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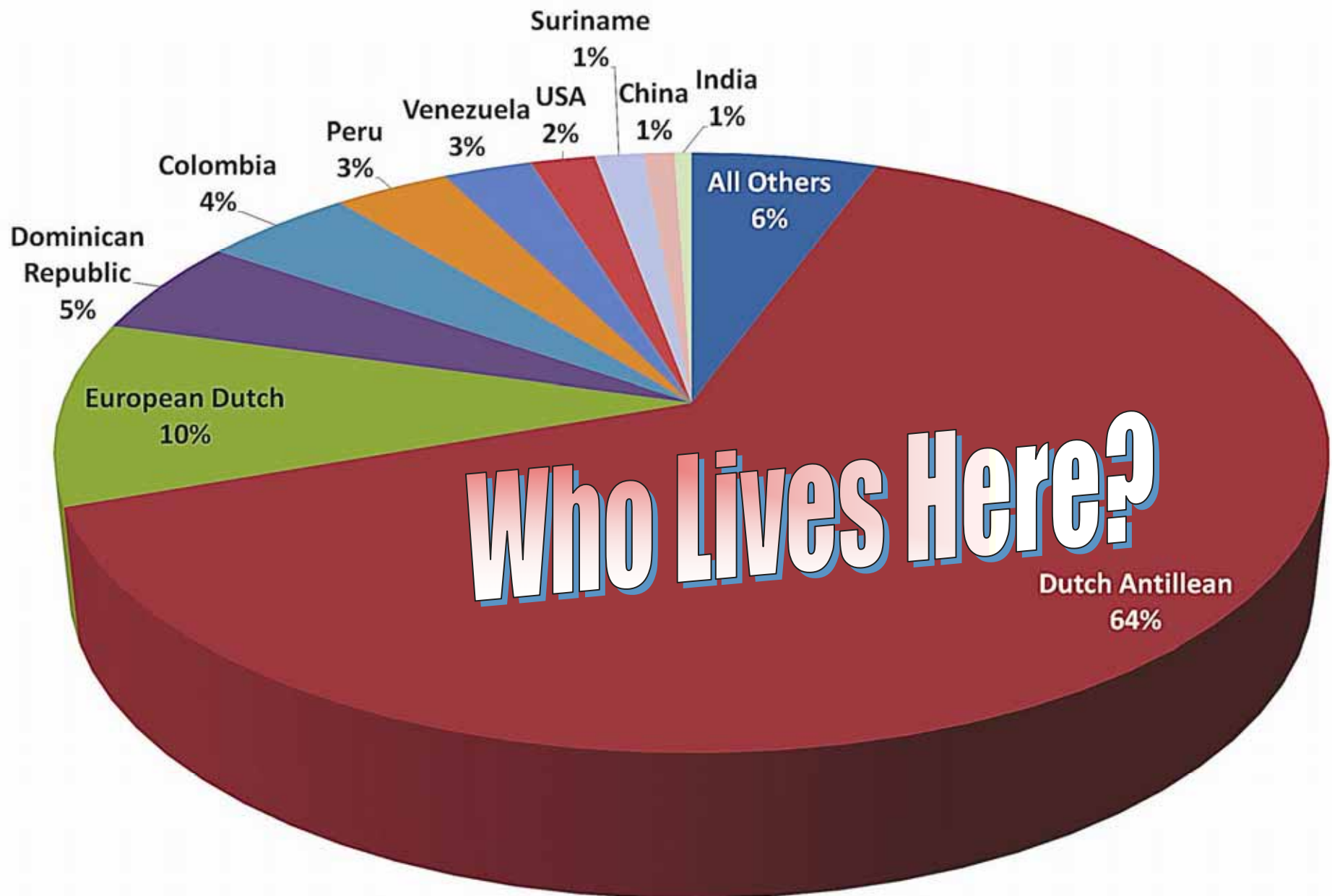
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The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

Kunuku Shimaruku, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-6518, 786-6518, email: reporter@bonairenews.com

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Birth Countries of Bonaire's Legal Residents

Who Lives On Bonaire?

Bonaire is now home to persons born in **106 different countries**. Last year 103 countries were represented. (In the entire world there are 195 countries). That's out of a **total island population of 15,414**.

As an explanation some were born in countries that no longer exist and/or they may have changed their nationality. As it was in 2008, **men continue to outnumber women**: 8,152 men to 7,262 women.

These are figures according to *Bevolking*, the Civil Registry census office as of the end of August, 2009.

Bonaire's population **has increased by 313 persons—2% in eight months** (from 15,101 as of December 31, 2008)

Of the total population (15,414), 9,893 are Antillean born. That leaves the number of immigrants to be **5,521 or nearly 36% of the total population**.

The Top 10 nationalities represented in our immigrant population are: Figures for 2008 are in brackets.

1. Dutch from Holland 1,531 (1,515)
2. Dominican Republic 801 (751)
3. Colombia 698 (627)
4. Peru 533 (454)
5. Venezuela 413 (417)
6. United States 295 (333)
7. Surinam 224 (223)
8. China 141 (144)
9. India 80 (77)
10. Haiti 58 (56)

Other double digit countries in order of numbers are:

- Aruba (52), Canada (46), Ecuador (42), Portugal (40), Germany (39), Jamaica (38), Lebanon (35), Great Britain (28), Nigeria (26), Italy (23), Belgium (22), Guyana (22), Spain (19), Trinidad & Tobago (18), British Guyana (17), Cuba (15), Netherlands Indies (13), Pakistan (11), Switzerland (10).

Other countries represented with single digit numbers are – from A to Z:

- Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda, German Federal Republic, Brazil, British West Indies, Brunei, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominica, Dutch New Guinea, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, French Guyana, Gambia, Ghana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Hawaiian Islands, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Korea, Madeira Islands, Malacca, Malaysia, Mexico, Montserrat, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Rumania, Saint Kitts-Nevis, Saint Vincent, Salvador, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Soviet Union, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Turks and Caicos, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

At the beginning of 2009 our population was 15,101. **There were 108 births and 866 immigrations** (adding 974). But there were **50 deaths and 611 persons emigrated** (subtracting 661), leaving the total at the end of August 2009 to be 15,414.

Greatest number of immigrants this year is from The Netherlands (226), followed by the Netherlands Antilles (170), Peru (90), Colombia (81), United States (71), Canada (54), Dominican Republic (49) and Aruba (44).

The two **most popular neighborhoods for the new immigrants are Antriol Pariba** (155 persons) and **Nikiboko** (144 persons).

Many thanks to the staff at *Bevolking* who provided this information to *The Reporter*. ■ **Laura DeSalvo**

Flotsam and Jetsam

It has been decided that the Antilles national (Parliamentary) elections will be held in January 2010 even though the "country" of the Netherlands Antilles will be in dissolution and set to be completely different by the end of 2010.

The decision prompted Saba to try to secede from the Netherlands Antilles. The island does not see any other way to shake off the yoke of Curaçao and the Antilles. However, it is legally impossible for Saba to immediately secede from the Netherlands Antilles according to Kingdom Relations Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten.

► **The Antillean Central Government has introduced a new entry permit system for investors.** It's called an "Investor Permit" and is geared towards what government describes as "bona fide powerfully wealthy foreigners" who would like to stay in the Netherlands Antilles without choosing to take up residence here or do business here.

The most important condition is that the investor is obligated to make a business investment and/or real estate investment with a total minimum value of NAf650.000 within 18 months of application.

What this new system will mean to the BES islands once the Antillean government is replaced by the Dutch is uncertain.

► **For the first time in its history, Bonaire has a resident court and judge.** Franciscus J.P. Veenhof was installed as a new member of the Common Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba and was sworn in by Bonaire's Governor Thodé. Veenhof was born in Amsterdam in 1949. Between 1992 and 1995 he was Judge of the Court in Curaçao, during which period he held court in Bonaire. He also worked previously as a judge in Alkmaar and Haarlem.

Veenhof is appointed for a period of 1 to 1½ years and will also serve in Curaçao. Having its own court is a further step towards the empowerment of Bon-



Judge Veenhof & Gov. Thodé

aire. Until recently a judge flew weekly from Curaçao or Aruba to Bonaire to hold court.

► As is becoming to be expected by many Bonairean residents, electrical power failed just after noon on Monday, September 7. Only this time WEB said it was not their fault but due to sabotage. WEB customers were totally blacked-out until 4 pm. (The Bonaire Reporter office was unaffected as it operates exclusively on renewable sun and wind power). Eventually the problem was localized to the Finka Verde area on Kaminda Gurubu (the main road to Rincon). After warning that sabotage like this affects not only WEB but all Bonaire, the company apologized for the inconvenience caused by the power outage.

► **Bonaire's wire line phone company, Telbo N.V., has named Gilbert de Bree,** an experienced telecom executive who served as COO and CTO with Scarlet, NV, as its new director. The post has been vacant since Edsel Winklaar resigned and relocated to The Netherlands.

► **A Dutch Justice Ministry investigation has concluded the royal family was indeed the target of the attack** in Apeldoorn on Queen's Day, April 30. The attacker, Karst T., in his last words, called Crown Prince Willem-Alexander a fascist and a racist. Seven people were killed when Karst T. drove his car into a crowd of on-lookers who had come to greet the royal family. The attacker himself died from his injuries, hours after his car

(Continued on page 8)



► **Last week Bonaire became the epicenter of a drug trafficking, money laundering and gold smuggling investigation.** On Tuesday there were massive multinational police raids to make arrests and uncover evidence.

The previous Bonaire Government, which fell a few months ago, is under tight scrutiny from judicial authorities. The Prosecutor's Office of the Netherlands Antilles is coordinating the investigation and described the motives for the raids as "presumptions of fraud-related offenses committed by people within the public administration in Bonaire."

The home of UPB (green party) leader Ramonsito Booi and the home and office of Burney Elhage, currently the Director of Flamingo International Airport, as well as others, were raided in the early morning hours on Tuesday, September 8, by Dutch detectives in cooperation with Antillean and Bonaire police. They are not suspects, said an official press release.

Booi was reportedly near his son in the US (see related item on page 8). It was reported that Elhage cooperated with the investigators and said he was innocent of any wrongdoing. The Bonaire Blue Lagoon project was involved.

Confiscated in the raids were documents, computers, three cars, a Cessna aircraft, lots of cash, gold, firearms including a Kalashnikov assault rifle, ammunition, cell phones and valuable goods. Authorities in Holland and the

Netherlands Antilles arrested five suspects simultaneously, two on Bonaire*. One of the men arrested in Curaçao, a 39-year-old Dutchman, is a Bonaire resident and "advisor to the Bonaire Government." His Bonaire home was simultaneously searched by government agents and boxes of documents and computers confiscated. More than \$8 billion was said to have gone through the US accounts one of the suspects was managing. Two of those arrested were the sons of a former Aruban minister.

On Tuesday, 18 searches were conducted in Bonaire: eight homes, four government agencies and six company premises. Within the scope of this coordinated international criminal investigation, confiscations took place in Curaçao, Aruba, in several European countries, including Holland, Belgium and Austria as well as Bonaire. On Friday, four more Bonaire locations were raided and documents were taken from the Notary and Kadaster (Land Registry) offices.

The investigation is still underway and other searches and arrests are anticipated. These crimes were discovered during a year-long money-laundering investigation in the Antilles, US, and Europe.

*It is the policy of *The Reporter* and an ethical guideline in the Antilles, that the names of non-public figures detained by the police not be reported until they are formally charged with a crime.

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How to contact us

Letters to the Editor:
Reporter@bonairenews.com
Story tip or idea:
info@mto Archives"
The Publisher:
George@bonairenews.com
Box 407, Bonaire,
Neth. Antilles.
Phone 790-8988
Phone 790-6518 / 786-6518
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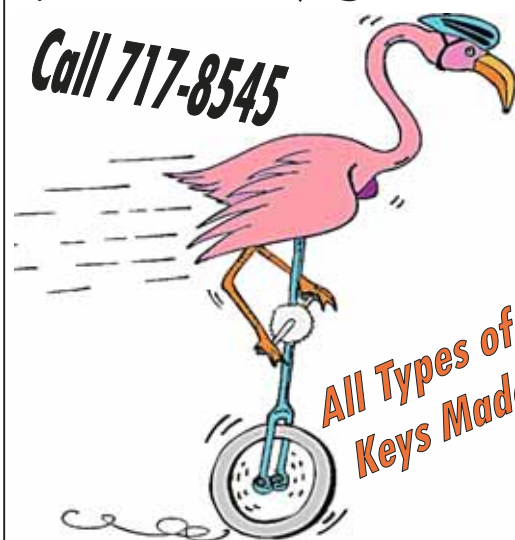
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On the Island Since... 1945 Wilfred Augustin 'Papa' Lucia

'When I was a year old I came to Bonaire to live with my grandmother, Yuchi Eersteling, in Antriol. My mom stayed in Curaçao, where I was born.

I had a perfect childhood; my grandmother was very sweet but also strict. She was a baker. We got up at four in the morning. I had to light the wood that was in the oven and she started baking bread. At six the people would come to the house to buy the bread and I had to go to the *tanki abou*, a dam in Antriol, to collect water, which we used to wash clothes and to bathe in and for everything else, except for drinking water. Drinking water we would buy from people who had a rain cistern. At seven I went to school and after school, in the afternoon, my grandfather and I would walk from Antriol to where the airport is now with a small handcart to collect wood for the oven.

I also had two bicycles: one I'd use to go around with, to sell cakes and cookies, and the other one I fixed up completely – very flashy, very cool. That was the bike I only used on Sundays. So, that's how my life began and those are the things children don't learn at school; that kind of

upbringing starts at home. It taught me never to stop, never to give up, and all my life I've told myself, 'I have to do it – it has to be done!' The way you start your life defines who you will become.

After I'd finished Polytechnic school, I became an apprentice of Abdul, the tailor, then I learned the trade from Mr. Tjin a Tsjoë. I worked for 14 years at Cambes, a ready-made clothing factory. During those years I was also the president of the Sentro di Bario of Antriol where we organized sports events and courses for children and adults.

Then I moved to Curaçao where I set up several businesses. Seven years later I returned to Bonaire to set up a hardware store, a stationery shop and other businesses; all this in the years between 1979 and 1999. That's what I did in the beginning of my life and then I called it a day.

All my life I wanted to have a plantation, but I never had the time. So, eight years ago I found this lot of land, almost one hectare. It was a wild *mondi* and I told myself, 'This is where I want to spend the rest of my days.' I cleaned the terrain and started *poco, poco*. First I put up the fence, which took me more



photos by Greta Kooistra

'Papa' Lucia

than a year, then I started planting and I built a greenhouse and after that my own house, little by

little. I've planted fruit trees like guayaba, mango, papaya, lamoenchi, coco and sugar apple,

and now they're all bearing fruit. After that I started with the vegetables - warmoes, celery, sweet peppers, hot peppers, spinach, red beets, sweet potatoes, okra, tomatoes and eggplant. I also planted watermelon, yucca, sugar melon and pumpkin and maishi. The first time I harvested the

"I think that for many people life has become very complicated and it gets more complicated every day. To me, the future of Bonaire seems uncertain. I don't have any insight in what's coming and where we're going."

(Continued on page 5)

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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)
maishi I got a thousand kilos – but the work was tremendous, too much for one person. We did well though and the plan is also to grow lettuce, which is difficult, but...we'll see!

It's a lot of work for us. Virma Margarita, my partner, and I, also because Virma has a job. She's creative and she takes all kinds of courses, so, there's room for a volunteer or an interim. A few months ago we also bought eight goats and just now a little kid was born. We don't sell them, we don't eat them, we're just keeping them for pleasure. Virma always wanted goats and so did I. We eat what we grow and what we can't use ourselves, we give away to our friends or we sell it.

I think everyone should do something like this for themselves. We're depending too much on Venezuela and the other islands. We produce about half of what we use. The only things we buy is meat (fishing I do myself), bananas (they won't grow here) and rice. The costs are covered - more or less. My water comes by truck from WEB. Water is really the most important thing. I also changed the dirt – took away the diabass and put new soil, fertile soil from the *mondi*.

We're living without running water and without electricity, but at night we run the generator for four hours. This new life has made me tremendously happy; I feel like a 14 year old schoolboy. There are no worries, and you know, that's what kills you: worries.

But, if you're not a go-getter, you can't work with plants, because all of a sudden you get a pest and then you have to throw away everything and start all over." *He*

laughs. "That's where I am now! We had to throw away 120 pepper plants and if I would have had a different mentality it would have meant the end, but you can't stop me! I don't want to use pesticides – I want the natural thing!" *Papa Lucia is a gentle man. He looks fragile, but I am astonished to see what he has accomplished in such a short period of time. He's one of those extraordinary people who made his dream come true, solely by perseverance and hard work.*

"I've traveled a lot in my life, but nature as it is on Bonaire, you don't find anywhere else.

Before, I used to go to Washington Slagbaai for four or five days, to fish, to drive around and I also lived at Lac for a while – I still have a little cabin there – so, the reason I live on a kunuku is that I wanted to live in nature. I'm here most of the time and I don't see a lot of people, except for the ones who come to pick up fruit and vegetables. The only person I see every day, besides Virna, is my friend Leo, and my friend Don Miguel comes to visit too.

When I wake up, I go and see my plants first and when I smell the aroma of those plants I feel totally happy. I work all day long, accompanied by my dog and two cats, which follow me everywhere. and then it's dark and it seems there was never enough time. But I stay in good shape. I can do it for another five years or so!

I think that for many people life has become very complicated and it gets more complicated every day. The other day I had to go to *Bevolking* and I found there was a new machine which tells you what counter you should go to. While I was waiting for my turn, a man came in and he

just stood there, not knowing what to do. In the 20 minutes I was sitting there, I helped four people who didn't know how to operate the machine. They should put somebody there to explain how to work that machine!

It's just an example, but you see, not everybody here can read and plenty of people still don't know how to work a computer.

To me, the future of Bonaire seems uncertain; it's like I don't have any insight in what's coming and where we're going. I think there should be another referendum to find out whether we want to go on with BES, yes or no. Till that time we have to wait and see and thus I can't say anything now.

I'm also a tour guide. I do private tours and it's real fun. You get to know a lot of different people and you learn from them the same way they learn things from you. For three or four hours you're in the car together and there's so much to talk about, so much to see and explain and to show and people really like it. The first thing tourists always tell me is how clean the island is, the cleanest place in the region. I'm proud of that, yes, very proud!



Papa and Virma Margarita

I don't do it for the money - I'm retired – I do it because I love doing it! I don't go on vacation anymore. I went once, four years ago, and I had paid someone to take care of my plants while I was gone. When I came back everything had died and I had to start all over again. You see, someone else doesn't have the same heart for your plants as you do.

Anyway, I've enjoyed the world already. Here I'm safe; we're like one family. The people of Bonaire are warm and it's this warmth which means everything to me – to me that's what Bonaire is. ■ *Greta Kooistra*



			
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Lots Of Action At Jong Bonaire

Jong Bonaire Culture Calendar Launched

Supla Karko, a large photo from the 2010 Jong Bonaire Calendar, was unveiled during Dia di Boneiru symbolizing the official launch of the new calendar which focuses on Bonaire's cultural heritage. **Gezaghebber Glenn Thodé and Deputy of Culture Nolly Oleana participated in the unveiling along with Jong Bonaire manager Jona Chirino (see photo).** The calendar is perfect for gift giving and personal use.

This year the calendar features 12 teenagers from the Jong Bonaire youth center photographed with 12 *grandinan* (elders) who taught the teens about the cultural history and traditions of the island. Professional photographer Bart Landheer went on location with the teens and the experts to create another exceptionally beautiful Bonaire calendar.

Supla Karko, for instance, was photographed at Lac Cai and features Hubert Mercera teaching Charlton Christiaan how to play the conch horn. Other photos show popular traditions such as building a cactus fence, making charcoal and boat building.

For the 2010 calendar there are two pages

in English describing the arts and crafts that are featured on the calendar; then on each page there is a brief summary of the cultural event in three languages: English, Dutch and Papiamentu. All proceeds from sales of the calendar go to the Jong Bonaire after school program for teens.

Calendars will be on sale in a number of locations around the island starting in late September or can be purchased directly from Jong Bonaire for orders over 10 units. Many companies on the island have purchased the calendar as a year-end gift for their employees and clients while helping to donate to Jong Bonaire.

Quantities of the calendar can be purchased via e-mail at jongbonaire@sunspotsbonaire.com Those interested can also make contact via phone at 786-1357 if they wish to purchase 10 or more calendars.

Starting in October it will also be available to purchase on-line at <http://www.jongbonaire.org/2010calendar.html> where there is more information about the youth center and its many projects

"The culture calendar also makes a terrific souvenir for visitors to the island and a handy Christmas gift as well," said Alan Gross, treasurer of the Jong Bonaire foundation. "We have found that selling a



Jong Bonaire Photo

useful product like this creates a win-win situation. We get donations and donors get something nice for their money."

The calendars measure 12 x 12 inches (30 x 30 cm) when closed and come individually wrapped with a cardboard support for easy mailing or gift wrapping.

The 2010 Culture Calendar is especially important as the island begins its transition into a municipality of Holland and

runs a greater risk of losing its cultural identity. For this reason the youth center hosted a Culture Month last March and the teens with the best projects were selected to appear on the calendar.

Jong Bonaire serves the island's teenagers each weekday after school and provides a safe, supervised, and caring environment for the youth--the most valuable resource for the future of Bonaire. ■ *Press release*

Jong Bonaire Introduces Logo for Anniversary Celebration

The after school program Jong Bonaire has introduced a commemorative logo for the big 10-year anniversary which will take place the first weekend of October. **The logo was developed by Juliandro Soree,** a former member of the youth center who is helping plan the celebration activities.

Juliandro adapted the existing Jong Bonaire logo to include the celebration information and also the three words: Responsibility, Friendship & Respect. These three



words have been the most frequent ones used in a survey of former members about what Jong Bonaire meant to them. So far almost 120 former members have completed

the on-line survey.

"We are very proud that our former members have taken the time to answer the survey and also that what they are saying is exactly what the goals of the youth center are. They are the most important things for our youth to learn," said Jona Chirino, manager of Jong Bonaire.

The anniversary celebration includes a registration party on Friday, 2 October, followed by an all-day Youth Conference on Saturday. Then on Sunday, 4 October, the teens will join the community in the annual Swim to Klein Bonaire, which

was developed nine years ago as a fund-raising event for the youth center.

Other former members of the planning commission for the celebration include: Zuli Marchena, July Wanga, Nilson Morillo, Jonathan Clarinda, Farley Marcera, Echo Chirino and Reagan Nicolaas. ■

Press release

New Project For Troubled Youngsters And Families



As of August 1st Jong Bonaire has been offering counseling for families with a variety of problems. The pro-

ject is aimed at families as a whole, including parents and children. The Project Family Development will be in its experimental phase until December 2009 and, if the results are favorable, the project will become a permanent offering at the youth center.

At times families on Bonaire encounter various kinds of problems: financial, work related, housing, school attendance related, lack of communication, police or the justice system.

Help and guidance will be offered by this new project, specifically aimed at those families experiencing these types of problems. At Jong Bonaire an experienced fam-

ily coach will work with parents and their children to suggest appropriate steps to put into action.

Welcome

Coach Jan Arnold welcomes every family who is motivated to find solutions with the possibilities that are available. There are many effective options to help in the situations described.

Conditions

To be eligible to participate in the Family Project, families need to contact the coach for an interview.

For registration and information call : Jong Bonaire. Tel: 717-4303. ■ *Press release*

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BONAIREAN VOICES



Siomara Albertus photo

Josie Cieremans, Gielmon "Funchi" Egbrechts and piggy friend

THE ANIMAL FARM

Many caring parents are asking today where they can bring their children for recreation besides all the places they already know here in Bonaire. Well animal lovers, we have good news for you. Gielmon "Funchi" Egbrechts (50), owner and manager of the **Animal Farm**, and Josie Cieremans (57) give you the opportunity to get to know your island and the farm life. When I asked them why they started an animal farm, Josie says, "We don't want children to forget their culture."

Gielmon 'Funchi' continues, "Farm life has been modernized. Our ancestors used to have the patience for this kind of life. They lived from what they produced. A lot of people don't have that today. You don't have young people going to the farm anymore. Young people don't want to work hard, but they do want to earn a lot of money. They don't have the initiative to start with something. In fact the whole world is the same. People want a lot of money for less work. I love farm life and nature. I've lived on a farm for 27 years now, and I don't want people to forget about farm life and the nature we own here in Bonaire."

I've owned this farm for long as I've lived here and I wanted to do something. So Josie and I started this Animal Farm on April 1, 2008, to help youngsters understand what farm life is all about, to have love for animals and their culture. I know it's not an easy task, but you have to educate the young people. We've had different groups of school boys and girls visiting the farm during vacation times, and it's a matter of instilling this thought in them. Sometimes it takes a lot of effort to tell them the same thing over and over again, but it is worth it."

"When I drive on the road," Josie says, "and I see children throwing stones at the animals I feel shame. In my opinion a lot of people here in Bonaire are missing love for the animals and nature itself. Some people are so careless about nature and we are being awakened by na-

ture every day. Funchi and I have different plans and projects to get people to come to the farm. We have brochures to hand out. We visit the schools with our projects. We have the television program, 'Pachito,' to show the children the farm. We sent out emails to different places. We have vacation plan and vacation stay projects coming soon. We keep the entrance free. At the end of every month we have a radio program on Voz di Bonaire with Mamita Fox. I will participate in the Children's Animal Farm Day in The Netherlands on the 24th of September, with the purpose of connecting with all the State Farms in The Netherlands and so we can get a subsidy for food for the animals."

On Animal Day, the 4th of October we'll have an open day for children between 0 to 13 years old. We have a lot of games for children. It will be from 10 am to 12 noon. We will announce a gathering point where a bus will pick up the children and drive them to the farm in Washikemba. The entrance is free. Everyone can bring food for the animals. The Children's Animal Farm needs your help. We have a Blue Jeep in Kaya Neerlandia across from the Gas Express Station waiting for you to put your scraps bags (veggies or old bread) in the back of the Jeep. Every day we take the food to the animals. **Every Saturday we have volunteers' day from 10 am to 12 noon** where children and their parents can come to feed the animals, bathe them and pet them.

In the near future we will open an after school session for children who love animals and can stay after school while their parents are working. In this way we can encourage the youngsters to love their nature and culture."

For any questions you might have about the Animal Farm you can call "Funchi" at 780-1225 or Josie at 796-7303. today. ■ Siomara E. Albertus

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



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 17.** Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney

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

BonQuiz #14



Bonaire's only native mammal is a tiny creature but has the HUGE job of maintaining nature's balance on the island of Bonaire. Besides consuming vast numbers of mosquitoes, it pollinates the flowers of the cactus and disperses their seeds. The cactuses hold the soil of Bonaire together and provide a home and food for birds, iguanas and lizards.

These high-energy mammals need to rest and breed. The caves on Bonaire provide an important haven for them. The females give birth to only one pup a year, and if there is too much disturbance in the cave the mothers may abandon their young. The long tongued variety is classified as a "Keystone species" which means without them other species cannot survive. Nectar, fruit and fish eating types all appear on Bonaire.

Q) Who is it? Answer on *page 15*

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: christiedovale@hotmail.com.



Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
had crashed into a monument at a speed of 112 km./h.

► **Economists and consumers are feeling better about the economy a year after the most frightening moments of the financial crisis.** The Associated Press reported that according to a new government survey US economic activity is stabilizing or improving in the vast majority of the country adding to evidence that the worst recession since the 1930s is over. What does this mean for Bonaire's economics?

The downturn in Bonaire has lagged the worldwide crisis and the recovery is lagging as well. This may be the opportune time to make offers and invest in island real estate and business before they surge.

► **Dutch State Secretary of Economic Affairs Frank Heemskerck stated that Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius will most probably be able to get funds from the budget of the Dutch Bureau for Tourism and Congresses (NBTC).**

Heemskerck said he would look into the possibilities of the three BES islands making use of the millions of euros that he is making available for Holland Promotion abroad. For the period 2008-2010, Heemskerck has reserved €50 million for NBTC. The bureau uses this money to attract foreign tourists to The Netherlands. NBTC also promotes vacations for Dutch citizens in their own country.

► **Member of the Dutch Parliament, Hero Brinkman, of the Dutch Party for Freedom failed to secure sufficient votes to carry his motion to have the Dutch National Ombudsman of the Netherlands investigate the integrity of government in Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius.**

► **The Social Insurance Bank (SVB) has announced that citizens over 60 years old will be covered by its medical insurance effective October 2010. What this will mean to Bonaire senior citizens is uncertain because by that time the BES Islands, including Bonaire, should be part of the Dutch health insurance system.**

Until now, seniors had been excluded from SVB medical insurance upon reaching the retirement age, as the insurance was linked to employment. Any senior citizen with a pension income above the pp ("poor person") card level of NAf 1.500 per month (and not being a government pensioned person) was dependent on expensive private insurance. If such could be found, the premium amounted to somewhere between NAf 400 and NAf 600 per month.

On human considerations, these uninsured senior citizens generally received a "limited pp-card." This allowed for payment of specialist treatment with the relevant expensive laboratory tests and costly medication – but not the relatively cheaper primary health care from the family doctors. As these senior citizens could not afford to pay for the family doctor and the prescribed medication, the family doctors referred them to the specialist, which was, after all, covered by the limited pp-card.

Minister Omayra Leeftang (Public Health and Social Development), who took the opportunity to further clarify this matter during the weekly press conference of the Council of Ministers, said this was an example of the British expression "Penny wise and pound foolish."

"Neglecting certain health care matters – in view of economy measures – will only cost more, as the bill will still be presented

► **Ramon Booi, number 95, the son of Bonaire's UPB (green) party leader Ramonsito Booi,** has earned a position as nose guard on the Wake Forest University football team.



Just 19 years old, at 6'6" (1.98 m.) tall and 300 lbs (136 kg.) he will be a hard man to face on the line.

He was recruited from Neese High School in Jacksonville, FL, where he was an outstanding player and helped Neese to three straight Class 4A state championship games including a state title. Wake Forest football coach McCartney is excited about freshman Ramon Booi when

he reported to training camp this fall. "I'm very impressed with him," McCartney said. "We're hopefully going to redshirt* him this season, and we're really excited about him. He had a ton of offers and he chose to come with us."

Success in American college football is unheard of for a Bonairean. Congratulations, *pabien*, Ramon.

*A redshirt freshman is a player who sits out their first year of attendance at a college. In NCAA rules you can only play four years. So if a team has a position already filled a player will redshirt for a year in order to maintain the full four years of eligibility when the position opens up. When a player redshirts he is able to practice with the team and even participate in a minimal number of plays (20 minutes maximum) during the season.

later on. By not insuring the over-60 citizens the community was saddled with the higher costs of pp- and limited pp-cards. The Minister further remarked that health insurance for senior citizens is also a matter of right, as laid down in the International Treaty regarding Civil Rights and Political Rights (IVBPR or Bupo Treaty) and applies for the Antilles as well.

"Tolerating a situation where senior citizens cannot be insured at the retirement age just when they probably require more care than before, puts a slur on the Antilles."

Leeftang mentioned that when the Antilles expanded the SVB coverage of employees in 1996 so that family members of the cardholders could also be insured, that non-insured pensioners should have simultaneously been included.

► **Dutch Prince Willem-Alexander and**

his wife, Princess Máxima, visited the US Military Academy at West Point, NY, on the Hudson River Tuesday, as part of celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of the river's discovery by Dutch explorer Henry Hudson



Maxima, Willem & Hillary

► **As part of the "Clean up the World" worldwide action**

(Continued on page 9)

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Tutti Frutti to Holland



"Tutti Frutti" performers and friends with Commissioner Oleana BVO photo

On September 3 the cultural-folkloric Group "Tutti Frutti" left for Holland to perform in connection with the Dia di Boneiru celebration in Rijswijk, Den Haag.

Deputy of Culture, Nolly Oleana was present at Flamingo Airport before the group boarded the plane to wish them well. The group will be performing in other cities as well, where they'll spread the unique musical culture of Bonaire and Rincon throughout the country. Their music is lively with a danceable beat, and the lyrics in tell stories of Rincon and everyday life.

"Tutti Frutti refers to the different kind of fruits we use in our cakes," says Emma Sint Jago, president of the folkloric group. "We're composed of people who come from different groups and bands who join together to be the Tutti Frutti. This year is their 16th anniversary.

The group, which varies from 14 to 19 people, sing, play the *kuarta*, guitar, maracas, *wiri* and other traditional instruments. The group is unique because all its songs are original, mostly composed by one of their group, Veronica Mercera. Other composers such as Emma herself, Richinel Anthony and Augustin Kroon have contributed to their repertoire. Their songs in Papiamentu speak of the hard work, traditional tasks and good times, either remembered from childhood or passed down in family stories. ■ Laura DeSalvo

Bonaire Library In Action



Biblioteka Públika photo

Rotary Members at library card kickoff in Rincon

Bonaire's Public Library announced several initiatives aimed at better service to the community. Launched on the International Day of Literacy, September 8, the Free Library Card project aims to put a library card into the hands of all Bonaire school-children.

Free Library Card Project

On September 8 all Bonaire elementary and SGB high school students received a free membership card for the library, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bonaire. The kids received a bookmark first and with this bookmark they can collect their membership card at the library by November 6. Through this initiative the Library and Rotary hope to stimulate reading among children. Reading helps develop language skills and broadens horizons. And books are not just for retrieving information; they're full of excitement, suspense, fantasy and humor. In other words reading is fun!

Cooperation with FORMA

On the same day FORMA students visited the library. FORMA and Biblioteka Públika are working together to make sure that participants of FORMA's literacy program will receive support from the library periodically.

More Books

The library is working hard to add to their collection. Recently 500 new children's books arrived and are ready to be loaned out. Another large quantity of books is expected to arrive before the end of the year.

Read To Me

"Lesu ku mi promé mi drumi" (Read With Me Before I Go to Sleep) is a program begun in July of this year in conjunction with JePoBon (Stichting Jeugdtheater en Poppenspel Bonaire). The goal is to stimulate parents to read to their children. The turnout has been great and kids really show an interest in reading.

Expanding Services

In order to be of better service to its community the library has developed the following activities and services:

- Kids Books Festival
 - Dictation for children
 - Reading to the elderly (*Kas di Mimina, Kas di Sosiegu*)
 - Photo contest for teens
 - After school program activities
 - Internet café
 - Printing and copying
- Through these efforts the library hopes to attract new members.

The Island Executive Council received a request for expansion of the opening hours, to offer the public more possibilities to visit the library.

In the meantime the opening hours of the library are:
 Mon. AM closed 13.00 - 17.00
 Tues. 8.00 - 12.00 13.00 - 18.00
 Wed. 8.00 - 12.00 13.00 - 17.00
 Thurs. 8.00 - 12.00 13.00 - 18.00
 Fri. 8.00 - 12.00 13.00 - 16.30
 ■ Sharon Bol

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 8) (www.cleanuptheworld.org) the Tera Korá neighborhood was cleaned by the island's waste management company, SELIBON NV, joined with volunteers from the Tene Boneiru Limpi Foundation. Even old cars were removed. The action will continue in other neighborhoods in the coming weeks. SELIBON hopes all of Bonaire's residents will join in the cleanup and maintain "Paradise Bonaire" as we know it. Lucia Beck

According to the the website of Nathalie Bluinck Misset Hotel (missethoreca.nl) \$46 million has been invested in Bonaire development so far this year, the largest investment in its history. Most money is invested in expanding the number of hotel rooms and apartments, renovations, installation of new hotels, facilities and meeting rooms as well as training. Next year should surpass even these figures. The planned Divi All Inclusive Sunset Resort, the tatty "canvas Quonset hut" eyesore at the traffic circle, already years past its scheduled completion date, would contribute to next year's total of €75 euros according to the site.



Governor Thodé and Minister Jacoba

Following an on-island visit the new Antilles Minister of Justice, Magali Jacoba, said she is "very satisfied" with the operation of Bonaire's justice system. She mentioned that there is currently a backlog of 10 weeks to obtain a

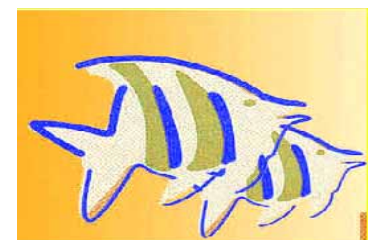
residence permit but that the department is working hard to reduce it to six weeks.

► Bonaire Travel will turn 10 years old on December 3rd and they are celebrating in a big way... with a giveaway raffle. To enter just buy a ticket between September 14th and December 3rd 2009, and you are in the raffle.

They will be raffling 10 airline tickets as well as a cash prize of NAf 1000,00, a two-night stay at the Howard Johnson in Curaçao, a gift certificate from Arkefly of NAf 250 and gift certificates from different stores and restaurants.

The prizes include air tickets to Aruba with Tiara Air, to Amsterdam with KLM, to Ecuador with KLM, to Suriname with SLM, to Lima, Peru with Avianca, to any destination within Colombia with Avianca, two tickets to Miami with Insel Air and two tickets to St. Maarten with DEA

If you have any questions call Natasja at 717-4343



► Paradise Photo at Les Galeries Shopping Center (bordering the parking lot) has a great new selection of wedding and baby photo albums. Very pretty indeed. And, for those with less patience to stick photos in a book, there are boxes to house your photos safely. Paradise Photo also has an outstanding choice of greeting cards in Dutch, English and Papiamentu, many from Hallmark. Of course they're headquarters for full digital services.

► Welcome to new Bonaire Reporter advertiser, Bona Bista Estates. If you want to live or invest in a beautiful home site surrounded by nature, but equipped with modern infrastructure, fine roads and walking paths then check out Bona Bista Estates on the Rincon road. It's just minutes from the sea, the airport and downtown. See their ad on the back page and say, "The Reporter sent me." ■ G./L. D.

Bonaire Day-2009

GREAT DAY, GREAT WEATHER AND LOADS OF FUN



TV personality Magic Ed's Kiddy Bouncer was popular with the youngsters



Bicycle mounted police were able to mix easily with the crowd yet be very mobile



Photo: Jan Wachtmeester (www.keoni.nl)



Photo: Marian Walthie



↑Above: Alvin and Mary were suitably dressed for the occasion.

←Left: There was lots of good food... worth the wait

↑Above: Motorcycles, Part of a multi-island Bonaire Biker's sponsored tour, seemed to dominate Bonaire to the annoyance of some. But they added lots of color and excitement.. And even Santa Claus.

Right: → Rignon and Rigshantaly Anthony with the dance group Rikisa di Rincon



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Five Honored



Culture Commissioner Nolly Oleana with four of Bonaire's honored.

Five of Bonaire's outstanding cultural figures were honored during the Dia di Boneiru ceremony in Rincon on 6 September. The five men, ranging in age from 37 to 89, were named "Citizens of Honor" by Nolly Oleana, Deputy of Culture, and Hubert Vis, head of the SKAL foundation for art and culture.



The oldest, **Repordo Antonio Menelio (Popo) Ricardo**, was honored for his many years of contribution to the music of Bonaire, not only singing but also writing songs. He was especially popular in the 50s and 60s, performing on the radio and at cultural events.



Well-known newspaperman **Franklin Dominico (Bò) Antoin** was named for his contributions to the culture, history, and environment of Bonaire. In addition to his news reporting he has written over 30 books, created the TV program *Herensia* which features elders in the community, and developed four TV documentaries on the historical *barios* of Bonaire.

Raymond Anthony (Rocky) Emers, who heads the island's agri-



culture department, **LVV**, was cited for his commitment to giving agricultural information in schools, *barios* and to many organizations. He was also a member of the first board of directors for *Mangazina di Rei*.

Artist **Juan Guillermo Norwin (Nochi) Coffie** was honored for his contributions to both painting and song writing, both of which promote the culture and nature of the island. His paintings have been exhibited throughout the Antilles and in Holland, and many of his songs are performed during *Karnival*, the *Tumba Festival* and *Dia di Rincon*.



Edmundo Danilo Amaro Christiaan, the youngest of the five, is the manager of *Mangazina di Rei*, the open air museum and botanical garden. Danilo has brought many new projects to the museum and dramatically increased the number of exhibits as well as visitors to the site. He has worked to involve young people in the culture and has played a role in the management and promotion of culture in Rincon. ■



Story & photos by Jane Townsend



Walkers Talk

Nazario ("The Bonaire Roadrunner") Alberto and Roy Martines were interviewed by Maritsa San Pedro at the Saturday Rincon Marshe's *Bou di Ramada*. These amazing fit fellows have participated multiple times in the grueling Four Days of Nijmegen (*4 Daagse di Nijmegen*) in Holland: Nazario six times, Roy, five times. Actually add a year on to each as one year (2006) they arrived to find the race cancelled after one day due to extreme heat. The pair is very appreciative of the help they've gotten from family and supporters to make it possible for them to show the flag at the event.



Walking Champs Roy and Nazario interviewed at Marshe Rincon "Bou di Ramada"

The Four Days of Nijmegen, considered the Walk of the World, draws over 40,000 participants worldwide, including about 5,000 military. Since 1916 it's been based at Nijmegen and was originally a walk for the military. This year it was from July 21 to 24 with participants walking 30-40-50 kilometers per day for the four days.

Listening to Nazario and Roy is to realize it's never too late to get in shape. Nazario, now 61, decided to change his life at the age of 54 when he gave up smoking and caffeine and started walking. Roy, now 50, was a soccer player, but when his twin brother Rolly recovered from a serious illness and was told to start walking, Roy decided to join him. (At the time of their interview brother Rolly was in Holland on tour with the Tutti Frutti group.)

Nearly the entire island has felt Nazario's and Roy's footsteps. They've walked tower to tower. They've walked with Bò Antoin, Marcel Nahr and the Pia Pia Kunuku Bieu group.

To help celebrate Bonaire Day this year in Rincon the next day the two left at midnight, Saturday, September 5, from Red Pan at the Slave Huts and made the trek to Rincon, arriving during the celebration the following day, Sunday, between 2 and 3 pm. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

Drink A Cactus?

A new liqueur made its debut on Bonaire Day in Rincon last weekend. It's **Cadushy of Bonaire** and is made in Holland of genuine Bonaire cadushy (*kadushi*) cactus, lime (*lamunchi*) juice and some other secret ingredients. It is a cool lime color and is quite refreshing but powerful. As it says on their brochure: "Please drink responsible. Cactus can be very activating. You are at risk of experiencing a very stimulating and pleasant experience." Sound interesting yet? A portion of the sale of the product goes to the Bonaire Heritage Foundation (WWW.BonaireHeritage.com - web site in Dutch).

Cadushy of Bonaire is sold at shops all over the island as well as at the *Mangazina di Rei* in Rincon. They have a well done website that includes recipes and some beautiful photos: WWW.Cadushy.com. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*.





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Delno Tromp Named to Hall of Fame

On Wednesday, September 2, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Dr. Delno Tromp Muller received an award and recognition from the University of Sagrado Corazon (originally part of Cornell University). The award was presented to Delno as a former graduate in recognition of his work in the area of tourism and his major accomplishments as a humanitarian in many places in the world. The award was presented by the President of the University, Dr. Jose J. Rivera. The recognition places Delno in the "Hall of Fame" of this prestigious university. Every year the University chooses one or more of its outstanding graduates who have brought honor to the University.

On Bonaire Delno has been an active and faithful supporter of both Special Olympics Bonaire and the Maria Hoppner Home, among others. He was selected twice as BONHATA's Person of the Year and Man of the Year by the newspapers *Nobo* and *AD*.

Delno has a number of books to his credit: *Marketing Dictionary*, *Portraits from a Palaver* (Poems), *Proposal and Thesis Writing*, the series: *Recipes for Goals, Friendship, Leadership, Success*. Profits from the sale of the last book, *Recipes for Success*, went to Special Olympics Bonaire. Present at the ceremony were members of his family and friends. ■ L.D.



USC photo

Body Talk

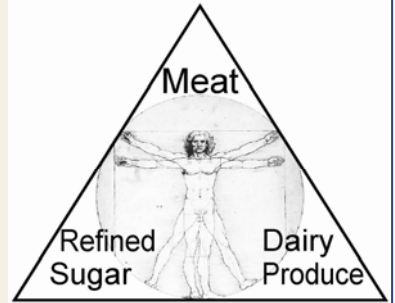
Part 2 A FEAT OF PLASTICS ENGINEERING

Wow, thank you all for the comments, criticism and encouragement regarding whether soy is really that bad. I am afraid that in this issue the news does not get any better.

Most (but not all) soybeans produced since 1996 are resistant to the pesticide glyphosate, commonly known as Roundup, yes the same Roundup available here on Bonaire to kill unwanted weeds! Roundup-Ready soybeans account for most of today's soybean production in the US, with countries like Argentina, Brazil and China also producing genetically modified soy beans. So what does 'genetically modified' mean when we talk about soy beans? Soybeans have a gene inserted that makes them resistant to herbicides. This way, more herbicides can be sprayed around them to kill the weeds and other plants – farming efficiency, less weeding. Talk about economics – the same company that has the patent for this particular soy bean, also has the patent for Roundup herbicide! Another major problem is that Roundup is making agricultural workers sick, being the third most common cause of illness in California agricultural workers.

In the previous issue we spoke about the process the soybean undergoes to produce soybean oil. An added process (yes, another one!) is hydrogenating (to harden) the soybean oil into a perfectly engineered non-food – margarine. Scientists found that when hydrogen gas, in the presence of a metallic catalyst (aluminium) is forced through the oil for hours, the product they end up with is closer to plastic than a food - margarine. How dead can a product be? Did you know that the reason potato chips last so long (shelf life and an opened bag) is that the potato chips have been soaked in hydrogenated soybean oil to protect them from the external environment? Yes, the same soybean oil used as a base for paint, varnish and linoleum as well as printer's ink.

The food giants in the US are also trying to include genetically modified foods under the "organic" um-



The Tainted Triangle

brella with the FDA's current stance that genetically modified food and non-genetically modified food is "equivalent."

Unfortunately for us, this totally undigestible product is found in various forms in almost everything that is manufactured. Oh, it is very cleverly disguised as natural flavorings, vegetable shortening, hydrolyzed protein and textured vegetable protein. Start reading those labels. Remember, the print is very small for a reason – the food manufacturers do not want you to be able to read those labels. I assume (possibly incorrectly) that people who do not eat meat (and I include myself) do so for better health. Why then do so many non-meat eaters switch to such a highly toxic waste product that not only has NO nutritional value but is actually dangerous for human consumption? Surely common sense dictates that one should eat simple and natural. Get rid of all those manufactured (and expensive) processed foods. So, to answer the original question whether it is better to eat soy than meat – **DO NOT REPLACE THAT JUICY STEAK WITH A PLASTIC SUBSTITUTE** (if you insist on eating meat!) ■ Stephanie Bennett

Next issue - I will answer as many of your questions about dairy, refined sugar and meat as possible.

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.



Letters to the Editor

SUSHI (TRASH) PATROL

Dear Editor:
A few weeks ago my husband, Jim, and I started going on a morning walk along Kaya Gob. Debrot north to the Web plant or south to the *Kas de Regatta* (sailing center). Our intention was to get a little exercise, but as we did our walks we started picking up some of the garbage along the road. We started carrying garbage sacks, and our 30 to 40 minute walks became 60 to 90 minutes. We thought we would eventually get that stretch of road clean, but found each morning there was plenty of new garbage to pick up. The majority of the garbage consists of plastic bottles and cups, beer bottles and cans, plastic bags, paper boxes and bags, Styrofoam, and things of that nature, but we've also found money (NAf10), several good T-shirts, and an inflatable water mat.

What is so frustrating is that we frequently find bottles that have been thrown out within 5 to 10 meters of a trash can. The area around the harbor is a perfect example of that.

In a perfect world, Bonaire would either pass strict anti-litter laws or would have paid personnel to routinely pick up the litter along the roads. Since that is not likely to happen in



Roadside trash
Marge Lawson photo



the near future, I would like to organize a group of people to "sponsor" a stretch of road and volunteer to routinely (at least once a week) pick up litter along that stretch of road. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marge Lawson at margebonaire@yahoo.com.
Marge Lawson

PLASTIC PROBLEM

Dear Editor:
Plastic is so prevalent in our oceans now that an area larger than Texas is floating out in the Pacific filled with litter including a huge portion of plastic. This plastic breaks down into miniature pieces that are barely visible but are still there and won't disappear. A lot of this is consumed accidentally by marine animals.

On Bonaire's east coast, instead of creating "art" from plastic bottles stuck on wood,

which is more like graffiti, why don't these people spend that same amount of time cleaning this up? It may not solve a world problem but it would help. Plastic in the landfill is not good, but it is better than letting it break down along the coast and wash back to sea.

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Christmas in Amsterdam? Dutch quiet couple wants to exchange houses in December. Preferably including cars. Pets are no problem. Ronald and Emmy, email: rvaalten@vaita.nl

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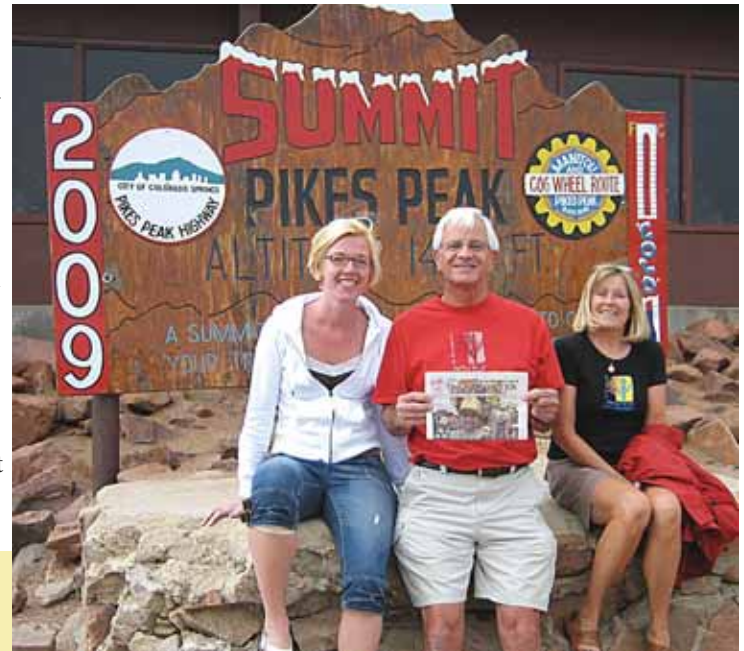
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Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Pike's Peak

Jim Kewley sent us this photo taken even higher than the airplane that appeared in "Picture Yourself" last week. Here is Ingrid Pols (left), formerly the Rooms and Division Manager at Sand Dollar, who visited Judy and Jim Kewley, condo owners at Sand Dollar, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on a recent trip to the US from Holland with her friend Sonja (not pictured).

Ingrid and Sonja enjoyed a trip with Judy and Jim to the top of Pikes Peak, elevation 14,110 feet (4,300 m.).



WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire*

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
9-18	0:40	1.5FT.	6:40	1.1FT.	12:19	1.5FT.	18:28	1.1FT.	95
9-19	1:48	1.4FT.	6:29	1.2FT.	13:05	1.6FT.	20:06	1.1FT.	98
9-20	3:27	1.3FT.	5:42	1.2FT.	13:52	1.7FT.	22:02	1.0FT.	98
9-21	14:43	1.8FT.	23:39	1.0FT.					93
9-22	1:04	0.9FT.	15:44	1.8FT.					85
9-23	2:08	0.8FT.	16:39	1.8FT.					74
9-24	2:54	0.8FT.	17:40	1.8FT.					62
9-25	3:37	0.8FT.	18:29	1.8FT.					50
9-26	4:07	0.8FT.	19:21	1.8FT.					40
9-27	4:33	0.8FT.	20:03	1.8FT.					33
9-28	4:58	0.9FT.	20:42	1.8FT.					32
9-29	5:17	0.9FT.	11:43	1.3FT.	14:03	1.3FT.	21:26	1.7FT.	37
9-30	5:24	1.0FT.	11:25	1.4FT.	15:32	1.3FT.	22:03	1.6FT.	45
10-01	5:20	1.1FT.	11:32	1.5FT.	16:42	1.2FT.	22:39	1.5FT.	55
10-02	5:03	1.1FT.	11:46	1.5FT.	17:55	1.2FT.	23:24	1.4FT.	65



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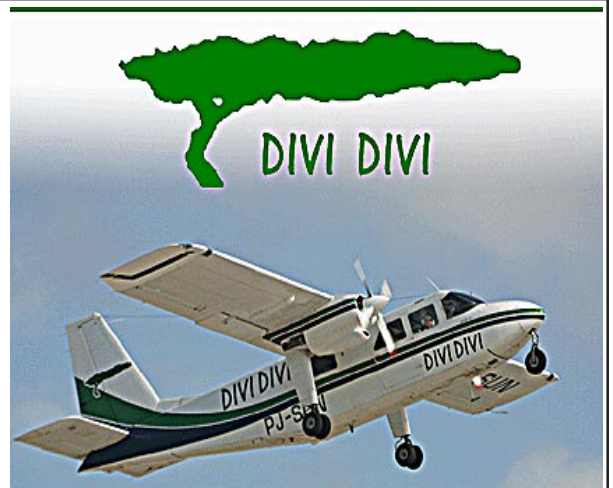
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

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

Thursday, October 1st, 20:00-22:30 **Election 'Miss Regatta 2009'** at "Kas di Regatta"

Friday, October 2—Jong Bonaire Registration Party—See page 7

Saturday, October 3—Jong Bonaire Youth Conference—See page 7

16:00-18:00 **'Cargill Wellness Team' Bike Tour**
18:00-24:00 11th **'Kopa Regatta'**

Domino Tournament (finals) at "Kas di Regata"

Big Monthly Rincon Marche—friendliest people on Bonaire selling gifts, crafts, local foods and drink, candles, more. Music and fun atmosphere. **6 am to 2 pm.**

Flea Market at Parke Publico, 3 to 7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy and sell. NAf 10 per selling table. (NAf 5 goes for Park upkeep). NGOs have a free table. More information call Vicky Bissessar 786-1592

Sunday, October 4—Animal Day—Children's activities at the Animal Farm, 10 am—noon. See page 7

06:00-11:00 4th **FCB Bicycle Tour 36km at Wilhelmina Park** (start/finish)

06:30-09:30 6th **Pia Pia Regatta Walk** at "Kas di Regata" (start/finish)

07:00-10:00 9th **Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire at Eden Beach** (start/finish)

18:00-20:00 **All Nations Parade in Kralendijk Streets to Wilhelmina Park**

October 4-10—42nd Bonaire International Sailing Regatta



Thursday, October 8 to Sunday, October 11 VIERDAAGSE BONAIRE 2009 the Four-Day Walk. Walk 110 km. in four days. For info: Tel. 697-1235 | E-mail: vierdaagse_bonaire@yahoo.com

Sunday, November 1- Bonaire Mountain Bike Race

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 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 **Wednesdays, 12 noon-2 pm** - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort upstairs in Peter Hughes meeting room above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Send event info to:

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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Bubbles from the Biologist

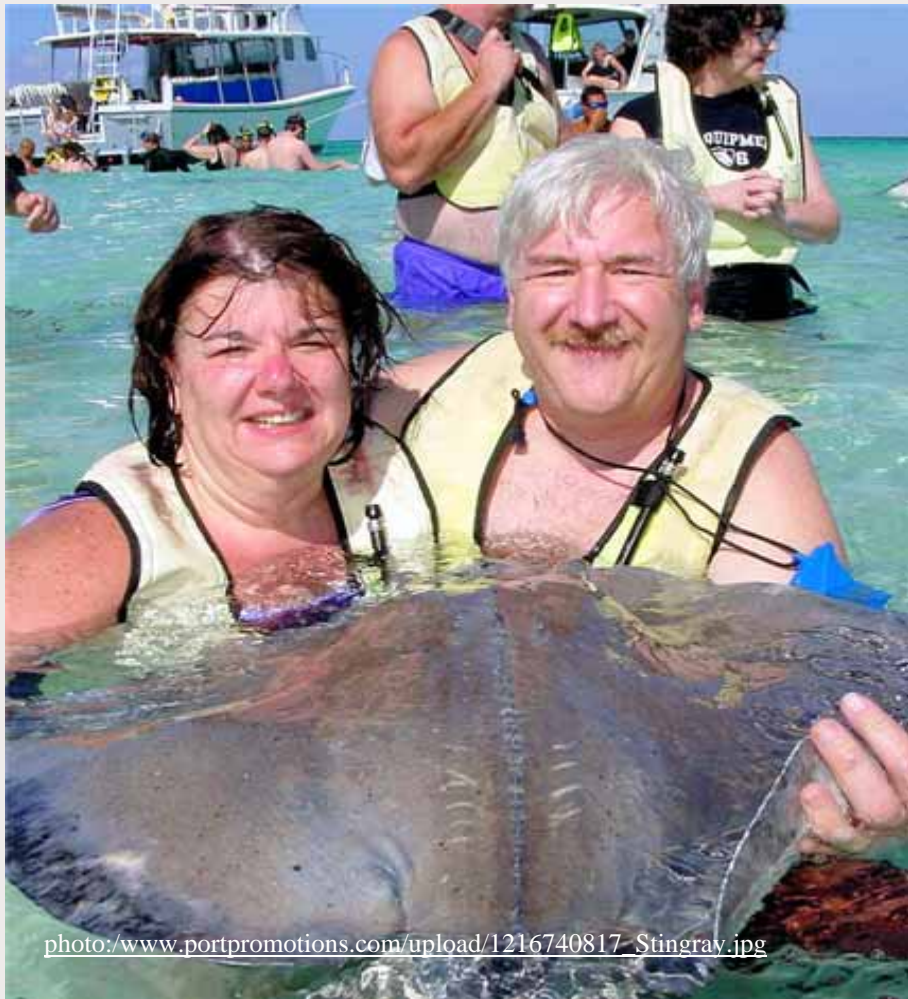


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Did You Know...
That stingrays feel stress? The effects of ecotourism on animal stress levels have been well-studied for many marine animals, including dolphins, turtles, and seabirds, but researchers have only recently learned that ecotourism can negatively affect the health of stingrays. At stingray ecotourism hotspots, boat charters and cruise ships offer visitors the opportunity to observe and stroke stingrays by enticing the animals to within touching distance using pieces of squid and fish.

To investigate what effect all of this touching, feeding, and boating has on the health of the stingrays, a team of researchers compared blood samples collected from southern stingrays (*Dasyatis americana*) present at a popular stingray tourism site in Grand Cayman to samples from rays not exposed to tourism (Semenuik et al, 2009). Blood tests revealed that stingrays exposed to tourists had weaker immune systems than rays that did not interact with tourists. A compromised immune system might make them more vulnerable to disease or parasitic infections. Stingrays with injuries caused by boats were also frequently seen in this study. Although common sense would suggest that stressed-out stingrays would simply avoid areas with intense tourist activity, the high availability of food at these ecotourism sites likely motivates some rays to use these areas in spite of the added stress. Currently, there are no regulations on the stingray ecotourism industry, but new legislation was recently introduced in the Cayman Islands to better protect marine wildlife from stresses related to ecotourism.

While not all interactions that marine animals have with people are stressful, it is important to remember that animals need

their "personal space" and can become ill if fed foods that are not a part of their natural diet. Rays are not abundant in Bonaire compared to other areas of the Caribbean, but whenever you *are* fortunate enough to see a spotted eagle ray gliding over a reef, remember – shark and ray populations are under tremendous pressure from overfishing, habitat loss, and ecotourism – and without effective conservation measures, the opportunities we have to see these graceful animals may become increasingly rare. ■ *Kate Jirik*



Author Kate Jirik (above) recently completed her graduate studies on the habitat use of stingrays and sea turtles in southern California, U.S.A. She is currently teaching and conducting research at CIEE Research Station Bonaire (www.cieebonaire.org).

References and further reading may be available for this article. To view references and further reading you must [purchase](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6V5X-4W4S374-2&_user=10&_coverDate=08%2F31%2F2009&_rdoc=1&_fmt=full&_orig=search&_cdi=5798&_sort=d&_docanchor=&view=c&_searchStrId=1009861962&_rerunOrigin=google&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=3459f15ffbecc41c75669fa5feb988b6) this article from Science Direct.

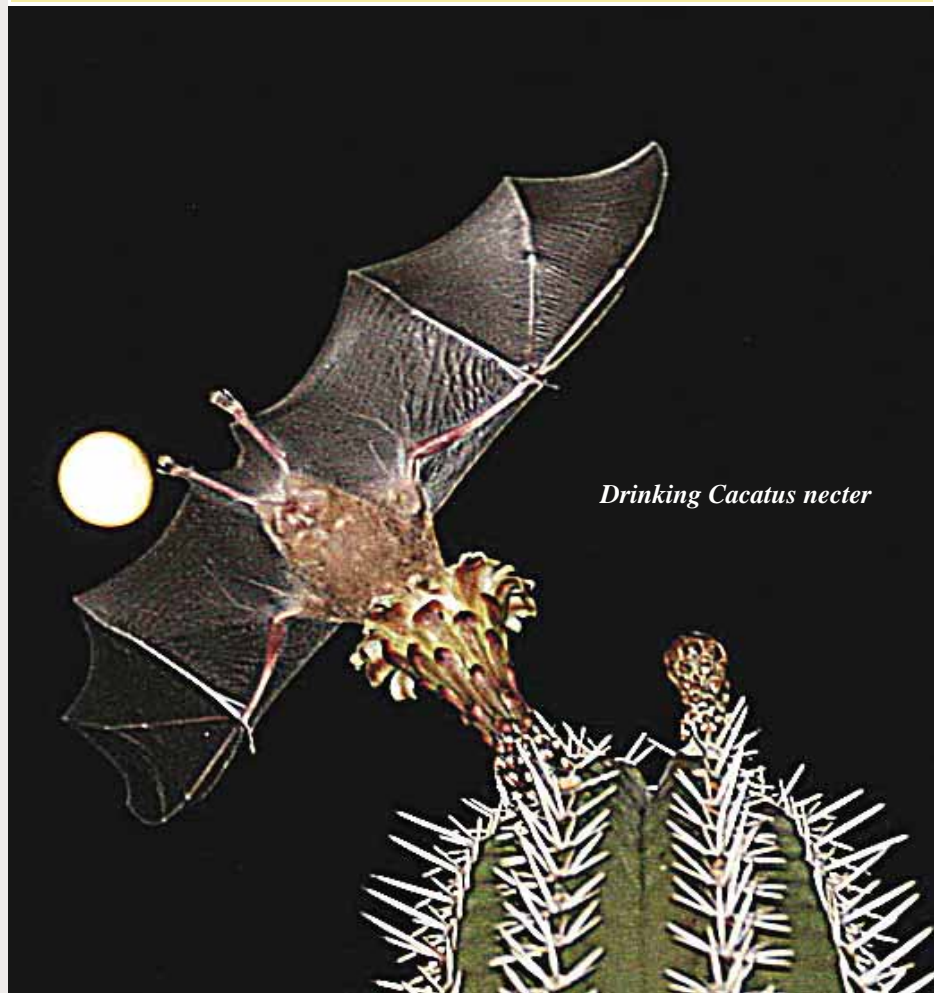
C.A.D. Semenuik, S. Bourgeon, S. L. Smith and K. D. Rothley. 2009. Hematological differences between stingrays at tourist and non-visited sites suggest physiological costs of wildlife tourism. *Biol. Cons.* 142(8):1818-1829.

BonQuiz Answer

Question (from page 7):

What is the name of the Bonaire keystone species?

Answer: The Bat



Drinking *Cacatus necter*

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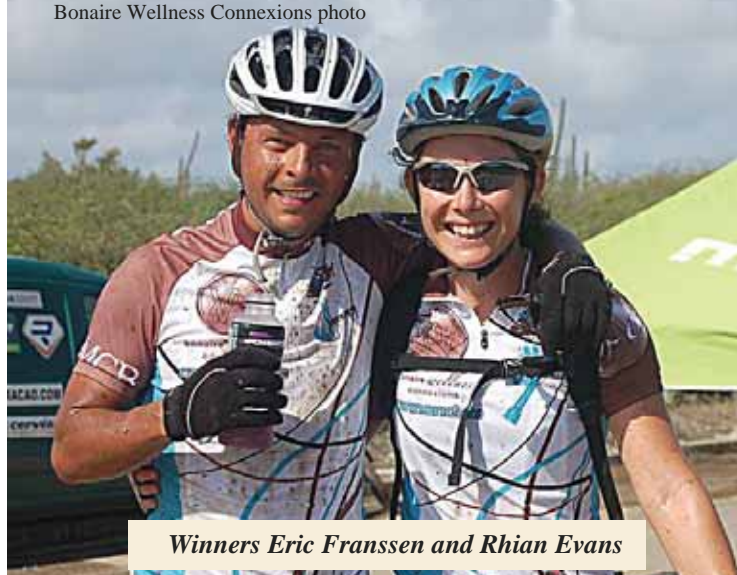
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Cycling Team Bonaire Sweeps the National Bicycle Championships



Bonaire Wellness Connexions photo
Bonaire Cycling Team in Curaçao



Bonaire Wellness Connexions photo
Winners Eric Franssen and Rhian Evans

Curaçao competitors were confounded by Bonaire's cyclists in the National Championship. During an amazing weekend of racing, August 29 and 30, Erik Franssen and Rhian Evans won the Antillean Mountain Bike National Championship in Curaçao. Cycling Team Bonaire's (CTB) Erik Franssen (#322) and Rhian Evans (#492) were convincing frontrunners. Each of them displayed championship performance and proved a valuable asset to the team. The new CTB team members, Erik and Rhian, flew to Curaçao with their teammates to represent Bonaire with pride in the Nationals.

Rhian's day job was studying Bonaire's endangered Amazon parrot, the Lora, and has written the series, "2009 Parrot Watch" in *The Reporter*. Sadly, she has returned to the UK. Eric helps Dr. van der Vaart in the Centro Medico Clinic. "At the last flat section of the course," Erik said after winning the race, "I gave it everything I had as I thought that I had a good chance to be first, and that was exactly what happened." Other teammates racing this weekend were Maynard Cilia and Junhua Fang in the kid's categories. Frank Bohm, Floris Dullaart, Amanda Hollebhone, and team director Miguel Brito raced in the elite, sub-master and

master categories. On the fast and challenging course in the area of *Koraal Tabak*, nobody could follow Rhian who was up front throughout the race. "I felt really good today; my highest heart rate was 171 bpm. At the very first lap, I could move up front real quick and pushed hard until the finish line," Rhian said after beating Gerda Fokker by over five minutes. Rhian is a competitive fell-runner in her native Great Britain. However, Fokker received the gold medal as Rhian wasn't a Dutch citizen. Results of the race are online on the website www.bonirewellness.com

Team director Miguel Angel Brito explains, "I am very proud of our team. We are training really hard as we want to move the CTB into a new level. We did an amazing performance that weekend and now we have to keep training for the last two races of the season, the BWC Challenge Race on Bonaire in November and the Xtreme Race in Curaçao in December." Bonaire Wellness Connexions congratulates all of Team Bonaire for their fine Netherlands Antilles National Championship. *Pa Bien!* ■ Miguel Angel Brito

Chasing the Wind

Bonaire's Ruben Petrisie gives us glimpses of the life of a pro windsurfer. He's a "rapper" as well as a rider. He reports from Turkey:

First thing the morning after my last performance at the Austria Free Style classic windsurfing event I jumped on a Turkish flight going towards the Mediterranean Sea, south of Turkey. After a three-hour flight I arrived at Dalaman airport. It took another three hours' drive to get to Datca, perched on the peninsula that juts into the Aegean Sea beyond Marmaris. The modern city of Datca is located at its half-way point. The ancient city of Knidos was originally located near Datca, but moved to the western tip in about 360 BC. Datca is known now for its long hot summers and strong thermal winds that blow over huge mountains. It's hosted the Turkish windsurfing championship races for several years now. There are two fully equipped windsurfing centers, traditional Turkish restaurants and cute bungalows near the beach. I was invited by the Turkish freestyle windsurfing Champion Berk Yalgin who's held the freestyle title in Turkey for three years. On schedule we had freestyle training and a filming project for the first windsurfing instructional DVD in Turkish for the Turkish windsurf industry. A few days later the Danish female freestyle champion, Xenia Kessler, came by to join



Photo Credit : Kaan Verdiloglu
www.kaanverdiloglu.com

us for training. Our car was packed with equipment and we were all ready for the action to begin. The funny part was that the forecast was turning into something we didn't want to see: shifting winds, some cloud cover and rain for the next few days, making us all nervous. We ended up playing soccer, ping pong, biking and swimming. As soon as there was a bit of breeze

we'd drive down to the beach to check, but conditions seemed to be unsuitable on every single attempt. Locals would smile and say that the winds were playing tricks on us. Oh well, it was funny to hear it. I've been coming to Turkey for training for three years now and have never experienced such conditions at this time of year. After about 12 days Xenia and I decided to chase the wind and went on a trip a bit up north where the forecast looked a little more stable. We decided to take a five-hour bus trip to Izmir followed by a one-hour drive to Cesme, Alacati, where windsurfing in Turkey originally started years ago. We arrived at 9am, dropped our bags at the Shaka Bar and Pension and went straight to the water. It almost felt like we'd not been sailing for months. Conditions were sunny with gusty winds up to 25 knots, No way we could go and miss this one. We sailed for three hours, non-stop, until the wind itself started to take a break. We went for a late breakfast/lunch combination, or as some folks may say, "brunch." After a power nap we were back out on the water for a couple of hours and sailed until we were destroyed. The forecast looked good for the coming days and we were happy about our decision to come all the way up to Alacati. The rest of the weeks we will be training together on improving our freestyle skills for upcoming events, at the same time shooting footage and photos for promotional material for our sponsors. On my next trips I'll probably be competing in the European Freestyle Pro



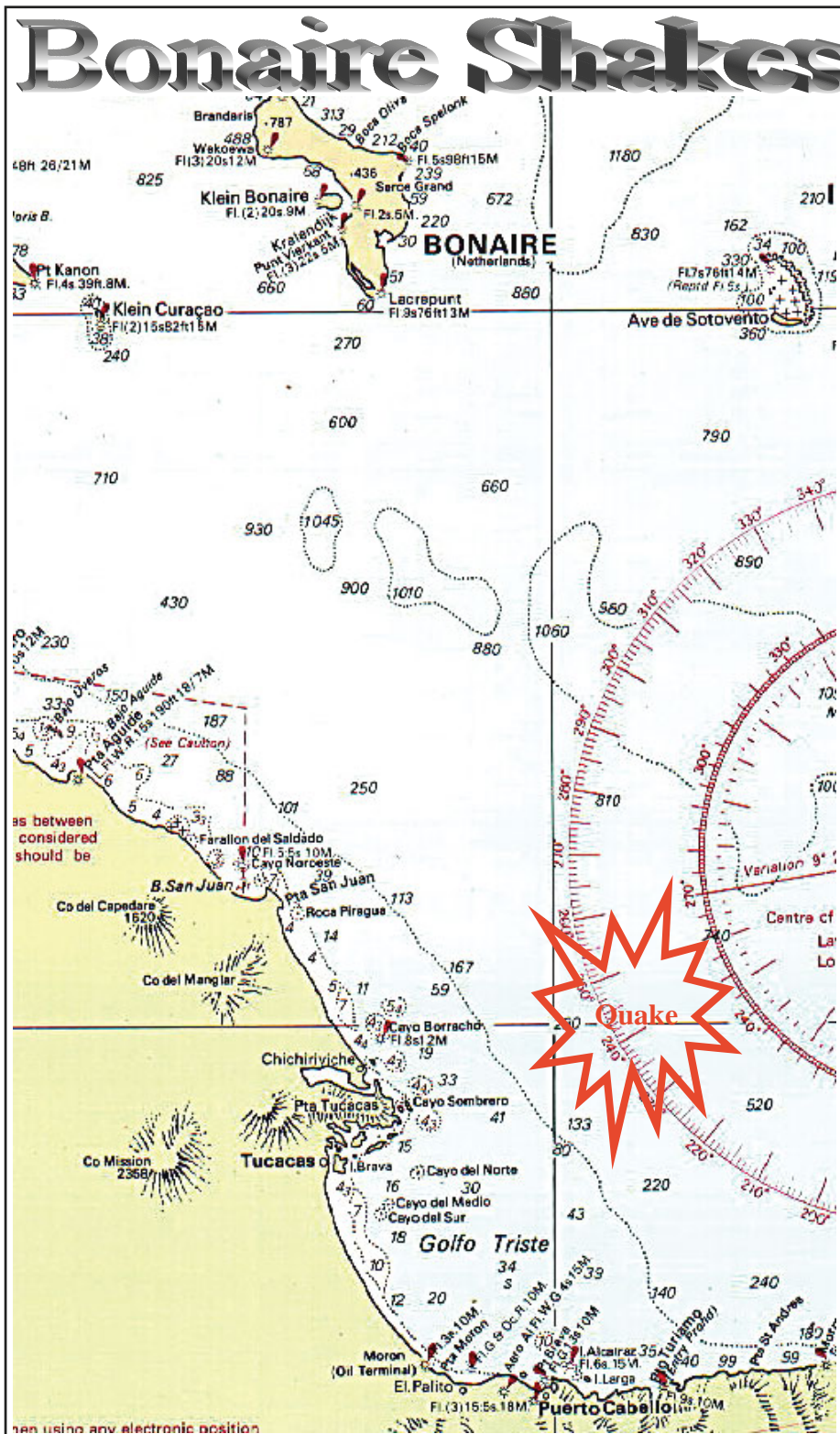
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Tour. Stay tuned for the next event reports. Thanks for reading. ■ Ruben Petrisie Sponsors Loft sails, Unifiber, Reptile-Masts, Kamoana clothing www.myspace.com/rubembang

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7	642 587 391
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	487 165 923
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	129 374 568
	573 426 189
	294 813 657
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Bonaire Shakes



We felt the earth move in *The Reporter* office last Saturday afternoon. It was so slight, it might have been just our imagination. That was until we read the next day's news from Venezuela.

The US Geological Survey reported that a strong 6.4 magnitude earthquake shook the area, causing panic in Caracas and injuring at least seven people in Venezuela when houses in the countryside collapsed.

The quake, the strongest in the region in years, hit at 3:40 pm (local time) authorities said. Fortunately, there was no tsunami. If there was, there would have been no warning as the wave would have taken just five or six minutes to hit Bonaire.

The US Geological Survey said the epicenter was 23 miles (36 km.) north-northeast of Puerto Cabello. That's just 75 miles (120 km.) southeast of the southern tip of Bonaire. It was below the sea at a depth of 6.2 miles (10 km). ■ G. D.

Pet of the Week

"Cor is a darling," they say at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. "He's just so sweet." Not only that but he's a very handsome fellow too. A strong strain of Siamese is obvious in Cor's background when you see his beautiful blue eyes and pale shades of beige on white coloring. He was found abandoned at Sabal Palm and when it was discovered that he was such a special cat he was immediately put up for adoption. Cor has been sterilized and he's in top health, having had all his checkups, testing, worming and shots. He's about a year old. You may see him and the other adoptees at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 to 1 and 3 to 5. Tel. 717-4989.



Cor

Did you know that the Shelter has a selling table at the monthly Flea Market at the Parke Publico every first Saturday of the month? All sorts of strange and wonderful things are for sale at the Shelter table and all the proceeds go to help keep the Shelter open. It's a win-win situation: you find something you want for a low, low price, and the Shelter benefits. The Flea market goes from 3 to 7 pm.

And, if you're moving or going through your things and want to make a clean sweep of all the stuff you no longer need or want, give the Shelter a call and someone will pick it up to go on the Shelter table at the Flea Market. Tel. 717-4989. ■

Laura DeSalvo

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FIND THE FALSE DAWN OF OMAR KHAYYAM THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF THIS SEPTEMBER

Almost a thousand years ago the Persian poet Omar Khayyam in his book of poetry, "The Rubaiyat," wrote his most famous line "A jug of wine, a loaf of bread and thou beside



me singing in the wilderness." But elsewhere in "The Rubaiyat" Omar made a poetic allusion to a mysterious "false dawn" as opposed to the real dawn, which can only be seen at a certain time of year. And this year the last two weeks of this September are your best chances to see it for 2009 because there will be no bright moonlight to overpower this delicate astronomical phenomenon in the Sky Park. Let me tell you all about it.

If we could go way out into space and look down on our solar system with super human vision we would notice a faint, almost imperceptible vast cloud extending outward from the Sun in the plane of the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth and slightly beyond, an enormous cloud of cosmic dust. And while one would expect it would be impossible to see this super faint cloud from Earth, nevertheless in September when the plane of our Earth's orbit is almost vertical to the horizon, we can, under the right conditions. And those conditions require that there is no moonlight and that you must be far away from city lights because even the faintest moonlight or urban lighting will wipe out the extremely delicate, ethereal glow of the false dawn. As a general rule if you can see the Milky Way from where you're observing you'll have a good chance to see this too.

To find it look toward the east about two hours before sunrise, before the real dawn. It will look like a wedge or cone-shaped dim patch of light about the same brightness as the Milky Way. And it will extend from the horizon about one third to half way up to the zenith--a ghostly, faintly glowing, rounded pyramid of light. Now the scientific name of this phenomenon is the zodiacal light and it's caused by sunlight scattering from all those trillions and trillions of dust particles which make up the great cosmic cloud.

And although Omar didn't mention it, this "false dawn" also has an evening counterpart- the "false dusk," the evening zodiacal light, which looks pretty much the same except that it is visible two hours after sunset in the west in March when the plane of our Earth's orbit is also almost vertical to the horizon.

Additionally, if you ever see a similar oval shaped glow directly overhead at midnight you would be seeing the zodiacal light's sister phenomenon called the gegenschein or counter glow. And I wonder whether any poet ever wrote about that.

At any rate, remember that September is the month to see the "false dawn" of Omar Khayyam, the morning zodiacal light, which I admit is very elusive. But once you've found it I think you'll know why it appeared in poetry centuries before it appeared in scientific writings. So get outside before dawn during the last two weeks of this month, be sure you're far from bright lights and see if you are as inspired as an ancient poet. ■ Jack Horkheimer

StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

September-2009

ARIES: March 20th - April 20th The new Virgo Moon in your house of health and work brings your organizational skills to the fore. As a result, you may delve madly into a workout routine or become more exacting on the job. While Mars is at the bottom of your chart, you suddenly have more energy and need to find a positive outlet for it. Tackle home improvement projects, relocate or change your daily schedule around. This is also a good time to amuse yourself, so go to a concert, movie or play!

TAURUS: April 20th - May 21st Jupiter and Neptune at the top of your chart makes you hopeful that good things are coming, especially in your career. You may have an ever-expanding need for public recognition. These planets will help you get noticed, but they can also blow things out of proportion, so keep your goals real. The new Moon in your house of romance encourages you to make positive changes in your relationships. If you discover someone's been dishonest with you, Pluto may restore your faith in them.

GEMINI: May 21st - June 21st Since things are changing quickly you'll benefit most from being flexible now. With crazy Uranus in your career sector opposite retrograde Mercury - even if your boss is acting erratic, you'll find ways to work around them. Relationship problems may surface as well. Someone could be lying to you or you could be fooling yourself. It will be hard to feel sure about things while the slope is so slippery.

CANCER: June 21st - July 22nd This new Moon highlights your communication skills. Expect a continual thirst for knowledge and an equal urge to let others know what you have learned. Mentally - you're alert and will enjoy blogging or twitter now! Romantically, you're more daring than usual. Because you're up for fun and pleasure, others seek out your company and may even encourage you somehow!

LEO: July 22nd - August 23rd This month you'll be more sensitive to the emotional undercurrents in situations and relationships. You must trust yourself all the more, as your intuition is remarkably strong now! Romance wise - you're on the receiving end. With Venus in your sign, you're ready for fun and to be showered with attention! Others are not only lavishing you with affection, but also looking up to you.

VIRGO: August 23rd - September 22nd Your relations crackle with tension now! There's nothing easy about this month, it's like growing out of an old pair of shoes! You may have to show your forceful side in dealing with others. You may feel more cranky, distant, removed or at least you wish far away from trouble makers. On a better note - shortly after the new Moon Venus enters your sign, giving you an upper hand in the love department!

LIBRA: September 23rd - October 23rd You'll find it rewarding to mix business with pleasure now. While Venus tours your house of friends and social affairs, you could even hear of a professional opportunity through a friend or a peer. Because Mercury is retrograde in your sign, you may also hear from lost loved ones or even a past lover. It's a wonderful time to reconnect and catch up, yet somehow you're more willing to listen than talk -enjoy!

SCORPIO: October 23rd - November 22nd Serious communication within friendships or organizations is encouraged now. A new Moon in your house of group activities could put you in a power position with others - they need your practical insight and strength more than ever. You find power in numbers and are therefore attracted to meetings and groups more than usual.

SAGITTARIUS: November 22nd - December 21st The New Moon and Saturn in your professional sector provides an excellent opportunity for you to show others how valuable your personal skills are. If you haven't already been promoted, push a little harder until your effort pays off. Mercury retrograde suggests you try a quick study course that provides professional advancement. Romance may be a little unstable, yet a vacation could be exhilarating and revitalizing for the two of you!

CAPRICORN: December 21st - January 20th A new Moon in your house of far distance traveling and learning is a good reason to journey for pleasure, work or study! You could also learn something new over the Internet or from a mentor. Uranus opposite Saturn, suggests this is a revolutionary time when you'll become more knowledgeable about relationships and gain insight to the cyclical nature of romantic attachments!

AQUARIUS: January 20th - February 19th Here's the good news - no matter what goes on around you - you won't feel half as bad as everyone else! September promises to be a challenging month, but you have Jupiter and Neptune in your sign and therefore will thrive in your own blessed utopia. Your generosity is key to keeping others positive! Romantically, your standards are a bit high. Meaning that while you may not find a perfect now, if you're willing to compromise you won't be lonely!

PISCES: February 19th - March 20th Faith and trust are your strong points. You're often the last to learn something or someone is working against your best interests, because you rarely do it to others. However this month, a full Moon in your sign along with Jupiter and Neptune in your 12th house, may allow you to discover more strength of character than you've ever imagined. That little voice in your head is becoming louder, follow your intuition! ■

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