want a positive outcome." So, I take her suggestion, lie back down, close my eyes, and begin envisioning the portable sewage processing plant being unloaded at the docks, the LVV trenches being scrubbed clean, the waterfront hotels and resorts trucking their sewage daily, no more cruise ship dumping, and..... government and tourist officials having sewage dreams like mine.... before Bonaire's reefs are relics of history. ■

Pauline Kayes is a Professor Emeritus from Champaign, IL and a part-time Bonaire resident.




Guest Editorial

The Power of a Single Person to Make Changes

At a meeting of businesses it was brought up by someone that it is useless for a group or for individuals to try to accomplish anything. It was then said it is possible and that things have been accomplished. Then someone asked, "What has been accomplished?"




- Please look at this partial list of what individuals and small groups have done over the years.
- 1) One person by himself, successfully lobbied the government to make a **law against spearfishing**. One can add that this was done against a great deal of opposition to such a law.
 - 2) This same person lobbied for a **Marine Park** which has become a National Park with many regulations to protect it.
 - 3) A handful of people made **Klein Bonaire** a political issue which then was taken over by the government and Klein has become part of Bonaire.
 - 4) Many years ago CURO broke the back of an entrenched and useless **STINAPA** Board and now STINAPA has credibility and is accomplishing what it should have years ago.
 - 5) The plan for an **oil refinery** located in the Northeast of Bonaire was crushed by a group of people.
 - 6) Those resorts which are **producing potable water** by reverse osmosis or other means can thank a single person who took on WEB (owned by Curaçao and Bonaire government) to court and won the case allowing these units. You're welcome!
 - 7) BONHATA has successfully changed the plans of the government to immediately install or increase various **taxes**. Time was given so it could be worked out.
 - 8) Lobbying gave **street lights** to an area which needed them in front of a group of hotels.
 - 9) A group successfully brought **cleaning up Bonaire** to the front. That same group convinced markets to stop using **plastic bags**.
 - 10) One market started plastic bags again. Within hours that manager was swamped with complaints and stopped the bags.
 - 11) A group of **NGOs** which meet monthly have made themselves well known to the government which now asks for **advice** from that group regarding environmental issues. That group also has a strong voice in many areas of the ecology and environment of Bonaire.
 - 12) A handful of people saw the Youth Center (**Jong Bonaire**) restored and made the government aware of the need.
 - 13) There was a plan to build a **resort at Playa Frans** which would have included parts of Washington Park. A single person heard about this, made it public and it was stopped.
 - 14) **Lac Bay** became a National Park because of lobbying.
 - 15) A single individual saw turtles being slaughtered. Formed a group which is International and now the **Turtle Club** has become extremely powerful and has saved countless turtles.
 - 16) **Telbo** was taken to court by private individuals to **fight its monopoly** and now we have other phone companies.


Not a single thing above would have been done if it were not for individuals and small groups pushing for these. The list is longer. ■ *Bruce Bowker*



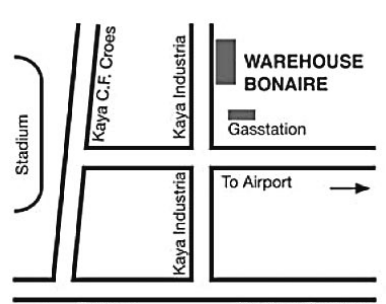
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BONAIREAN VOICES

More Bonaire Businesses

The recent Windsurfing Week showed that with the support of our own local people and visitors we can make it happen. The success of a business is due to good planning, teamwork and the support of our own people. With an introduction to some of these businesses we can perhaps see what's kept them going.



Starting in Noord (North) Salinja there are several businesses but one in particular is **Bo Toko** at Kaya Caribe 10, now managed by **Lien Alberto**. The building, as Lien says, is more than 70 or 80 years old. Ursula Melaan's father started his business in this building and he passed it over to her daughter. Three and a half years ago Lien Alberto took it over and she's still going strong. Before that Lien worked at the Government Steering Office (BC), which she didn't like so much. She had her own business selling gold and silver jewelry. With the money she earned from selling jewelry she was able to buy her own house. Lien says, "Now that I have my own grocery shop it takes a lot of time and effort for me to maintain my family and myself. But it is worth it. If you love working it will go very easily."

Coming down to Antriol you will find



Toko Carmen on Kaya Korona 71, run by **Agnes Angila** for the last 10 years. Agnes is a very humble person and loves what she is doing. She says, "I started this with my own money, and because I love doing this kind of business I strive to keep up with it. I went through hard times but it didn't keep me down. Elderly people living in this area regularly visit the shop to buy their daily needs. It's wonderful to meet these people and keep in touch with them. You keep in contact with the people of your neighborhood."

Coming down to Lagoen road you arrive at **Panaderia Selektta**, managed by



Otmaria Janga and Antolino Statie the owner. They've been operating the business for 25 years. They start making bread at 2 o'clock in the morning. The grocery shop opens at 6 am and closes at 7 pm. They combine it with a snack shop where they sell breakfast, lunch and snacks and close at 10 pm. Otmaria says, "In the past it was easier to do business. Today you have a lot of competition. With every product the prices are getting higher, and consequently the price of bread turns out to be expensive too. But we've experienced this before and have made these economic changes part of our daily life."

We take the road to Amboina and we come to **Amboina Happy Center** nr. 101.



The owner is **Lourdes Marcelina** who's been in business for 23 years. She used to work for other people. When Lourdes' brother, Jesus "Gibi" Marcelina, heard that the Amboina shop had closed, he saw a great opportunity to reopen it again and he asked Lourdes to work with him. Together they started the business and for 14 years Lourdes worked with her brother. Then Gibi got really sick and died. Lourdes says, "Some months before my brother died he was so sick that he decided to stop working to take care of his health but it was too late. I got used to working all by myself eventually, but still the first years after Gibi's death it was really hard for a while. But then it went easier. The will to continue makes me understand what I really want is to reach my goal." ■ *Siomara E. Albertus*

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



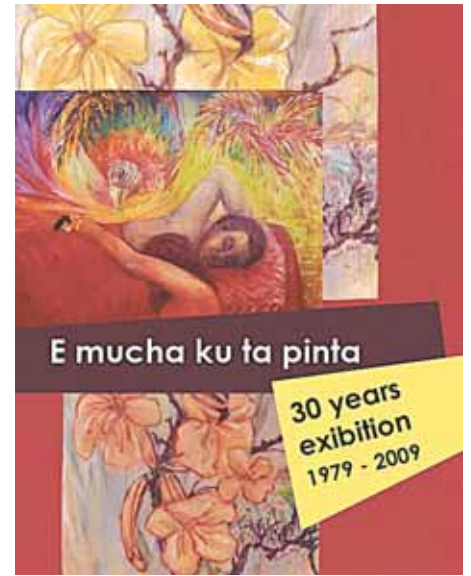
Aysla ten Holt - 30 Year Exhibition

Aysla ten Holt, opens her exhibition of 30 years of her art this week in Curaçao. Aysla has roots in Bonaire. In the 80s she lived in Bonaire where she worked extensively with fellow artists as well as teaching art to children in the community. She was instrumental in helping Bonnie Kerr set up the (very much missed) Bonaire Art Gallery. She's the artist who made the coral stone flamingos on the sidewalks on Kaya Grandi.

Since then she's returned to our island for several exhibits.

Born in Curaçao, Aysla travelled extensively throughout Europe and North Africa performing as a singer. But her musical career gave way to her lifelong love of the visual arts, and she immersed herself in the local culture while she explored the mediums of pen and ink, chalk, oil and acrylic.

Aysla balances this work with an intense study of the healing arts including Yoga, Shiatsu and Reiki. She lives in the countryside near the ocean in Curaçao and can be reached through her website at www.asylatenholt.com, or by tele-



phone at (599 9) 864-9598 or cell (599 9) 526-8813.

Her retrospective show, "E Mucha ku ta Pinta," (The girl that paints) is at the **Snip Gallery at Het Curaçaosch Museum** from August 7 until August 21. Opening hours are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Closed Saturday. Sunday open 10 am to 4 pm. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

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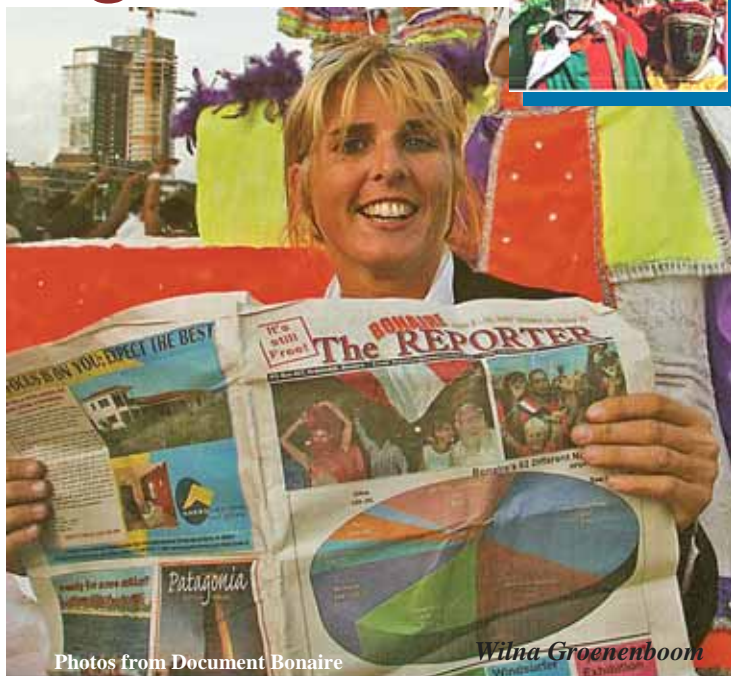
Documenting Bonaire

Photo-journalist Wilna Groenenboom has managed to capture the soul of Bonaire in transition with stunning photographs in her perceptive new book. Bonaire is changing ... fast. Its traditional architecture, culture and people are disappearing as they adapt to the pressures of the 21st century and the new more direct link with Europe.

The book's title is what it says: a Document of Bonaire... as it was. Already many of the subjects in the photos in this dazzlingly gorgeous book are gone.

Groenenboom lived in Bonaire for seven years and was a contributing writer-photographer and Art Director for *The Reporter* in the early 2000s. Her book records hundreds of her impressions of those years. She's sensitively captured the unique character of this exceptionally beautiful island. In her view it is often the ordinary everyday scenes which reveal the very soul of the people who live in a place.

What sets the book apart and makes it so extraordinary is that it faithfully reflects of sometimes veiled beauty of everyday life. What a perfect memento for all



Photos from Document Bonaire

Wilna Groenenboom

who love our island.

The book will be introduced by the author-photographer on **Sunday, August 9, starting at 4 pm at the Buddy Dive Resort Pool Bar. All are welcome.**

Following the presentation to Governor Thode there will be an opportunity to **have your book signed by Wilna Groenenboom and to meet her in person.**

There will be a special price of \$40 for the book this evening. Thereafter it will sell for \$45 in shops around the island.

Document Bonaire has been made possible thanks to the commitment and sponsorship of, among others the MCB Bonaire Bank, DAE Airlines and shipper IFC Moerdijk. ■ L./G. D.

BonQuiz #12

The Pali' lele, *Randia aculeata*, is also known as the Goat Horn, Inkberry or Indigo berry tree.

This tree grows throughout Bonaire. Its stem is very straight, with three branches that stick out at fixed intervals, but all at the same angle. They form crowns at different heights around its stem. And surprisingly, it's found in most authentic Bonaire kitchens.

Years ago before the pine and balsam were introduced, this tree was used as a Christmas tree on Bonaire. The tree's trunk and its perfectly aligned branches, which are thick and sturdy, served its purpose to hang Christmas ornaments. There were no leaves attached to any of the branches. Today, this 'Christmas tree' is still found in some homes on Bonaire during the holiday season. But...there is another purpose that part of this tree's trunk is used for in kitchens throughout Bonaire.

Question: Of what culinary use is the Pali' lele

Answer on page 12

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: christidovale@hotmail.com.



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Poachers Take A Toll

It's almost fledging time for Bonaire's Loras.

The older they get the grumpier they are and they can do some damage with those beaks. By now they've had enough of sitting in their dark little hole, and it's getting a bit claustrophobic. Imagine three almost adult sized Loras squashed into a small nest in a tree or cliff and every one trying to exercise their wings and fight for food from mum when she comes in to feed them. Soon enough, the adult Loras will stop feeding their chicks in an attempt to get them to leave the nest. They will coax them out with the promise of a good meal if they venture into the outside world. This takes some persuading and the chicks will lose a lot of weight before they eventually leave.



Young Lora

As I have mentioned previously, not many chicks will make it to this stage, and by now there are very few Lora chicks left. To illustrate this, here are some statistics: **63 chicks hatched this year from the 28 nests that we have been monitoring. Currently only 26 chicks remain in only 14 nests.** I am constantly editing this as I write this article as more and more chicks are being lost.

cam" (a camera hidden nearby) to try and find the answer. After only 30 minutes of recording, a cat was seen approaching the nest. Then the cat climbed the tree to the limb outside the nest, and climbed inside ("poacher cam" was then renamed "cat cam"). By now all of the chicks have gone, and all we could do was watch. Now we have evidence of this, in the future we can consider methods to mitigate and control the feral cat population in the area.

We know for a fact that three of the nests-each containing three chicks-have been taken by poachers. One nest had been cut open with a machete, so a Lora can never use that nest again. This is an example of how poaching over the recent years by the current poached generation has turned into a very unsustainable and reckless activity. We have worked with people who used to poach Lora nests in the past, and admittedly, we have learnt a lot from them. These people understand the behaviour and the biology of the Lora too, and have helped us by showing us nests and methods of extracting the chicks. I have heard them also express disappointment in the current generation's lack of respect by using chainsaws and machetes to get to the chicks. This means that as well as deeming that nest useless for Loras in the future, it also means that the poacher also won't have a nest to poach from next year. Everybody loses, especially the Loras who will spend the next 30 years or so in a cage.

We hope that the remaining chicks are left to fledge and we look forward to seeing them staggering out of their nests to join the wild population very soon. ■

Story & photos by 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



Poached parrot nest destroyed by machete

While making use of our infrared cameras to determine why chicks are disappearing from nests, we made some interesting discoveries. One very common phenomenon that we have been encountering is that in some nests, chicks disappear gradually, one by one. Surely a poacher would take all of the chicks in one go rather than risk going back to the nest on numerous occasions and risk getting caught? So, we decided to play detective, and we set up "poacher

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SURPRISED IN ALASKA



Dear Editor:

For a visitor from the ABC-islands it is certainly surprising that Alaska has its own ABC-islands- Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof - located close each to the other between Juneau, the Alaska capital, and the Pacific Ocean. They are among the largest islands of the US.

Another surprise in Alaska has been the enormous presence of cruise ships. In the Caribbean, we are used to cruise ships which call on the island's port and depart soon for another destination. Local companies with their own guides provide excursions to landmarks of the islands. We know, however, that while local shop owners welcome the cruise tourists, there is, also on Bonaire, a strong resistance of a part of the population against the cruise ship visits. It cannot be, however, compared with the situation on Alaska where there is an enormous resentment of the whole population against the cruise lines, with exception of the gift and jeweler shop owners and some business establishments.

The fact that the cruise tours currently account for 70% of all Alaska tourism, gives the cruise lines enormous power. In Juneau, the cruise lines occupy all berths downtown and the ferry ships of the state Marine Highway, the only transport possibility for the overwhelming majority of the population, had to dock at a new terminal, built 14 miles outside the city. At any moment, five or more large cruise ships are moored in Juneau and the narrow shopping streets are flooded with thousands of tourists.

The proliferation of large cruise ships in Alaska has continued to grow beyond the carrying capacity of the small-town ports the ships call on. A backlash against the cruise companies reached the ballot box in 2006. Voters fed up with perceived abuses by the cruise industry approved new, high taxes, particularly a head tax of \$50 for each cruise ship tourist. In addition, very severe environmental and waste treatment regulations were established. However, these hard measures have not discouraged the cruise line companies to expand their activities

on a scale unknown in the Caribbean. Unlike in the Caribbean, the giant of Alaska tourism, Holland America Line, but also the Princess Cruises, own several hotels, hundreds of buses and dozens of railcars.

To my surprise, I met the H.A.L. buses also deep in the interior of Alaska, for instance at a very remote resort where you can, after swimming in a lake with hot mineral water, subsequently drink a liqueur from glasses made from ice in a large ice museum.

The H.A.L. and the Princess Cruises, together with another nine cruise lines, are subsidiaries of the mightiest player in this field – the Carnival Corporation. Recently, the Alaska public has been very upset when state inspectors were denied access to waste treatment facilities on ships of this corporation to monitor adherence to strict environmental regulations. In spite of the current economic crisis, there have been recently growing demands of the public to increase the already high government pressure on the cruise lines. The interest of the cruise companies for Alaska is easy to understand. This huge state, with an area of one fifth of the Lower 48, is one of the most interesting places in the world, particularly for lovers of undisturbed nature, breathtaking scenery and adventure.

Jiri Lausman

BICYCLING ON BONAIRE



Dear Editor:

Many years ago I lived my life without ever wondering about the possible existence of a species called "Makamba" (*a Papiamentu label for European Dutch people—Ed.*) let alone becoming one.

In that era I lived and worked in Amsterdam. Even if you've never been there, it goes without saying that a city as old as Amsterdam was not built with cars in mind.

Fortunately for those living there, some visionary mind invented the bicycle. And made a fortune, selling them by the thousands to the people of Amsterdam. One of them to me.

In Amsterdam almost everything is within a reasonable distance. And the fastest way to reach your destination is by bike.

Another advantage: no parking problems or fees (€6 p/h). Because of this (now I am coming to the point) I never felt the urge to pass my driver's test.

Now that I know that Makambas do exist, and even having become one myself, the bicycle remains my only way of transport.

Here in Bonaire, I quickly abandoned the idea that cycling in Amsterdam is a dangerous adventure. Here, my deep feeling is that this trip could be my last. It occurs to me that possessing a driver's license, meaning you're capable of driving a car around, doesn't go for the majority on Bonaire.

First, the driving position shows a resemblance to the Goya painting of Madame Recamier reclining. While this may be OK for a painting, it's less suited for driving a car. I can't see the driver's face, so I suppose they can't see mine either... nor a donkey, cat or pedestrian. And even if they noticed the unidentified object there's little chance to avoid a collision with the steering wheel almost out of reach.

Another typical phenomenon is the number of cars with the lights in every possible state of malfunction. Only one, none, non fitted, or, most commonly, blinding.

Calculating the speed of other traffic also seems a problem. Ever noticed the queuing at a cross road? With no traffic in sight they're halted in doubt. And when finally they make up their mind, it's often too late.

A few words about the police force and their everlasting efforts to discourage riding a bicycle:

While making slow but steady progress on the foot path of Kaya Korona I saw my way blocked by two officers. Yes, I was aware that it's prohibited to cycle on a footpath. And no, they were not impressed by my explanation that, given the fact that to my knowledge no one ever made use of the footpath, it seemed a good idea to use it as a bicycle path. This because after the renovation of the road it turned out to be too narrow for two cars and a bike. This idea met with no sympathy. But in their goodness I was allowed to walk the remaining distance without any fine.

On many more occasions my bike and lights underwent close inspection. During those investigations, numerous cars, with defects beyond imagination passed unnoticed.

It's a good thing to know that at least the police keep an eye on me.

Paul I.

Body Talk

SUGAR SUBSTITUTES

In the previous article we discussed the addictiveness of sugar and its effect on the body. In this issue we deal with those very popular sugar substitutes or artificial sweeteners like Saccharin, Sucralose and Aspartame and how we are duped into believing that, because of no calories, they are "good for us" especially if diabetic, overweight or just health conscious!

Imaginative labeling by the food industry leaves most of us unaware of the devastating long term effects of these sugar substitutes. Let us look at them in more depth!

SACCHARIN found in chewable aspirin, diet soft drinks, pre-packaged foods, desserts and prescription drugs. It is being linked to eczema, photosensitivity, "sulfa" allergies (prescription drugs), headaches, diarrhea etc. Also suspected in some cancers (bladder), possible tumor formation and the destruction of brain cells.

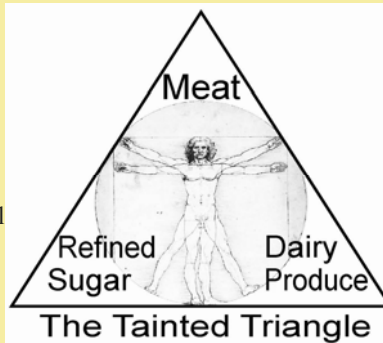
SUCRALOSE when combined with carbon in the diet becomes highly toxic allowing poisons to be fat soluble while rendering the natural defense mechanisms of the body helpless. These poisons invade every nook and cranny of the body including cell walls and DNA, resulting in irregular heartbeat, headaches, liver and kidney damage and cancer.

ASPARTAME - One of the end products after ingestion of aspartame is formaldehyde. It has been scientifically established that formaldehyde converted from the methyl ester in aspartame embalms living tissue and damages DNA. http://www.mpwhi.com/formaldehyde_from_aspartame.pdf

These sugars also interact with other chemical substances including antidepressants, cardiac medication, hormones, insulin and vaccines.

At least one of these sweeteners can be found in breakfast cereals, sugar free gum, frozen desserts, juices, diet sodas, yogurt and milk drinks. Roughly 6,000 consumer foods and beverages sold worldwide contain them, often in cleverly disguised forms.

In May 2009 the National Cancer Institute confirmed the link between formaldehyde and cancer, 24 years after the FDA toxicologist Dr.



Adrian Gross told Congress aspartame causes cancer and an allowable daily intake should never have been allowed to be set.

It should be realized that the effects of these artificial sweeteners are subtle and develop over a long period of time. Numerous studies world-wide have proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that we are systematically being poisoned. The food industry will go to many lengths to shut those scientists (with factual evidence) brave enough to speak out, up. An unfavorable outcome of a study is more often than not manipulated or ignored to lull us into a false sense of security.

How much of your diet consists of pre-packaged food, sauces, desserts and soda drinks? You have perhaps tried most medications for your particular health problem, but till you know what exactly is in the food you eat, you cannot hope to gain better health. Remember, the food industry sells **Taste**, not **Nutrition**. We hope to have a complete list of foods and drinks available on Bonaire and what exactly they contain in regard to sweeteners and additives.

Do Not Despair: There are healthy sugars available! Next issue "The Good Sugars." All comments and questions are welcome.

Stephanie Bennett
Stephanie@harmonyhousebonaire.com
Interesting websites <http://www.dorway.com>

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.



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Junella Pietersz writes, "Lorienny Mercera, Edseyenne Pietersz and Laequisha de Paula (1 to r.), went to Orlando, Florida, to enjoy their summer vacation. Of course they took their Bonaire Reporter with them. Here they are at Disney's Epcot Center. They had a wonderful time with Mickey, Minnie and friends plus the trip was educational too." ■



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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
8-07	1:13	1.7FT.	10:08	1.0FT.					79
8-08	1:40	1.5FT.	10:09	1.1FT.					80
8-09	1:58	1.4FT.	9:39	1.1FT.	17:17	1.4FT.	19:54	1.4FT.	79
8-10	8:51	1.1FT.	17:30	1.5FT.					75
8-11	8:16	1.1FT.	17:56	1.6FT.					70
8-12	4:30	1.0FT.	18:28	1.7FT.					63
8-13	4:52	0.9FT.	19:13	1.9FT.					56
8-14	5:29	0.9FT.	19:56	2.0FT.					51
8-15	6:02	0.8FT.	20:39	2.0FT.					52
8-16	6:31	0.8FT.	21:31	2.1FT.					60
8-17	7:07	0.8FT.	22:17	2.1FT.					70
8-18	7:41	0.9FT.	12:21	1.0FT.	13:56	1.0FT.	23:05	2.1FT.	82
8-19	8:09	0.9FT.	12:39	1.1FT.	15:33	1.0FT.			92
8-20	0:45	1.8FT.	8:35	1.0FT.	13:25	1.2FT.	16:56	1.1FT.	99
8-21	1:39	1.7FT.	9:00	1.1FT.	14:05	1.3FT.	18:30	1.1FT.	102



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Now—Art Exhibit and Sale of Paintings by Renata Van Der Byl, Plaza Lobby

Until September 30—Bonaire Dive into Summer. See TCB or your hotel for details.

Thursday August 6th. Mangrove Forest Ecology, Management And Restoration – Bonaire public lecture, 7 pm at CIEE Research Station Bonaire, Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 26. Speaker will be Robin Lewis

Friday, August 7—Opening of artist Asyla ten Holt's Retrospective Show, "E Mucha ku ta Pinta." Snip Gallery at *het Curaçaosch Museum*, Curaçao, 7 pm. Until Aug. 21. More on page 7.

Saturday, August 8 – Mr. Bonaire Contest, sponsored by Bonaire Body Building and Fitness Association, 8-11 pm, SGB high school auditorium, Naf 12,50. Sponsors: Landslottery, Duijn Bonaire, Fundashon Wegu di Number Bonaire

Saturday, August 8—Monthly Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse on Kaya Industria. 7-9 pm. Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (Naf 17,50) per person. More information call 560-7539.

DOCUMENT BONAIRE



Sunday, August 9—Presentation of new photo book Document Bonaire by former Reporter Art Editor Wilna Groenenboom at Buddy Dive Pool Bar, 4 pm. More in the next edition.

Sunday, August 15—Meet Document Bonaire author Wilna Groenenboom at Addo's Bookstore on Kaya Grandi—Time to be announced

Sunday, August 15—Taste of Bonaire and culture night during "Celebrate Our Planet Week" with Oceanographer **Dr. Sylvia Earle** and famous free-diver **Karol Meyer**.

August 14 – 22 – Free Diving Bonaire 2009 – Free Diving Clinics and more with famous free diver Karol Meyer. Host hotel is Buddy Dive Beach Resort. More information at WWW.TourismBonaire.com Bonaire Dive into Summer 2009.

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 Bissesar - 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 Koeks for more information—796-7870.

Mondays

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

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

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 Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: *Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein.* In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am. *Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian,* in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk
Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

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

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at **7:30 pm.** 717-2194

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

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

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

Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel:790-6518, 786-6125

or 790-8988

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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BonQuiz Answer



Question (from page 8):
Of what culinary use is the Pali' lele

Answer: A branch from the Pali' lele is used as a stirrer or a whisk. See the photo above.

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

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. Fast service and in-store financing too.

BANKS

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

BEAUTY PARLOR

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

INTERNET AND CELLULAR SERVICE

Digicel has the most subscribers, widest choice of calling plans and interesting phones. Visit their office on downtown Kaya Grandi and see for yourself.

Mio offers by far the clearest, most reliable phone signal on the island PLUS WIRELESS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET almost everywhere on Bonaire.

DINING

Pasa Bon Pizza is Bonaire's best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too.

On Kaya Gob. Debrot

½ mile north of town center. 780-1111
Call ahead to eat-in or take out

Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant at the Lighthouse at Harbour Village Marina is the original family-owned and operated steakhouse and grill. Fabulous dining. Now open for lunch.
Reservations 717-7725

DIVING

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

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

WannaDive - They make diving fun. In town at City Café, at Eden Beach and Windsock Apartments.

FITNESS

Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

Top Health Bonaire Fitness and Health Center Modern workout rooms and machines, professional trainers and low prices make it easy to lose weight and get fit.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

HOME CARE

Bonaire Second Home Care can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning,

KITCHENS

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PEST CONTROL

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REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Bonaire Sunshine Homes is the realtor with a local touch. Ask them to show you the good value homes they list. Call them if you are thinking of selling your home.

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

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Wonderful service, free gift wrap.

SECURITY

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SUPERMARKETS

The Island Supplier (TIS)-Enjoy shopping the "Caribbean Way" – fresh, open air feeling with reasonably priced produce, frozen meats, canned goods, wide selection of beverages and juices. Good rum selection.

Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein Bonaire with built-in ramp

WINES

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Bubbles from the Biologist



Did You Know... You can wish on a star...underwater.

If you're ever diving or snorkeling in Bonaire and spot a sea plume that appears to have its branches tied up in a knot, don't try to find a "sea-comb!" The chances are it's protecting a basket star from predators. Basket stars are a type of brittle star with many branches extending out from each of their five arms. These arms are used to catch plankton when they feed, which occurs primarily in the nighttime. During the day, they seek protection by using their many complex arms to entangle themselves in the branches of sea plumes. This intertwined mass makes it difficult for them to be spotted and captured. Sea plumes naturally have chemical defenses to ward off predators and this characteristic is

also taken advantage of by basket stars to help them remain protected from attacks. So next time you see a tangled sea plume forget about trying to invent a type of marine shampoo and instead marvel at nature's way of protecting its beautiful creatures and sneak a wish on the equally sneaky basket star. ■ *Monica Edell*

Edell is an undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Austin and attended summer courses at CIEE Research Station Bonaire. She cannot be held accountable for any wishes not granted by basket stars, unless that wish is to save the ocean, in which case she will try her best.



Pet of the Week

This is "Jill" and this is her extravagantly elegantly tail. Not only does she have a luxurious tail but she's a rare one as normally cats with red fur such as hers are male. She's a very playful little cat and loves being around people and other cats. Jill came into the Bonaire Animal Shelter because her owner could no longer take care of her. It's lucky for some possible owner out there who can appreciate a very special cat. You may see Jill and the other animals up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and from 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989.

Right now adoptees include 40 dogs and "lots of cats," say the managers of the Shelter. So you have a nice array of pets from which to choose. The adoption fee of NAf 75 for cats and NAf105 for dogs includes the vet check up, inoculations, testings, worming and sterilization when they're old enough. And all of them are social, meaning they get along beautifully with people and often other pets.

The Shelter's Bonny Superdog Sterilization Program has been a big success. The Program was set up for those pet owners who can't afford to pay themselves. Since May 15 there have already been 200 sterilizations of cats and dogs. The Program depends totally on donations to keep it going. Please, if you can help this is the time to do it. You may contribute with cash (in the dog house donation boxes in many shops and businesses or at the Shelter), by bank transfer: **RBTT Bank Animal Shelter Bonaire: 23.10.139. Say "Bonny Superdog."** The donation will go only for this program. Americans may donate and receive a tax deduction via **Support Bonaire** website. ■ *Laura De-Salvo*



BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The Red Baron Finally Stops Flying

The 52nd of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."



Bonaire/ Kralendijk - It was on one of those hot last days of the month of July that a metallic red re-sprayed double cabin Toyota Hilux truck apparently tried to be independent from its driver and decided to start flying. Along Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot, near the harbor and the only roundabout on the island, the car tried to fly over a wire fence but ended unfortunately in a certain unchosen angle on top of a sturdy stone wall. Two wheels were lifted from the ground. Serious damage was caused to the wall, the fence and an official road sign. The car also suffered heavily from the collision. Fortunately the driver only collected some scratches and black and blue spots. The driver went home and the car remained hanging in the fence on top of the wall for

some days, warning the traffic of unsafe driving.

Then the owner of an (in Dutch) *verreiker* (far reacher/*jb*) passed by several times with his bright yellow four-cylinder diesel-engine-powered hydraulic four-wheel drive heavy equipment. He had imported the old but reliable work horse from Europe and assembled the machine in his back garden to give the *verreiker* a new and useful life. The Dutch driver decided to offer his help. In less than 15 minutes the Toyota Hilux was freed from its unfortunate position and placed with its four wheels back on the ground, the place where cars normally belong.

It is unlikely that this car will take part in the Bonairean traffic again. It is supposed that the Hilux will end up its life as a so

called donor car, extending the tough life of a lot of other Toyotas on this island. The engine, the gearbox, the rear axle and the windshield are still in good condition. Even the radiator seems all right because there are no signs of leaks.

Unfortunately this Red Baron was not as tough as the red single cabin four-wheel drive diesel Toyota Hilux Jeremy Clarkson tried to destroy with trees, sea water, explosives and fire in his English television program, "Top Gear!" (*The Top Gear torture can be seen on YouTube: 13 minutes of informative full color fun on your computer.*) ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



Students to Holland

Graduates of Bonaire's SGB High School are on their way overseas for advanced studies not available on Bonaire. Several youngsters are off to schools in the Caribbean- Barbados or Curaçao- but most are heading to Holland. The foundation FINEB organizes their transportation and provides assistance for them in The Netherlands. ■ *G.D.*



Parents Peter and Esmeralda "Lala" Montanus flank their son, Rens, top SGB student, off to study economics at Windesheim



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

How to Find Two Wonders of Summer's Skies: the Heart of the Scorpion And the Heart of our Galaxy

Did you know that on any moonless night in August you can use an ancient constellation to find two incredible summer night sky sights - both the magnificent red heart of the scorpion and the incredible milky white heart of our galaxy?

This week and next just after it gets dark out face

up and south where you'll see two of summer's most famous star patterns: a constellation which looks like a fish hook or a capital letter 'J', **Scorpius the Scorpion**, and directly behind it several bright stars which, if connected by lines, would look like a teapot. Now Scorpius is officially called a constellation. But the **Teapot** is not. It is called an **asterism**, which means that it is a small pattern of stars within a constellation.

And the constellation to which the Teapot belongs is a very large pattern of stars named thousands of years ago for a mythical creature called a centaur, a creature half man and half horse. Named **Sagittarius**, he was known to be a great master with the bow and arrow, a centaur archer. His bow is marked by two stars of the Teapot's lid and the star at the bottom of the spout. The arrow goes from the top star in the handle through the other star of the lid with the tip of the arrow marked by the star, which also marks the tip of the spout. And with a little imagination you can see that it is aimed at the red star which marks the heart of the scorpion, **Antares**, which is a giant star 700 times as wide as our **Sun**.

But on really dark moonless nights far from city lights you'll also see that the tip of Sagittarius' arrow is embedded in the widest and densest part of that great ribbon of light called the **Milky Way** which stretches all the way from the southern horizon up to the zenith and back down to the northeast horizon. In fact if you look closely at Sagittarius and Scorpius you'll see that most of the Teapot and the bottom half of Scorpius are embedded in the Milky Way. And if you take a pair of binoculars and look here or anywhere along the Milky Way you will see that it is made up of millions of pinpoints of light, each one of which is a distant star which along with our **Sun** all belong to a giant cosmic spiral family of 200 billion stars we call the Milky Way Galaxy.

Our galaxy is shaped kind of like putting two plates face to face together, thin around the outside with a big bulge in the center. And you'll notice that when you look at Sagittarius and Scorpius that the Milky Way bulges here and is much thicker and wider than the rest of the Milky Way. And that's because the bulging center of our galaxy lies in this direction over two dozen light years away. In fact the tip of Sagittarius' arrow is pointed directly at it. So find the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy and the heart of the scorpion with the help of an ancient archer. ■

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For August 2009

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Investments that deal with property will be lucrative; however, upsets with family members may be likely. Don't avoid your true feelings. Social activity should be on your agenda this month. You need to reevaluate your situation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Mingle with those who have similar interests, and you should be able to start something. Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. You may want to make changes in your home environment. Uncertainty about your relationship is prevalent. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You should sit down with someone you trust and work out a budget that will enable you to save a little extra. Children will be of major concern if you haven't kept the lines of communication open. You mustn't make promises that you won't be able to keep. You must steer clear of overindulgent individuals. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your changing philosophies may lead you into new circles and open doors that will give you a unique outlook on life. Unexpected bills may set you back. Mishaps due to preoccupation will be upsetting. Your stubborn nature will backfire if you give your mate an ultimatum. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Any renovation or decorating to your home should include the whole family. Don't be afraid to make a move if you aren't happy with your emotional situation. Lack of cash might be partly to blame for the problems at home. You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Older members of your family may try to take advantage of you. Rest and relaxation may be required; minor health problems will prevail if you don't watch your diet. Someone you care about may not be too well. It's time to consider putting money into long-term investments. Your luckiest

events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Outdoor sports events should entice you. You might be overly emotional concerning situations at work. You will be able to catch up on overdue paper work. You will easily capture the interest of those you talk to. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your temper may get the better of you if a colleague has tried to ruin your reputation. You may be fortunate while traveling. Don't let an incident at work play on your mind. Romance will unfold if you take trips or get together with friends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be sure to take care of any minor ailments. Stop telling others about your problems. Your confidence will stabilize your position. You could be your own worst enemy if you overreact to something you're told. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Your knowledge and good sense will help more than you think. Acceptance is the key. Children could cost you more than you can afford. Try not to allow others to burden you with additional responsibilities. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Strength will come from your ability to overtake just about any one. You may want to plan physical activities that will help burn off some of their excess energy. You're ready to take action and take over. You could be attracting individuals who are anything but good for you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday. occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You'll regret every word for some time to come. Stick to doing things that will make you a better person both physically and mentally. Check your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. Refuse to get involved in idle chatter; it will only make you look bad. Your luckiest events this month will



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Bonaire's Natural Beauty

*Following a soaking rain early in July on the 9th Seru Grandi showed its magic again .. The hills exploded with the yellow blossoms of the kibrahacha tree.
Photos by Ellie Noij*

